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Correspondence

BETWEEN LORD MORRIS AND
MR. W. F. COAKER.

London, July 30th, 1919.

Dear Sir.—Will you kindly publish
the attached copy of a letter written
by Mr. Coaker, with a request for its
publication, in regard to the case of
Lt-Col. Franklin.Yours truly,
MORRIS.Dear Mr. Coaker,—
I have to acknowledge the receipt
of your communication of June 30th,
and in reply to you of June
30th, covering copy of my letter ad-
dressed to Lieut-Colonel Franklin of
May 12th, and his reply to me of
May 20th, in which he categorically
denies the charges made by you in
your Diary, published in the Evening
Advocate, of April 4th. In my letter
I asked you to publish this corres-
pondence, and to give it the same
prominence as you gave to the pub-
lication of the charges against me. You
reply, in the letter under consideration, "that
you cannot without fuller explana-
tion do as desired, as you had been
informed of harsh treatment by Gov-
ernor Davidson towards Lieut-Colonel
Franklin and that you consider Gov-
ernor Davidson would not have re-
sented to recognize Lt-Col. Franklin
as the head of the Regiment, or have
replaced him without consulting me."
You surely must have seen by a per-
usal of my letter to Lt-Col. Franklin
and his reply that there are no
grounds whatever for your continuing
to believe that there ever was, at
any time, any justification for this
charge. You say "you were inform-
ed of harsh treatment." Now, it is
up to you, I think, to give the name
of your informant.In my letter to Lt-Col. Franklin,
which you will have before you, you
will notice I say that whatever de-
cision was arrived at in his case re-
lative to the commanding of the New-
foundland Regiment in Europe "was
done only after consultation with, and
by the unanimous decision of the
Committee of the Patriotic Associa-
tion." That the Newfoundland Gov-
ernment "had nothing to do with the
appointment of officers or the grant-
ing of commissions, that this was all
done by the Committee of the Patri-
otic Association in charge of this par-
ticular branch of regimental work,
that Lt-Col. Franklin's name or his
appointment or the circumstances
which led to his ceasing connection
with the Newfoundland Regiment
never once came before the New-
foundland Government," and that the
first intimation I had of his ceasing
to act with the Newfoundland troops
was when I read it in the Press.You go on to say "you have for
four years blamed me for harsh
treatment of Lt-Col. Franklin and if
your information is incorrect, you
require a fuller explanation to con-
vince you that I and Governor David-
son did not act harshly with Lt-Col.
Franklin." Here let me draw your
attention to why you fell into this
error of blaming me, you jumped at
conclusions without making any en-
quiry. It was an extraordinary coin-
cidence, if this severe treatment was
inflicted on Lt-Col. Franklin in
1914, that you should have allowed
four years to transpire without mak-
ing any reference to it; at least, you
never made any complaint to me al-
though I was with you in the public
sessions of the Legislature of 1915-16-17, and you were a representative
of the whole of these years, and the
owner and controller of a daily news-
paper.You further say that "Lt-Colonel
Franklin did not mention my name
or that of Governor Davidson speak-
ing to you, but he did speak of how
he was treated by being ousted from
leading the Regiment, and the man-
ner in which the Newfoundland
authorities had dealt with him." This,
I have no doubt, is quite true as
Lt-Col. Franklin could not have
mentioned my name in this connec-
tion. But let me draw your atten-
tion to the charge you have made and
published. You say "you gathered
from Colonel Franklin from close
questioning, the harsh, unreasonable,
if not ungrateful manner in which he
had been treated by Governor David-
son and the Newfoundland Govern-
ment under Sir E. P. Morris, and that
he (Franklin) encountered the en-
mity of Governor Davidson, and
eventually that of Sir E. P. Morris.
The long and short of it was they
had made up their minds that Major
Franklin was not to remain with the
Regiment, but they lacked the cour-
age to so inform him, first or last."
I think you will agree with me that
it is not putting it too high when I
say that any person reading your
diary containing this charge could
come to no other conclusion than that
Lt-Col. Franklin under your ques-
tioning, had made these charges
against me. Happily, however, he has
denied it; he could not have done
anything else. He well knew I had
nothing whatever to do with the mat-
ter and that the Government of which
I was a member had never once in
any way dealt with his case. Indeed,
in his letter to me in answer to your
charge he specifically says: "It was
not necessary for you to write deny-
ing the trend of Mr. Coaker's remarks
as regards yourself." That ought to
have been sufficient for you. When
Lt-Col. Franklin wrote that, he had
before him the charge you had made
against me. He goes on to say fur-
ther "the newspaper article was a
surprise. If for a moment I had
thought you had allowed any person-
al enmity towards me to influence
you whilst Prime Minister I should
certainly have thrashed the matter
out with you the first time I saw you.
In my talk with Mr. Coaker I said
nothing but what I have told you of-
ten. Mr. Coaker allowed his great
heart and sympathy to run away with
him, and carried off a wrong impres-
sion of our talk." You then go on to
say that you take this matter seri-
ously, and "that as I have taken up a
position of innocence nothing would
give you more pleasure than to be
convinced that I had nothing to do
with Lt-Col. Franklin's being ousted
from command of the Regiment." You
seem to have an idea that it is
quite permissible for you to make a
charge and then call on me to dis-
prove it. This is a complete rever-
sion of the principle that everyone is
held to be innocent until proven
guilty. If this were not so no one
would be safe. A verdict of 25,000
has just been obtained here in Lon-
don by a public man against the
Daily Mail for a far less offensive
libel than the one you have publish-
ed against me. If you were defend-
ing this libel you would only be al-
lowed to set up one defence, namely,
that the words complained of were
true in substance and in fact. You
could not have tendered one iota of
evidence in support of this plea. I
have denied its truth; Lt-Col. Frank-
lin has denied it, and the records ofthe Government and the Patriotic
Association, to which you, as a mem-
ber of the Legislature and the Gov-
ernment have had access for the last
five years abundantly proved it. If,
however, you are still anxious to es-
tablish your bona fides and clear me
in the eyes of those of your readers
who have read your charge and have
not seen my answer or defence, which
you refuse to publish, you have only
to cable Lt-Col. Franklin and ask him
if there is any foundation for the
charge you have made against me in
whole or in part, made in your diary
of April 4th, 1919. He has a copy of
your diary in his possession and he
will reply that there is not the slight-
est foundation. He will give you no
other reply.I am sorry you have elected to re-
fuse publication in your paper of my
denial. It is not British. I hope you
may revise your decision and publish
the correspondence previously sent
you, as well as this letter.Yours very faithfully,
MORRIS.

W. F. Coaker, Esq., M.H.A.

The Market.

The market continues steady and
there is a fair amount of local en-
quiry. The stocks are moderate and
the quantity to come in from the
fishermen will not be extensive as
the yield of oils from the livers this
year has not been as good as last
year.The price of oil in St. John's is
\$2.50 per tun or equal to one dollar
per gallon.The demand from foreign markets
is very limited and we think our fish-
ermen would do well to let go their
holdings at this price.Animal oils such as tallow and
greases, has again weakened on the
New York market and this is a sure
indication of poor demand from the
tanners.

COD LIVER OIL.

There is no change in the market
and not likely to be now that we have
passed through July and August
when the principal buying of Medi-
cinal Cod Liver Oil is made by the
Druggists and Chemists throughout
England and America.Refiners have been shipping their
oil in freely as none of them want to
carry over stocks like last year.None of our merchants wish to
have a barrel of this oil at the end
of the year as they will be right up
against Norway competition on an
extensive scale then.We hear of very few buyers on
this market and if any one of the
large handlers dropped out there
would be a sudden collapse of prices.
The local price is \$2 to \$2.10.

CANNED CODFISH.

Now that Mr. Templeton is able to
supply an unlimited quantity of tins
by machinery, the canning of fresh
codfish is likely to become an im-
portant industry in the future. There
is a fine demand for this product in
Western Canada and the two or three
plants engaged in the industry in
Newfoundland this season will have
no difficulty in marketing at profit-
able rates.

LOBSTERS.

The price of lobsters on the West
Coast has declined to \$34 per case of
48 one-pound tins, now that the fever
of keen competition amongst the
buyers is over. Most of the pack at
Bonne Bay, Bay of Islands and St.
George's has been exported direct to
Halifax, Messrs. Farquhar & Co., be-
ing the largest buyers. The St.
John's price is \$35 to \$34 but very
few cases so far, have come this way.

MOLASSES.

The molasses market keeps steady
and it is realized by the trade that
there will be no scarcity. This week
a sale of 200 puncheons was made
from the ship's side at 92 cents per
gallon, cash down. This is excep-
tional. Most cash sales are being
made at 93c. for 100 puncheon lots
and 94c. for lots of ten to fifty, and
95c. for the single puncheon, 97c. for
tierces, and 99c. to \$1.00 for barrels.
The imports to date amount to 8,844
puncheons as compared with 9,811
puncheons this time last year.

PORK AND BEEF.

Prices are beginning to come down
in various parts of the United States.
A drop of \$1.00 per 100 lbs. in
price of live hogs has occurred in
Chicago owing to several reasons,
principally to public opinion on the
high cost of living.The buyers of Eastern States vir-
tually withdrew from the market.
Beef Cattle was also neglected by
the packers and speculators heavily
hit.Livestock men all say that the
Export business is greatly depressed
by the low rate of Bank Exchange.The expectation of heavy receipts
on Western markets has caused
great weakness. Local prices are as
follows:
Ham Butt—\$22.00 to \$24.00 per brl.
Fat Back—\$20.50 to \$23.00 per brl.
Boneless Beef—\$38.50 to \$39.00 p. brl.
Family Beef—\$45.00 and up.Belief by the farmers of the United
States that the Government is in-
earnest in its drive against high
prices was given the Drovers in
Chicago last week when 15,000 head

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ity and enhance your appearance,You should see this
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James Baird

of cattle and 10,000 hogs had to be
held over awaiting buyers.

FLOUR.

The s.s. Rosalind brought in a
large shipment of all white flour
yesterday from New York and Hal-
fax. The wholesale price of this
quality is \$14.25 to \$14.50 per barrel.
Standard still on hand by some deal-
ers. The wholesale price has shaded
up to \$13.75 and \$13.80 per barrel. The
imports to date amount to 108,729
barrels.

SUGAR.

The shortage of sugar was relieved
yesterday by the arrival of the Lake
Cathoon from Montreal which steam-
er brought along 1,500 barrels of
white granulated. Further ship-
ments are contracted for next sail-
ing and it is hoped that supplies may
be obtained from New York later as
well so that local needs may be met
satisfactorily. Later shipments will
be higher in price owing to the op-Walter A. O'D. Kelly,
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ligation imposed on importers of
furnishing shippers with New York
funds at the higher premium of ex-
change. The present price here is
\$14.50 per 100 lbs.

OATS AND FEEDS.

Oats have advanced in price this
week 8 to 10 cents per sack on ac-
count of increased freight rates.
This applies to Western Canada, via
Montreal. As to P.E.I. oats it will be
impossible to get any till October.
The local price is now \$5.40 to \$5.50
per sack. The present prices are
likely to continue for the next month
or so. Feeds of all kinds have ad-
vanced considerably. Prices in the
local market are now much lower
than the cost of new importations.

HAY AND POTATOES.

Freight for imported baled hay is
now difficult to obtain at Montreal.
Owners of steamship lines are un-
willing to handle hay when they can
get other freight as hay does not pay
so well. The local price is \$50 to \$55
per ton. People laying in stocks for
cattle would do well to buy now as
we feel confident that prices will be
no lower this season. Local farmers
are asking \$3.00 per barrel for new
potatoes. Imported potatoes are low-
er than this, which shows that our
farmers are quite capable of profit-
ing themselves when they get the
chance.

GROCERS' PROFITEERING.

Judging from the prices charged
by the retail shops dealing in grocer-
ies as compared with the wholesale
prices it is the former who are pro-
fiting. It is high time for the au-
thorities to institute an enquiry in
the interest of the public.—Trade
Review.Toothbrushes should be bought
frequently and dried in the sun as
often as possible.كتاب مفتوح للاسنان
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