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Government Will Investigate Charges

Sir Robert Borden's Policy Equal Justice to All, Both Liberal and Conservative

Ottawa, April 15.—Sir Robert Borden made a strong pronouncement in Parliament today in outlining the action which his Government will take to insure an honest dollars worth of value for every dollar of public money expended for the public services.

The doors for complete investigation will be thrown wide open. Every wrong-door will be prosecuted and restitution demanded in every case where any person, be he Conservative or Liberal, rich or poor, is found guilty of any of the grafting methods such as existed in the days of the old Liberal regime. The strong stand taken by Sir Robert Borden finds his colleagues in the Government and in the House heartily in accord, and prepared to give him their enthusiastic support.



SIR ROBERT BORDEN
Declares that Justice will be Meted Out to all Wrongdoers, Conservative and Liberal Alike

After Mr. H. B. Murphy had moved that the final report of the Public Accounts Committee be adopted, Sir Robert rose to speak. He pointed out that the Committee had been engaged in investigating matters not yet reported by the Auditor General to the House, and therefore were under consideration a year in advance of the time they would be considered under ordinary circumstances. Certain correspondence had been moved for and brought down in the House. It was suggested that it should be referred to the committee for investigation.

There were two courses open to the Government. One was that they might on technical considerations and rules declare to the House that such matters ought to be investigated in the usual manner. The other course, and the one they thought was the right course, was to throw open wide the doors for investigation and inquiry. They deemed it only right and their duty to investigate and to find out if any frauds had been perpetrated on the Government. They understood in so doing that there was one possible result. Because if any matters were brought forth the natural result would be that the facts would be magnified and the public would be excited. But these considerations should not weigh with any government, and they did not weigh with them.

"My directions," declared the Premier, "to the members of the Government on the Public Accounts Committee were to rake the fullest possible inquiry. That course had been pursued to the fullest extent."

Liberals Blocked Inquiry
Sir Robert said he would like to remark in passing that it was not the course followed during the sixteen years preceding their coming into power. From the time of the first inquiry in 1898 down to the last inquiry into the N. T. R., there was a refusal for proper investigation and a disposition to restrict investigation within the narrowest possible confines. Sir Robert drew attention to resolutions asking for further and fuller inquiry in the public accounts committee voted down by the Liberals at various times, and also quoted testimony before the committee to show they had blocked inquiry and shielded witnesses. In one case an important witness was protected when Hon. W. S. Fielding and the Minister of Justice were both present, and aided in preventing free and full inquiry. If there was any wrongdoing in connection with the public accounts the members of the Government, and particularly myself and the Minister of Militia, wanted to know it. I spoke to the Minister of Customs, a member of the committee, in the presence of the Minister of Militia, and he heartily endorsed my views that we wanted an inquiry of widest scope, and we proposed if wrong doing was discovered to compel restitution and to prosecute.

Shaver's Evidence not Believed
Sir Robert then quoted from the reports of the committee to show that time and again the Minister of Customs had repeated that these were his instructions and that he had

pursued these instructions to the last. The Prime Minister, referring to the case of Young Powell, the clerk of the Carleton drug concern, first to the statement of the Chicago Drug Company that he was informed by Col. Jones, director of medical services, that the Government did not desire to purchase direct from the manufacturers and producers, but through middlemen. The evidence given by the directors of contract, the Deputy Minister, Quartermaster General and other officials of the Militia Department, all was that no such principle had been laid down in the department since this Government came in in 1911.

"Those officers do not believe that Col. Jones ever made this statement, and I don't think he ever said anything of the kind," said Sir Robert. "If he did say it, if he cannot deny that he made such a statement, he is no longer fit to retain the position he holds in the public service. I do him the credit, however, in the meantime, to say that I think he never uttered the statement attributed to him. He comes from my county, and is a son of Alfred G. Jones, once Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. I refuse to believe that Guy Carleton Jones ever told Shaver what would be an untruth, that any such standard was laid down by the department."

To Met out Even Justice
Regarding all the transactions with the Government, Sir Robert added that he did not propose to shield either Liberal or Conservative, but to mete out just treatment to everyone concerned in any transaction."

The Prime Minister referred to the \$9,000 profit that was going to young Powell, equal to ten years' salary at his present rate, and the restitution of the \$6,300 that had been paid him by the Government. This happened after the resolution was introduced in the Public Accounts Committee to refer the matter to the Justice Department.

In the matter of the binoculars, 166 glasses out of 2,175 were found to be inferior and not worth the money paid for them. The Department of Justice had been asked to take proceedings. Yesterday, said Sir Robert he received a letter from F. M. Burdett, Jr., asking for the earliest possible investigation before a judge or otherwise, of his contract with Mr. Ellis.

The Government desires to give an early hearing in all these matters," said Sir Robert. "If any of the charges are unfounded it is only fair that the truth should be known, but if there has been fraud, we want a thorough inquiry. I don't know if we propose through the binoculars department, or otherwise, to have the fullest, freest and most searching inquiry that can be devised, and we propose that prompt and energetic action shall be taken for restitution and punishment so far as the law will permit in all cases of wrong doing.

Inadequate inspection was partly responsible for the purchase of the inferior glasses, and the inspector on whom the Government had depended was appointed by the late Government. He had been suspended pending investigation.

The Purchase of Horses
Taking the purchase of horses in the Maritime Provinces, Sir Robert said that the system in vogue in the Militia Department under the late government was to pay the man who purchased horses a sum covering the cost of the horses, travelling expenses and remuneration, without any particular dividing line.

General Hughes decided to pay a distinct rate for expenses and remuneration so as to check the exact pay for the horses. A purchasing agent and a veterinary surgeon made the purchases and payment was made by check or order against a credit provided and each check had to be endorsed by the seller. This was an effective safeguard. The Prime Minister added that the member for Kings (Dewitt Foster) had been employed to buy horses in Nova Scotia and he bought 428.

"The member for Kings was appointed purchasing agent without the knowledge or approval of any member of the Government, and I would have prevented it had I known, and so would the Minister of Militia. He was appointed by Col. Neil, principal veterinary officer."

"I would like to add that nearly all other purchasers of horses in Nova Scotia were Liberals. Mr. Walter Crowe, in Cape Breton, is one of the strongest supporters of the Liberal party and has been for 25 years. He was not selected for political reasons." (Continued on page 6)

Retail Merchants' Annual Convention

Held at St. John Was Successful—Some Important Matters Dealt With.

The first annual convention of the New Brunswick Retail Merchants' Association which was held at St. John last Wednesday, was well attended, and the interest shown in the work of the session indicated that the association has a long life ahead. At the business meeting which was short about thirteen resolutions were dealt with, all having a bearing upon the relations of the retailer with the wholesaler or his customer. One of the matters dealt with was the Bulk's Sale Act. The association approved the principle of the bill sent before the local legislature and turned down, but favored some amendments calculated to bring everybody wishing to sell to their property on an equal footing. It was said a farmer or merchant wishing to sell out should be obliged to notify his creditors and advertise in the papers, and that thereafter it should be left to the creditors to decide what they should do. The convention favored the adoption of a Garnishee Act such as they have in Quebec as a means of collecting small debts.

After a business meeting in the afternoon the members of the association were taken in automobiles to the sugar refinery which they inspected, and then to the Reversing Falls and other points in the city. Later they were entertained at luncheon at Bond's restaurant and from there they went to the Imperial Theatre where a special program was put on for their benefit.

Mayor Frink, on behalf of the city, extended a welcome to the delegates, and went to speak of the progress of St. John in recent years. Much of the progress of the city was due to the activity of the men engaged in commercial and mercantile pursuits.

On one point they had cause for congratulation—in spite of the depression of business and the desolation of war, St. John and the province stood up as a green oasis in the business world.

A. Murray of Fredericton made a short address, discussing retail problems, and urging merchants to trade with one another locally.

A business meeting was then held, at which resolutions were adopted, the purport of which was as follows:

To support the purchase of goods "Made in Canada" which would bear a profit now denied the retailers who handle Canadian made goods, providing that manufacturers did not allow the goods to be used for price cutting by others on lines not made in Canada.

Against smuggling goods across borders of Canada.

To provide if possible for taxation on mail order firms so as to equalize the taxation paid by local retailers.

In favor of a bulk sales act for the province.

That if it is deemed necessary to make any change in the assessments act of the province that the interests of retailers be safeguarded.

Favoring the change in the Lord's Day Act making the buyer of goods on Sunday equally liable with the vendor.

That the question of fire insurance department for the association and fire adjustment be referred to the executive.

In favor of abolishing all lottery and guessing competitions to include all premiums on manufacturers' products.

That when any change is made in the provincial laws that information be sent out from the Dominion board.

That the system adopted by some merchants in advertising a well-known line of goods at a low cost in order to induce customers to purchase their line of goods out of which they make a large profit is not in the best interests of the retail merchants and is deceptive to the general public.

That in view of the fact the Dominion government is spending large sums of money to encourage farmers to increase their acreage and also, in experimental stations in an educational campaign which money comes out of the common treasury of the Dominion and which is aided to a large extent by the merchants, that we greatly deplore the action of some farmers who evidently have not the welfare of Canada at heart in advocating the abolition of retail merchants by buying goods in carload lots for the purpose of distributing among themselves, thinking they are going to gain something, whereas they are doing an injury to themselves as well as the public at large, and we therefore recommend that this meeting ask the Dominion board to take this matter up, submit it to the other provinces and take such action as they deem advisable.

Delegates from Newcastle were E. J. Morris, D. S. Creighton, A. O. Demars, Fred V. Dalton, and J. D. Paulin.

Died in Halifax
Harold Crawford, of Gagetown, N. B., who was a member of the Cycle Corps, at Halifax, died there of pneumonia on Wednesday last. He was a divinity student at King's College, Windsor, when war broke out.

MOTHER OF SCHOOL GIRL

Tells How Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Restored Her Daughter's Health.

Plover, Iowa.—"From a small child my 15 year old daughter had female weakness and she was taken to three doctors about it and they did not help her any. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound had been of great benefit to me, so I decided to have her give it a trial. She has taken five bottles of the Vegetable Compound according to directions on the bottle and she is cured of this trouble. She was all run down when she started taking the Compound and her periods did not come right. She was so poorly and weak that I often had to help her dress herself, but now she is regular and is growing strong and healthy."—Mrs. MARTIN HELVIG, Plover, Iowa.

Hundreds of such letters expressing gratitude for the good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has accomplished are constantly being received, proving the reliability of this grand old remedy.

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Each "Pape's Diapepsin" digests 3000 grains of solid stomach masonry in five minutes.

Time it! In five minutes all stomach distress will go. No indigestion, heartburn, sourness or belching of gas, acid, or eructations of undigested food, no dizziness, bloating, foul breath or headache.

Pape's Diapepsin is noted for its speed in regulating upset stomachs. It is the surest, quickest stomach remedy in the whole world and besides it is harmless. Put an end to stomach trouble forever by getting a large fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin from any drug store. You realize in five minutes how needless it is to suffer from indigestion, dyspepsia or any stomach disorder. It's the quickest, surest and most harmless stomach doctor in the world.

WAR REVENUE ACT

The Post Office Department, having given notice a week or two ago, in connection with the War Revenue Act, that all letters and postcards mailed in Canada for delivery in Canada, the United States or Mexico, and letters mailed in Canada for delivery in the United Kingdom and British possessions generally, or wherever the two cent rate applied, should in addition to ordinary postage carry a one cent stamp as a War tax, and also having notified the public that such war tax, while it should be paid preferably by the postage stamp marked "War Tax," could if such stamp were not available, be paid by an ordinary one cent postage stamp, is now issuing further notice to the effect that postage stamps may be used for the prepayment of war duties on bank cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes, express money orders, proprietary or patent medicines, perfumery, wines or champagne, as well as upon letters and postcards, postal notes and post office money orders, the intention being to provide facilities in those portions of the country where excise stamps are not readily available.

This in view of the fact that postage stamps may be obtained at all points over the whole country, in many cases where there is no Collector of Inland Revenue and no Inland Revenue stamps could be obtained, is a distinct convenience to the public, and no doubt will be largely taken advantage of.

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Notes in Circulation	10,385,376.69
Deposits	136,729,483.41
Due to Other Banks	3,118,902.04
Bills Payable (Acceptances by London Br.)	3,352,148.77
	\$178,316,130.29

ASSETS	
Cash on hand and in Banks	\$30,476,000.19
Government and Municipal Securities	3,778,533.71
Railway and other Bonds Debentures and Stocks	12,622,217.12
Call Loans in Canada	9,189,279.10
Call Loans elsewhere than in Canada	10,660,228.00
Deposits with Dominion Government for Security of Note Circulation	578,000.00
	\$67,304,260.08
Loans and Discounts	\$105,363,239.92
Bank Premises	6,648,630.29
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