

PRESS REPORTS.

St. Johns Election Inquiry

(Reprint from Montreal Gazette, October 4th, 1918.)

A brief and apparently conclusive end was arrived at yesterday in the investigation by Mr. Justice MacLennan.

A feature of the closing session of the enquiry was the fact brought out by Mr. E. Fabre Surveyer, K.C., that several officers who had been named to depart with a draft for the Siberian expedition had been prevented from doing so, owing to the refusal by Mr. Jos. Archambault, the accuser, that they should be excused from appearing at the enquiry. As a result of this refusal it was stated later by Mr. Surveyer that three officers, Major Powell, Lieut. Trow and Captain Knight, had been prevented from leaving with a draft for the Siberian Force.

CHARGES STRUCK OUT.

After deciding that he did not care to hear any argument on the case, Justice MacLennan intimated that his report on the enquiry would be forwarded to Ottawa within a few days, or a week at the outside, so as to get the matter disposed of. Judge MacLennan also circumscribed the scope of the enquiry to the specific charges of subornation to perjury and perjury made by Mr. Archambault, M.P., the other charges in the long and involved bill of particulars, including charges as to the use of liquor at the regimental mess, being struck out.

Lt.-Col. Melville, Officer Commanding the Engineers, was the first witness called, and was briefly examined by Judge MacLennan as to his previous evidence, his statements not involving any new material.

Mr. Chadwick, Deputy Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, once more appeared from Ottawa, and formally produced the envelopes containing the ballots of 150 soldiers at St. Johns, marked during the last election.

Lieut. James C. Armer, formerly of the Engineers, who appeared in civilian clothes, stated that he had lived with his family for eight or ten years in Toronto previous to joining the Engineers. He explained that he had voted at the election under the belief that a soldier could allocate his vote wherever he wished, providing that he was not familiar with the riding or ridings in which he had previously lived, and that he had voted as he did sincerely believing that he was within his rights. He said he had voted in Chambly-Vercheres because he wanted to support the Union Government and place his vote where it would do the most good. He had heard a good deal of talk amongst the officers as to the election, and most of them had been of the opinion that Mr. Rainville, as a supporter of the Union Government in Chambly-Vercheres, was the man who needed their support, therefore he had voted in Chambly-Vercheres.

Capt. Arthur C. Wright, who was

brought here from Halifax, said that he had acted as a Deputy Presiding Officer at the election at the St. Johns barracks, and denied any knowledge of any attempt to influence officers or men. As to himself, he repeated the answer he had made when he voted as to residence, "I cannot state." As a railroad engineer he said that previous to joining the Engineers he had lived at fourteen different places within seven years.

REJECTED WIDER CHARGES.

This ended the taking of evidence, and Mr. Surveyer, for the accused, asked if Judge MacLennan proposed taking up any of the wider charges, such as the alleged use of liquor at dinners in the officers' mess. Judge MacLennan at once replied that he did not propose to do so, as his commission did not extend to such matters, while the evidence produced was all to the effect that no liquor had been permitted or used at the officers' mess.

Mr. Surveyer then intimated that he understood that several officers had been delayed from joining the Siberian expedition owing to this enquiry, and asked as to whether the witnesses were now free. Judge MacLennan stated that the work of the Commission was now over, so that the witnesses were free from further demands.

FROM "DERE MABLE"

**The Love Letters of a Rookie
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Dere Mable

Rainin today no drill so Im goin to rite you if I dont get no exercise I go all to pieces Im back into casualty company again Leftenant an I had different iders about runnin things, one of us had to leve hed been there longest I left Hot headed thats me mable all over. We're doin baynit drill now I cant say nuthin about for wimens ears we have one place where we hit the Hun in the nose and rip all his deekorashuns offen his uniform all in one stroke then theres another where you give him a shave and a round hair cut and end up by knockin his hat over his eyes. then the wipersup come over and do the dirty work and I and the rest of the fellos go ahead and take another trench I havent been able to find out where we take it It's all worked out scientifick the fello who planed it had some bean the principle of the thing is to get the other fello and not let him get you If the alleys had some skeme like this the war would be over now there wouldnt have been no huns left It will take us to do the trick Eh Mable? Some one say we was the highest paid army in the world. Besides all the money we get our bed and board. I guess they dont kno that in the army bed and board mean the same thing.

There always inspectin us I feel like a prize beef they never inspect a man right through. One day its

his teeth then its his hart then its his lungs. the other day we was all lined up and the Sergeant he says "Inspect arms". so I lays down me gun and rools up me shirt sleeves. Just to show you how tecknickle they are in the army he didnt want to see me arms at all but me gun Hows a fello to kno Mable? I went up the other mornin for some more coffee and the cook he says "You seem to like coffee." right away without stopin to think or nothing I says back to him "Yes thats the reason Im willin to drink so much hot water to get some" Eh Mable? I havent been very well lately. I guess Ill cut out eatin at meals it spoils me apetite for the rest of the day. I kno youl be glad to kno my feet aint hurtin much. Remember me to the hired girl and mother Yours through the winter

Bill.

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By Lyn, No. 1Platoon.

Here's to the boys of Company B
Ready to fight for Democracy
They've given up mothers
Sweethearts and wives,
And if necessary,
Will give up their lives,
For they're the Sons of Britain
And men of all sorts,
They're a motley crew,
But they're dead game sports.

Some come from Banks,
From Farms, and from Mills
And they're going to stick
'Till they swallow their pills
They're drilling morn and night
To fit them for the fight,
And they'll see it to the finish
'Cause they know its right
For they're the Sons of Britain
And men of all sorts
Their teeth they're grittin'
For they're dead game sports.

Some of them are fat men
And some of them are thin,
Some of them are black men,
But each one's here to win,
Although they kick about the work
And growl about the stew
They wouldn't quit B Company
If invited to.
For they're the Sons of Britain
And men of all sorts,
The Huns they'll git 'em,
For they're dead game sports.

The sentiment is fine but the poetry—well we don't mind that and if we had lots more of it we'd get along fine.—Ed.

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