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PREMIER MISLED HIS EXCELLENCY ELECTION TRICK

Mewburn's Latest Statement
Shows Up Spurious
Order Passed.

THE BAIT FOR FARMERS

Parliament Alone Has Power
to Alter the Military
Service Act.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
OTTAWA, Jan. 4.—The statement given out by Gen. Mewburn yesterday, coupled with the issue of a special number of the Canada Gazette today, form an interesting commentary upon government methods prior to the election for the securing of votes. The special issue of the Gazette, which is dated December 31, contains an order-in-council passed on December 3, which reads as follows:

His excellency the governor-general-in-council, on the recommendation of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Laird Borden, the prime minister, and under and in virtue of the provisions of the military service act, is pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that in any case where a person engaged in agriculture has applied for exemption, and such exemption has been refused, the minister of militia and defence, if he is of the opinion that the services of such person are essential for promoting agricultural production, may, by order under his hand, discharge such person from military service.

Act Is Unconstitutional.
By virtue of the order, Gen. Mewburn, minister of militia in the new Borden cabinet, announced publicly on the platform to all and sundry that he would take such action wherever he considered it necessary or rightful. It was in vain that Liberal speakers pointed out that an act of Parliament could not be interfered with except by Parliament; specifically exempt farmers, and that it was only in the power of the minister of militia, backed by the prime minister, were taken their face value by thousands of the electorate.

What Mewburn Now Says.
Almost simultaneously with the publication of the Gazette containing the order there was published the somewhat remarkable statement of Major-General Mewburn, minister of militia, on the public platform prior to the election. Says the minister of militia:

"It is pointed out that it was not intended, nor was it within the power of the minister of militia, to abrogate the provisions of the military service act, and the executive action above referred to could not in any case be taken except when men were actually called up under the act. It follows, therefore, that farmers who failed to secure exemption at the hands of the local tribunals should prosecute their appeals in the usual manner, as provided in the military service act. Applications for leave to appeal should be addressed in all cases to the registrar of the district concerned. If a farmer who has actually joined up still considers that he has grounds for exemption, he should state his case to his commanding officer, who will take the necessary action on his behalf."

Governor-General Misled.
In the light of the above it is evident that the governor-general-in-council was deliberately misled by his adviser, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Laird Borden, the prime minister, who recommended the spurious order of December 3, and that Major-General S. C. Mewburn, minister of militia, either deliberately or unwittingly, spread the falsehood conveyed in the order and deceived the public.

Farmers must take their chances, with everybody else, before the tribunals. Major-General S. C. Mewburn is helpless to interfere with the workings of the act.

FIVE SOLDIERS KILLED IN C. P. R. COLLISION AT DORVAL STATION

Two Others Missing and Score
Are Injured.

ALL RETURNED HEROES

Vancouver Men, Homeward
Bound, Come to Grief in
Collision.

MONTREAL, Jan. 4.—Five soldiers are known to be dead and two other missing and believed to have been killed, as a result of a local train on the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to Pointe Fortune running into the rear of a train bound for Vancouver with a large number of soldiers aboard about 8:20 p.m. this evening near Dorval station.

The killed are Ptes Thomas Kelly, Hunter, Mackie, and Plummer, all of Vancouver.

About twenty persons were injured, the majority of them slightly. Among them are Bugler Cross, Ptes. Irwin, Dickson and A. R. Kelley, who were brought to the Royal Victoria Hospital, this city.

According to Bugler Cross there were 250 men on the train bound for Vancouver. The train was traveling slowly near Dorval, when it ran into a switch. The Pointe Fortune train was traveling at a rapid rate and crashed into the military train.

The C. P. R. official statement said the Pointe Fortune train ran past a signal set against it and struck the rear part of the westbound train containing a number of colonists. The train for the west, so the C. P. R. officials say, had taken a siding near Dorval to allow the Pointe Fortune train to pass. The C. P. R. officials also say six were killed and about thirty injured.

In the impact the middle cars of the military train telescoped, and it was owing to this that the fatalities and injuries occurred. The last car was shoved up on top of some cars ahead, but fortunately this had been vacated shortly before the accident occurred. Several men were pinned beneath the wreckage, and it was some time before they could be liberated. Ambulances and doctors were rushed to Westmount station, and the killed and injured were brought there on C. P. R. trains.

Most of the men on the train were returned soldiers who had seen service in France. Pte. Thomas Kelly had been wounded three times in France and had been back only about three months.

WINNIPEG LIEUTENANT WINS VICTORIA CROSS

WINNIPEG, Jan. 4.—Lieut. James McCormick, D.S.O., has been recommended for the Victoria Cross for gallantry in rescuing five men from a machine gun crater recently.

