OTTAWA LETTER

Dr. Borden Paid Two Dollars Per Pound for "Emergency" Food,

That Experts Testify is Not Worth Over Twenty-five Cents Per Pound.

Dr. Devlin the Contractor for the Purposes of This Contract Owned the Militia Department—The Stuff Accepted Without Analysis and in the Pace of a

Warning as to Its Character.

OTTAWA, June 20.—The interest in | does not appear to be any recourse parliamentary proceedings centres most in the Tower room, where the emergency food committee is carrying The dispatches will have brought the evidence down to a later date, and it is not well to anticipate. One matter, however, is worthy of particular attention. During the ussions in the house the minister of militia admitted that a report of the analyst of the inland revenue department had been withheld from the papers brought down. Mr. McNeill had some idea that this report would be interesting, and kept asking for it day after day. The minister promised that it should come before the committee with other reports in due time, and in the meantime stated that it would be found to show that the goods furnished to the troops were the same as those tested at Kingston.

The committee obtained this report yesterday from the deputy minister, and found that it made no comparison at all between the goods tested at Kingston and those furnished the troops. It is merely a test of the sample furnished by Devlin on which the contract was made in comparison with the food sent to Africa. The report proves that the goods furnished by the contractor were substantially the same as the sample. But there is nothing to show that the sample was similar to the food tested at Kingston which the government claims to have been buying. The analyst states that the food sent to Africa contains 16 per cent. of proteid, or less than a quarter the sustenance that is supposed to be obtained in the genuine article. By this analysis it does not appear that the food purchased is a condensed or concentrated food at all. There are plenty of foods, such as meat and peas, beans, and various meals containing just as much proteid, which could have been bought in the ordinary way of business anywhere from 5 cents to 25 cents a pound. The only excuse for the purchasing of this em ergency ration was the supposition it contained in a small form sufficient sustenance to sustain life for a long time. In this respect the Devlin food was perfectly worthless, according to the government analysis. Other evidence was furnished which seems to show that the contractors themselves valued at \$700 the goods for which the government paid them \$4,666. But this testimony may be modified later.

ing an unusual amount of attention. It would perhaps be invidious to say that the Yukon was the weak spot in this administration, seeing that there appears to be weak spots everywhere. But there is no longer any doubt that the Yukon district has for the last four years been a particular rendezvous of plunderers and adventurers who have been getting rich or trying to get rich out of the difficulties and necessities of the people there. Mr. Sifton's appointments have been made almost wholly from the ranks of party healers of professional promoters, and many of them appear to have been heplng themselves in one way or anter by associating with the business firms, or claim owners, or claim seekers, or contractors, or holders of liquor permits or of timber permits or of dredging licenses. Every motion to enquire into these affairs is voted down. Even a resolution in favor of an independent accounting is rejected. Mr. Sutherland, the acting minister, seems to think he does his duty when he sonally knows acthing about the matter, but that he is sure it is all right and that the opposition is persecuting the Yukon officials and making too much talk about the Yukon business.

In the house the Yukon is attract-

Meanwhile every man who comes from the Yukon brings his complaint of incapacity or negligence or plunder or blackmail on the part of the officials in that country. The worst of it is that the officers up there are prac- is minister of public works, there tically irresponsible. They act as a sponsible to the residents. They have the city of Dawson and of the other settlements throughout the district. There is no other municipal institution but the Yukon council. It looks after the streets, the water supply, the sewerage, the liquor licenses and all other licenses. It collects taxes from the council does. The people are shut out arbitrary.

Not only is this council, which is appointed at Ottawa, irresponsible to the for Mr. Keyes, whose sudden increase people whom it governs, but it is not of salary are a source of great astonturns of the collections of money. The tion. Mr. Preston, who hugs the ma-Yukon ordinances are subject to veto chine, Mr. Pedley, who is also an elecis no audit before payment and there machine.

afterwards.

It is therefore not surprising that the people of Dawson and other settle-ments should insist upon having representation in the council at Dawson and in parliament here. They have stated their case in the most temperate way. They have also stated it strongly. They have held meeting after meeting. They have sent petition after petition. They find themselves plundered and oppressed. They see their money wasted and they think it is stolen. They are not able to make enquiry into the expenditure or to control in any way the authorities who govern them. They can only protest. Sir Charles Tupper has taken up

their case and asked for representation of the Yukon in this parliament. His motion seems to be so reasonable that one wonders why the government could not accept it, and why the whole liberal party should have followed their leader in voting it down. There are more people in the Yukon than there were in the Northwest when it was given representatives. There are more voters than there are in several constituencies in other parts of the country. It is said that the Mounted Police census reports over 4,000 qualifled voters in the district, although of course the alien population is not included in that estimate. Sir Charles placed the case in a strong light, in a very moderate speech, which was practically an invitation to the government to accept his proposition. But Sir Wilfrid knows the feeling in the Yukon too well to allow it to find expression at Ottawa before the next election. The most he will promise is to allow the district to elect two of the many councillors who govern the district locally This legislation was passed last year in this parliament, to go into effect by proclamation. To this day Sir Wilfrid has withheld the proclamation.

the Yukon extends to the dominion operations there. In supply yesterday it was learned that \$125,000 had been spent in clearing out rivers, in making roads and performing other public works in the district. This was all under the control of Mr. Tache of the public works department, who went into the country and did as he liked. He was superintendent, he hired the the ground, and no one else except an assistant, who does not appear to have had any particular capacity in accounting So that there were none of the safeguards or guarantees of regularity which are required in the eastern provinces.

Now there is no reason whatever for this reckless way of doing business. Most of these operations were carried on within ten or twelve days' travel of Ottawa, by rail and steamer. There are reasons why the usual precautions should be taken in these operations. The temptations in these out of the way places are much greater and the prices are much higher. Again, Mr. Tarte has spent or is spending \$225,000 ple. in establishing a elegraph system in the Yukon. This work was placed in the hands of Mr. Charleson, an official whom Mr. Tarte borrowed from the province of Quebec, where he had previous training under the late Mr. Mercier. It is sufficient to say that Mr. Charleson is just the kind of man that a minister like Mr. Tarte would send. He has had full authority to buy supplies where he liked, at what explains to the house that he per- prices he liked, and apparently with what private arrangements he liked or could get. There was no accountant with him to see that matters are regular, and the auditor general, who has the accounts after payment, appears to be perfectly helpless to deal with the case.

No wonder, under these circumstances, considering Mr. Sifton is minister of the interior and that Mr. Tarte should be some anxiety concerning the supervision, large opportunities and temptations to go wrong. As it is, every fresh official who goes to that district practically carries with him a cordial invitation to become dishonest.

The interior department has been residents. Yet the people who paid pretty well reorganized by Mr. Sifton the taxes and who are governed by so that his own friends and cronic the council do not even know what the have absolute charge of it. The late honorable and capable Mr. Burgess, from the meetings. There is no public the deputy minister, brought into the record open to the press of that dis- department by Mr. Mills, was turned trict. The whole thing is secret and out to make a place for Mr. Smart, who was a confrere of Mr. Sifton in his previous operations in the west. The secretary, Mr. Hall, was set aside responsible to anybudy here. The pub- ishment. Mr. Smith of the land office lic accounts committee has struggled has been removed to make a place for in vain to find out how the council ex- Mr. Turriff, whose operations as a pends its budget of some \$200,000, and political campaigner ever since he has not been able to get any exact re- took the office have attracted attenhere, but not until long after they are tion operator, Mr. Jury, an old campassed. The Yukon accounts may be paigner, Mr. Devlin, a former camexamined by the auditor general paigner, have all been taken into the months after they are paid. But there department. It is quite a political

wroth against Mr. Powell, and has coured on him a perfect Niagara of abuse, contained in language which must have been learned during Dan's recent career as a government harbor improvement contractor. Capt. Dan seems to have fallen into an error in regard to Mr. Powell, and has led several persons astray whose opinion is perhaps better worth noticing. Various newspaper men have jumped at the conclusion that there was something wrong in Mr. Powell's Westmor land election, because it was reported that he furnished ballots to electors in a certain campaign. Mr. Powell does not notice Mr. McGillicuddy, but he did notice, yesterday, an observation in the Charlottetown Patriot to the effect that there must have been some tampering with the ballots. Mr. Powell explained that the statement in question referred to a local election in New Brunswick, in which the ballots are not handed out by the returning officers, but are supplied by the candidates and others and handed to the returning officer, with the names of the candidates printed on them. The unfortunate newspaper men have been led astray by supposing that the New Brunswick electors took their ballots from the returning officer and marked them secretly, as in the dominion elections.

OTTAWA, June 21 .- Sir Henri Joly vill probably be a constitutional lieutenant governor of British Columbia, but it is one of the incidents of his political life that for the second time in his career he owes office to the unconstitutional conduct of a governor. A quarter of a century ago Sir Henri became premier of Quebec through the arbitrary dismissal of the previous ministry by Lt. Gov. Letellier. Now it is expected that he will become lieulenant governor of British Columbia by reason of the unconstitutional behavior of Governor McInnes. In this case Sir Henri goes into office as a against high-handedness, protest whereas in the previous instance it was high-handedness that put him there. But, however he goes, and whether he goes or not, the Seigneur of Lotbiniere is an honest man and a gentleman.

It he were a little more of a dema-

gogue and a business-is-business man and would join Mr. Tarte in proclaiming tri-colored sentiments in the back concessions of Quebec, Sir Henri could remain in the ministry, which would doubtless suit him much better. But it was remarked in the previous letter that he would soon have to go, and if he does not soon go to British Columbia he will go out into the cold altogether. There is this to be said about Sir Henri Joly: he is and always has been thoroughly British as well as French. He has never raised a controversy about the right of the government to offer troops to Africa. He has never asked that the act should be no precedent. Sir Henri has given his own son to the British army and would doubtless have given himself if he were younger and the act were necessary. He is absolutely without sympathy with Tarteism, as is shown by Mr. Tarte himself, who always omits Sir Henri's name when he tells a French audience how the French element is represented in the cabinet. "The premier and myself sitting at one end of the table," suggested Mr. Tarte at St. Vincent de Paul, "cannot be expected to resist the whole inflence of the English speaking provmen, he paid them with his own inces." That was the way the mincheque. There was no accountant on ister of public works excused the first contingent. It has been evident for the last two or three months that an influence was operating at Paris to crowd out Sir Henri, and out he must More than fourteen years ago Sir Henri Joly resigned his seat in the Quebec assembly because he refused to follow Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Mercier in the Ricl agitation. He did not have to resign this time, because the anti-British ministers were obliged to back down. But if Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Tarte had adhered to the programme of October 4th, we should

Assuming it to be true that the gov ernor of British Columbia has been retired, that worthy son of Cape Breton can look back on a spectacular two years. There is another ex-governor who can tell of dismissing one ministry, but Mr. McInnes carries on his belt the scalps of two premiers, if not three. He has turned out two or three governments. He has made three promiers and tried to make another. He has quarreled with every provincial leader except possibly Mr. Martin, and with every prominent public man in the province. In after life the retired governor can look back at his career of slaughter and conquest and can pic ture again in fancy the wrecks of the shattered governments which strew his pathway. He at least can say that while in the hands of others the position of lieutenant governor has been a sort of sinecure. It furnished work for a man who rises to the occasion, municipal council, and yet are not re- Yukon. The district affords under the but the people of British Columbia most honest government possible at have no more hankering after anentire charge of the local affairs of Ottawa, and under the most careful archy and confusion. They cry out for peace and stability. They want to be able to go to bed at night and know that they will have a government in the morning. Mr. McInnes is an enterprising governor, and there ought to be a place for him in some of the Central or South American republics.

have seen Sir Henri leave the ministry

by his own act. As it is, he stood

with the British wing and triumphed

and goes out by the acts of other peo-

We have heard from the minister of militia and from Mr. Hatch and the Montreal collector of customs on the subject of protose or protein or vitaline. The minister puts in a plea of absolute and complete ignorance. Dr. Borden didn't know much about Mr. Hatch before this contract. He did not know what precautions were taken to see that the food bought from Dr. Devlin was the same as that tested at Kingston. He presumed that Dr. Neilson saw to it that the articles identical. He did not know that Dr. Devlin's vegetable food had a different name and character from Mr. Hatch's protose. He did not know that the Devlin goods were imported from the United States, but thought they were made in Montreal. He did not know that the analysis made in the inland revenue department was a rumor that a gentleman in Mont- after some experience in the British



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Devlin sample and the goods provided, and therefore not a comparison between the food tested at Kingston and the food sent to Africa. He did not know that the government analyst had reported only 16 per cent. of proteid in the food purchased and had not even seen the analysis until the enquiry began.

He did have one piece of knowledge that was all his own. When Mr. Hatch wrote him that the goods purchased were spurious and comparatively worthless for the purpose required, the minister seems to have kept this little note to himself. Though he now shoulders the whole responsibility upon Dr. Neilson, he did not favor Dr. Neilson with a sight of this warning, which ought to have been most valuable under the circumstances to the doctor who had the matter in hand. It would appear that Mr. Monk's charge of negligence against the minister was sustained by the minister's own evidence.

For the rest there appears to be some discrepancy between Mr. Hatch's story and that of the minister. While the minister claims to have paid very little attention to Mr. Hatch, and to have had no long interviews with him. and while he asserts that he avoided talking with him on the journey from New York, Mr. Hatch swears that they had a conversation three hours long in the Pullman car on the subject of these foods. The gentleman from Hungary may be drawing on his imagination and this point will perhaps be cleared up later. The importance of it consists in the fact that Mr. Hatch says there was a very good understanding between him and the minister about these foods, whereas the minister puts it forward that Dr. Devlin was the party he knew in the mater.

Mr. Hatch does not speak perfect English and has a disposition to tell the whole story in answer to a short question. It seems clear, however, that he knows his business as a food chemist, and he tells an intelligent story about his affairs. Mr. Hatch was trained in the polytechnic in his own country and became a scientific flour miller somewhere about Buda Pesth. He experimented on foods in London and made some attempts at Paris. Afterwards he got the benefit of the McGill University Laboratery and perfected his experiments. He has a partner in New York and credits Dr. Devlin with introducing him to this capitalist. Mr. Hatch carries on a considerable business in supplying proteid food to hospitals in Montreal and elsewhere, and the doctors for their private practice. He makes all the way from 80 per cent proteid strength down to 40 per cent. If the doctors want them reduced still lower, he buys dilutants and mixes them up. The dilutants he buys are 15 to 20 per cent powders, such as Dr. Devlin sold to the department of mili-

The question turns somewhat upon the value of these goods. It is admitted that the powder bought contained only 16 per cent of protoids. That is the government's own analysis, and the four liberals on the committee wanted to exclude further testimony on that point on the ground that the facts were admitted. Mr. Hatch says he does not make this class of goods. He cannot afford to do it, because they can be bought so cheap. He buys what he neds from Montreal dealers. who import them from the United States. The price is anywhere from 23 to 30 cents per pound. He would suppose that 25 cents was a fair valuation for the food purchased by the govern-

This estimate is a little lower than the valuation made for duty by Dr. Devlin bimself. Collector White testified that Dr. Devlin fixed the value of 30 cents a pound, or \$700 on the importation, which was sold to the government for \$2 a pound, or \$4,666. The only additional value put upon the goods was the grinding, and the grinder seems to have told the Montreal Star that he was paid one cent a pound for the work. Then it had to be put in cans and labelled, which might be worth another cent or two a pound. On this testimony Mr. Devlin would whose credulity is magnificent in its seem to have made a very good thing proportions, but who seems to be quite out of it unless he had to divide too liberally with the middlemen. There is pinted to his present office last year,

natter, got \$1,000 for his services.

Besides the question of the commer-cial value of the food there is that of the food value. Mr. Hatch appears to be of the opinion that the quantity of proteids is not sufficient to keep a man strong. Dr. Russell gathered from him strong. Dr. Russell gathered from him that the ordinary food of a working-man contains less proteids. Oatmeal porridge for instance contains less than 8 per cent, and potatoes a good deal less than that, since potatoes are mostly water. Dr. Russell in his exmination seemed to be working up an argument to show that a man might live on Dr. Devlin's powder as well as he could live on the ordinary rations of potatecs, meat and bread. It would appear that he made out a case. The consequence would be that if a soldie would carry enough of the Devlin powder to furnish a full meal of the ordinary weight which a man takes he would do well enough. The average working man perhaps eats four pounds of provisions in a day, and it seems to be evident that he would get as much proteids if he ate say four pounds of the emergency food purchased from Dr. Devlin.

But the whole value of the emergency ration is supposed to be that it contains in small bulk and weight a large amount of sustenance. If graham bread, worth say 3 cents a gound, contains as much sustenance in the same volume as the Devlin food, why pay Mr. Devlin \$2 a pound for it? When Mr. Russell has made his argument complete he will perhaps he able to show that the emergency food is of equal value to plain, simple food, and that a Canadian soldier could live on it at a cost to the government of \$6 to S1" a day.

The other question relates to the conduct of the minister and the department in testing a food at Kingston at the expense of the contractor, and then, without examination or test of any kind, buying for the same purpose another food by another name from another person, without any proof of its value or usefulness. Mr. Hatch says that the food he supplied at Kingston was furnished at his own cost, and he paid Dr. Devlin for superintending the experiment, that he furnished 60 per cent, proteids on an average, varying the food by furnishing it in two or three forms and of different strength, in order to escape the monotony. He swears that this was the food which he offered after the test to the government, and that he was refused on the ground that the department was not boying foods for the soldiers. He then learned that a nurchase had been made of a spurious article, worth only one-eighth of the price paid for it and unsuited for the purpose, that he warned the minister of the facts before the last of the goods were shipped, and before any of them were paid for. This warning the minister admits that he received and kept absolutely to himself, while Dr. Neilson, his officer in charge of the department, went on closing up the business. So the matter stands at this S. D. S. stage of the enquiry.

OTTAWA. June 22.—The emergency food committee have apparently got and smelled and looked at this powto the bottom of facts in regard to the question whether the food tested at Kingston was the same as that bought for the troops in Africa. In the house of commons Dr. Borden brought down the house when he declared that they were identical. His words are these. speaking of Mr. Monk: "If the food which he says was thoroughly

"If the food which he says was thoroughly tested at Kingston, and which he has no doubt about, no matter what the price might have been, if that food had been sent to Africa every ting would have been nice, and the honortole gentleman would have patted the department on the back, now, sir, I want to point out to the honorable gentleman that this is the food which the department of militia did send to South Africa, and I will prove it by the papers which I have before me."

The paper by which Dr. Eorden made this proof was the recommendation of Dr. Neilson, director of medical staff. In this recommendation for the purchase of the food Dr. Neilson stated that it was the same that had been tested at Kingston.

amined both Dr. Borden and Dr. Neilson. It was found that Dr. Borden had no knowledge whatever of the matter. He did not know on what basis Dr. Neilson made his statement, but innocently took it for granted that a director knew what he was talking about. At the same time, while leaving everything with the director, the minister neglected to give him a letter received from the man who made the food used at Kingston, and who said that the food which was purchased from Devlin was spurious and useless for the purpose.

Now we have the testimony of Dr. Neilson himself, who swears that he had no knowledge of the identity of the goods purchased with those which had been tested. They were bought on the strength of this test, which had been satisfactory, but without any examination to show the identity. Dr. Neilson accepted the statement of the contractor that he was to have the same article, and made his recommendation on the strength of Contractor Devlin's ssurance. So Dr. Borden relied upon Dr. Neilson and Dr. Neilson relied upon Dr. Devlin, and Dr. Devlin was the man who sold 16 per cent, proteids worth 25 cents a lb. or less in the place of 60 to 80 per cent. proteids worth \$2 a lb. He did this in the face and .yes of the minister, and the deputy minister, and the director of the medical department, and in the face of a letter of warning from a manufacturer of the genuine goods, receiving his pay after the inland revenue analyst had reported that the food purchased contained less than 17 per cent. of proteid, and was not a concentrated food nor entitled to its name nor worth \$2 a pound. Analyst Macfarlane appears to oe the only man in the whole affair who rose to the occasion. Everybody else appears to have been entirely controlled by Dr. Devlin, the contractor, who for the purposes of the transaction seems to have been minister, deputy minister, medical director and paymaster and contractor and payee.

Dr. Neilson is a soldierly looking men, somewhat advanced in years. honest in his intentions. He was ap-



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aimy. Dr. Neilson's story begins with the Kingston tests, but he had no personal knowledge of these, except that he authorized them and that he was present at the end of the tests and examined the soldiers as to the effects upon them. He has a vague recollection that there was an analysis of the food used at Kingston made at the time by Dr. Ruttan of McGill, and that the percentage of protein was 83. He remembers the questions asked the soldiers, but forgets that they all stated that they had been eating Hatch's Protose. This is an important lapse of memory, because if it had not happened Dr. Neilson might have suspected something wrong when he was asked to buy the same articles from Dr. Devlin under another name.

When Dr. Devlin came to him to talk about the contract, he seems to have first seen the minister, and the minister had previously mentioned it to Dr. Neilson, Devlin gave Neilson his assurance that he was offering the same article that Mr. Hatch had prepared for the Kingston men. The government analyst could have told Dr. Neilson, in a few hours, whether this vere so, but the analyst was not asked. Dr. Neilson did not even have a sample before him of the food used at Kingston. All he had for purroses of comparison was an envelope. partly filled with a nowder which had been in it a year, and which had been given to him by somebody, he did not exactly know whom, as the powder that was to be used for the then future tests at Kingston. Dr. Neils der. He also tasted and smelled and looked at the sample that Dr. Devlin had with him, and arrived by a magnificent bound to the conclusion that they were identical. He was subjected by the committee to a tasting and feeling, an optical examination of various powders, and was obliged to admit that he could not judge by this rough and ready method.

After all, said Dr. Neilson, the best est is the test on the living body, and that by analysis. Both these tests Dr. Neilson neglected to make. The department had been in great trouble to make a test on the human body with a certain food. When they bought the food for actual use they altogether neglected the important ceremony of providing the same article.

But Dr. Neilson was not wholly without defence of the Devlin goods. He solemnly assured the committee Since then the committee has ex- that he knew the powder was good, for he had tried it on himself. In fact, he had lived on it a whole day, and suffered nothing from the pangs of hunger. This seemed to be a rather limited test to a committee unacquainted with the doctor's habits, but the members were disposed to make the best of it and pursued the enquiry into the details. With the utmost naivete, the doctor explained that at noon he took wo ounces of this powder dry, and found it answered all practical purposes. To be sure, he afterwards admitted, he had been provided with a good substantial breakfast at home at the usual hour, say 9 o'clock, and at the close of the day he had gone to his home and partaken of the usual dinner. In the intervening eight or nine hours he had sustained life on this emergency food. This heroic proceeding almost took the breath away from the committee men who were disposed to congratulate the worthy doctor on his happy escape from the iminent peril of starvation. The committee is probably disposed to report that if the soldiers in Africa are provided with an abundant breakfast and a good meat dinner towards night, and are allowed to sit still during the day, a can of the emergency food will keep them alive between meals. But unfortunately this is not the purpose of the emergency food. It is intended to contain in small compass a ration on which the soldier can live during a forced march and during a period of solation from a base of supplies. Luxurious breakfasts and ample dinners are not guaranteed in Africa by Dr. Devlin as a part of the contract.

But Dr. Nellson admits that he is not quite satisfied with the results of his recommendation. He thought he was buying more preteid. He expected 25 or 30 per cent, at least, and therefore was disappointed when the analyst reforted only 16. This shows that Dr Nellson's expectations were only modarate, as he did not ask for more nutriment than is contained in pea meal and many other substances, and only for less than half as much as was contained in the food which Mr. Hatch swears he sent to Kingston. Even these moderate expectations were cruelly disappointed, and now he says that if he had his recommendation to nake over again, he would say that the Devlin goods were adapted for the

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