

OTTAWA LETTER.

Tory Officials Act Dishonestly: Place False Certificates on Invoices.

Foster Introduces Impracticable Motion--All Purchases to be Made by Commission.

Conservative Platform a Dead Letter, Ignored in the House and Repudiated.

OTTAWA, April 4.—(Special)—A very interesting condition of affairs has developed out of the opposition attack on the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The gravamen of the charge is that in the payment of accounts it is found that the prices are said to be excessive.

Further than this it is intimated by the opposition that there is a collusion between the party selling to the government, and certain government officials, because with respect to certain invoices said to be for excessive amounts, they are certified "prices fair and just."

A Minister of the Crown, however, honest in intention, no matter how constant he may be with regard to attention to duty, and with all the vigilance it is possible to exercise, cannot reasonably be expected to give personal attention to the cost of every article purchased for the use of the department; neither can he be expected to exercise specific and personal supervision over the purchasing details of a great spending department.

MINISTER WRONGLY BLAMED.

The opposition, however, lay down the rule that in the event of any purchase being made at exorbitant rates, the minister is to blame personally. They do not put this upon the general ground of a minister's personal responsibility with respect to everything that transpires in his department. If this were done, there would be no criticism of the attitude of the opposition. They go further and contend that in the event of an invoice for goods being certified as fair and just, and should the contrary be the case, that the minister has some personal knowledge of the transaction and has connived at a fraud on the government for which he must be held responsible.

Such a contention is not only unreasonable, but it is absurd on the face of it. In a department such as the Marine and Fisheries, purchases are made all over the length and breadth of the Dominion, and the minister has not, and cannot have, from the very nature of the transactions and the conditions under which they are negotiated, any but the most superficial knowledge of them.

What, then, is the logical result? The result is that the minister must rely implicitly upon the good faith and integrity of his officers.

This leads to the position assumed by the opposition, which is that in the case of invoices so certified, the minister is responsible, not the officer who certified to the bill.

It is a fact that cannot be denied that in a business involving an expenditure of nearly \$100,000,000 a year, some man will be paid an excessive profit upon some article. This has been the case with a man named Merwin, but in every instance the bill sent in to the government has been certified as fair and just, and because of that certificate the bill has been paid.

TORY OFFICIALS AT FAULT.

When this government came into power in 1896 they retained a large number of Conservatives, whom they found occupying exalted positions of trust. These men were retained in office, and among them are to be found some of the best public servants in Canada, against whom there has not been a breath of suspicion. Unfortunately there are others who have time and again brought the government into disrepute and subjected the minister to humiliation and derision. It is men of the latter class who certified bills to be "fair and just" that were in reality unfair, unjust and excessive.

The opposition attacks the department for paying these bills, and when asked—Do you think the officer who certified to the bill an honest man? They say yes.—When asked by the minister—You know these bills were certified to by So and So, an appointee of the late government, do you advise that the officer be suspended or dismissed? They say no.

The opposition say there has been a rake off. The minister says, give me the name of the man who has been guilty of taking a rake off, and I will dismiss him forthwith. To this challenge the opposition has no reply.

The position is quite clear. The opposition are not willing that a Conservative, who has wrongfully certified to an account, shall be discharged, but they use the fact that the account, although certified to as fair and just, is not fair and just, as the basis for an attack upon the minister.

WHERE THE BLAME BELONGS.

Mr. E. M. MacDonald, of Pictou, expressed the idea exactly on Monday last in the House, when, in reply to Mr. J. D. Reid, of Grenville, who made some references to the memory of the late Hon. Raymond Prefontaine. Mr. MacDonald said in part:

"The hon. gentleman need not rush to the defence of Raymond Prefontaine. If Raymond Prefontaine's good name is ever defamed it will be on account of the fact that there were in that department men who were Conservatives and men who should have been turned out by him and his predecessor. And if the good name of this government ever suffers discredit, it will be on account of men like Mr. Fraser and others who remain in that department."

"Let there be no mistake about that. My hon. friends laugh. Hon. gentlemen opposite in former days planted certain people in the various departments. Unfortunately the services of some of those men were not dispensed with after 1896, and today my hon. friend stands up in this House and gives him a certificate of character, while at the same time he attacks the minister because Mr. Fraser certified to certain accounts."

The time has come for vigorous action. If the Conservatives want a house cleaning, they can get it, and the delectable moral, in the person of "Merwin," can furnish just what is required. The bills of this man were certified by Conservatives in the government employ, as being fair and just. Now then, if the opposition contend that the people have been robbed because Merwin was paid too much for certain articles, the man responsible for this service, and logically that man is the individual who placed a false certificate upon a bill rendered to the government.

MINISTERS TOO LENIENT.

The ministers have retained in the government employ men whose services should have been dispensed with before now, but the fact that they were Conservatives has caused some hesitation, because there would have been those who would question the bona fides of such action, and it would not have been easy to convince the people that it was done in the public interest. The time, however, has arrived when no false delicacy or consideration for men who have forfeited any right to it, should stand in the way of purging the service of men who have abused their trust, and been the primary cause of unnecessary expenditure for such men can no longer be utilized or the country's interest.

CORRUPT TORY OFFICIALS MUST GO.

If there is a substantial removal of Conservatives from office they must place the blame for their misfortune upon the shoulders of the Opposition who had exposed the lax manner in which their duties have been performed.

If some officers, appointed by the late government find that there services are no longer required, they can reflect upon the fact that they have been false to the trust reposed in them, and that the opposition brought about their exposure.

If the public service is to be cleansed and made more effective, then Conservatives who have connived at the destruction of the Government, whose servants they were, must be cut adrift, so that they will be powerless in future to bring discredit upon a party with which they have no sympathy.

FOSTER'S IMPOSSIBLE SCHEME

Kr. Foster introduced a resolution into the house providing that all Government expenditures shall be made by a commission. This is not only an unworkable, crude, badly thought out idea, but strikes at the root of responsible government.

Today, all expenditures are made on the responsibility of a minister of the crown, who must first receive the appropriations by vote of the House, then expend the money for the purposes of the appropriation, and after explain the method of spending and account for every dollar of it. Under Mr. Foster's procedure, a commission, appointed for life, only removable by impeachment of both Houses of Parliament (an almost impossible thing) responsible to no person, and having in their power the right to spend \$50,000,000 a year. There would be no additional check upon expenditures. The auditor general would pay as he does now, but the men actually responsible for incurring the debt would give account to no one, they could buy what they like, as much as they desired, and at any price they determined, and the representatives of the people in Parliament would have nothing to say about it.

There would be no additional check upon expenditures. The auditor general would pay as he does now, but the men actually responsible for incurring the debt would give account to no one, they could buy what they like, as much as they desired, and at any price they determined, and the representatives of the people in Parliament would have nothing to say about it.

NO PERSON RESPONSIBLE.

A minister of the Crown might be asked in the House if a certain expenditure were unnecessary or excessive, and his reply would be that he knows nothing about it, the commissioner did the buying. The proposal is absurd and positively dangerous to

the public interest. Should the Conservatives gain power and put such an idea into practice then any supervision of expenditure would be impossible, and conspiracy between the ministers would be not only possible but would entail no disagreeable features involving investigations, because the commissioners would be supreme, and not bound to give any accounting to any person. If they had the right to purchase, the Auditor-General would be bound to pay, and the result would be chaos and riot in dissipating public money; even only would be a thing unknown, and the soil become particularly fruitful for graft and thievery.

NOT CONSTRUCTIVE STATESMEN.

This Foster idea shows how little of constructive statesmanship there is in the opposition. Mr. Borden wants to turn over the government railroads to a commission, so that there would hardly be any necessity for a cabinet at all, under Conservatives. They would enjoy the emoluments and honors of office, but they would turn over the work to other people. These are the statesmen (sic) who expect the people of Canada to take them into favor, so that absurd ideas such as these may be put into practical operation. Fortunately the average voter in Canada is wiser than the men who seek to overthrow the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and such Onixotic theories are impossible of realization.

TORIES REPUDIATE PLATFORM

The Conservative party has become demoralized. No longer do they advocate big issues, they ignore their professed principles. It is many months since the Halifax platform was launched, and only in one instance has a member of the party placed on the order paper for discussion a single proposition contained in it. One prominent member of the party, Hon. John Haggart, when the Minister of Railways was presenting his annual statement, blantly denied that he had ever heard of the plank touching government ownership, and he gave it a flat repudiation. This will illustrate the lack of interest taken in a platform upon which the Conservative party expects to float into power.

The fact is, the Conservatives are too busy scandal-hunting to find time for graver issues affecting the welfare of the people of Canada. So far they have not proved anything wrong against a minister. It is true they have succeeded in bringing to light the fact that Mr. Foster took money from an appropriation and applied it for a purpose other than that for which it was intended. They have proved that Mr. Foster and a number of other prominent Conservatives secured timber limits free, and now they have proved that officials of the government, Conservatives, who were allowed to remain in office after 1896, have been certifying to accounts that caused the payment of large sums of money that might have been saved.

REPORT CONDEMNS TORIES

It cannot be said that Conservatives have been very fortunate with respect to their exposures, but that they have been very inconsistent in their own friends are beginning to find out. After the Royal Commission, which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has appointed to investigate into the charges indicated in the Civil Service report, as affecting officials in the Marine and Fisheries department, has concluded its labors, there are a number of men who owe their opponents to the late government, who will say fervently, "preserve us from our friends."

Much political capital is being made out of the Civil Service report. When the discussion takes place it will be found that anything wrong is owing in a large degree to the forbearance of the Liberal government in not dispensing with the service of Conservative officials in 1896. Had this been done the scandal in the Marine and Fisheries department would never have occurred.

LAURIER FOR CLEAN GOVERNMENT.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is determined to have clean administration, and that he would take the course of appointing a Royal Commission to investigate as the result of the opinion expressed by the Civil Service Commissioners was to be expected. It will make no difference to him who the guilty parties are. If any such are found they will meet with their deserts without any regard to politics. When the Prime Minister knows the course pointed out by duty, that course he will follow wherever it may lead, and in this he will be ably supported by his followers in the House, and receive the commendation encouragement and endorsement of the country at large.

SCANDAL AND TORIES ALLIED.

One cannot fail to remark that pursuit of every scandal invariably leads to Conservative sources. For years

NEW WAY TO BE WELL

Healthfulness of Oranges.

The one lesson which most people never seem to learn is, how to guard their health.

We have been eating oranges since time immemorial, yet how many of us know that orange juice contains a medicinal principle which has a marked action on the stomach, bowels, kidneys and skin. Some physicians go so far as to say that they can cure the average case of indigestion, Constipation, Bilioussness and Dry Skin with orange juice and proper diet. This can be easily proved to the satisfaction of any sufferer. Take the juice of one or two oranges every morning before breakfast, take one or two "Fruit-a-tives" every night at bed-time, exercise a reasonable care in diet, and the proof will be found in health.

The cure will be greatly assisted and hastened by taking "Fruit-a-tives" in conjunction with the orange juice. "Fruit-a-tives" are fruit juices in which the medicinal principle of oranges, apples, figs and prunes are many times increased by the special way in which they are combined. Then tonics are added and the whole made into tablets. "Fruit-a-tives" may be obtained at all dealers, or will be sent post-paid on receipt of price—50c a box—6 for \$2.50. "Fruit-a-tives," Limited, Ottawa.

The Conservative party misapplied the public funds, dissipated the public domain, distributed among themselves and their followers the fat Government contracts, the highest tenderer generally securing the work in return for a generous campaign contribution. Is it then to be considered remarkable that members of the Conservative party are found on record associated with every unsavory transaction that has so far been unearthed? This being eminently true, it is not surprising that wicked and false certificates have been placed upon bills rendered to the Government by Conservative office holders. If the middle man has profited and the people have paid the exorbitant profits the Conservatives alone are to blame.

DOCTORS CHANGE THEIR METHODS.

Years ago they fought catarrh by internal dosing. They saw this ruined the stomach and changed to the ozonated air cure, better known as "Catarrhzone." This treatment is sure to cure. It goes to the source of the disease; it destroys the causes that maintain catarrh and even in the worst cases permanent cure is guaranteed. Failure with catarrhzone is impossible. Antiseptic, healing and far reaching, it's bound to cure every time. Endorsed by more than twenty thousand physicians in America alone and sold in 25 cent bottles, also \$1.00 sizes by all dealers.

Judge—The next person who interrupts the proceedings of this court will be expelled from the room.

Prisoner—Hoo-ray! Hoo-ray! Whip Hoo! Now let me go.

LITTLE BUT SEARCHING—Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets are not big nauseous doses that contain injurious drugs or narcotics—they are the pure vegetable pepsin—the medicinal extract from this delicious fruit, and the tablets are prepared in as palatable form as the fruit itself. They cure indigestion. 60 in a box, 35 cents. Sold at Central Pharmacy, A. J. Ryan.—56.

She's really too young to go shopping alone.

Yes, she is rather impressionable. Impressions? How do you mean? I mean she's liable to get excited and buy something.

The Celebrated English Cocoa.

EPPS'S

An admirable food, with all its natural qualities intact. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's extreme cold.

COCOA

The Most Nutritious and Economical.

THE EDDYFIED MAN!

Is the man who recognises that Eddy's Woodenware, Fibreware, Matches, Washboards, Paper, Paper Bags, and Impervious Sheathing are honest goods and therefore he

ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE ASKS FOR THEM

SCHOFIELD PAPER CO.,

LIMITED
ST. JOHN, N. B.
SELLING AGENTS

JOB PRINTING

BILL HEADS, LETTER EA IS.

NOTE HEADS, STATEMENTS,

ENVELOPES, BUSINESS

CARDS.

DO YOU NEED A SUPPLY?

IF SO PLACE YOUR ORDER AT

THE HERALD OFFICE

W. E. SEERY

MERCHANT TAILOR

New Spring Goods

now in stock. Perfect Fitting, Stylish and Properly Made Garments Guaranteed.
Come in and look at my \$17.00 Business Suits

THE NEW ZON-O-PHONE

We have taken the agency for Zon-O-Phone Talking Machines and Records.

The very latest thing. Has a wonderful clear tone.

COME IN AND HEAR IT

WM. C. BURTT

FREDERICTON, N. B.

A SOURCE

OF COMFORT

A neat, well equipped lavatory is, without a question, a source of comfort to a household. It's one to us to install such a convenience in your home—an aid to the toilet, you'll never abandon after once experiencing its manifold advantages. Where there's running water you need not services.

D. J. Shea, FREDERICTON.

G. T. WHELPLEY

SUIT PANTS or OVERCOAT

Made to order at a moderate price, call on

WALKER BROS.

The West End Tailors

Always on hand, a choice selection of Cloths to select from.

WALKER BROTHERS
MERCHANT TAILORS.

Fresh Cut Flowers

Roses, Big Spicey Carnations, Violets

Lily of the Valley, Sm ax, Yellow

Daffodils, Let aces, C

oral Designs, Bouquets

J. BEBBINGTON & SON

The Leading Florests

Phone 254 FREDERICTON, N.B.

FLOUR

500 ba Peerless nts
Granulated Sugar.

G. T. Whelpley

SANTAL MIDY
Standard remedy for Gleet, Gonorrhea and Runnings
IN 48 HOURS. Cures Kidney and Bladder Troubles.