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**SOME STARTLING REVELATIONS
MADE AT CUSTOMS ENQUIRY;
MOSE AZIZ IN A DUAL ROLE**

Saint John, Sept. 3—Revelations of a startling character regarding means taken to protect New Brunswick's indented coastline from smugglers with the existence of rum rows off the Wolves, Shippegan, Miscon, Buc-touche and Port Elgin coupled with many instances of where orders were received from Ottawa to release seizures made and take no action with no reasons given whatever, were made before the Royal Commission investigating the customs department of Canada yesterday in the Court House here with Sir Francois Lemieux, Chief Justice, presiding.

How Moses Aziz, whose name figured prominently at the customs inquiry at Ottawa, handled all the correspondence for customs preventive officers on the North Shore, although at the time twice convicted for smuggling and once convicted under the prohibition law was given the Commission by G. Perley Stewart, special customs officer in charge of the counties of Restigouche, Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent and Westmorland. Mr. Stewart said that three preventive officers appointed under the special vote of \$250,000 provided by parliament for this work, could neither read nor write. Moses Aziz had assumed these duties and had written the necessary letters for these officers. While he conducted this correspondence, said Mr. Stewart, Moses was engaged in smuggling.

So many irregularities cropped out in the evidence of the customs officers that Mr. Calder casually remarked that he was trying to give His Lordship an idea of the situation to which Sir Francois promptly replied that if counsel stopped where he was he had amply informed him of the real conditions. The inquiry will continue this morning.

Witnesses Examined.

Witnesses examined yesterday included Mr. Lockhart, Inspector A. L. Hoyt, L. W. Simms, president of the Saint John Board of Trade; F. W. Roach, A. Fred deForest, F. W. Coombs, G. Perley Stewart, J. E. White, William P. Dawes, Charles H. Lynott, Alexander Crawford and W. L. McFarlane.

The condition of affairs as revealed in the testimony showed that the preventive service in New Brunswick is woefully under-manned. All the officials advocated enlarging the staff. Mr. Stewart gave one instance where he and four men are charged with the responsibility of watching the 400 miles along New Brunswick's eastern coast.

Ottawa Indifferent.

Furthermore, there was marked indifference at Ottawa to settling up seizures made. William P. Dawes, of Saint John, told the commission he had made a seizure in 1920, and he had been ordered to hold the goods in abeyance. "They are still held in abeyance," he added.

Continuing, Mr. Dawes said that a year ago last spring, he made a seizure not far from here on information received. This seizure consisted of 38 cases of mixed liquor and eight 10-gallon kegs of rum. "The liquor still is in the warehouse and no orders have been received since regarding it," he said. Such a condition of affairs hampered the officials in securing other tips as the share of the informers was held up until final settlement was made. In this case, he said, there would not be very much as most of the value would be eaten up with storage costs.

Informers Never Paid.

Following along this line of evidence Mr. Lockhart said on a tip received, he had made two large seizures but the informers had never received their share. Only today, he said one of them informed him he could lead him to a cache of 1,000 cases, but would not do so until he had his pay. All the officers advocated advance payment immediately after the seizure was made.

Probably the main feature of Mr. Dawes' evidence was when he told of his seizure of the Carrie Hirtle near Lepreau late last year. This boat had been tied up for the winter, but becoming suspicious, he had investigated and found two 10-gallon kegs of malt liquor, used for blending purposes. He had placed the liquor and ship under detention. In due course, he said, word was received from Ottawa to release the schooner without any cost to the defendant.

Cigarette Traffic.

The existence of smuggling on a large scale was evidenced by the story of witness after witness. As in the Nova Scotia hearings the smuggling of liquor was the main feature of the hearings yesterday, but evidence of the illicit traffic in American cigarettes was offered by one witness. A.

F. deForest, of Saint John, declared to the commissioner that cigarettes from the United States had been offered to him at less than the amount of the duty which should have been paid upon them. He described how people brought American plug tobacco to him to have it cut up for pipe use.

Sympathy is Anti-Dry.

The commission was offered a variety of evidence in regard to the liquor traffic. One witness declared that the sympathy of the people of Canada was against prohibition enforcement, and consequently customs officers found it difficult to enforce the law.

Tobacco Smuggling.

A. Fred deForest, tobacco merchant operating three stores in Saint John, told the inquiry that there was quite a widespread trade in smuggling of tobacco. He told of offers being made to him to buy cigarettes and tobacco at rates much below the duties. He said the inroads on his trade were considerable and said he believed the smuggling was done by those coming ashore from schooners. It has been acute since the excise tax was raised, he added.

Cars Sneaked in.

F. W. Coombs, automobile dealer, told His Lordship that he had seen cars in the province which he believed had been smuggled into the province without payment of duties. This was particularly heavy in 1923, most of the cars being stolen and many of them with forged papers.

Seizure of 'King Daniel.'

Being recalled, C. B. Lockhart, collector here, referred to the seizure of the 'King Daniel' here in 1921. This was where liquor was loaded on board with an undertaking that it would be landed at Nassau. Some days later, the vessel was seized and the collector demanded double duty payment from a local exporter but later instructions came from the Minister of Customs to discontinue action against the Saint John exporter. The ship, however, was fined \$200.

Arch-Criminal Freed.

Mr. Calder remarked that here was a case where the arch-criminal, as it were, got off scot free, while the man he had hired paid the penalty. "This is one of those matters to be taken up at Ottawa later to reduce these proceedings to logic," Mr. Calder said.

Liquor Smuggling.

G. Perley Stewart, special customs officer under the chief preventive officer, W. F. Wilson, said he had been given charge of Restigouche, Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent and Westmorland counties, although the officers there reported direct to Mr. Wilson. He said the rum-runners came in schooners lying about three favorite spots off Shippegan, Buc-touche and near Port Elgin. The cargo was brought ashore in motor boats at thinly populated spots and from there carried inland in automobiles. The department had two patrol boats for this section but in his opinion the coast was not properly manned. He suggested these waters be made territorial waters. There were four men watching about 400 miles, he said. This liquor comes from St. Pierre, Miquelon, and Newfoundland.

Aziz Fired.

The interesting feature of Mr. Stewart's testimony came when he told of being approached by Moses Aziz, well known in connection with customs inquiry at Ottawa, and told by him that he was handling the correspondence of a customs preventive officer on the North Shore. Mr. Stewart said he had promptly reported the matter to Chief Preventive Officer Wilson at Ottawa with a result that the secretarial duties of Mr. Aziz were brought to a close. At that time, Aziz had been convicted twice of smuggling and once under the prohibitory law.

Difficulties Told.

He said that in several cases it was held that he was not an excise officer owing to the wording of his commission and that in these cases, seizures made were returned. It was contended that he must be appointed by an order-in-council. Mr. Calder said he raised the point in an endeavor to ascertain the plan and have it corrected.

Mr. Stewart endorsed the suggestion that informers be paid promptly. In many cases, he said, many of the provincial prohibition officers cooperated with him and rendered valuable assistance.

Liquor Camouflaged.

Charles H. Lynott, St. George, told of liquor being camouflaged and sent away in cars as laths, Christmas trees and sardines.

Alexander Crawford, former prohibition officer and now of the customs branch, said smuggling interfered with enforcement of the prohibitory law and gave instances.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION AT GAIETY THEATRE
PUBLIC OPINION
A DANGEROUS PRACTICE.

"The Great Deception" is the photo play at the Gaiety for Friday and Saturday.

The appearances of the likeable Ben Lyon are deceptive, the wiles of the effervescent Alleen Pringle, as his sweetie, are full of deception—in fact the whole picture is marked by deceptive appearances.

There is an abundance of humor woven into the melodramatic story, and every reel has its chuckles."

Lyon is cast as an English graduate from "old Heidelberg," who when the World war comes must choose which country he will serve. Things that happen while he is in charge of an important code message are worth walking at least half a mile to see. So that you will do plenty of teeth gritting, mean villains are allowed to run all over the lot. The entire picture is well done.

Will Bring Action.

Arthur Mowatt of Harvey Station has retained J. S. Smiley, K. C., of Amherst, N. S. to bring action against Edgar Cormier of Cape Bauld for injuries sustained by his wife when cars came in collision on the Marsh Road between Amherst and Sackville. Mrs. Mowatt is in Highland View Hospital, Amherst but is improving.

Mr. C. B. Foster of Montreal, passenger traffic manager of the C. P. R. and Mrs. Foster were in the city yesterday, en route home by auto from a vacation trip.

W. L. McFarlane, chief inspector of the prohibitory forces in the province said there was no co-operation between the customs and provincial departments in regard to prevention and advocated closer relations in getting after law-breakers. This completed the afternoon session.

Commissioner's Appeal.

An appeal for the "powerful and moral" support of the press of Canada to aid the customs Royal Commission in preparing a profitable and effective report for submission to Parliament to make changes in the personnel or for new legislation was made by Sir Francois Lemieux, this morning.

Sir Francois declared that he had received many requests from all parts of Canada to investigate matters at those points and that during the turmoil of an election there might be a tendency to use the Commission for political purposes. He strongly condemned any such tactics and said he would not have accepted a gratuitous and honorary task if he thought the character of the inquiry would be other than national in scope.

The Editor of The Mail, Sir—School-boys still indulge in the "game" of thumping one another on the head with books because, I suppose, no one has ever directed attention to the danger of the practice. Well, I suggest that a little supervision by the teachers would do away with much of the rough play observed by people passing school-grounds.

Respectfully yours
STERLING BRANNEN.

**The Burt's Corner Band
WILL HOLD A
GRAND PICNIC**

ON
**Lyman Bubar's Flat
(NEAR THE MILL)
BURTT'S CORNER
LABOR DAY, Sept. 6th.**

**SUPPER
SERVED ON THE GROUNDS**
All the usual picnic games provided.

(If weather is unfavorable, picnic will be held the next fine day)



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Give us a call.

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One of those sporty two piece costumes would be very nice. They are just the thing for motoring, tennis, or street wear and the price is small.

OUR NEW FALL COATS for Ladies, Misses and Children are now arriving. We will be pleased to show them to you. Wonderful Values in Dresses, Hosiery, Scarves, Underwear, Etc.

R. L. BLACK, 62 YORK ST.

HARVEST SALE!

THREE BIG DAYS, SEPT. 2, 3, 4

Prices offered at this store for Thursday, Friday and Saturday will appeal to all desiring seasonable goods at a sacrificed price. Below are listed a few of the many bargains offered.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Teapots at 23c, 39c, 49c, 59c. | 1 Hammer, 69c. |
| Mixing Bowls 19c, 29c, 39c, 49c. | 1 Coccotex Mat, 1 Broom, \$1.00. |
| Bean Crockets at 39c. | 2 Spark Plugs for \$1.00. |
| Ironing Boards, reg. \$5.75 at \$4.79 | Blades for Safety Razor, per dozen, 49c. |
| Egg Crates, reg. 85c, special 50c. | 1 Large Granite Stove Pot, 98c. |
| Furniture Polish (bottles) 10c. | Shoe, Stove or Scrub Brush, 35c value for 19c. |
| Furniture Polish (1 pt. tins) 39c. | Lamp and Lantern Globes, 13c. |
| Wescott Wrenches, 69c. | Lead Pencils, per dozen, 12c. |
| Electric Stove, \$1.69. | Carpenter Pencils, per doz. 45c. |
| Serving Trays (large) 75c values for 39c. | 1 Ker-O-Gas 3 Burner Oil Stove, \$25.00. |
| 5 Electric Light Bulbs for \$1.00 | Bulb Bowls, reg. values 45c to 75c, special 39c. |
| 1 Broom, 1 Mop, O'Cedar Polish all for \$1.00. | Gem Razors, 39c. |
| 1 qt. Floor Varnish, \$1.00. | Pocket Knives, special at 19c to 69c. |
| 1/2 doz. Cups and Saucers, 90c. | |
| 1 Handled Axe, \$1.00. | |
| 1 Hand Saw, \$1.00. | |

Numerous Bargains not mentioned for lack of space. Come in and be convinced of the Big Savings on all lines during this sale.

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Quality Merchandise**

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Let us explain to you the workings of the Fawcett Pipeless Furnace. We have one on display in our showroom and would like you to see it.

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NIMBLE DANCERS | FUNNY COMEDIANS | NEW SONGS
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