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OFFICERS OF THE PERMANENT FORCES GIVEN A CHANCE

Have Opportunity of Getting Overseas—The 65th Battery Winter in Woodstock—Other Military Notes.

All officers and non-commissioned officers of the Canadian Permanent Forces, who were kept in Canada since the outbreak of the war, for instructional purposes, are, according to late official orders, granted an opportunity of getting overseas on a probation period of 90 days with their present ranks, and at the end of their probation, if they prove efficient, will be attached to units at the front. In France, they will hold their present ranks as supernumeraries, and will be subject to three rules, first, that they be fit for absorption in their present ranks; secondly, fit for absorption into a lower rank, or unit for any rank.

Those coming under the first two classes will, at the end of their probation, be attached to units, as vacancies occur, or in lower ranks, as the work of the officer on probation may warrant. Further, any officer who cannot be utilized in France, will be forwarded to England, for disposal by the Adjutant General. Likewise, any officer unwilling to revert in rank will be returned to Canada for disposal by the Adjutant General again. The order adds: Any officers, wishing to proceed overseas, subject to the above regulations, may do so, by submitting an application, on terms of the above, to their District Commanding Officer, who in turn will submit their application to Military Headquarters for their consideration. At the present there are seven officers employed as general staff officers at Military Headquarters, who may make application for service overseas. Their efficient services here, many of whom are old soldiers, would warrant consideration for attachment to units in France.

The 65th Battery at Petawawa Camp, at which place they held their summer camp, are removing again in the near future to their former winter quarters in Woodstock. This unit made a name for itself at Petawawa, in marksmanship, discipline, and general efficiency, and were selected to fire in competition with other units stationed at the camp, making a name for themselves, and carrying off all honors.

Lieut.-Col. Sir William Hendrie, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and an old artillery officer, was the instigator of the match, and loudly praised the 65th Battery for their efficient work.

Quarter-Master Sergeant Trumble, C.R., who has been instructing a large class in machine gun work during the past month at West St. John, completed his duties and returned to Toronto yesterday. The men were examined in the above branch at West St. John yesterday morning, by one of the general staff officers, Brigadier-General Macdonell, of the Headquarters Staff, was an interested spectator, and highly commended the men on their efficiency, being much pleased with the showing they made, who took advantage of the instructions offered.

No official communication has, as yet, been received at military headquarters with respect to a successor for the post vacated by Lieut.-Col. A. H. Powell, but one officer, of military headquarters, appears as a likely one to soon fill the vacancy. Both civil and military citizens would welcome the official word, as this officer is very popular, and most efficient. Mention is made of this officer being employed by soldiers for extension of leave, believing these third parties to possess the necessary "pull" with certain officers, to obtain an ex-

tension for their clients; other men liable under the Military Service Act, engage these third parties to intercede with the military authorities with a view of escaping service. It is mentioned that these third parties so engaged, reap much pecuniary advantage, and in most cases are quite successful in their claims. As the military people have a certain class of officers whose work is to give justice and fair play to any soldier seeking leave, or extension of leave; also to those under the M.S.A. wishing exemption on good grounds, and who will be given all consideration by the military people. These third parties are officially warned to cease such practice, as in most cases the soldier is placed at great expense, without obtaining results.

Colonel J. L. McAvity has returned to his duties as officer commanding No. 1 Depot Battalion, Sussex, after enjoying a ten days' leave at Cole's Island, in search of the "monarchs of the forest."

Lieut.-Col. A. C. Jost, A.D.M.S., No. 7, returned to the city yesterday after an inspection trip to the capital, where he found everything in good shape. The Siberian, 260th Rifles, under Major F. S. Bauld, D.S.O., Sussex, is reported to be moving in the course of a few days to their mobilization centre, Ottawa. Many of the boys in other units were successful in obtaining transfers, and are now identified with this unit. The unit will winter in Western Canada, possibly Vancouver, and proceed to Siberia in the early spring months. The new tank unit is now receiving attention, and many officers have made application to Ottawa, for attachment with the new unit, and are awaiting the official sanction from Ottawa, after which the work will proceed, one with organization and enlistment of men.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Charles R. Wasson.

Mrs. Charles R. Wasson died yesterday morning at her home, 374 Douglas Avenue, after a very short illness. Mr. and Mrs. Wasson and some friends arrived home on last Friday after a trip through the United States. Mrs. Wasson complained of feeling ill, but nothing serious was thought of until a day or two ago when pneumonia was set in. She was an active member of Victoria street Baptist church. Mrs. Wasson leaves her husband, two sons, Charles Ester and John Edward, and one daughter, Edith May, who is married. The funeral will be on Friday. Many will deeply sympathize with the bereaved ones in their great loss.

Miss Julia A. Magee.

The death took place in the General Public Hospital at an early hour yesterday morning of Miss Julia A. Magee, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Magee, who had been ill for several months. Miss Magee is survived by four brothers, Major Wm. C. Magee and John B. Magee, St. John; Walter, Bridgewater, N.S.; and Frederick, in the Canadian West.

The death of Harry F. Shiel, a former resident of this city, occurred recently in Boston. Mr. Shiel was survived by one daughter, Miss Blanche.

Mrs. Michael J. McCormack. Special to The Standard. Newcastle, Sept. 25.—The death of Mrs. Michael J. McCormack, formerly Miss Annie Hennessy, took place at her home in Blackville on the 23rd. She leaves her husband, three sons—Sherman, Raymond and Ernest; two daughters—Mary and Jennie; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hennessy and several brothers and one sister.

Mrs. Alice J. Huntley.

The death occurred at Hall's Harbour, Nova Scotia, recently, of Alice J. Huntley, wife of Hurd Huntley, formerly Miss Gray of St. Martins, New Brunswick, at the age of 41 years. She leaves to mourn their loss a husband, a son, Alfred Brown, by a former marriage, also two sisters, Mrs. Robt. Gillis, of Bangor, Me., Mrs. James Wood, of Hammond, Kings County, N.B., and one brother, John Gray, of Chelsea, Mass.

NOTHING STARTLING IN POTATO ENQUIRY AS YET

Five Witnesses Examined Yesterday — F. DeL. Clements Testifies That Hon. J. A. Murray and Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Instructed Him To Be Particularly Careful That the Cuban Shipments Went Through in Good Condition.

The burden of the evidence adduced at yesterday's session of the potato enquiry before Commissioner McClellan went to show that all the potatoes purchased by the government were shipped and that, on instructions from Hon. J. A. Murray and J. B. Daggert, particular care was taken by the shipper to see that the consignments sent to Cuba went forward in the best possible condition. F. DeL. Clements, who handled the shipments was on the stand for the greater part of the afternoon, and in evidence stated that he had been instructed by Hon. J. A. Murray and Mr. Daggert to use every care to make sure that the consignments went forward in the best possible condition. At the morning session W. A. Loudon, Controller-General, gave evidence, as did also the manager of the branch bank at East Florenceville.

The Controller-General. Mr. Loudon was the first witness called in the morning. He said that \$8,603 barrels of potatoes were purchased by the government from Belgium Relief, and for a patriotic gift to the British government. Of these B. F. Smith sold \$3,831 barrels and the balance came from other parties. He told of the method of purchase and said that in connection with the potatoes purchased from Mr. Smith the invoices were paid when accompanied by bills of lading with the understanding that shortages would be made up. The bank at East Florenceville had been authorized to accept drafts. In all Mr. Smith was paid \$47,761.95, there being an overpayment of \$2,447.65, which was afterwards refunded to the provincial treasury, being included in a larger amount as proceeds of the sale of potatoes.

The British and Belgian Shipment. Mr. Loudon gave details of the British and Belgian shipments and said the total amount expended by the province for potatoes prior to January 22, 1915, was \$153,565.75. The appropriation for the purpose was \$150,000, and there was an over-expenditure of \$3,565.75. The revenue received from the sale of surplus potatoes was \$23,881.39 and \$602.50 was received as a refund for demurrage on cars making the total of \$24,483.89. Mr. Loudon said he thought the sum received from the sale of surplus potatoes came in cash or cheque. It was not until after the present enquiry that he learned of the promise made. He dealt with the item as cash.

Florenceville Banker Called.

C. P. Furlong, local manager of the bank at East Florenceville said he had heard of a letter from J. B. Daggert to the bank, but could not find it. He said he would endeavor to have the original letter found but only knew of it by reading correspondence between the headquarters of the bank and the East Florenceville branch. Asked as to the meaning of the letters "L. D." in connection with an account witness said he usually referred to "local discount," although he could not swear to their meaning under a Bank of Montreal system.

Giles N. C. Hawking, manager of the Fredericton branch of the Bank of Montreal, was called when the commission resumed its sessions after the adjournment. He said he remembered the transaction concerning a note given by A. C. Smith and Co. It was discounted by him on December 22nd, 1915 at the request of William Craik.

The note was in favour of the Province of New Brunswick, and was for \$33,271.54. The interest amounted to \$410.15. The note was dated November 3rd, 1915. He had not seen it since, but it was his impression that it was endorsed by the deputy provincial treasurer, Mr. Cruikshank. He said he did not recall any of the details of the transaction. He did not recall that he had obtained instructions in regard to it from any other person. Mr. Cruikshank, stated that he bank some days before presenting the note and asked witness if he would discount it, and witness replied in the affirmative. He had been customary to discount provincial notes, and witness took this transaction in the ordinary course of business.

Paid When Due.

The note became due on March 6th, 1916, and was paid on the due date. He did not think he was asked to renew it, or any portion of it. Mr. Cruikshank paid it by a personal cheque as deputy provincial treasurer. There was an account in the bank to his credit as deputy provincial treasurer, and it was from this that the note was paid. The account was but a casual one, and was only there for one day, the cash in it having been deposited the day the note was due. It was deposited by a transfer from the Moncton branch of the bank. He did not know who it came from in Moncton, his only instructions being from the manager of the Moncton branch to have the amount deposited to the credit of William Cruikshank, deputy provincial treasurer.

Asked by Mr. Taylor as to the initials "L. D." appearing in the bank's book in connection with the account, witness said they stood for "local discount." It was a usual term to distinguish the account from a cash deposit. The province had had other discounting transactions with his bank, but witness would not say from memory that there had been any of these within the past year or eighteen months.

To Mr. Hughes, witness said he could find no other entries in the book bearing the initials "L. D."

Mr. Taylor—"Any person at all familiar with banking seeing such initials in a pass book would know what they signified."

Mr. Hughes—"That book starts in July, 1914, and this is the only entry of the sort up to December 22nd, 1915."

Captain R. C. Elkin.

Captain R. C. Elkin, shipowner and broker, testified that up to July last he was the owner of the schooner, Irma Bentley, in January, 1915, that vessel had been chartered for the Agricultural Department of the Province of New Brunswick by F. DeL. Clements. The charter party, dated January 5th, 1915, was identical with the one entered as an exhibit in the case. The Bentley was chartered to take potatoes to Cuba, but witness did not know who owned them. The vessel was chartered for Caribon, North Cuba, but went to Key Francis. She probably loaded and sailed sometimes in February, for she reached Key Francis in March, and witness received from Capt. Rafuse, commanding the vessel, a cheque for his freight, amounting to \$2,354.50. He received the cheque on March 22nd, 1915, and as it required about seven days for mail to come from Cuba the cheque was probably sent about the 15th. Capt. Rafuse collected the freight from the cargo's consignee.

Many Potatoes Went Bad.

While the vessel was loading at No. 1 berth, West St. John, witness saw some of the cargo. On one occasion he was called to the vessel by the captain, who objected to taking the potatoes because some of them were bad. Witness endorsed the captain's stand, and said he could not be compelled to carry "rotten stuff like that." A barrel of potatoes had fallen out of the sling while loading, and the potatoes when exposed were rotten. Witness said he could not be compelled to carry cargo, the value of which was not known. Things were at a standstill for a day and the men loading knocked off until the matter was arranged. More potatoes came in later, and they were piled up and were loaded. When the loading stopped, because of the captain's complaint, the vessel was about half filled. Witness saw quantities of rotten potatoes lying around the warehouse, hundreds of barrels of them, in fact.

A Lively Tilt.

To Mr. Taylor, witness said he had signed the bill of lading for the shipment.

Mr. Taylor then asked Mr. Loudon if the bills were on file in the Auditor General's department, as Mr. Daggert had said they were.

Mr. Taylor to Mr. Hughes—"I wish you would produce that bill of lading."

Mr. Hughes—"He did not, and it is not there. I have told you that two or three times already."

Mr. Taylor—"You are not giving evidence. Maybe the witness would not be as positive concerning that as you appear to be."

Mr. Hughes—"I could give evidence as well as you."

Mr. Taylor—"I do not know why my learned friend is so anxious to avoid producing that bill of lading."

Mr. Hughes—"We never had it."

Mr. Taylor to Mr. Loudon—"You made a search in your department for that bill of lading?"

Mr. Loudon—"No."

Lieut. F. DeL. Clements.

Lieut. F. DeL. Clements, who was then called. He said he lived at Kingsclear, York County, and was a returned soldier.

Mr. Hughes—"You have been in France?"

Mr. Clements—"Yes."

Mr. Hughes—"And you were through the battle of Vimy Ridge?"

Mr. Clements—"I believe I was."

Witness said that previous to going overseas he was in the produce business, and had been authorized to sell what was known as the "surplus potatoes" for the government of New Brunswick by Hon. Mr. Murray and Mr. Daggert, both of whom spoke to him about it. He had good connections in Cuba and it was on that market he was asked to sell the potatoes. Some thousands of barrels were stored in the potato house at Fort Dunfermline, and in the warehouse at Sand Point. He did not recollect all the persons to whom he had sold potatoes, but his statement of sales as given to the Provincial Government was correct. The statement was shown to the witness, and he recognized a number of sales as made by him.

Got No Money From Cuba.

For his services he received as commission and brokerage to cover personal expenses, telegraphs, insurance, consuls' fees, etc., \$2,048. He remembered one sale of 100 barrels made to A. B. Crosby and Co., of Halifax, at \$135 per barrel. He was not positive whether or not he collected from the Crosby firm, but he remembered that there was more to do in connection with that sale than with the others. If he collected from them it would show on his statement of commissions, as it would show on the account from his account. His commissions were paid to him through the firm of A. C. Smith and Co. He received a brokerage fee of ten cents

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION MET

Moncton Tramways, Electricity and Gas Company Applied For Increase of Rates—Adjournment For Week.

The application of the Moncton Tramways, Electricity and Gas Company, for an increase of rates was before the Public Utilities Commission yesterday and adjournment was made for one week, on the understanding that the parties interested should try to get together and agree on a rate; if this is not done a further adjournment will be made until E. B. Reeser is able to come to the city again which will be in about two months.

The city council, who were represented by Mayor J. B. Toombs, Aldermen F. C. Robinson and Myles and J. S. Magee, city clerk. Manufacturers of Moncton were represented by Dr. J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., J. A. Marvin, of Marvin, Limited; E. S. Humphreys, of Humphreys' Glass, Ltd.; P. L. Higgins, of L. Higgins and Company, and R. P. R. Fraser, of Fraser Floral Company. G. A. Stone and James Blackwood were present representing labor organizations. The statement was represented by E. A. Riley, K. C.; M. G. Teed, K. C.; E. B. Reeser, general manager and vice-president of the company, and E. A. Cummings, accountant. The New Brunswick Gas and Oil Fields Company was represented by Hon. C. W. Robinson and Captain Alexander Creighton.

At the morning session E. B. Reeser, vice-president of the company, was on the stand and gave evidence concerning the capital of the company and its net revenue. He stated that that unless the consumption of gas was cut down the present supply would be exhausted in two years.

At the afternoon session the various counsel addressed the commission. Dr. Baxter contended that in order to hold the franchise the company must supply gas and also asked for something to show the cost of doing business. It had been said the company had a gross revenue of \$300,000 per year but all they submitted to the board was a statement of the net income which he did not consider sufficient.

A. A. Allen for the City of Moncton, contended that they had a contract with the company and were entitled to all the gas needed there before any was supplied to persons outside the city.

C. W. Robinson, for the development company, claimed the increase asked for should be granted. He thought if one or two of the larger consumers were cut off there would be a sufficient supply of gas for the domestic and the smaller industrial users.

At this stage Mr. Reeser was put on the stand again and in answer to questions of Mr. Teed said the company had received in dividends in the past six years \$37,550; had paid off \$50,000 of bonds and created a depreciation account of \$8,000.

Mr. Baxter suggested that a committee composed of a representative from the Moncton city council, the town of Sunny Beach, and the town of Moncton and Hillsboro and the company get together and try and agree on a rate which would be agreeable to all and the board adjourn for one week.

Mr. Teed pointed out that Mr. Reeser could not be present next week for two months and it was finally decided to adjourn for one week on the understanding that if the parties interested had come to an agreement on a rate, the board would make an interim order; if no agreement was reached the case would be adjourned until such time as Mr. Reeser could be present at the hearing.

per barrel on potatoes he sold, and five cents when he handled potatoes sold by others. The shipment sent to R. G. Waite in the schooner Irma Bentley was sold through witness' brokers in Caribon. He had received no money from Cuba on account of the potatoes sold there.

1,000 Barrels Shipped.

Referring to the shipment of the tubers, Mr. Clements said that either himself or one of his employees would be on the ground at the time the potatoes were being loaded. The stock that went to Cuba he would call second quality of potatoes, but they were as good as any could be. They were thoroughly sorted as shipped, and neither expense nor pains were spared to make the shipment all that it should be. He would estimate that at least 1,000 barrels went to Cuba. There might be more, as that estimate was but a guess. Some of the culled potatoes were sold at ten or twenty cents per barrel to get rid of them.

Instructed to Take Extra.

To Mr. Taylor witness said he was supposed to have the best Cuban connection of any produce dealer in New Brunswick, and at the time he sold the potatoes for the government he was probably doing the largest business of any dealer in his line. The potatoes for the government were

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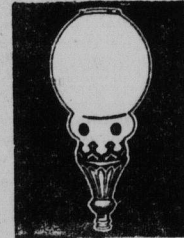
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handed as any other shipment, except that if anything more care was taken with them, and more work was put on them to make sure that they would be fit for the Cuban market. Hon. Mr. Murray and Mr. Daggert kept after witness all the time to use particular care with the shipment, and he did so, in his judgment the potatoes were sound when shipped, for any rotten ones were very carefully picked out.

To Mr. Hughes witness said that after he had sold the potatoes he had not heard whether they were accepted by the Cuban firms or not. He did not get any money in the way of collections from Cuba.

To the Commissioner Mr. Clements explained that in most cases sales were effected through his brokers in Cuba, and shipments made on receipt of cables confirming the sales. Court adjourned until 10.30 Thursday morning.

The funeral of William J. Goddard took place yesterday afternoon from the residence of his son-in-law, 63 Elmwood street, to the Cathedral, where burial services were conducted by Rev. A. P. Allen. Interment was made in the new Catholic cemetery. Relatives acted as pall bearers.

The funeral of Mrs. Welsford Marks took place yesterday afternoon from the residence of her son-in-law, 63 Elmwood street, to the Cathedral, where burial services were conducted by Rev. A. P. Allen. Interment was made in the new Catholic cemetery. Relatives acted as pall bearers.

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