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BERLIN REPORTS A BRITISH TRANSPORT SUNK IN THE DARDANELLES; TURKISH FORCES WERE CUT OFF BY THE BRITISH

MORE CROOKEDNESS HAS BEEN EXPOSED

A Discrepancy of \$3000 is Shown in Mr. A DeWitt Foster's Horse Buying Operations---Secretary of Kings County Tory Association on the Stand---Several Witnesses Tell of Checks Being Signed in Blank.

Halifax, N.S., Sept. 2—Examined on the system followed out in the purchasing of horses, as remounts, Sifford H. Oakes, secretary-treasurer of the Kings County Liberal Conservative Association, and representative of A. DeWitt Foster, ex-M.P., paymaster of the buyers, this morning gave the Davidson war supply commission the information that the animal that disappeared at Halifax, was made good. He was explaining the number of horses bought at Kentville, Oamming, Wolfville, Kingston, Berwick and Middleton, and stated that 291 were purchased in these points and 292 shipped.

John Thompson, K.C., commission counsel, asked where the extra horse came from and Mr. Oakes said it represented the animal bought to replace the missing Halifax remount.

Mr. Thompson asked if this horse was bought with government money and witness said:

"I know nothing about it."

Mr. Oakes said he gave no instructions as to the buying of horses to Agents Keever and McKay, he only arranged a buying itinerary in Kings county, and supplied the money for the horses. He asked Mr. Foster who McKay was and was told he was a secretary to Keever. Witness was uncertain as to the number of horses bought at some points but supplied figures as to how many were shipped to Valcartier.

Answering Mr. Thompson, Mr. Oakes said McKay purchased 113 horses and received \$19,630 in checks. In addition, McKay was paid \$2,050 from a check witness drew to his own order. Some of the checks were made out in advance of the purchase.

Asked by counsel, why he drew three checks on one day payable to McKay, instead of one, witness said probably the buyer used up the proceeds of one before he cashed another. Any checks for which he secured cash at the bank, he (witness) endorsed.

PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Mr. Thompson then asked: "When the buyer asked for money for horses why didn't you issue individual checks to the vendors instead of four small checks to McKay?"

Witness said that was not the system adopted.

"Did you see the vendors' names on the tags?"

Witness:—Yes, often, but I had not always known whether the names on the receipt was the same as on the tag. They often differed.

Mr. Thompson:—How do you know that those tags, if they did not have the name of the actual vendor, represented any horses purchased?

Witness:—We had the horses.

Mr. Thompson:—Why consider averages when a specific number of tags given to you indicated the cost of horses bought?

Witness explained he had to keep his average.

Mr. Thompson asked to whom McKay accounted for his purchases and witness said to Keever.

"If some of the checks were cashed in advance of purchase, who got the signature of the veterinary?" enquired counsel.

Mr. Oakes said he got Drs. Wood and Chipman to sign up a number of checks in advance of the examination of horses.

Mr. Thompson showed Oakes five remount checks and asked who filled them out. Witness identified the

handwriting of the manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Kentville on three. The other two were in Keever's handwriting. Other checks were made out by Oakes. They were all signed by A. DeWitt Foster.

Mr. Thompson asked if Keever's check was issued to him in blank and Oakes answered in the negative.

"Why make it an even \$3,000?" asked counsel.

"It was an even \$3,000 for the 29 horses that I aimed at," said the witness.

Oakes said he compared the receipts each night with checks issued and in this way always knew exactly how much a buyer had on hand. Counsel asked for the production of the record in which this data was entered up. Witness said he had destroyed it as he had no further use for it.

Keever met him every night but one, after the sales, and then gave him an accounting.

"And you say that after issuing all these checks on a calculated average, you owed Keever nothing and he owed you nothing?" asked Mr. Thompson.

"Certainly," asserted witness emphatically.

DISCREPANCY OF \$2,968.

The estimated alleged discrepancy in the accounts for the purchase of remounts in the Counties of Kings, Hants and Annapolis last year is \$2,968, according to a statement compiled by the auditor general of Canada, which was produced at this afternoon's session.

When the final examination of Gifford H. Oakes was being made this afternoon, Mr. Thompson, counsel for the commission, read the auditor general's statement and asked Mr. Oakes how he accounted for the discrepancy.

The witness replied that he could only state that, including a memo which he had for horses purchased at Berwick (the receipts of which had been missing), he had the receipts for every horse purchased and that the aggregate amount called for in these receipts corresponded with the aggregate amount of the checks which he issued to the remount buyers.

When questioned later by Sir Charles Davidson, Mr. Oakes said he could offer no further explanation of the alleged discrepancy than that which he had given.

"What part did you take in the actual purchasing of the horses?" asked Sir Charles.

"None whatever."

"You have based the evidence given before the commission?"

"Yes."

"How do you account for the acceptance of the most discreditable horses such as those sold by Chute and Harvey?"

"Those matters did not come under my observation."

"I suppose you have some knowledge of horses?"

"Very little. I am not a horse-man."

"As regards McKay, how often, to your knowledge, did he account to Keever?" (McKay was one of the remount buyers in those counties and Keever, his chief, was the other.)

"I don't know anything about his accounting to Keever. I presume he did, but I don't know."

TRACING THE DISCREPANCY.

The total number of horses purchased was 291.

(Continued on Page four)

SIR WILFRID'S STRONG APPEAL FOR RECRUITS

Napanee, Ont., Sept. 2—Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the chief speaker at a magnificent patriotic demonstration held here today in the new armories, at which large contingents from Picton, Belleville, Trenton and other places were present. Sir George Foster was to have occupied the platform also, but unfortunately he missed his train.

Owing to the extreme heat and suffering from an ulcerated tooth, Sir Wilfrid was obliged to take a brief rest in the middle of his speech, during which period W. F. Nickle, M.P. for Kingston, occupied the breach. Mayor Gifford of Napanee, presided and a number of members of the House of Commons and the legislature were present.

Sir Wilfrid expressed himself as opposed to the saying, "In time of peace prepare for war." Taking the German record as an instance, he said that to put the youth of the country into a race for two or three years would instil in them a desire for war which some time or other would take effect. He did not approve of the principle of compulsory service. He said:

"This is a war which, to every British subject, means that before we consent to this spirit of the German army we are prepared to shed our last drop of blood."

"I have come here to talk to the young men. I have only one argument to make to them, and if it does not touch them, nothing will. It is that only the brave deserve the fair. If there is a young man who is not touched by that, I despair of him."

CANADA'S KNIGHTS SAFE AT HOME

Ottawa, Sept. 1—Any heartburnings caused by the published statement that Sir Sam Hughes' new rank of K.C.B. gives him precedence over all other knights in Canada, including all his cabinet colleagues, with the exception of Sir Robert Borden who is a member of the British privy council, are unnecessary.

The matter has been looked up. The state department's regulations show that there need be no fear on the part of Sir George E. Foster, Sir George Perley or even Hon. Robert Rogers or Hon. W. T. White and that Sir Sam will henceforth be accorded a seat higher up at table at public banquets or on ceremonial occasions. British titles are not recognized in the Canadian order of precedence regulations. Canada has her own table of precedence. His majesty does not require the old order in Canada to yield place to new.

Knighthood conveys no precedence in the dominion. Sir Robert Borden, as premier, comes first in the table of precedence and the other cabinet ministers follow in the order in which they are sworn in. After Sir Robert Borden comes Sir George Foster, then Sir George Perley, Hon. Robert Rogers, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Hon. W. T. White, Hon. J. D. Hazen, Hon. Chas. Doherty and Hon. Sir Sam, ninth on the list. And there he must remain for ceremonial purposes in Canada despite the K.C.B. The only way for him to get to the top of the list is to become governor general or prime minister.

PENNSYLVANIAN GIFT.

Mrs. D. Lee Bhatt has received the sum of twenty-five dollars for the Soldiers' Tobacco Fund, the donor being Mr. William Thompson of Allentown, Pa. Mr. Thompson made the collection among the people of that place and the list of contributors show that Dutch residents of Allentown gave toward the fund. The amount will be forwarded through the Bank of Montreal tonight, together with the amount collected by the Victor Hatheway Chapter, Daughters of the Empire.

London, Sept. 3—Russian forces are holding firm in the Riga district. In other parts of the line an orderly retirement is being carried out. The fall of Grodno was expected, but the Slavs still hold the town and are preventing Teutons from crossing the Niemen.

Washington, Sept. 3—Washington has a conviction that a definite peace movement is developing and that the actions of the various combatant government portend developments quiet in the right direction.

ITALIANS MAKING PROGRESS

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Sept. 3—On the western front artillery activity is the only feature. The Italian drive for Trent is progressing rapidly and with the fall of Rovereto before the Italian guns, experts believe that the Italian armies will approach Trent itself before winter sets in.

TURKISH FORCES CUT OFF

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Sept. 3—In the Dardanelles the Allies are reported to have achieved great success by cutting off a large portion of the Turkish forces whose surrender is said to be imminent. German submarines continue to take their toll of British merchantmen, the Roumanie and the Whitefield having been sunk today. The crews were saved.

TRANSPORT REPORTED SUNK

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Sept. 3—Berlin says a Sofia despatch declares that a British transport struck a mine and sank off the Dardanelles, 320 officers, 1250 men 300 of crew being drowned. Six hundred bodies are said to have been recovered.

MAY GO TO THE HAGUE

Berlin, Sept. 3—Germany according to Count Von Bernstorff's instructions, offers to submit the claims for compensation arising from the Lusitania and Arabic cases to The Hague for adjudication.

MANY SUBMARINES SUNK

New York, Sept. 3—An officer of the White Star liner Adriatic, which arrived from Liverpool today, declared positively that the German submarine which sank the Arabic had been caught in a steel net and the members of the U boat's double crew were now prisoners in England. He added that within the last sixty days the British have captured no fewer than fifty German submarines. Six survivors of the Arabic arrived on the Adriatic.