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

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Northeast winds;
local showers today and on Sunday.

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GERMAN ATTACKS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL; ALLIES' SHIPS DAMAGED BY THE TURKS; A CATHEDRAL BOMBARDED BY HUNS

WANT NO LIGHT ON THE POTATO DEAL

Public Accounts Committee Votes Down Mr. Stewart's Motion for an Investigation --Ready to Call Witnesses to Prove That Exorbitant Prices Were Paid to Tory Patriots- -B. F. Smith Scooped in a Big Profit.

Another investigation asked for by the opposition in the legislature has been refused. Yesterday, in the Public Accounts Committee, J. L. Stewart, the only opposition man upon the committee, asked the chairman to summon three reputable witnesses to give evidence concerning the expenditure of over \$90,000 for patriotic potatoes. That \$90,000 was only a part of the large amount expended and as it was all that appeared in the report of the auditor general it was all that could be inquired into. But the real expenditure was between one hundred and forty and one hundred and fifty thousand dollars paid out of two special warrants on seventy-five thousand dollars cash.

Mr. J. L. Stewart wanted to know, as he had a perfect right to know, if this \$90,000 was expended properly and economically. There has been so much talk of the large amounts made by political middlemen out of this patriotic gift of the people of New Brunswick that it was very desirable the facts should be got at and told on oath before the Public Accounts Committee. The manner in which the potatoes were handled at West St. John, the rot and the waste and the huckstering of thousands of barrels from one store and one street to other stores and other streets has caused a great deal of comment. The fact that hundreds of barrels have been hauled to the hog-pens of government supporters is well known and the query has arisen more than once whether the real hogs or the government hogs were getting the most benefit from the patriotic gift of New Brunswick's loyal citizens. It was stated on the platform in Carleton county that the potatoes were bought there for all prices between eighty and a dollar per barrel. It was known that B. Frank Smith, who now occupies a seat in the House, was the purchasing agent for the local government. It was known that he was receiving one dollar and ten cents per barrel and the profit therefor to him was a very large one, running up to many thousands of dollars. It was another case of the Tory patriot who burns to serve his country but first helps himself.

According to the auditor general's report, page 195, Smith bought nearly thirty-two thousand barrels of potatoes and was paid \$34,723.10. He didn't even have to use his own money to make the payments. Hon. Mr. Murray says that Mr. Daggett arranged with the Bank of Nova Scotia to finance the transaction, although he has persistently refused to answer the opposition questions clearly and to tell the House all that could be told about it. Mr. B. F. Smith shipped the potatoes to St. John. There were one hundred and seventy-one cars of them in the first lot and then the work of sorting and barreling and bagging was handed over to his relations, A. C. Smith & Co., and they received \$12,072 for their work. They bagged 41,241 bags and they had 19,218 barrels. They charged as much for sorting and filling each bag as they did for each barrel. They must have averaged the price for they charged at twenty cents each. They paid out for bags \$5,306. They bought \$60,000 at \$106 per thousand. Whether there was any profit on this transaction will be known to potato dealers. The Public Accounts Committee could have learned had they consented to hear the evidence of the witnesses named. They bought five hundred pounds of hank at twenty-five cents per pound. They bought a potato sorter for \$45. They paid \$2,788 for 8,580 barrels or thirty-two and one-half cents each. They bought fifteen

hundred empty barrels from the River Valley Lumber Company, relatives of B. Frank Smith. So, for all these things and some other small amounts the firm of A. C. Smith & Co. paid out for the province \$31,337.61. It was this amount in particular that Mr. Stewart wanted evidence upon.

The first application for witnesses was made to the Public Accounts Committee yesterday and then Chairman Black laid down the peculiar and unprecedented condition that the information sought to be proved should be furnished to the committee beforehand. Such ruling was, of course, ridiculous but in a committee on which there are six government members and one opposition, "might is right."

Mr. Stewart told the committee that he had no information himself, but E. S. Carter had requested him to apply for witnesses. That, of course, did not help the matter along any and the item was allowed to stand until today. This morning Organizer Carter waived any objection as to giving information beforehand and wrote J. L. Stewart to that effect. His letter was as follows:

Fredericton, N.B.,
April 16th, 1915.
J. L. Stewart, Esq., M.P.P.,
House of Assembly.

Dear Mr. Stewart:—
I notice that in the Public Accounts Committee yesterday, according to the official press report, some objection was taken by the chairman to summoning the witnesses asked for by me through you to give evidence in connection with the purchase and the handling of the potatoes for the patriotic gift which is noted in the auditor general's report as having involved an expenditure of over \$90,000.

While I am assured by men of much parliamentary experience in the New Brunswick legislature that such a demand has never been made before in the Public Accounts Committee, still there is no objection to stating that I expect Messrs. W. W. Boyce and Kennedy & Wetmore, being large potato buyers and shippers, could give expert evidence as to the cost of sorting, handling, etc., as well as to whether they made any offers in connection with the patriotic shipment.

I ask for the evidence of Mr. H. Colby Smith because he is one of the principal members of the firm of A. C. Smith & Co., whose account with the government is under consideration.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) E. S. CARTER.

Mr. Stewart read this letter to the committee and asked for the witnesses named and when the chairman still insisted that further information was necessary before the witnesses could be called, Mr. Stewart told the committee that it was proposed to prove what were reasonable prices and whether any other offer to sort the potatoes had been made or not. At this juncture the chairman, in his dilemma sent for the minister of agriculture, Hon. Mr. Murray, who explained that he did not know very much about the transaction, and the secretary for agriculture, Mr. Daggett, who had made the arrangements, was ill in the hospital. He himself did not know of any offer to do the sorting and barreling for fifteen cents per barrel. He produced some correspondence from Kennedy & Wetmore, but in that correspondence there was not mention of any offer to do work. He had instructed his stenographer to search diligently for any letter offering to do work for fifteen cents and none could be found. The letter of Messrs. Kennedy & Wetmore confirmed that Mr. (Continued from Page One.)

London, April 17--Germans tried to advance Thursday towards Lombartzy but were repulsed by Belgian battallions and British Warships simultaneously. Another attack south of Dixmude was equally unsuccessful.

Constantinople, April 17--Official statement says that the Allied warships were badly damaged by Turkish guns when bombarding the outer forts of the Dardanelles. They retired in flames. There is no confirmation of the report.

BREACH OF NEUTRALITY

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Geneva, April 17--German Shells have fallen on Swiss territory for third time from the big guns in upper Alsace. An official inquiry into the matter has been opened by commission composed of Swiss military and a civil officers to determine whether the circumstances constitute a breach of Switzerland's neutrality.

ZEPPELIN FELL INTO THE SEA

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Rome, April 17--It is announced that one of the two Zeppelins Germany gave Austria, fell into the Adriatic Sea, when manoeuvring off Pola. The entire crew was drowned. Special despatch says Austrian patrol crossed the Italian frontier and exchanged shots with Italian frontier guards. The Ministry is awaiting the local officers report before taking action.

BOMBARDED A CATHEDRAL

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

Paris, April 17--German aviators bombarded Amiens Cathedral. The building was undamaged, but ten persons were killed outright and three were seriously injured, all were civilians.

Aytilene, April 17--Ten allied warships entered Enos Bay and shelled and destroyed a Turkish camp there.

FLEEING FROM SMYRNA

London, April 17--Solonika correspondent of the Daily Mail says all of the civilian inhabitants of Smyrna have left the city for the interior in expectation of the Allied fleet landing forces there.

INDIAN CAVALRY ARRIVES

Northern France, April 17, via London--On an elevated plateau of Northern France there were enacted today one of the strangest scenes which has ever been witnessed by French people. The actors were Indian cavalry, brought hither from their native land, with their horses and equipment, for use in the British army at the time when the expected "big push" makes expedient their entrance into hostilities.

The spectators were khaki-clad officers from the four quarters of the globe, a scattering of French peasants and a few newspaper correspondents. The Indian force was in fine trim, for the April sun shone

brightly and nothing so appeals to the Indian as the sun.

DUTCH STEAMER SUNK

London, April 15--The Netherlands steamer Katwyk, from Baltimore for Rotterdam, was torpedoed yesterday evening, while anchored several miles to the west of the North Hinder Lightship in the North Sea. The crew of twenty-three men were saved and taken aboard the lightship.

As the steamer was sinking the crew took to the boats, and while rowing away saw the periscope of a submarine which rapidly disappeared. The Katwyk sank 15 minutes after explosion.