

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
In order to ensure changes being made, advertisements copy must reach office not later than nine a.m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Strong north and northwest winds, fair, not much change in temperature.

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MARTIAL LAW MAY SOON BE PROCLAIMED IN GREECE; UNEASINESS AT ATHENS OVER PROXIMITY OF BULGARS TO BORDER LINE

CHANDLER'S REPORT MADE PUBLIC AT LAST

Charges of boodling and Graft Preferred by Liberal Organizers Veniot and Carter Are Proven up to the Hilt---Crooked Work of Stewart and Robichaud, M. P. P.'s For Gloucester is Roundly Condemned---Col. Sheridan Also Knocked.

The long delayed report of Mr. W. B. Chandler, K.C., of Moncton, the commissioner who investigated the charges of graft and wrongdoing in connection with departments of the provincial government, has at last been made public. The charges were preferred by Messrs. P. J. Veniot and E. S. Carter, Liberal organizers, and the commissioner finds that they were proved right up to the hilt. Mr. Carter charged that a check for \$2903.32, issued by the Dalhousie Lumber Company in settlement of a stumpage claim, did not go to the Crown Land Office but was turned over to Mr. J. W. Brankley of the Miramichi Lumber Company. The commissioner finds the charge is sustained and that the transaction was "irregularly conducted." He points out that the matter was arranged by Willard H. Berry, then superintendent of scalars, without consulting anybody connected with the Crown Land Department, and declares that his conduct is very much open to censure, even though the province lost nothing.

STEWART'S BOODLING.

In regard to the charges preferred against Mr. A. J. H. Stewart, M.P.P., Mr. Chandler reviews the evidence at some length and tersely comments on the same. He finds that lumber and sleepers were cut by Stewart on crown lands and no stumpage paid on the same. Commenting on this, the commissioner says:

"IF, HOWEVER, ANYONE OPERATING ON CROWN LANDS IN THIS PROVINCE UNDER A LUMBER LICENSE, ACTS ON THE SAME PRINCIPLE AS THAT FOLLOWED BY MR. STEWART, THE TASK OF THE OFFICIALS WHOSE DUTY IT IS TO SEE THAT THE LAW REGULATING LUMBER OPERATIONS ON CROWN LANDS IS ENFORCED, AND THE PROPER AMOUNT OF STUMPAGE COLLECTED FROM THE OPERATORS WILL INDEED BE A DIFFICULT ONE."

In connection with the work on the Nepisquit bridge, the commissioner finds that Stewart submitted to the Public Works Department a bogus account in the name of Frank Robinson for stone. Stewart wrote Robinson's name on the check with "his mark" and got the money, signing his own name as a witness. It was shown by the evidence that Robinson is able to write and never signs by a cross.

"The whole transaction," says the commissioner, "in my judgment, was very irregular and I CANNOT SEE ANY REASON FOR MR. STEWART INTERFERING WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TAKING UPON HIMSELF TO SETTLE THIS QUESTIONABLE CLAIM AND THEN PUTTING IN A FALSE ACCOUNT FOR STONE THAT WAS NEVER DELIVERED IN ORDER TO GET THE MONEY."

A TOOL OF STEWART'S.

Referring to the conduct of Valentine Robichaud, a bridge superintendent, the commissioner says: "The disclosures made in the course of the enquiries which I have held in the past few months, have convinced me that in this and other matters coming under my notice, this man, Valentine Robichaud, was simply a

tool in the hands of Stewart. Whatever blame is to be imputed in connection with the matter mentioned above, should fall more upon Stewart than upon Robichaud."

In regard to Docithee Chaisson, the bridge foreman, who lost his time book in a lobster pot, the commissioner says:

"Docithee Chaisson the man in charge of the work, was a most unsatisfactory witness and it was almost impossible to get any definite information out of him as to the work done on this bridge."

"Docithee Chaisson does not seem to have kept any particular record in connection with his work and is a man of little or no education, and he apparently relied altogether on Mr. Martin Robichaud to keep matters straight in connection with his work."

The Martin Robichaud referred to is member of the Legislature.

Referring to the Caribou bridge, the commissioner says:

"Everything in connection with the work done on the bridge is confused and unsatisfactory."

HIGH CLASS FOREMAN.

"I found Docithee Chaisson unable or unwilling to explain clearly anything in connection with his work and in my judgment he is a man entirely unfit for the position of foreman, as he does not seem able to keep his accounts or reports straight or to give any definite information as to what he did."

"Docithee Chaisson claimed, when giving evidence, that he had lost the report which he kept as to the work done on the Caribou bridge. It seems to have left everything to Mr. Martin Robichaud, even to fixing of prices to be paid for labor and material."

BOY ON THE PAY ROLL.

In connection with Mr. Veniot's charge that an eleven-year-old boy, a son of Docithee Chaisson, had his name on the pay roll, the commissioner says:

"Edward D. Chaisson, at the time when this work was done, was a boy about eleven years old, attending school, and really did not work at all in connection with this bridge."

"The work which is credited to Edward D. Chaisson was all done by Cleophas Chaisson and the money received by Docithee Chaisson, his employer. Cleophas Chaisson was paid by the month by Docithee Chaisson."

In summing up his findings in regard to the Dempsey bridge, the commissioner thus pays his respects to Mr. A. J. H. Stewart, M.P.P., as follows:

"THE MANNER IN WHICH MR. STEWART HAS ACTED IN CONNECTION WITH DEPARTMENTAL OR GOVERNMENT MATTERS IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY, AS DETAILLED ON THE ENQUIRY BEFORE ME, COMPELS ME TO BE SUSPICIOUS AS TO EVERYTHING HE HAS DONE AND OF EVERY TRANSACTION WITH WHICH HE IS IN ANY WAY CONNECTED."

Concerning Valentine Robichaud, a structural superintendent, the commissioner hands out the following:

"All the cases into which I have enquired where Valentine Robichaud

SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN THE WAR

London, Dec. 22--The second American note to Austria shared the leading positions in the late London newspapers with the reports of the Russian success at Varna, Bulgaria's chief seaport.

The note appeared here too late for extended editorial comment, but the headlines reflected the opinions "note couched in sharper tones;" all discussion about details swept aside; "No further discussion appears possible."

Up to a late hour there was no official confirmation of the report of the Russian occupation of Varna, which if true, is, according to the London editors, "one of the greatest moves of the present war." The same critics observe that the Russian assault on Varna is the prelude to a new effort for Constantinople, which is less than 150 miles distant.

On the western front the success of the French at Hartmann-Wellerkopf, in the Vosges is regarded in the Allied capitals as not only a brilliant, but a useful operation at a point where the situation has been most difficult for many months. The number of prisoners is the largest on the west front since the great Champagne-Loos offensive.

The English public takes much pride in the manner in which Australia has taken the withdrawal from Gallipoli. This attitude is summed up by an Australian newspaper in the words of Lincoln's Gettysburg speech:

"We have highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom."

The most important developments of the evening in Great Britain were an appeal by the leading bankers of the nation to unite in the task of meeting the war's financial requirements, and a speech by David Lloyd George, the minister of munitions, at Newcastle, to the trade union officials of the country, appealing to them for assistance in obtaining 80,000 skilled workers, which he demanded in his speech in parliament a few days ago.

The reports of the Reichstag discussions have aroused some interest in the Entente capitals, where the Socialists attitude is being closely followed, many believing that some sections of the Socialist group in Germany may prove to be the ultimate channel of peace negotiations. A Copenhagen despatch declares that the Socialist party in Germany is now completely divided, twenty-one members having seceded and formed a new party, with an independent organization.

DOES NOT CONFIRM CAPTURE.

London, Dec. 23--There is still no confirmation of the reported Russian landing at Varna. A Bucharest despatch to the Times, dated Dec. 21, says:

"A Russian fleet of about forty vessels appeared yesterday morning (Monday) off Cape Kaliakra, and proceeded in the direction of Varna whence a violent bombardment was heard. Nothing was visible owing to the fog."

"According to official reports, four large warships and two torpedo boats engaged in the bombardment with heavy guns. The firing lasted from 8 to 10 o'clock in the morning, then ceased, apparently owing to the fog and the squadron returned to Kaliakra about noon."

"Simultaneously with the bombardment two Russian gunboats opened fire on the Bulgarian frontier near Ezeres."

SNOW ON TOBIQUE.

Mr. Charles Cremen who lately returned from a trip to his camps on the Tobique reports fourteen inches of snow in the woods of that section.

London, Dec. 23--A proclamation of martial law in Greece is reported to be imminent. There is evidence of a growing uneasiness at Athens over the possibility that Bulgarian troops will cross the border.

Reports today indicate that the loss of life on the Jap steamer Yasaka Maru sunk by a submarine was very slight but the cargo loss is the heaviest of the war.

FRENCH REPULSE GERMANS

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Dec. 23--The French claim they have expelled the Germans from their highest trenches at Hartmanns Weilekopf. The Germans admit retirement from the summit. The French claim they have not only advanced their positions substantially notwithstanding the fact that the Germans succeeded in reoccupying some of the lost trenches but they have forestalled an offensive which the Germans had been preparing in Vosges.

A MINOR NAVAL ACTION

(SPECIAL TO THE MAIL.)

London, Dec. 23--The bombardment of Varna at first reported as a formidable Russian attack now appears to have been nothing more than a minor naval action among torpedo boats in which the shore batteries participated.

A large Russian fleet is reported in the vicinity of Varna however and a serious Russian attack may yet develop.

MURRAY TO THE DARDANELLES

London, Dec. 22--Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Murray has been appointed to succeed Sir Charles Monro, as British commander at the Dardanelles, says an official statement issued this afternoon. Sir Charles Monro has been appointed in command of the first British army in France, in succession to Sir Douglas Haig.

The official announcement follows:

"General Sir Douglas Haig having assumed command of the British forces in France and Flanders, General Sir Charles Monro will succeed him in command of the first army. Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Murray, chief of the imperial general staff, will succeed Sir Charles Monro."

"Lieutenant-General Sir William Robertson, now chief of the general staff in France, will become chief officer of the imperial general staff, with the temporary rank of general, with Major-General W. Wigham as his deputy."

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