

REPORT PUBLIC ON HORSE PURCHASE

Personal Honor of A. DeW. Foster and G. H. Oakes Vindicated (Special to the Montreal Gazette.) Ottawa, April 30—Sir Charles Davidson has presented to the government his findings on the notorious horse deal perpetrated through A. DeWitt Foster, ex-M.P. in Kings County, Nova Scotia, in the early months of the war. He finds that many of the horses purchased for war purposes were old, decrepit and useless for the purposes for which they were purchased; that slipshod financial methods were allowed; that there is a deficiency of approximately \$5,000 in the accounting still to be made by Messrs. Woodworth and Keever, the two men whom Foster secured to look after the purchases for him. At the same time, Sir Charles, while condemning Mr. Foster's business methods, and his lack of appreciation of the care which should be required of a member of parliament in dealing with the country's funds, acquits him of any personal peculation and declares that the evidence "vindicates his personal honor."

Sir Charles also acquits G. H. Oakes, the secretary of the Kings County Conservative Association, of any peculation and declares that his personal honor is vindicated. The same finding applies to W. P. McKay, the former secretary to Chief Conservative Whip John Stanfield, M.P. Bribery in the form of commissions or otherwise, declares Sir Charles, was not shown, and political influences were not in evidence. As to the character of the horse purchased, he says that out of 383 horses concerning which definite evidence was available, 39 were between twelve and fifteen years old; sixteen were between fifteen and eighteen years, and five over eighteen. He finds that between fifty and sixty at least ought to have been rejected for unsoundness and old age. The inspection of the horses purchased by the veterinary is severely criticized, especially in the cases of purchases at Berwick and Kingston. It was at this latter place that the celebrated twenty-three-year-old mare was bought as a war steed. She had to be helped to her feet on several occasions. Sir Charles makes reference also to several other especially flagrant cases, such as the "Jim Jacques horse," which had a spavin on each hind leg, but was sold for \$200, and the "Uhlmann" horse, which in 1912 had been sold for a drake and two ducks.

In his conclusions with regard to A. DeWitt Foster, ex-M.P., Sir Charles says in part: "He voluntarily entered upon a class of operations which were foreign to, indeed, in important respects, not in consonance with his position and duties as a then member of the house of commons. He cannot successfully urge that Woodworth and Keever were thrust upon him. If not their suggester, he was their acceptor. A refusal to have them as associates would have prevailed and in any event the alternative lay with him of dropping out of the whole matter. A lamentable want of foresight failed to exact regular statements and surprisingly permitted Woodworth to carry away the receipt tags to the extent then exhibited. Some of them were afterwards recovered by Foster from Woodworth at New York. Foster testified that he had absolutely nothing to do with the purchases. They were wholly conducted by the buyers. I acquit Foster of peculation; the evidence vindicates his personal honor. I condemn him as having been weak in administrative methods and gravely so in financial supervision. Among the results have been suspicions of wrong-doings, justified by appearances, enforced resignation of his seat and serious loss of prestige."

In regard to Woodworth and Keever, the two mysterious friends of A. DeWitt Foster in Ottawa in 1914 and who disappeared at the time of the investigation before the Public Accounts Committee in 1915, Sir Charles finds that Woodworth is short in his accounts by approximately \$2,224, and that Keever is short approximately by \$2,968. The particular phase of the unbusinesslike method of financing pursued in the purchase of horses, to which Sir Charles alludes was "the abandonment in almost entirety of a system of individual cheques to individual sellers." It was this slack method of allowing payments to be made in bulk to the order of Woodworth and Keever that allowed these gentlemen to secure their share of the funds.

Captain Arthur MacKinnon who has been laid up for the past 11 months as a result of a fall in Simpson's dock, Boston, is back to duty again, and has relieved Capt. Simms as master of the steamer Prince George.

Minard's Liment Cures Garget in Cows

WOMEN AND THE WAR

Mr. Lloyd George a few days ago paid striking tribute to the women of Britain for the fine part they have taken in the defence of their country. The war has given them an opportunity to reveal their capacity, and the British premier spoke in praise of their self sacrifice, their courage and wonderful devotion to duty. As munition workers they are very expert and the dangers of the powder mills and other factories where workers live among tons of high explosives have not unnerved them. On the other hand, these difficulties appear to have stimulated their determination.

The parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Munitions in opening an exhibition in London a short time ago calculated to stimulate interest and suggest what women might do in the engineering industry, made an interesting statement regarding the work that is now being done in England by women in the service of the government. They are busy including the fine fitting work on the breech mechanism and the cutting of screw threads up to a shoulder. Three ton army lorries are being built by them, including chassis erecting and testing. The women are constructing marine engines, turning the connecting rods and propeller shafting, and are also doing much of the skilled work on engines for aeroplanes. Mechanical engineers will understand how proficient these women have become when it is explained that they are working in some shops on delicate machinery where the half of a thousandth of an inch precision on centre lathes is necessary.

Naval experts who have watched thousands of these women at work since the war began have no hesitation in saying that if the struggle should last two years more they would not be afraid to undertake the construction of a battleship in all its complex detail entirely by female labor. Those who know anything at all about a battleship's engines and the other machinery necessary for its operations, will understand that the female workers of Great Britain have made a successful beginning in the engineering industry. And it is not unlikely that thousands of them will continue in this work after the war is over.

—Exchange.

CHARGE IT TO THE KAISER

(Financial America.)

Every time you pay three cents, as you will be doing before long for postage of a letter that formerly went for two cents, charge the difference to the Kaiser.

Every time you have a reminder that this war is costing you something, charge it to the Kaiser.

You will have many reminders. There will be increased taxes on incomes, on cigars, on liquors, on gasoline, on a hundred and one different things.

But pay without grudging, without complaint. Pay cheerfully, blithely, graciously, thankfully. You will be paying that you may be free, that your children and your children's children may be free.

You will be paying that democracy shall not wither from the earth.

N S MAN'S DEATH SUSPICIOUS

Says a Boston despatch: The Plymouth County authorities are investigating the death of Winifred T. Spinney, a former barber of Brockton who died recently in the Jordan hospital at Plymouth of a fractured skull. Spinney was formerly a resident of Yarmouth, N.S., where he was born. He also conducted a barber shop for some time at Brant Rock and he went there to arrange for opening it for the summer. He went to a hotel there to spend the night.

According to the proprietor Spinney fell backward down stairs suddenly as he was being shown to his room. He became unconscious and died in the hospital.

District Attorney Katzman ordered an investigation following a report that Spinney and another man had had a quarrel. State Detective John Scott is working on the case.

Spinney is survived by a wife, one son, Guy, who was on the steamer Kansas when she was torpedoed off the coast of France, and two daughters.

Annapolis County Burglars Convicted—Delective Kennedy returned last evening from Middleton and Annapolis Royal, where he has been in connection with the trials of Enos Carter and Max Crouse, whose capture he effected last week on the charge of having committed a number of burglaries. In the preliminary trials at the two towns convictions were found and the cases will be up before the higher court.—Herald.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS THAT YOU WOULD DO WELL TO PASTE IN YOUR SCRAP BOOK

Reader, send this column of items to your friends abroad; also keep a copy for your scrap book.

The area of Nova Scotia is 21,428 square miles of which 360 square miles are lakes or water.

Nova Scotia is the second smallest Province of Canada, being but the 174th part of Canada's great area.

Nova Scotia's population is 492,338, making us the fourth province in population; or 1 person in 17 in Canada is ours.

If Canada held Nova Scotia's record for population, i.e. 23 to a square mile, Canada would have nearly 70,000,000 people.

And Nova Scotia can easily support and hold to ntimes its present population.

For mineral production Nova Scotia produces annually some \$19,000,000 or 14 per cent of Canada's total, ranks thirds by provinces.

In manufacturing output, Nova Scotia holds fifth place, with an annual output of nearly \$53,000,000 paying over \$10,000,000 in salaries to some 28,000 employees in over 1,400 factories and shops.

The chief cities and towns of Nova Scotia are Halifax, its capital, and one of Canada's great ocean ports, with a population of 55,000; Sydney, 18,000; Glace Bay, 17,000; Amherst, 10,000; Sydney Mines 8,000; Yarmouth, 10,000; Glasgow and Truro, with 7,000 each; Springhill, North Sydney and Dartmouth, with nearly 6,000 each.

Sydney is noted for its steel works and export trade of coal; Glace Bay for its coal export and having one of the largest, oldest, and most successful cooperative societies and store in America.

Nova Scotia's coal mines are world famous and annually produce some 7,000,000 tons of which 6,000,000 are shipped away, and employ some 15,000 men. We have at Stellarton the world's record for wide coal seam—37 feet. The Princess, or Sydney pit, is nearly a mile under the sea, its underground working, covering 1,600 acres, and to date nearly 7,000,000 tons have been taken out.

We have five large colleges and support larger proportion of educational institutions than any other province in Canada. We have 2,800 public schools, over 3,000 teachers, over 110,000 pupils and spend yearly over \$1,600,000 on education.

4000 TURKS ARE LOST IN FOUR DAYS BATTLE

London, April 30—Turkish losses during the fighting against the British in Mesopotamia from April 22 are estimated in an official statement today to have been about 4,000. The announcement reports the Turks entrenching fifteen miles north of Samarra, after their recent defeat by the British in the fighting around that place.

James J. Hill, of St. Paul, Minnesota who died about a year ago, left an estate of \$51,779,889.58, according to a report of the appraisers filed in the Probate Court. Of this \$1,373,779.53 is in real estate, the remainder in personal property. The inheritance tax will total \$1,489,370 the largest ever levied in Minnesota.

German newspapers declare that the world will be astonished by the moderation of the peace terms which the Chancellor is expected to announce. If what they say is true, it will be accepted as further proof that the Central Powers see no hope of victory. If the German terms are far more moderate than the last ones were one must suppose that the pressure is becoming too great, and that as time goes on the agony of waging a losing fight is increasing beyond endurance. Whether Germany is prepared to submit terms of peace at this time which could be accepted by the Allies, or not, the day is coming when she will be compelled to take what they are willing to give.

New York Times—"We are one with Great Britain, with France, with Russia, Italy, Belgium, with the other Old World nations and with those sister republics of the New World who have made declaration of service for the 'great ideal' of a world made safe for democracy."

AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Premier Murray tabled the Agricultural Report on Friday. This is a work of over two hundred pages, and is devoted to every phase of farmers' activities in the Province. Secretary Cummings in his review of the year states that the aggregate products of the farm for 1916 were fully up to those of 1915, and exceeded them in value.

The following are the estimated returns:

Crop	Acres	Yield per acre	
		bushels	Total yield
Oats	128,390	37	4,784,430
Wheat	18,550	23	426,660
Barley	5,978	28	167,384
Buckwheat	11,575	21	243,075
Peas	213	17	3,621
Beans	1,065	21	22,365
Rye	1,112	19	21,128
Mixed grains	4,443	33	146,619
Corn of husking	156	43	6,708
Potatoes	33,996	210	7,139,160
Turnips	12,484	550	6,866,200
Mangels	1,256	470	590,320
Hay	515,310	2	1,030,620
Corn for forage	780	12	9,360
Other forage crops	1,502	12	18,024
Other crops			
Apples, 600,000 barrels.			
Carrots, parsnips, beets 1300			

The report is profusely illustrated and shows in other respects the importance the government attaches to the progress of farming in Nova Scotia. The watchword for the third as in the other years of war is, "greater production."

GETTING AFTER LOAFERS

On the order sheet at police headquarters in St. John on Thursday of last week appeared the following: "Arrest all habitual loafers in the streets of St. John."

Chief Simpson, in speaking of the order, said that there should be no one idle in the city of St. John under present conditions. "There is plenty of work for everybody, and farmers are daily coming to the jail from outside the city in quest of help," said the chief. He signified his intention of rounding up all those who make a practice of loafing around street corners when there is work for them to do. "The order will be rigidly enforced," concluded the chief.

It is high time that a similar order was issued throughout Canada. True it is that in these times there is no place in any community for idlers. The "habitual loafer" is a disgrace to the city and to the country. Round him up!

CANADIAN ADVANCE

ALARMS GERMANS

(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent Canadian Press.)

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, May 2—The enemy is now thoroughly alarmed over our thrust towards Douai and Vimy Ridge, and he has increased his front. He is expending projectiles more freely now than at any time since our advance began. Among the new guns he has brought up is a long one of fourteen inches calibre, probably originally meant for battle cruisers of the Hindenburg class.

NORTHCLIFFE MAY SUPPLY NEWSPAPER PRINT

Washington, April 30—An adequate supply of newsprint paper for every American publisher was predicted by the Federal Trade Commission today in an announcement that Lord Northcliffe, the noted English publisher, would probably turn over to the American publisher's Association for distribution the entire output of his big Newfoundland paper mills. The addition of the 66,000 tons of paper produced annually by the Northcliffe mills, it was said, will break the paper market and assure small publishers an adequate supply at lower prices. Details remain to be worked out, but it is said there is little doubt that Lord Northcliffe will let the paper come to the United States.

Suggestions that the United States be permitted to take the production of the Northcliffe plants were made by the Trade Commission some weeks ago to the British publishers, who accepted, it was said, on condition that the paper go only to small publishers. The commission agreed to this.

PROMOTE NATIONAL PRODUCTION

A few of our foremost enterprising business men of Truro have struck on a novel way of doing their bit in the National Production Campaign. They have arranged to purchase a potato planter, and the scheme, although not arranged in detail, is that this will be loaned to farmers who will agree, on account of its use, to increase the average output of potatoes. At the end of the season the planter will be sold at auction, proceeds to be used for patriotic purposes.

A similar scheme is being worked out in Antigonish County, and we understand Principal Cumming is responsible for the suggestion and will assist in working the scheme out.

Perhaps another group of business men would like to follow suit; if so, Mr. Cummings can easily get them in line.—Tigro Citizen.

Twenty cashiers checks for \$10,000,000 each passed through the New York clearing house, completing the transaction for the transfer of \$200,000,000 from the government of the United States to the Government of Great Britain. The check is said to be the largest ever drawn in the United States and is the first installment of the loan to Great Britain.

CANADA'S DUTY IS TO ADOPT PROHIBITION

In an able editorial on Canada's call The Halifax Morning Chronicle says: A few days ago a committee of sixty prominent men, representing all sections of the country, under the leadership of former Governor Foss of Massachusetts and Professor Irving Fisher, of Yale, presented a memorial to Congress signed by one thousand substantial leaders of the nation's thought and activity, asking for national prohibition. No more representative list of names, it is stated, has ever been affixed to an appeal of this kind. They included scientists, railroad presidents, university leaders, capitalists, socialists, labor leaders, men of letters and men learned in the law, who have been moved, not so much by sentiment, but by the realization of the nation's needs and the appalling waste which the liquor traffic involves. They claim that in food saving of grain alone, by prohibition the United States could afford a loaf of bread a day for an army of eleven million men.

If the United States, which has not yet begun to feel the cost of sacrifice, is prepared to deal effectively with the drink menace as a war measure, how much more should Canada, when the blood of her sons is being poured out on the battlefields of France, be ready to strike down ruthlessly the greatest enemy in our midst! The cause for which our soldiers are fighting and dying overseas, summons the nation to national sobriety and demands that the Dominion Government shall pass nation-wide prohibition at the present session of Parliament. Then Canada's strength shall be as the strength of ten. It is the greatest contribution we can still make to the prosecution of the war.

BRITISH HAS A TIGHT GRIP ON THE COAL CITY

London, May 4—Lens has been three quarters surrounded. The British grip on the coal city now twists from Loos, on the north, southward through Lievy, Givenchy, Vimy, and eastward to around Acheville and Fresnoy. It is around the last towns that the heaviest fighting is centering today. There the British turning of the Wotan line was made complete by the rupture of the so-called "switch line" from Oppy north to Droocourt, in the fighting which there has been almost continuous since early yesterday.

Further to the South of the twelve mile front over which General Haig is staging his attack the British drive a wedge through the Hindenburg front. The first k has punctured the Hindenburg line, to which the Germans planned to withdraw in a "strategic retreat" to the powerful system of defences around Quant. Here, too, the fighting is continuing in desperate intensity today, after hardly a lull in twenty-four hours.

British forces are holding nearly one-fifth mile of trenches on this vaunted Hindenburg line today, located between Fontaine Les Crossilles and Bullecourt, in face of the terrible counter attacks launched by the German commanders.

Amsterdam, May 4—"Although the allied offensive so far has been satisfactorily resisted, an attack on a larger scale may be expected, in view of the enormous massing of men, guns, and munitions by the enemy," declares the Berlin Vorwaerts' military critic, Col. Gaedke, today.

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