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CASSELS CONCLUDES TAKING EVIDENCE

Report Will Be Submitted to Parliament Early in the Session--Sifton Was Interested in the Fog Signal Company--Ministers Responsible to Great Extent for the Extravagance.

Ottawa, Dec. 29.—Judge Cassels will take no more evidence in the Marine Department enquiry. He has skipped Prince Edward Island and will omit British Columbia. The evidence taken will be submitted to the House with the judge's report at the beginning of the session.

So far as it went the investigation was pretty thorough. Where there was reason to believe that any subordinate official obtained money from contractors, or made use of his position to get benefits for himself, the case was followed up. Some forty or fifty officers and employees have been connected with transactions of this kind, and many of these are now under suspension. It was found that an agent of the department regularly took a percentage for cashing claims against the government.

That another agent was in the habit of borrowing cheques from contractors with his department. That numerous officials have had gifts of money from men doing business with their office, and many have had personal accounts with contractors, who never collected the bills of who gave special prices.

That certain inspectors obtained money and favors from persons whose work they supervised and whose accounts they certified.

That important and responsible officers put in fictitious expense accounts, in some cases charging travelling and living expenses in two places at the same time.

That contracts were changed, increasing the amounts payable to the contractors.

That vessels were chartered at higher prices than the contractors themselves offered to accept.

SPECIALY FAVORED
That the Willson Company at Ottawa and the Northey Company of Toronto, which supplied the government with gas bouys, carbide, dynamite and other apparatus, and received among them nearly \$2,000,000 were allowed to do business on their own terms, and made profits all the way from 100 to 1,000 per cent. on their special products.

That the Ottawa company gave a minister a large block of stock for nothing, and that a former minister had been one of its largest shareholders.

That the apparatus supplied by these contractors was far beyond the needs of the department and much of it has never been used.

That these goods were ordered against the protests of department officers in places to which they were sent and are now piled up on wharves and elsewhere.

That the chief engineer of the department was, against his wish, superseded by the officer who ordered these goods, and the chief engineer believes that this officer owes his appointment to the contractor's influence over the government.

That payments to contractors and dealers was often long delayed so that the government creditors were continually seeking relief and assistance from officers and politicians.

That the auditor general habitually refuses to accept certificates of some chief marine officers, believing them to be unreliable.

That supplies purchased for the department on the ministers' orders were not required, and have since been offered for sale by local dealers on the patronage list.

middlemen and the Liberal party, and that no apparent effort on the part of either minister to improve the condition was visible after the recent exposures.

That the conditions of things was made known to the ministers through the public accounts committee investigations, and called to their attention by some of their own officers, so that they and their colleagues in the government are entirely responsible for it.

THE ENQUIRY LIMITED
That since the enquiry began the files of the department were placed at the disposal of the accused officers, who were allowed to see them for days, and that numerous additions were made to them during that time.

These and other facts have been brought to light in a limited enquiry. Judge Cassels has refused to investigate the conduct of ministers and of politicians and campaigners. Where the enquiry disclosed that a minister ordered or authorized an improper transaction, the investigation stopped there, as the commissioner held that he was only to inquire into the conduct of departmental officers.

Where the interference of politicians came in the matter was passed over as lightly as possible. Where it appeared that contractors with the department used a part of their excessive profits in campaign contributions, counsel for the government headed off the enquiry in short order. These matters must be investigated by another authority.

FICTITIOUS CORRESPONDENCE
Further evidence of Deputy Minister Gourdeau on Saturday and this week shows that after his \$125 a day contract was made with the Halliday Bros. the contractor enlisted political influence, and it was the minister himself who ordered the price to be changed to \$200. After that an elaborate and fictitious correspondence was carried on between the department and the agent at Quebec as if the matter were still open.

Another pre-arranged correspondence was carried on between the department and the agent at Quebec in order to deceive the auditor general, and make it appear that the higher price was paid at the instance of the Quebec agent. The deputy minister swore that the statements in this correspondence were deliberately and intentionally untrue.

SIFTON WAS IN IT
The interesting discovery was made on Tuesday that Mr. Sifton was from June 1907 to September of this year one of the principle stock holders in the International Fog Signal Company, which sells the Willson bouys to the government. It may be remembered that shortly before the election, Mr. Sifton made a statement through the government organs that he had no connection with this company and no interest in its business. The statement was technically true at the moment. Mr. Sifton had sold his stock early in September. Before that he held an interest for which he paid \$75,000 and proposed to pay another \$75,000. This was the sworn testimony of Mr. John Bain, lately assistant commissioner of customs, who a year or two ago left the public service at Mr. Sifton's request, to assist the ex-minister in his enterprises and became manager of the Fog Signal Co. Mr. Sifton sold out when he became a candidate for re-election, and was thus able to say that he had no interests in the bouy contracts, but he sat in one parliament for one session and part of another while he was one of the largest shareholders in this remarkable contract.

A GIN DEAL
It was also brought out by the deputy minister's evidence, that Charles Strube of Montreal, some of whose remarkable contracts with the government have previously been exposed once tried to sell a quantity of tanned goods and gin to the department. The deputy minister refused to buy, as the goods were not required, but they were bought by the written order of the minister.

The Col. Gourdeau swears that in order to protect the minister from the exposure of the accounts he called in a favored contractor and they between them paid for the liquor and had it carted to the contractor's quarters for sale. The gin was "oil color" and has not yet been all sold.

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TOY MAKING

(Mail and Empire)

The industry behind the Santa Claus myth is one that not much attention is paid to, especially in Canada, where it is an insignificant one. In Germany, however, toy making is considered one of the most important industries in the country.

To such huge proportions has it grown that there are many factories kept busy all the year round, not in making toys, or even a single toy, but just one part of a toy, like a body of a doll or the whistle on the end of a child's whip. It is these specializing manufacturers who make work for thousands of German families, including even the grandparents and the little children not too old to play with dolls themselves.

Labor competent to turn out toys of certain kinds is so cheap that they can be produced by hand more profitably than by machine. The animals for the Noah's ark that almost every child in a Christian country has played with are almost invariably hand made. They are manufactured by the millions each year in Saxony, where the heads of thousands of families cultivate a little patch of orchard in the summer, and spend all winter in cutting out toy animals. Even in the making of the crude little horses there is specialization. Beginning with the growing tree, there are woodsmen who cut the timber so that it can be sold most economically to the woodturner. He saws it up into rough blocks; and so it passes on to the regular toy maker, who takes the blocks out over, across the grain, and draws the profile outline of a horse.

His scroll saw cuts the outline of the pattern and he splits the blocks into perhaps a half dozen little black horses. The outlined animals are then turned over to the younger members of the family to be smoothed and painted. The work of making toys has given to the woodworkers of Germany more than one expert specialist. The most prominent is the ring maker. This artisan cuts from the end of a round stick of timber a disc of wood, the thickness equal to the desired height of the animals to be made. Mounting the disc in a turning lathe, he begins work on the body of the wood at the disc's outer rim, turning away the material in such shape that when the rim is finished and cut apart, it will show the outline of the animal thus fashioned in it. As the result of the work cannot be shown until it nears completion, the necessity for expert workmanship is obvious.

The demand for exact work has specialized ring making. There is the horse ring maker, the cow ring maker, the giraffe ring maker, and so on through the whole menagerie. Each man contents himself with one variety, and a horse ring maker would no sooner attempt to make a ring of cows, than he would undertake to manufacture the mainspring of a watch. Competition has cut down the earnings of the toymakers, but little though they earn, according to our standards, the operation is more profitable than any other that is open to them, and they are so well satisfied that they are content to devote their lives to one branch of the manufacture of a wooden horse, worth perhaps about a quarter of a cent when completed.

The manufacture of animal toys of a higher grade is another branch of the great industry that gives employment to thousands of families. It is no German monopoly, however, for in the United States today there are several factories devoted to the work. It is said that one woman left with several children and \$1,000 on her husband's death, invested her little capital in a Teddy bear factory and cleared \$100,000 in three years. In New York's east side there are hundreds of families whose members do nothing but make toy sheep. The fleeces with which these toys are covered is bleached and sanded at home, and then glued to the wooden frames.

But more capital is invested in mechanical toys than in any other department, for these are the toys in which millions are spent every year. The little toy steam engine that can be bought for five cents is at one end of the mechanical toy industry, and at the other is the miniature railway system that costs \$1,000. The latter has engines, passenger and freight cars, tracks, repair shops, signal systems, etc., all operated by storage batteries. Speaking of costly toys, it is now possible for a man to buy \$1,000 for a toy automobile which a four year old can operate, and which would be destroyed in a collision with a boy-sleigh.

Another thousand dollars a man may give for a talking doll, and there are probably thousands of seamstresses who work all the year round making doll's clothing. Each year the dolls become more expensive; some new extravagance is discovered in which fond and affluent parents can squander money. That, with all their expenditure, they can buy anything that will please their pampered offspring more than the 50-cent jackknife or the 25-cent doll delights the average child, may well be doubted.

The January Rod and Gun

The New Year number of Rod and Gun appears as bright and interesting as ever. The long and varied list of contents of the January issue of this magazine, which is published by W. J. Taylor of Woodstock, Ont., is in keeping with the position taken and so thoroughly well maintained by this leading Canadian publication of outdoor life. Exploring and pioneering stories are intermingled with hunting and fishing yarns of the best actual, and far above, from the sportsman's view point, the average of such contributions. In addition there are many short but interesting papers on various phases of life in the open, of all the deepest interest to the ever increasing army of such devotees. The game laws of the past year, the efforts at improvements and the changes made form the subjects of an interesting article, while an illustrated account of the survey of the Selkirk should bring vividly home to Canadians some of the wonders of these mountain regions. The Voyages of the Vikings is a diversion to the early history of Canadian exploration, while a story of the experiences of pioneers in the Ontario bush may be usefully read at the same time, both doing something to picture those days which are so far off when measured by actual progress, but near in the history of a new country. Whatever inclination individual sportsmen may follow, they cannot fail to find matter of interest to themselves in this number.

RUTHERFORD'S MESSAGE
Edmonton, Dec. 24.—Premier Rutherford this afternoon issued the following Christmas message: "At this Christmas season I have the heartiest pleasure in extending to the people of Alberta my warmest wishes for their happiness in the approaching Christmas season, and for a prosperous and contented year in 1909."

"We have reason here in Alberta to be content with the year just closing. Our harvests have been bountiful and well marketed and business successful. The name of Alberta has gone abroad as a land of great promise, and just as our province's striking exhibit at the Toronto fair caught everyone's attention and was said to be the finest there, our province as a whole has seized the attention of the financial world of America and Europe."

"This directs to us valuable aid in capital, people and the recognition of our province's resources and our people's enterprise. All good things, one might say, are coming west. It is a fact that Alberta is only standing on the edge of great things. Splendid material resources are here, capable people are here and more coming with railways that will be through the province before long. Consequently we may expect to see Alberta in 1909 a beehive of industry magnet, drawing both labor, capital and population. It is a magnificent country; we have to develop and there are many people of varying conditions and ideals to do it. Spirit of union and good will through it all uniting to build up here what may well be made the fairest province in all Canada."

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UP TO ROOSEVELT
Washington, Dec. 25.—President Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor who have been sentenced to long terms in imprisonment, will ask for pardon from President Roosevelt. The department of justice is absolutely certain that President Roosevelt has the power to pardon all the defendants. The question for the president, in case he exercises his pardoning powers is, what would be the ground of interference with the judgment of the court. The president has received a great many protests regarding the seriousness of Mr. Justice Wright's decision.

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