

# CROTHERS LAUGHED AT APPEAL FOR BREAD

Minister of Labor's Levy Brought Cries of "Shame" in Parliament

Mederic Martin, Mayor and M. P. of Montreal, Declared There Were 45,000 Worthy Citizens in Dire Straits in His City, and He Asked the "Minister of Play" Why He Had Taken No Steps to Relieve the Situation.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—An impassioned appeal for the unemployed in the big cities of Canada by Mayor Mederic Martin, of Montreal, marked parliament's sitting on the labor estimates tonight. Mr. Martin reached Ottawa early in the evening and launched his plea as soon as the department of labor came under review. He spoke with a warmth which brought a somewhat desultory house to immediate attention and interest.

Hon. Mr. Crothers laughed, but the minister chose the wrong time for levity. Breaking off in the midst of his appeal, Mr. Martin struck back and the minister panted suddenly and denied the charges. The incident, however, was greeted with cries of "Shame" from several members.

Mayor Martin asked why the minister of labor had taken no steps to relieve the unemployment situation in Canadian cities. Surely, he argued, this was a time calling for action, a time when an earnest and efficient minister could justify his position. Throughout Canada in the great cities there was hunger and want from unemployment. This morning in Montreal he had been waited upon by over 800 worthy citizens in various spheres of life, bookkeepers, clerks, artists and laborers, who were reduced to dire straits through unemployment.

Mayor Martin pleaded for prompt action for the unemployed in his city. He wanted action taken in going on with the public works and some concern for the unemployed for worthy citizens out of employment.

Crothers Laughed at Appeal. It was at this point that Hon. Mr. Crothers, talking with Hon. Mr. Blomfield, laughed.

"Don't laugh, Mr. Minister," exclaimed Mr. Martin. "This is no laughing matter. If you had real concern for those who are supposed to represent you would better cry out."

"You are making that up," Hon. Mr. Crothers came to his feet. "I say you're," retorted Mr. Martin. "You laugh when thousands of your fellow citizens starve. Shame on you. You are always laughing."

"Better change the mayor of Montreal," retorted Mr. Paquet. "Better change the government," came back Mayor Martin. "It isn't only Montreal that is suffering, and if the member thinks he can change the mayor of Montreal he should go to Montreal these days and try."

Hon. Mr. Crothers sat silent when Mr. Martin concluded. "He laughs at the unemployed," commented the member for St. Mary's. "I wish the poor could see him laugh. There'd be a reckoning."

Emergency Legislation. Ottawa, Feb. 26.—Gideon Rochon, new member for the district of St. John, introduced at the opening of the house today. The special committee named by the minister of justice to consider amendments to the Criminal Code was appointed, and Mr. Sinclair's bill to punish fraud and contractors, and G. E. McGraw's bill dealing with fraud involving real estate deals were referred to it.

A resolution by Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux for improvements in Canadian public works was also likely to be considered by the committee.

Hon. W. T. White, asked parliament to approve of a resolution renewing a proclamation authorized last August to meet the financial situation of the country. The resolution authorized the issue of advances to the chartered banks on security of circulation of the banks; authorized the banks to pay by the banks in their own notes, instead of in gold. Under the plan, the banks would be authorized to issue notes, instead of in gold. Under the plan, the banks would be authorized to issue notes, instead of in gold.

George Kite, of Richmond, asked if the government had anything to say about a recent dispatch stating that the Eighteenth Nova Scotia battalion at Salisbury Plain had been broken up to provide reinforcements for other units, etc. In the absence of General Hughes, the finance minister, Mr. White was leading the house, said that he would make inquiries.

Less Unemployment, Says Crothers. The house then went into supply on estimates of the labor department. After answering a number of questions, and to the resignation of the department, Hon. T. W. Crothers made a statement in regard to unemployment. Representatives from the board of trade organizations and departmental sources had indicated that the situation was not so bad as it had been a few months ago. The larger number of unemployed had been in Montreal, and there was a large number there yet. Outside these two places there was no such a large number. The different provinces had offered to look after their own unemployed, with the single exception of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. Sinclair asked why the minister had for the situation. He said he had heard there had been a procession of unemployed in Toronto recently.

## CANADIANS MARCH BEFORE KING

(Special Correspondence or The Telegraph and Montreal Star.)

Salisbury, Feb. 27.—The much abused British censor has not, until the past few days, interfered seriously with the chattering of the progress of the Canadian troops on Salisbury Plain. The story of the review of the division by His Majesty the King and Lord Kitchener—the final review before the departure for France—was cabled with assurance in the past few days.

The latest edit of the Germans undoubtedly is the cause. The transports must be protected, and with the submarine war the channel all precautions must be doubled. Should the story of this last ceremonial have been published in Montreal it is not unlikely that the censor would have been ordered to suppress it.

The Canadian papers had their reports on Thursday last. Half a dozen operators took yards of film. But nothing appeared. The censorship is tightening down.

So the news of the review wasn't published in England. A few weeks later the last week of several activities. It is a big job moving a division as quickly as this. All they are doing details that had been forgotten. The officers gleefully asserted that they were under the orders of the admiralty from Sunday night, Jan. 31. On that day the divisional ammunition park cranked up their engines and began to move.

At last they are away. A week ago the divisional headquarters had been moved to a new camp. The officers gleefully asserted that they were under the orders of the admiralty from Sunday night, Jan. 31. On that day the divisional ammunition park cranked up their engines and began to move.

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## GOT WAR ORDER ST JOHN'S EXTRA \$200,000 FOR HIS CLERK

(Special Correspondence or The Telegraph and Montreal Star.)

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—Further investigation of the circumstances connected with the sale of \$18,000—worth of surgical dressing to the militia department last August by E. J. Powell, representing himself as the local agent of Bauer & Black of Chicago, shows that this Powell is none other than an apprentice clerk in the Ottawa drug store of W. F. Garland, Conservative M. P. for Carleton county.

It will be remembered that in the correspondence between the auditor-general and the militia department, referred to in the Standard, the name of Powell was introduced to the militia department by Mr. Garland, and secured the order after representations had been made by Mr. Garland, according to the understanding of the militia officials, that a profit of only five per cent. was being asked.

The auditor-general and the militia department authorities subsequently found out that the profit would be 81 1/2 per cent. on the prices charged, and a refund of \$2,822 which the militia department is now demanding, because of excessive charges. Mr. Powell said he would keep the money and would not return it to the government without a fight.

According to his own admission today, the field dressings which he sold to the militia department for 21 cents each, cost him but 16 cents after allowing two cents per dressing for express and other incidental expenses. He said that the militia department had paid him \$2,822 for the dressings, and "never mind the expense."

Mr. Garland, as the Conservative member of parliament who intervened to get the order for a drug clerk in the militia department, would evidently have to do a lot of explaining. Whether his case is an exception among Conservative members, remains to be seen.

When the war broke out he himself was asked to take the agency for Bauer & Black, but he refused it and recommended Mr. Powell.

"I just befriended him," says Mr. Garland, "like I am befriending people every day." He added that Mr. Powell had carried on the business of the militia department, and "never mind the expense."

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"The reports in the Standard only give a portion of my remarks on the budget. I was dealing particularly with the undesirability of increasing the taxes upon the people of Canada at the present time when conditions throughout the country are very unsatisfactory, the times being hard and when the whole people are making contributions to the war effort. I stated that the government was improperly describing the increased taxation as a war tax when, in reality, they were seeking to impose it for the purpose of making up the difference between current revenue and expenditure, the minister of finance having stated that the whole of the \$100,000,000 to be devoted to war purposes was to be borrowed from the imperial government."

Saving Higher Taxes. "I endeavored to show that if the government would exercise the same prudence which the various cities and municipalities were exercising in curtailing their expenditures for the coming year, the reasonable limits it would not be necessary to resort to special means of taxation. It was in this connection I stated that if all the public works throughout the country were cut to one-half it would be better than the imposition of so heavy a burden of taxation upon the people. I had been asked if I was willing that the expenditures in St. John should be reduced also to which I replied in the affirmative. I was further asked if my own constituents would agree to the same policy of reduced expenditure which I was proposing for the rest of the country. I replied that I was not the part of giving to ignore special taxes in order to carry on public works which have hitherto been paid for out of current revenue. If the course which I advocated were adopted a very large amount of public work could still be performed both at St. John and other parts of Canada. I was asked if the public works could again be prosecuted with full vigor."

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