

THE DAILY HERALD

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DAILY HERALD.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1902.

EXPENSIVE RED TAPE.

Hon. Dr. Borden has announced in Parliament that some important changes will be made in connection with the militia force next session, and while the popular and efficient war minister is at it, he should provide for a reconsideration and amendment of the militia regulations governing courts martial.

Some trials at present proceeding in this city illustrate the expensive and absurd character of military red tape as exhibited in trial by court martial. Recently charges of drunkenness were made against three members of the Royal Canadian Regiment quartered in this city, charges that might have been disposed of in a civil court in a day and at a very small expense. To meet the requirements of the military regulations, however, it was necessary for the commandant of the military to ask for a court martial, and for nearly a week a military court composed of a colonel, a major and a captain, have been trying the cases against the men. Two of the members of the court were summoned from St. John and all are drawing the pay of their rank, the colonel \$5 a day, the major \$4, and the captain \$3, besides travelling and living expenses for the St. John officers. At this rate the court is costing the country say in the vicinity of \$20 a day, for the trial of three simple alleged drunks.

The Herald does not want to be understood as finding fault with the manner in which the court martial is being conducted. No doubt the officers composing it are discharging their duties efficiently, but it is the system which we condemn, and which should be remodelled and cheapened. If a soldier imbibes too much beer which is on sale in the military buildings, why should he not be handed over to the civil authorities the same as an ordinary drunk. The police magistrate would make short work of such cases at a very moderate cost, and the evidence and findings could be reported to the authorities at Ottawa and the offenders receive adequate punishment and reduction in rank for their offences.

There is plenty of military red tape, but this court martial business probably furnishes one of the best examples of an effete and expensive system, which should be changed at the earliest possible opportunity.

AN UNREASONABLE REQUEST.

Mr. Haggart, the ex-minister of railways, who made the reckless charge in Parliament, that Hon. A. G. Blair, through the instrumentality of Dr. Pugsley, was endeavoring to effect the sale of the Intercolonial Railway in New York, and was subsequently compelled to admit that he was only repeating idle gossip, is with the assistance of his party friends trying to make political capital out of the fact that the Liberal majority in the House of Commons voted down his motion to refer all the I. C. R. accounts for the past six years to the public accounts committee. The absurdity of such a contention will strike the most prejudiced observer.

This resolution was opposed by the Minister of Railways and Liberals generally, not only because it was irregular, but because it was not made in good faith. For weeks past Mr. Haggart and his associates have been examining witnesses before the public accounts committee for the purpose of making out a case against the administration of the minister of railways. They have completely failed, and feeling sore and discomfited they hit

upon this plan of covering up their defeat.

It is important to remember that the accounts for each of the years since 1895 have been investigated and reported upon, and when this matter came up before the Committee Mr. Blair intimated that he would afford every facility within his power for the proposed inquiry if Mr. Haggart would only indicate any particular branch, or even a group of expenditures, which he desired to have taken up; but it was contrary to practice and to sound methods of procedure to pass such a sweeping motion without some indication being given of the line to be followed or the purpose in view. The Premier repeated this statement in the House, and appealed to Mr. Haggart to act fairly and within the established rules. The ex-Minister would not listen to this reasonable request, and he got what he was aiming for—the defeat of his motion.

This fiasco followed upon the conclusion of a long investigation before the public accounts committee in relation to the purchase of ties for the Intercolonial in 1900. The last witness called was Mr. Charles McManus, who gave evidence as to the inspection of the ties. During the course of his examination a letter was produced, which had been written to him by the Minister of Railways, directing him to give the same inspection to Mr. Culligan's ties that had been given to Mr. Ultican's. The Conservatives have sought to make a good deal of capital out of that letter, by insinuating that it was meant to have Mr. McManus pass inferior ties; but the allegation loses all point in the face of the fact that a large number of Mr. Ultican's ties were rejected, showing that they had been rigidly inspected, and the further fact that Mr. Culligan is not a Liberal, and in the Restigouche election was not warmly disposed toward Mr. James Reid. The Tories had hoped to make a good deal out of this letter when it was produced, but the thing fell completely flat.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

The general question of railway subsidies came up in the House of Commons last week in connection with an application of the Red Deer Valley Railway Company, and the debate was important because of the intimation given by the Minister of Railways that the government had determined to discontinue the policy of granting subsidies indiscriminately. A hint to this effect had been given on several previous occasions, but this announcement was of a somewhat more definite character. Of course, aid will be given to deserving projects, but it will be only in special cases, and at intervals. In keeping with this determination it is pretty generally understood that, apart from one or two cases of urgency in the Northwest, no subsidies will be asked from Parliament this session.

In the New Brunswick legislature at the recent session Premier Tweedie announced that the policy of the government was to renew no railway charters unless the companies interested gave good evidence of their bona fides, and these intimations, both here and at Ottawa, should discourage the promoters of wild cat railway schemes.

The Montreal Star which has a monopoly of springing political yarns, announces that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to retire from political life before the next session of Parliament, on account of ill health, but the story is promptly contradicted from Ottawa, as a pure fabrication. The premier is enjoying excellent health, and no doubt he will remain in his present exalted position as long as it is the will of the people of Canada and he is able to discharge his duties.

An indication of the wonderfully rapid growth of Sydney, N. S., in the past few years is furnished in the assessment figures. Five years ago the value of property assessed in that town was \$37,000, for the present year it is \$41,333,000. The amount raised by assessment for town purposes in 1897 was \$12,600 and this year the estimate is \$51,595. The coming of the Dominion Coal Company and the Steel Works was a great thing for the Cape Breton town.

Run Down

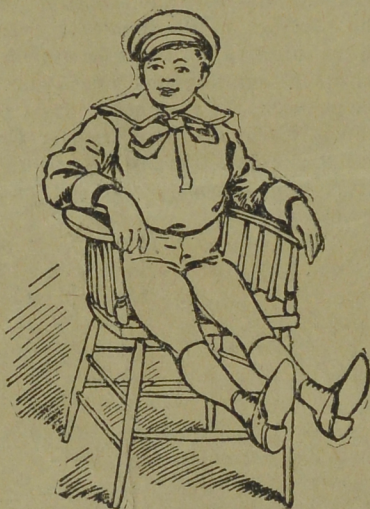
Then don't expect to be cured in a minute! It takes a little time to get your blood pure and rich. We haven't room to explain. Just ask your doctor why Ayer's Sarsaparilla is such a good medicine for debility, weak nerves, and indigestion.

"I was very poorly and could hardly get about the house. Then I tried Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and only two bottles of it made me feel perfectly well." Mrs. N. S. Swinney, Princeton, Mo.

St. All druggists. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

Capt. Winslow who leaves for Halifax this evening, to join his regiment for service in South Africa, is the first 71st officer to be given a commission in any of the Canadian contingents, and his career will be watched with interest by his numerous friends in this city and elsewhere. Capt. Winslow comes of good fighting stock, and we may anticipate that he will make a record for himself and his native city, if he has the luck to meet the Boers. The Herald wishes him bon voyage, plenty of military glory, and a safe return.

Speaking on the question of transportation in Parliament, Monday, Hon. Mr. Tarte declared that St. John was undoubtedly the future winter port of Canada. It was already a great winter port. He declared that Canadians must control their own transportation routes and ship their goods by Canadian ports. We must be independent of the United States both in transport and tariff. We must hold on to our own assets. It made him tired to see the anxiety of some people to dispose of our railways and other national assets.



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Extra solid. Black or Tan.
Our price only \$1.35. Sizes
1 to 5.

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Real Estate.

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d&w

LOANS ON MORTGAGE.

I have been instructed to obtain safe investments in amounts from \$200 to \$5,000, for parties desiring but lowest rates of interest. Easy terms available to right parties. All applications will be promptly passed upon.

ARTHUR R. SLIPP,
Barrister.

April 12—d&w:mos.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION.

Application will be made to the Parliament of Canada at present session for an Act to incorporate the first National Bank of Canada with the usual powers of Banks under the Bank Act and its amendments.

Signed S. B. WOODS,
Solicitor for Applicants.

March 21—dtr

PIANO MOVING.

John Toner wishes to remind the public that he is still in a position to remove pianos. He is provided with first class slings and will promptly remove orders given to him personally or left at the store of W. P. Fenety.

April 7th.

JUST OPENED . . .

Evening Kid Gloves

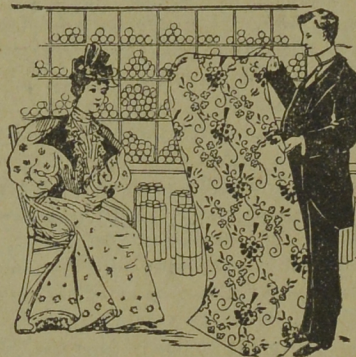
In black and white, 16 button length,
also

SILK GLOVES

30 inch for evening wear.

John J. Weddall & Son

Agents for Standard Patterns.



Wall Paper.

After you have examined the other stocks in town, come here and look over the new patterns we are showing and we feel confident we will get your order. Not a poor pattern among them. We have Ingrains in 12 different shades, with wide and narrow borders.

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Hammocks Hammocks

We are showing a very complete line of Hammocks. These are all new goods in a variety of styles and colors, with or without fringe. An examination will profit you and please us. We are showing some nice Lawn and Verandah Chairs and Settees.

LEMONT & SONS.

Fire Insurance Agency.

I am prepared to insure all kinds of property at lowest current rates in the following reliable companies.

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The London & Lancashire, of London, Eng.
The Hartford, of Hartford, Conn.
The Aetna, of Hartford, Conn.

FRED. ST. JOHN BLISS

Apr 8—dtr

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