

E. S. CARTER EFFECTIVELY ANSWERS HON. J. A. MURRAY

The Patriotic and Belgian Potato Graft; Striking Condemnation of Men Who Took Advantage of Country's Peril

Centerville, Sept. 8.—The answer to Hon. James A. Murray's tirade of abuse of the opposition workers and speakers at Richmond Corner last night was given by E. S. Carter in his speech at a splendid meeting here tonight. The minister of agriculture was answered in detail and such a volume of proof was produced from the official records as to show the patriotic and Belgian potato transaction as in its true light. The part B. Frank Smith played in this outrageous transaction was shown in detail and the evasions of Minister Murray in the legislature, his denial of facts, his contradictions, were all plainly set forth.

THE GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN OF MISREPRESENTATION.

The candidates, Messrs. McCain and Upham, were given a splendid reception and P. J. Veniot, in a comprehensive and telling speech, showed how the present provincial government deserved the condemnation of the people. He ridiculed the falsehoods in the government press, particularly the statement of the two representatives who are here following the campaign and who telegraphed their newspapers that H. M. Blair, former deputy minister of public works, had spoken in the opposition interest at Newburgh and at Northampton, while as a matter of fact Mr. Blair has not spoken at any opposition meeting nor has he been asked to speak. The falsehoods of the government press, the violence of their head lines and the words placed in the mouths of the members of the government are causing amazement and disgust among their own supporters. It will be remembered how desperate a campaign the government newspapers conducted in the Westmorland by-election and their prediction of 1,000 majority up to polling day. Their predictions regarding Carleton county are equally misleading and untrue. If political passion does not prevent a sober consideration of public affairs the verdict of Carleton county will be like that of Westmorland.

Mr. Carter's Telling Speech.

Mr. Carter spoke as follows:

A great deal has been said from time to time about one of the most serious transactions in the history of our provincial government.

I refer to the abuse of the loyalty of the people of New Brunswick, which splendid feeling towards the empire and the motherland prompted our government representative of the king, to issue special warrants authorizing the expenditure of \$150,000 to express that loyalty and at the same time to succor and relieve the starving and suffering Belgians.

GRAVE CHARGES REPEATED.

I charge that that feeling of loyalty was used to make a profit and to cause overcharges, particularly for B. Frank Smith and his business associates and political friends.

I further charge that the responsibility for this rests upon the government of the day and especially upon B. Frank Smith, now a member of the government, and Hon. James A. Murray, minister of agriculture, and his deputy, J. B. Daggett.

I also charge that the large sum of money authorized by the governor was lavishly spent and much of it was wasted; that false information and untrue dictations were given in the legislature from time to time to mislead the people; that the money of this province was held open for nearly two months to close the potato account and to receive money for the sale of the potatoes that had been made and were paid for from eight to ten months previously.

I charge further that thousands of barrels of these potatoes bought and paid for by the people of New Brunswick to succor suffering Belgians were permitted to rot in the warehouses of St. John or were peddled around the streets of the city—sold for a mere song—and what were not hauled to the hog pens in Lancaster were eventually shipped to Cuba and taken from port to port in the West Indian market to find a sale.

I charge that B. Frank Smith took advantage of a letter of credit given by the bank at Florenceville by his friend, the deputy minister, J. B. Daggett, to ship thousands of barrels of potatoes more than were asked for to be paid for by the first warrant of \$75,000 and that eighteen carloads of these potatoes arrived at St. John in a condition unfit for handling and shipment, being heated and soft, and were rejected by the inspectors, Leslie Slipp.

I further charge in connection with this that Deputy J. B. Daggett and B.

THE REAL FRIEND IN A LARGE BOTTLE

The greatest friend to sick people is the one that helps them toward health. But nearly every human friend had heretofore suggested a different means of regaining lost health due to nervousness, overwork, debility and worry. Now there are dozens of friends right here in your own town who will agree that the best friend to their health is Zetis—the health tonic. This already famous remedy for "nerves," and the consequent ailments is a combination of glycerophosphates—the actual elements of the human body—with Cod Liver Oil and a delicious tonic wine. A short two weeks of faithful trial will put you fair and square upon the path of bounding health. We know this so absolutely that if you cannot report real progress at the end of that time we will refund the purchase price. You who suffer and suffer and suffer should not delay beyond today. E. Clinton Brown, Sole Distributor, Agent.

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Who could ask for greater blessings! And yet almost every one may enjoy both if they take the precaution to observe the ordinary rules of health.

Keep the bowels regular—never allow Constipation to become a habit. Many people are miserable in mind and body because of chronic Constipation. They are really poisoning themselves—because the waste matter which remains so long in the body, poisons the stomach, the kidneys and the blood.

A teaspoonful of Abbey's Effervescent Salt in a tumbler of warm water, daily, corrects Constipation—regulates the bowels—keeps the kidneys

active, the blood pure, stomach clean and the skin fresh and clear. For over a quarter of a century it has been a household remedy throughout Canada.

Made in the laboratories of the Abbey Effervescent Salt Co., Montreal.

A Medical Officer of Health, of London, Eng. says: "I take it every evening and it keeps me in the best of health and spirits".

To overcome excessive Nervousness, take Abbey's Vita Tablets, 50c a box.

For Sale by E. Clinton Brown, Druggist, 217 Union Street.

Frank Smith insisted on these rejected potatoes being received and they were taken into the warehouses and were largely lost, but that no refund was made by Smith or others for this loss.

There is not a word or a line in the auditor-general's report for either 1914 or 1915 to show that B. Frank Smith either refunded one cent or one dollar or related his profit of ten cents per barrel on 15,946 barrels—the so-called "surplus stock"—he shipped over and above the first order.

I charge that because of this greed of Smith and his business associates, A. C. Smith & Co., to make profit of the loyalty of the people and their haste to ship potatoes so early that they rotted, the poor people of Belgium—the starving children of the men and women who had sacrificed their lives, their homes and their country to save England and France from the horrors of the Germans—were deprived of that food and assistance so necessary to them.

Had the people of New Brunswick depended upon the men they trusted, upon the government they elected, upon the great majority, Belgium would have not had much help from this province.

But there is no other place where a coat of whitewash. In the report of the public accounts committee it is stated that Mr. Daggett "appeared before the committee and explained every transaction." That report is signed by George B. Wones, M. P. P., who himself is a member of the government.

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Now would you expect that committee to do any more than to whitewash? Mr. Smith claims that the report of this committee makes him white as snow. Well, if he likes that particular brand of whitewash he is welcome to it.

People Not Satisfied.

But the people have not been satisfied and never will be until they have had "explanations" as Mr. Daggett gives and such certificates of character as Hon. Mr. Murray is handing out to his present colleague, Hon. Mr. Smith.

Does Mr. Murray remember his frantic statement in the House when inquiries were made in the legislature in 1915 about the Patriotic potato business? Does he not remember saying, "Smith had ruined him. That he had taken advantage of a government letter of credit and had flooded the government with potatoes? And does the minister remember what he said afterwards?

It was about this time that Hon. Mr. Murray was busy denying in the legislature that any authority had been given any person to make drafts in connection with the purchase of the potatoes.

But he was very much mistaken when he did so the letters in his department showed how false were these statements. It was not until a year later that these letters were produced, but "truth will out," and let me read you some proof in the shape of letters, brought down in the house at the request of the opposition.

On Sept. 15, 1914, J. B. Daggett wrote to the bank at East Florenceville as follows:

The Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, East Florenceville. Dear Sir,—The Department of Agriculture will accept drafts made by B. F. Smith, of Florenceville, upon this department, for thirty-five cars of potatoes by invoice and bill of lading covering each individual car. (Signed) J. B. DAGGETT, Secretary for Agriculture for Province of New Brunswick.

On the following day a letter was sent by Secretary Daggett to B. Frank Smith which refers to the acceptance of drafts, as follows:

Confirming our conversation and understanding of yesterday I have given instructions to the Bank of Nova Scotia that I will accept drafts made upon me here for thirty-five cars of potatoes, bill of lading to accompany each draft.

That letter distinctly gives authority to make drafts which Hon. Mr. Murray denied in the legislature last session.

Putting it Up to Murray. Now, Mr. Chairman, there has been much said about false statements and insinuations in connection with this potato transaction by both Hon. Mr. Smith and Hon. Mr. Murray. You will please bear in mind that the letters I have just read were written in September, 1914, and yet in the following winter, in the legislature of this province, Hon. Mr. Murray stood in his place in the assembly chamber and gave the following answers to questions prepared by me and asked him by Mr. Dugal:

Q.—Was there a letter of credit given by direction of the govern-

ment beside Mr. Chandler, had the minister been ready and eager to make all the facts public. We have some light thrown upon this—some information as to Minister Murray's course of action at this time by the statement of a colleague of his, Hon. Mr. Morrissey, who sat at the council board with Mr. Murray, who knew what was going on and who was a close friend of Hon. Dr. Landry's.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey writing to Premier Clarke said: "Again, the refusal of Mr. Chandler to investigate the purchase of patriotic potatoes, which we all know was mixed with graft and not a person than the Hon. Provincial Secretary himself told me at the meeting of the government in the city of St. John in December last, that the books of the province had not been closed because, forsooth, the Hon. Mr. Murray, minister of agriculture, had told him they were waiting a refund of \$10,000 from B. Frank Smith and his associates because of the fuss made by the opposition with respect to the patriotic potatoes."

And do you further recall, Mr. Premier, that your colleague, Hon. Mr. Murray, said to Dr. Landry, "For God's sake don't tell Morrissey of this!"

Hon. Dr. Landry has since said that he did not use those words. That is not my concern. That was the statement of the same government. They sat at the same council board and if they want to call each other liars that is their business. But I want to tell you that I would prefer the word of John Morrissey to that of a man who said that "in his country when road foremen swore to their accounts they did not 'Kiss the Book'."

Must Share Responsibility.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, Hon. James A. Murray must share the responsibility with B. Frank Smith for a transaction which touches the honor of the people of New Brunswick; which casts a grave reflection upon our government—a reflection that is resented by our people who have sacrificed their blood, their money and their lives in these hours of the empire's trial.

As for Mr. Smith, he told the legislature that he paid back part of the money that he had received from B. Frank Smith for the potatoes. If he did so, I ask him why did not the auditor-general make it plain to the people by his report of it alongside of another rebate item. In his report (page 202) he says:

Less received from R. Railway for rebate on demurrage charge \$602.50.

Now, if B. Frank Smith paid back this money as he said he did, why did not the auditor-general say so? But there is no other place where a coat of whitewash. In the report of the public accounts committee it is stated that Mr. Daggett "appeared before the committee and explained every transaction." That report is signed by George B. Wones, M. P. P., who himself is a member of the government.

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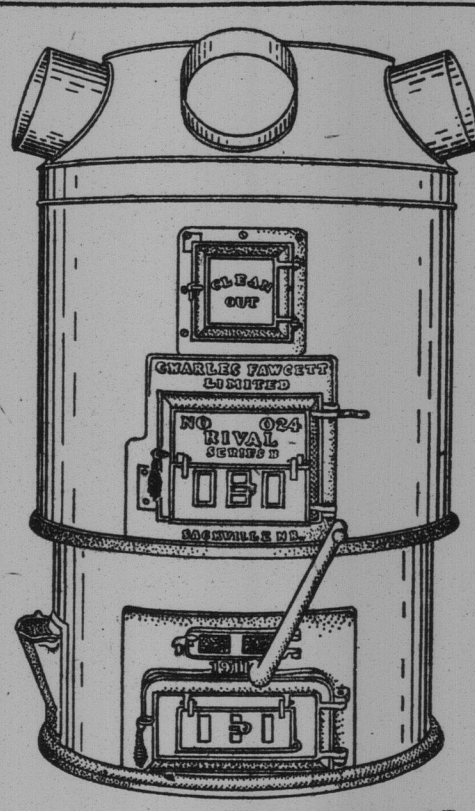
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Q.—Was there a letter of credit given by direction of the govern-

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ment in connection with the purchase of patriotic or the Belgian potatoes, or for both?

Q.—Is so, to whom was it given and how was it worded?

Q.—To what extent were funds advanced upon this letter of credit by what bank, and where?

Q.—Answered by answer to question No. 1.

In the face of that correspondence and those letters I ask you who was the liar, Hon. James Murray or E. S. Carter?

Another From Mr. Daggett.

But to make assurance doubly sure, let me read you another letter of Mr. Daggett's to the bank manager.

September 21, 1914. The Manager Bank of Nova Scotia, East Florenceville (N. B.). Dear Sir,—Mr. B. F. Smith advises me that he has now shipped thirty-five cars of potatoes as specified in your letter of recent date. You may continue accepting invoices when accompanied by bill of lading from Mr. Smith and we will accept the drafts here until I advise you otherwise.

Very truly yours, J. B. DAGGETT, Secretary for Agriculture.

This was a pretty large order. Daggett said, "Continue accepting Smith's drafts until I advise you otherwise." Smith rushed in all the potatoes he could until on October 6 Mr. Daggett wrote "Mr. Smith has filled his order for potatoes. You will kindly cancel arrangements made in my letter of recent date re drafts from Mr. Smith."

Do not imagine that we obtained this information without an effort. Every possible way was taken to block us. In 1915 Mr. Daggett was sick. I know he was in the hospital with an attack of appendicitis but he recovered quickly and was able to sit up and see many visitors, particularly his friend, Mr. Smith, and there was no reason in the world why Hon. Mr. Murray could not have procured all the facts from him just as readily in 1915 as in 1916.

"Sickness" Excuse. There are times, Mr. Chairman, when public men are honestly ill and unable to attend the public business, but we have had some examples of ill health which make us suspicious, perhaps even the allegations of indisposition are really correct.

I will not enter into details for it is not necessary, but this "sickness" excuse seems to be quite a favorite. I remember when Premier Fleming was charged with grave offences by Mr. Dugal he became suddenly too ill to attend to public business, but he retained pretty good health for another year. He was in fairly robust health in January, 1915, able to take part in the by-election campaign and I was surprised to read a day or two ago that the opposition were pursuing him when he was at the point of death. Why, the pursuit was over, and Mr. Fleming did not lose his health until he was convinced of the treachery of his friend B. Frank Smith, who took his federal patronage away from him.

The pursuit of Fleming by Smith is one of the blackest cases of political ingratitude I have ever heard of. To desert a friend who has always stood by you is a crime that few people forgive but in addition to go into another county as Smith went into Westmorland

and throw down the man who had made him, saying, "Fleming did very wrong but the government cleaned house," that is an assumption of superiority that does not sit well on Mr. Smith. The political sins of Mr. Fleming have been dealt with by a royal commission and it does not lie in the mouth of Hon. Mr. Smith to say one word about his former colleague and premier.

Now I am going to read you from the auditor-general's report of 1914 and 1915 on pages 195 and 201, 202 respectively, the amounts paid to B. Frank Smith and his business associates, A. C. Smith & Co., in connection with this potato business:

Auditor's Report 1914.

B. Frank Smith, for potatoes, \$86,728.10

A. C. Smith & Co., sorting, 12,072.00

A. C. Smith & Co., for 289 barrels, 15,024.10

and insurance, etc., etc., 861,819.20

Auditor's Report 1915.

B. Frank Smith, for potatoes, \$18,089.85

A. C. Smith & Co., for bagging and sorting, etc., 10,689.20

A. C. Smith & Co., for 882 barrels, 15,618.82

insurance, bags, etc., etc., 529.90

reiss potatoes, 529.90

Total for 1914-1915, \$1,014,718.37

You will notice from the above that nearly \$25,000 of this amount was spent for "bagging" and "sorting" which makes the charge for this work between 85 and 40 cents per barrel.

This, Mr. Chairman, is a county which exports large quantities of potatoes and I wonder what your growers would think if they were called upon to pay 85 or 40 cents a barrel for sorting and bagging potatoes. Do not make any mistake. This charge of over \$25,000 for "sorting and bagging" does not include the cost of the bags or the barrels. They cost \$16,238.92 in addition to the sorting cost of over \$25,000.

Messrs. Kennelly and Wetmore, of St. John, both told me that they offered to do this work for the government for fifteen cents per barrel and they frankly said that they would then be making more than an ordinary profit. They also told me that the cost of bagging the Belgian potatoes sent into the Belgian committee at St. John had been four cents and the committee had paid them six cents.

Think of it for one minute, Mr. Chairman. I calculate there was a difference between what the Belgian committee paid Kennelly & Wetmore and what the government paid A. C. Smith & Co. of about thirty cents a barrel and figuring on 68,000 barrels bought there was a clear rake-off of about \$20,000.

It cost the Belgian relief committee at Fredericton seven cents a barrel to sort and get their goods ready to send overseas, but the politicians and their friends, B. Frank Smith and his associates, not only had a profit on our loyalty and our generosity but we were over-charged to the extent of \$20,000 by the men who sorted and bagged our gift.

The people of this province realize, I think, by this time, that not only was their generosity thwarted but their intention to relieve Belgium quickly and effectively were nullified by the greed and graft of the political plunderers.

When Nova Scotia gave her patriotic

gift there was not a suspicion of graft.

That province simply gave a large sum in cash and no member of its legislature made a dollar out of the transaction. Prince Edward Island gave freely of her patriotism. The little island sent 100,000 bushels of oats, and how do you think they did it? The government supplied the bags, but not a cent, not a dollar, and these bags were left at the railway station and the farmers filled the bags with oats and their agricultural societies saw that they were shipped and the province did not pay a cent and thus, out of the love of the people for the Motherland, the gift was given.

Political Graft Here.

But here in New Brunswick the appeal of stricken suffering Belgium was the signal for greed, for political graft, for political graft. It was left for our government to permit this shame to be laid at New Brunswick and to be under the fearful responsibility of permitting overcharges, mismanagement and greed to interfere with the charity of our people and the relief of the children of Belgium. Do you know while these politicians were lining their pockets with dollars, your children were giving their pennies to help the suffering, fatherless and often motherless little ones of a brave and unselfish country? Do you know that the appeal was made in every humble, in every home in the world, to save these orphans from starvation and death? I have here a drawing of a great was there any graft but New Brunswick? I have here a drawing of a great artist showing a sorely stricken Belgium.

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another and grieving children and there is another by an equally famous artist showing a Belgian home and the widow and children grieving for a father killed by the Germans, while standing fighting for England and Canada and preventing the Huns from being victorious before we were ready. What do you think of men who would profit and graft upon the need and suffering of such as these?

New Brunswick has had much to be proud of since 1912 when J. K. Fleming took over the premiership, but of all the investigations and disclosures of graft and dishonesty none has, in the opinion of thinking men, disgraced her so much as the graft and greed in connection with these patriotic and Belgian gifts.

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with local applications as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a local disease, greatly influenced by constitutional conditions, and in order to cure it you must take an internal remedy. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts through the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system. Hall's Catarrh Cure was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years. It is composed of some of the best blood purifiers. The perfect combination of the ingredients in Hall's Catarrh Cure is what produces such wonderful results in catarrhal conditions. Send for testimonials free.

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Take Dr. Cassell's Instant Relief for constipation, biliousness, torpid liver, sick headache, dizziness, specks before the eyes, flatulence and windy spasms, acidity, heartburn, impure blood, and that dull, heavy feeling which is a sure indication of liver troubles.

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