

The Daily Mail

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OVER-CLASSIFICATION CHARGES EXPLODED

Our readers are probably familiar with the allegations to which our local contemporary and all other Tory papers throughout the country have for the past few months been giving such prominence, as to over classification in connection with the construction of the Transcontinental Railway. Mr. Borden during his recent tour in Ontario also specialized on the same theme and in the course of his address he claimed that by classifying loose earth as solid rock a gigantic fraud had been perpetrated in the people of Canada, by means of which no less a sum than six million dollars had been put into the pockets of dishonest contractors at the expense of the country and that this charge covered only two construction sections, denominated "E" & "F" respectively.

The preliminary report of the arbitrators appointed to look into the matter and settle the dispute has now been published, and shows that the over classifications were merely inadvertencies and not part of any organized system of plunder. On section "E" the amount over-classed came to \$25,000. On section "F" the contracts for which came to \$15,000,000, it was found that \$200,000 were involved in the over-classification. Relatively these are but small amounts, but small as they are, there is no public loss involved. In the agreements between the government and the contractors, the government holds over a certain part of the money for construction purposes, until every mile of road build has been examined and reported upon by the engineers of the Grand Trunk Pacific and all over-classification pointed out. Then and then only are the final accounts adjusted and the contractors paid in full. It will thus be seen that there is no possibility of the country losing a single copper by the practice of careless or rascally contractors calling earth rock and billing the government accordingly.

Another of the favorite Tory scandals is thus exploded though that such would be the case upon investigation no one doubted. It must be heartbreaking for the opposition muckrakers who devote so much time and energy to the task of attempting to catch the government tripping to find themselves foiled on every occasion. Their stories provide lurid headlines for their press organs, and that is about all there is to them.

SIR WILFRID'S WESTERN TOUR

Today Sir Wilfrid Laurier starts on his long promised tour of the Western Provinces, which has been so eagerly looked forward to by his supporters in that part of the Dominion. Accompanying him will be Mr. E. M. McDonald, M. P., of Pictou, and Mr. Pardee, the chief Liberal whip. Later he will be joined by the Hon. Dr. Pugsley, minister of public works.

That the visit will take something like two months is a sufficient explanation of the fact that the Prime Minister does not make the trip often. It is five years since he was in the West, and then it was only to accompany the Governor-General, the occasion being the inauguration of the new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Official etiquette obliged Sir Wilfrid to remain in the background and it is needless to note that he rigidly declined all suggestions inconsistent with the suppression of his own personality. A few years earlier he went West with the Duke of York, now King George V. Naturally, participation in politics was still more out of the question. Not since two years before he was called to office, therefore, has

Sir Wilfrid made a tour of the West like this one, which is to be frankly in the interests of his own political party, although we may expect that there will be much about it to evidence interest in the man and the orator on the part of people who do not vote Liberal.

As The Montreal Herald says, no doubt it means considerable strain on a public man to undertake a campaign of such length, involving, as it must, much fatigue and inconvenience. It is an obligation, however, that is imposed by the vast extent of the Dominion and the necessity that exists of establishing a communion between those who rule the country through Parliament and those who send them to Parliament. Distance is still a powerful factor in separating men from one another, for adding emphasis to the importance of one subject and diminishing that of another. The man on the prairie and the man on the seashore must have their different ways of looking at things. Newspapers, telegraphs, community of laws, and all the rest of it, cannot wholly eliminate that. The only way to be sure of understanding people is to visit them at home, and the best chance of being understood by them follows the same recourse.

It is not in any way surprising that the West looks forward with pleasure to the visit. Politics apart, Sir Wilfrid is assured of as pleasant a time as it is possible for anyone to have while travelling on a railway train in the dog days.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE

By a majority of 20, in a total vote of 122, the National Council of Women in convention at Halifax yesterday, endorsed a resolution in favor of equal franchise. If this vote correctly represented the mature opinion and desire of Canadian women in general, no Parliament could in right or justice refuse the constitutional amendment required to place womankind upon a political equality with men. But we doubt it may be if even the most ardent promoters of yesterday's resolution will make such a claim. Those attending this council represent the most cultured and advanced class of women in this country. All of them have given much time and thought to this question. Yet even among these, the opinion in favor of the new departure is very far from unanimous. And among women in general, the great majority of whom are too much occupied with their present cares and present duties to give much time or thought to far-off schemes, the percentage of approval is unquestionably far less.

Another open letter from Mr. Fred St. John Bliss, secretary-treasurer of the municipality of York, to Mr. Thomas Robison, M. P. P., on the Hazen Highway Act, is about due. In his former epistles Mr. Bliss defined the provisions of the act. Now he might go a step further and tell how it is working, especially in the Parish of St. Marys:

So far the members of the York Municipal Council have maintained a discreet silence in regard to the wretched condition of the roads throughout the county. Can it be that they are afraid of hurting somebody's feelings?

St. Andrews Beacon: Even the St. John Globe, which has been a warm champion of the local government, finds it necessary to rap its friends over the knuckles because of bad roads.

The Tory road commissioner for the Village of St. Marys, seems to be out of harmony with the Tory junta of that place and they are demanding his scalp.

RACE FOR CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP AT AMHERST TOMORROW

Amherst, N. S., July 6.—Much interest is manifested in the 10 miles Canadian championship race which takes place on the Ramblers grounds tomorrow. So far the following entries have been registered, and others may possibly be recorded today.

E. White, Brockville, Ont.; James George, Beaverton, Ont.; Edwin Carter, West End Y. M. C. A., Toronto; Fred S. Cameron, Ramblers, Amherst

Miss VanDine, who has been spending the past few months in the city, returned to Sackville today.

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WORK AT CAMP SUSSEX KEPT THE BOYS BUSY YESTERDAY

Spectacular Sham Fight Will Take Place Tomorrow For Which Great Preparations are Being Made-- March Past Today--Ambulance Corps Have a Field Day.

Sussex, N. B., July 6.—As Friday approaches, the day on which the annual sham battle is to take place, the men camped at Sussex evince more interest in the event, and considerable speculation has been made as to the plans being made for the fight by those in charge.

The names of those in command and the divisions of the troops will appear in orders tomorrow. Every corps under canvas will participate in the "fray," and each of them is looking forward with expectancy to doing its share in winning distinction and success.

Field day is the most exciting and important one of the fortnight in the tented city, as, indirectly it is the test of the two weeks' drill, displaying, as it does, the endurance and skill of the men in the various regiments. On account of the very large number of men who will this year engage in the bloodless conflict, the day is expected to prove of unusual interest.

Today was further spent by the troops in preparing themselves for the battle, and under a blazing sun they drilled tirelessly morning and afternoon, none of the corps being spared. The weather was very warm and most of the men performed the manoeuvres demanded, of them, in shirts and "Panamas," only a few of them being seen with red coats on. Each regiment, however, is uniform in headgear, having on the "sou'westers" worn by the men, and having them turned up at one side to permit of the easy use of the rifle.

With the end of the camping season but a few days off, it is gratifying to see a remarkable improvement in the marching and formation drill of the 2,500 odd men under canvas, as well as in their appearance. The order, also, has been of the highest standard, the soldiers seeming to be of the better class and not inclined to ungentlemanly actions. Much credit is due to the officers, however, for keeping them in control.

PASSED CRITICAL INSPECTION

The men have passed successful inspections under General Otter, Brigadier-General Drury, Colonel Foster, Colonel Bigar, and Captain Mcmillan, each in his distinctive branch of service, and without a doubt will make a splendid showing at the review and march-past tomorrow afternoon.

Shooting at the rifle range will be finished tomorrow, when all the combatant corps will have tried for their efficiency pay. There have been very few failures in most of the regiments and in a great many cases some of the men have qualified for third year pay when they were only entitled to that of the first. On the other hand many third and second year's men have qualified for only first year pay. The condition of Bugler Mark Sutherland, who was shot in the arm last night, remains unchanged today. He was to have been taken to the General Public Hospital in St. John but for some reason he will not be removed until tomorrow.

It is possible that Private Fred Lovejoy of the 67th Regt., who was drowned on Sunday not far from camp, may have a brother living in Halifax, as a message was received in camp today from that city, asking for information concerning him, which would tend to identify him. The message was signed "Bertram." In one of the tents of the A.M.C., Major Weaver secured a detailed description of the appearance of the late soldier and this will be sent to Halifax to the party desiring the information. At the time of the drowning it was said that young Lovejoy had no surviving relatives.

MEDICAL CORPS FIELD DAY.
This afternoon the members of No. 8 Army Medical Corps held a field day and marched out of the confines of the city of tents about three miles. A hospital and shelter were pitched and the Red Cross ladies attended to the needs of about a dozen "wounded" men. The manoeuvres occupied considerable time, but were quickly performed when their nature is fully understood.

The Army Service Corps are now supplying water at the rifle range, an innovation which will be received with gladness, as the men are generally quite thirsty after their march out. In full regimental order, with colors flying and regimental band playing a stirring march the men of the 74th Regiment paraded through Sussex this evening, under command of Col. Fairweather. Sussex is their headquarters, and it was at the request of several of the prominent citizens that the march-out was held. The regiment presented a splendid appearance and the citizens turned out in force to see it march by.

There have been very few complaints about rations this year, as the food has been of a good quality and plentiful, so that the men had but little to grumble about. The method of cooking has been changed slightly in that there are now no cook-houses in the field, they having been replaced by canvas awnings covering a stove, some wood and the cook at work. The scheme has worked very successfully and has been a further step towards sanitary improvement but on a wet day has been inconvenient as the rain blew in under the canvas and retarded the culinary operations. Capt. Simon, P. V.O., has been very busy since Sunday night attending to the ills of a number of the horses of the 8th Hussars and the artillery, which had become sick with colds on account of the dampness of their stables. Many of the animals were found on Monday morning, after the storm, standing knee deep in water. The new stables to be built for next year's camp will be a valuable addition to the facilities of Camp Sussex.

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