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ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1918

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

POTATO INQUIRY OPENED TODAY

Rev. J. B. Daggett First Witness—Commissioner McQueen Decides Against Postponement Asked For

After a lapse of almost four years an inquiry which opened this morning in the council chamber in the court house is expected to bring before the public the full story of the famous potato potato transactions of the old government.

Those rejected were sold on account of the shipper through A. C. Smith & Company, as a department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected.

The inquiry was opened at 11 o'clock by James McQueen, K. C., of Shediac, with P. J. Hughes of Fredericton appearing for the government and F. R. Taylor, K. C., for Hon. J. A. Murray, former minister of agriculture.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?" A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers' department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected."

The entire morning was taken up with the evidence of Rev. J. B. Daggett, former secretary for agriculture and now pastor of the Baptist church at Marysville.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?" A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers' department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected."

The proceedings began with the reading of his commission by Mr. McQueen, the warrant reciting the circumstances surrounding the purchase of potatoes for patriotic purposes at the beginning of the war, and the settlement for the same.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?" A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers' department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected."

Mr. Taylor said he had only been retained yesterday and was not sufficiently instructed to enable him to proceed.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?" A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers' department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected."

Mr. Daggett took the stand and deposed that he was a minister of the Baptist church in Marysville; that he had been secretary for agriculture for five years, and afterwards was in business as agricultural implements, associated with Hon. B. F. Smith, former minister of public works.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?" A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers' department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected."

A copy of the order-in-council was put in evidence, as exhibit No. 1. In reply to Mr. Hughes the witness said that the purchase of the potatoes was entrusted to him. He bought at a flat rate then prevailing from several individuals, including B. F. Smith, the White Company of Sussex, B. C. McIsaac and others.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?" A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers' department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected."

The total from B. F. Smith was 31,985 barrels. There was no formal agreement with Mr. Smith. He was to be at one dollar a barrel and receive ten cents a barrel for handling and sorting.

Mr. Hughes—"But you sold the rejected potatoes?" A.—"They were sold by A. C. Smith & Company on account of the shippers' department, they did not accept these potatoes which were rejected."

ADVANCE IN BALKANS A RIVAL TO THAT OF ALLENBY

There Was No Hope of Penetrating The Bulgarian Front

GREATER THINGS—NOW EXPECTED

Whole Line in Rapid Movement on Hundred Mile Front and Wedge is Separating the Enemy Forces—Serbians' Feat on Par With Smashing of Wotan Line By British

London, Sept. 24.—The London newspapers this morning comment on the Balkan advance as an astonishing achievement and a more surprising one than General Allenby's operation in Palestine.



Pursuit of Turks Goes on; Jewish Troops Assisting

British Cavalry Charge Along Mediterranean Coast and Take Half and Acre—Gains Also East of Jordan—More Than 25,000 Prisoners

London, Sept. 24.—British cavalry pushing up the Mediterranean coast of Palestine have occupied Halfa and Acre. East of the Jordan the Turks are withdrawing towards Amman, on the Hedjaz railway. Australian, New Zealand, Jewish and other troops are pursuing the enemy and have reached Es-Salt, fifteen miles northwest of Amman.

Haig Pressing In On St. Quentin From The West

Fighting Continues to British Advantage—Further Progress Near Vermand, West of Cambrai and in Flanders

London, Sept. 24.—British forces are pressing in on St. Quentin directly from the west, says today's official statement from Field Marshal Haig. He reports fighting taking place to the advantage of the British and announces progress by the attacking forces in the region east of Vermand.

On the front to the west of Cambrai, in the region north of Moeuvres, the British positions have been improved. In the Arras-Lens sector the Germans tried to drive the British from the new positions the latter had won south-east of Gavrelle. The enemy was completely repulsed, the British retaining their attack.

In Flanders British troops succeeded in pushing forward and occupying a portion of the old British front line southeast of Voormezele, below Ypres.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF STATES IN HOTEL FIRE

Washington, Sept. 24.—Police and fire officials today were investigating the origin of a fire early this morning in the new Willard Hotel which caused damage estimated at \$100,000 and sent hundreds of patrons, many of them of national prominence, scurrying through the smoke-filled corridors to the lobby for safety.

YOU DON'T SAY "DOUBLE" NOW WHEN CALLING CENTRAL

The style in giving Central her telephone numbers has changed again. It is no longer in good taste to say "double," "double," "double" three, five, twenty-one," as St. John has been doing for several years.

FRENCH SCHEME FOR CO-OPERATIVE RESTAURANTS AND CENTRAL KITCHENS, SAVING PLANNED

Paris, Sept. 24.—Victor Boret, minister of provisions, will introduce a bill in parliament authorizing an advance upon the government up to \$20,000,000 francs, for the purpose of organizing co-operative restaurants and developing the existing communal and municipal eating places.

THE CHECKING OF THE AUSTRONIANS ON THE PIAVE

Duke of Aosta Says in All His Years of War He Never Saw Such a Scene

Paris, Sept. 24.—How the Austrian offensive along the Piave river was stopped was described today by the Duke of Aosta, commander of the third Italian army, which was located south of the Montello plateau during the fighting.

CRUSHED TO DEATH IN GATEWAY OF A MONGTON ELEVATOR

Mongton, N. B., Sept. 24.—Crushed to death in the gateway of an elevator in the Atlantic elevator factory here this morning was the late Leo Ammon, aged 24, who came here from Ontario about two years ago. He was unmarried. His marriage took place in the night shift he was found by his next employes in the elevator with his neck caught between the gate and the elevator.

THROUGHS AT FUNERAL OF CARDINAL FARLEY

Notable Gathering of Catholic Church Dignitaries at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

New York, Sept. 24.—His memory honored by the presence of the three surviving North American cardinals, the Pope's representative in the United States, Catholic dignitaries from all sections of the country and of the American military and naval forces, Cardinal John M. Farley was buried today beneath the altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

SPANISH INFLUENZA HAS HOLD IN PART OF QUEBEC PROVINCE

Quebec, Sept. 24.—The epidemic of influenza at Victoria is rapidly spreading. On Monday nine more deaths were reported in this district, and the total number of deaths was 10. One of the brothers died yesterday. At Trois Pitons there are at least forty cases. Two men died there yesterday.

DAUGHTER OF HON. DR. BELAND MARRIED

Quebec, Sept. 24.—In the little parish church of St. Joseph, Beauce, Hon. Dr. Beland today escorted to the bridal altar his only daughter, Miss Jeannette, who was married to Notary Victor Mathieu of this city. It was a true French-Canadian wedding. Rev. Father Montreuil, pastor of St. Joseph's, officiated.

WEATHER REPORT

Synopsis—The barometer is highest over the Great Lakes and there is an important disturbance just west of the Missouri Valley. The weather is cool and unsettled throughout the domain.

DEATH OF WIFE OF PTE. OSBURN PETTIGREW

Mrs. Edward Whitcomb of East St. John has received sad news in a letter from her half-brother, Private Osburn Pettigrew, who was wounded on August 10, and is now in Gloucester Red Cross Hospital. The letter conveys the news of his wife's death, which occurred on August 22 at Fareham, England, after a short illness.

IN WALL STREET

New York, Sept. 24.—Professional traders directed their efforts against the short interest in the opening of the stock market today with the result that prices were soon carried up 1-2 to 1-1/2 points in the shares which were foremost in yesterday's advance.

BLACKSMITH PRICES HIGHER

Commissioner McLellan today received a communication signed by eleven city blacksmiths, stating that the price for horse-shoeing had been advanced to 88, and for the removal of shoes, 82. The reason advanced was high cost of stock and increased wages to the helpers.

JAPANESE SUCCESS AGAINST BOLSHEVIKI; CHINESE ALSO FIGHTING

Tokyo, Sept. 20.—(By the Associated Press)—Order has been restored in the city of Khabarovsk, according to an official statement issued by the war office, which adds that General Yamada's detachment left that city for the west by rail on Sept. 12 to attack the enemy on the Amure river.

CRUSHED TO DEATH IN GATEWAY OF A MONGTON ELEVATOR

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WOMEN DISTRUST THEIR OFFICERS; THE LATTER NOT SURE OF THE MEN

That is Condition Growing in German Army, According to Prisoners

With the French Army in France, Sept. 23.—(By the Associated Press)—The repulse of prisoners recently interrogated show that the lack of confidence between German officers and men is becoming mutual. Officers complain of declining discipline in the ranks. Soldiers, whose loyalty was unquestioned a year ago, they declare, are now dead to patriotic harangues.

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REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers in real estate have been recorded as follows:

St. John County. R. G. Allen to Rebecca Allen, properties in British and Wentworth streets. Gustavus Bradley to Charles Young, property at Courtenay Bay.

Timothy Collins to F. X. Collins, property in Musquash. Timothy Collins to F. X. Collins, property in Richmond street. Timothy Collins to F. X. Collins, property in Charlotte street.

Timothy Collins to F. X. Collins, property in Loch Lomond road. Kings County. Baptist church to D. L. Foster, property in Springfield.

Heirs of S. A. Fowles to G. W. Fowler, property in Uplam. C. T. Haxter to Laura A. Arthur, property in Westfield. Edward Neil to J. T. Neil, property in Springfield.

G. P. Ready to Walter Byron, property in Studholm.

IN HOSPITAL HERE FOR 12TH OPERATION

As the result of an injury sustained on the battlefields of France Pte. G. S. Lawson of Fairville has entered the General Public Hospital here to undergo his twelfth operation in the hope of recovering the use of his left arm. He was wounded in the left shoulder last year, on Easter Monday, and was sent to England, where eleven operations were performed in various hospitals, but none were fully successful. Many friends throughout the city will unite in wishing him a speedy recovery. Private Lawson crossed overseas with the 140th battalion and was later transferred into the famous Princess Pats.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 24.—Several thousand dollars in registered mail was obtained by a bandit who last night single-handed held up a passenger train on the Great Northern Railway near Mukilteo.