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The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Fresh southwesterly to northwesterly winds, fair and a little colder.

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RUSSIANS FIRMLY HOLDING THEIR POSITIONS IN THE CARPATHIANS; GERMAN LINES AT WOEUVE ARE IN DANGER

SOME MORE LIGHT ON THE TORY WAR HORSES

A. DeWitt Foster, M. P. Who Worked "Without Remuneration" on the Witness stand at Ottawa--Doc Chipman the Vet. Also Told His Story--Mining Experts who Handled the Cash are now in the United States and have the Vouchers With Them.

Ottawa, April 12--"It is the most contemptible steal ever pulled off in Canada."

That was Frank B. Caswell's characterization in the public accounts committee this afternoon of the horse deal which A. DeWitt Foster, Conservative member for Kings county, Nova Scotia, pulled off last August and September when he, with two "patriotic" ex-Canadians and the present secretary of the government whip in the Commons, bought 428 horses for \$72,000 and then neglected to supply the militia department with receipts and vouchers.

The last chapter of the story was told to the committee today by Mr. Foster, who acted as purchasing agent, "without remuneration," and by Dr. Chipman, the veterinary from Kentville, Nova Scotia, who passed the spavined, antiquated and decrepit horses on whom the lives of Canada's soldiers might depend.

The veterinary told the committee this morning that while his examination might not have been as thorough as it should have been, still he did not think he actually passed any thirty-six-year-old horses. He said that Mr. Foster's purchasing agents, Messrs. Keever and McKay, the one manager of a gold mine in Arizona and the other secretary of the government whip in the Commons, were the final arbiters as to what horses should be accepted and what horses rejected. All he did was to ticket them for acceptance if these two wanted them. Then he signed the blanket checks made out by Foster to Keever and McKay without really knowing whether the horses he had passed were the ones purchased and whether the checks really represented the purchase money.

FOSTER'S STORY.

This afternoon A. DeWitt Foster himself, put on the finishing touches to the sordid tale. He said he had got his two friends, Messrs. Keever and Woodworth, to buy the horses for him "because they would not ask for any expenses." They were prominent business men engaged in mining operations, whom he had met in Ottawa just previous to making his arrangements with the militia department to buy horses in Nova Scotia. They went to Nova Scotia, taking with them Mr. McKay, bought the horses, received the checks made out to them by Foster and then disappeared with all the receipts and the vouchers.

The character of the horses bought has already been made clear in the evidence before the committee. The main things to be cleared up when Mr. Foster took the stand was as to where the government's money actually went and what accounting had been made to the department.

SAW MISSING AGENTS.

To the amazement of the committee Mr. Foster said that he had seen both Mr. Woodworth and Mr. Keever in Boston a week ago but had never asked them to give him a detailed statement or to produce the checks and vouchers. He said he did not think they could do it. But he naively explained that Mr. Woodworth had promised to come to Ottawa and testify before the committee as soon as he could wind up some private business. And he had not taken the precaution to tell him that parliament would prorogue within a few days. There were some other equally sig-

nificant phases of the plot. Mr. Foster admitted that he had asked the secretary of the Conservative Association in Kings county, Mr. Oates, to look after the purchase of horses in Kings, Annapolis and Hants counties and that the two of them had checked up the receipts shown to them by Messrs. Keever and Woodworth with a view to finding out if the total amounts were all right. Even as to this, Mr. Foster could not swear positively, but he thought "he was dealing with honest men."

There was also the fact brought out that the checks paid to Woodworth were endorsed by prominent Nova Scotia Conservatives "for identification purposes," although Woodworth had already cashed checks in the same bank in Halifax.

The Conservative members in the committee this afternoon attempted no defence for their colleague from Kings county. It was all too evident that he is to be thrown overboard just as Mr. Garland, Conservative member for Carleton county, has been thrown overboard because of his connection with graft and the purchase of surgical supplies.

DR. CHIPMAN TESTIFIES.

Dr. Chipman was on the stand all morning. He was looking somewhat frail after a serious illness from which he has not yet recovered. There were many things he did not remember but when he finished his evidence at one o'clock it was apparent to the committee that he had simply been an agent but not one of the principals in the plot.

Examined first by Mr. Rhodes, Dr. Chipman said he had made a careful examination of the horses which had been purchased for the government by Mr. McKay in Kings county. He had looked them over as to age and soundness and had examined their manes. He had tried out in the saddle those which were to be used for cavalry purposes and in harness those which were intended for artillery. At Kentville between seventy and eighty horses had been submitted for sale. He had been there only half a day, had examined thirty horses and had passed only eight of them.

For the four days during which he worked at Kentville, Wolfville, Berwick and Kingston he had received \$10 a day, out of which he had to pay his own expenses. At Wolfville over eighty horses were submitted for sale and he had examined thirty and accepted six. With regard to John Selfridge's "horse with a cough," which he had passed there, witness said he had examined it thoroughly as he had been told it had a cough, but after testing it in every way he could not find the cough and so he passed the horse.

At Kingston there were between seventy and eighty horses and some of the owners wanted as high as \$300 for them. Witness said he knew Harvey as a horse dealer and would examine his horses more carefully than others. He said he had known Harvey for fifteen or twenty years and had gone to school with him.

"Harvey said he sold a horse thirty years of age. Is that right?" asked Mr. Rhodes.

"If so, I didn't pass him," replied the witness.

"I remember examining one horse Harvey sold, but it was sound and ten years old."

At Berwick, where Harvey sold his first horse to the government, Dr. (Continued on page four)

Petrograd, April 13--An official announcement is made of the resumption of the bombardment of Ossoweitz by the Germans, also a new offensive from Suwalke southward to the Vistula. General Von Hinderburg is trying to create a diversion to relieve the pressure in the Carpathians. It is declared that he has no chance of success. The Russians are holding firmly their positions.

London, April 13--It is reported to day that general naval reserve station at Lerwick, Shetland Islands has been blown up by a German spy. This report is unconfirmed. The government has taken over all the telegraph wires to Scotland. It is reported that a fleet of German trawlers are engaged in fishing off the coast of Sweeden under the protection of German warships. The Swedish fishermen have entered a protest.

CONCENTRATING TROOPS

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, April 13--The Germans are concentrating troops in the vicinity of Thionville and Metz in fear that the French will succeed in their efforts to penetrate the German lines in the Woivre region.

Paris, April 13--Germany has not paid the first April instalment of her loan to Bulgaria according to despatch from Sofia. It is believed in the Bulgarian capital that Germany fears the Bulgaria will adhere to the side of the Allies.

FIGHTING IN FLANDERS

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, April 13--Despatches received here today say that severe fighting has been resumed in Flanders, around Driegrachten. British Aviators again raided the German lines returning safely after the bombardment of a railway depot.

BALKANS WILL PARTICIPATE

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Nish, Serbia, April 13--It is declared that by the middle of May all the Balkan states will be precipitated into the Great European war. All indications point in that direction.

ITALIAN WAR MEASURES

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Rome, April 13--The Despatch says the war measures considered by King and the Cabinet officers orders dull metal on all uniforms. This is the customary pre-war measures.

WARDED OFF AIRSHIP ATTACK

London, April, 13--"Armed with a rifle, Captain Sharp, of the British steamer Serula, which has arrived here, successfully repulsed an attack made upon his steamer by a large German hydroplane and a small aeroplane off the Noordhinder Lightship," says a Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent.

"The aeroplane first approached the ship, dropped bombs, which fell into the sea. As it returned to the attack Captain Sharp fired upon it with a rifle hitting the machine several times and damaging one of its wings. Then the hydroplane took up the attack, but it also was driven off. Captain Sharp says he is convinced the aeroplane was so badly damaged that it was unable to reach Zeebrugge."