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**Evening Telegram**

The Evening Telegram, Ltd.,  
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Friday, February 15, 1924.

## Catalina Mourns Her Dead.

The latest news from Shoe Cove seems conclusive, unfortunately, beyond the slightest doubt that the President Coaker met her doom on that treacherous stretch of coast which has brought disaster to many another gallant ship, and that her crew of six men found a watery grave almost within reach of their homes.

Tragedies such as this occur but too often to our vessels bound hither and thither on their lawful occasions; but frequently as they happen, they never fail to awaken throughout the community a deeper feeling of sympathy than disasters of any other description.

The lives of all of us are closely bound up in the sea; we trust to it for our very existence, and the hardy toilers who year in and year out fearlessly face its treacherous moods are more than any others the men on whom welfare of the country depends.

Now that it is practically certain that a rescue was not effected, general sympathy, in which the Telegram joins, will go out in full measure to those grief-stricken relatives in Catalina who have been bereaved of their loved ones under such tragic circumstances.

## Another Point of View of the Inter Allied Debt.

A short time ago we quoted the amounts owed America by the various European countries which, with the exception of Great Britain, have made no attempt as yet to meet their obligations.

In certain quarters it has been hinted that the United States should recognize the great services rendered to the world by her allies during the early years of the war by cancelling these debts. In a speech before the Belgian Senate, the Vice-President expressed the opinion that the indebtedness is on the side of America when a correct balance is struck.

His case no doubt appeals to the Belgians, but it is most unlikely that it will carry much weight with the practical financiers of the Great Republic. The Vice-President argued thus:

"Counting every allied soldier as representative 100,000 francs of capital destroyed and each mutilated soldier 50,000 francs, France, Germany, Great Britain and Italy, with 2,850,000 dead and 3,000,000 mutilated, suffered a total capital loss of 415,000,000,000 gold francs. Adding 500,000,000,000 in new debts and 150,000,000,000 for reparations, this represents for the three countries one thousand and sixty-five billions, or 5,530 per head of population."

"The United States, with 50,000 dead, 100,000 mutilated and 100,000,000 francs was debt, bears only 1,000 gold francs per head. The total amount for the three Allies and America, taken together, represents 5,530 gold francs per head of population. "Consequently, to meet a fair share, the Americans ought to pay an additional 4,530 gold francs per head; that is to say, about \$38,000,000,000, instead of claiming \$12,000,000,000 from Europe."

"Nobody has courage enough to dare to say this to the Americans. If the matter were put to a vote, many of them would doubtless admit the justice of the claim that we saved America, and that more than 2,500,000 of our men died for her. That's what European statesmen ought to tell America."

## The New Curate Welcomed

AND MR. LIGHTBURN BIDDEN FAREWELL.

Last evening a warm welcome was extended by St. Thomas's congregation to the new Curate, Rev. J. Elliott, and his wife, and the occasion was also taken advantage of to extend to Rev. G. O. Lightburn, the regret of the Parish owing to his departure. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Canon Harp, and the speakers were the Bishop, representing the Diocese, Mr. Watson, People's Warden on behalf of the congregation, Canon Bolt, Mr. H. Y. Mott, representing the Sunday School Canon Reeves for the city clergy, Mr. C. E. Hunt, First Vice President of the Literary Club, for the Club, and Canon Field.

In replying, Mr. Lightburn showed himself deeply touched by the expressions of esteem and regret which had been made, and tendered his thanks for the many favours which he had received during his stay in St. John's.

Mr. Elliott made a very favourable impression by the manner in which he replied his thanks to the warm welcome.

He trusted that his efforts would result in furthering the work of the Parish and the Church and hoped that his stay in St. John's would be long.

Songs were rendered by the Rector and Mr. Ruggles during the evening and while refreshments were being served Mr. and Mrs. Elliott were introduced to those who were present.

## PEPYS BEHIND THE SCENES.

Feb. 16th.—Up betimes, and my wife asking me why I go abroad so early, I tell her that I go to Mrs. Povey, to see her Valentine, whereas, she believes me mightily for my silliness, and says I am not now living in the days of the great Samuel, but if I wish to have a Valentine to give a present to, I may have her, and none other. But as I did only say it to tease the wretch, I laugh at her, but must give her \$20 to quieten her.

So to the Enquiry, but Lord! what a maze is this third paragraph, so that the lawyers, I suppose, know little of it, and the hearing like to take three months, I do hear of all kinds that there are 350 witnesses, but know not if I shall believe it. By despatches out of England, I hear how B. MacDonald angers his own party by his moderation, but cannot help himself, since he is Prime Minister only by the will of the other party, and can put through no extreme legislation.

Much work at the office all the afternoon, and there to Povey's house, and there sat and talked, he giving me some fine cherry brandy to drink, which it pleased him to hear me praise.

## Coastal Boats.

Argyle left Red Island 9.15 a.m. yesterday, outward.

Glencoe left Grand Bank 2.30 p.m. yesterday, going west.

Kyle is expected to leave North Sydney this afternoon, coming to St. John's direct.

Mr. A. Walker is at St. Mary's Bay. Prospero and Portia in port.

## McMurdo's Store News.

For The Toilet.

We have all the necessities and luxuries. The daily bath is beneficial when only good soap is used. The condition of the teeth depends upon good dentifrices.

We can supply you with the best of Toilet Articles.

Bath Soap, Bath Salts, Toilet Waters, Sponges, Tooth Brushes, Tooth Powder & Paste, Hair Brushes, Combs and Hand Mirrors. We have a large and complete stock.

Friday and Saturday at our Candy Stall you will always find a delicious selection of Chocolates and Candies, fresh every week at special week end prices.

This Week End we are featuring Moir's Fine Coconut Assorted Bon Buns; Chocolate Montevideo, Milk Chocolate Creams, Stuffed Dates, Whipped Creams, Creamed Buttermilk. All fresh, delicious and wholesome.

And Our Week End Special Butter Scotch Liqueur . . . 49c. lb. Italian Mixture . . . 35c. lb. Chocolate Creams . . . 25c. lb.

## Pit-Prop and Relief Accounts Under Investigation.

Mr. Geo. Turner on the Stand.

When the Enquiry was resumed yesterday afternoon Mr. Geo. Turner, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines, was again called to the stand when the examination re the pit prop contracts was resumed.

George Turner's contract, it was learned, was assigned to J. J. McKay, trustee Steer Bros. The total payments under this contract were \$3408.20. There was turned in against this amount 222 cords wood at \$5.50 and \$11 at \$5.50, total value \$3,449.50.

The COMMISSIONER asked to see the McKay contract.

These the witness promised to produce.

A voucher from Campbell & McKay attached to documents produced was read by the Commissioner; it gave particulars of the goods purchased by McKay. The value was given at \$5,000. The witness said that as far as he knew no enquiries were made by the Department as to the quantity of goods supplied.

Marlin Bragg, Georgetown, contract assigned to A. E. Hickman, 410% cords wood was turned in against payment of \$2,257.12. Regarding this matter, the scalers' report said the wood was not properly peeled nor sawn square at the ends. Payment was \$5.50, the contract rate for barked wood.

Mr. Brown, contract assigned to the Union Trading Co. Advances were made to the amount of \$2,350, against which was turned in 361 cords wood, value \$1,462.50. An amount of \$787.50 was overpaid on this account and although the scalers' report said some of the wood was properly peeled, some of it was paid for at the rate of \$5.50 per cord. The witness stated that as in the other cases application had been made for a refund of the overpayment.

Felix Spurrell cut 488 1/2 cords wood for which he received \$2685.27. This was paid without an official scaling on the recommendation of Captain Winsor and Sir Wm. Coaker. An examination of documents showed that Spurrell had first received payment at the rate of \$4 per cord. A receipt dated Jan. 1, 1923, showed that he had received \$712.37 additional.

COMMISSIONER—There is a document here which was not entered in the books, 488 1/2 cords peeled wood at \$4.00—\$1953. Paid May 11th, 1920, balance \$1003. The date of that document I do not see. Then comes the cheque of \$1003, which would seem to have squared the account, then there come these letters and then there is a letter for \$732 in Jan. 1923, which is the matter which wants explaining.

Charles Day, Port Blandford, contract assigned to J. J. McKay, trustee of Steer Bros. Advance amounted to \$3722.64. The cut was paid for at the rate of \$5.50. A balance \$732.64 was paid a year later, Jan. 17th, 1923.

COMMISSIONER—Mr. McKay must have owed a lot of money to the Department at that time?

MR. TURNER—He did.

Q.—Can you say whether Mr. McKay had been approached at that time?

A.—I cannot tell until I get the letters.

MR. TURNER—I will show you those letters of your own to Mr. McKay.

A.—Yes. These are some of the letters I was going to get. This is one of July 6th asking for payment another 23rd of May.

COMMISSIONER—There are correspondence between the Department and McKay? (Reads letter as follows):

December 17, 1921.  
Hon. Alex. Campbell,  
Minister of Agriculture & Mines.

Dear Sir.—In acknowledging receipt of \$60,000 interest payment at the rate of \$2 per cord on the following pulpwood contracts:

S. Budden & Bros. . . . 5000  
George Jennings . . . 5000  
Wm. Dawe & Sons, Ltd. . . . 5000  
Chas. Day . . . 1000  
And the Government of Newfoundland not having measured the wood at this date, I undertake to return any shortage on any individual contract when the wood is measured.

Yours truly,  
(Sd.) JAMES J. MCKAY,  
Assignee Steer Bros.  
City.

Dear Sir.—I beg to enclose you herewith statements showing the following balances due this department on account of contracts to cut wood made between the Government and the parties mentioned below:

George Jennings . . . \$4958.50  
John Gilliland . . . 2081.40  
George C. Tulk . . . 4023.24  
S. Budden & Sons . . . 6280.26

Kindly arrange for a settlement of these accounts.  
Yours truly,  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & MINES.

(Copy)  
J. J. McKay, Esq.,  
Assignee Steer Bros.,  
City.  
May 25, 1923.

Dear Sir.—I am instructed to draw your attention to a letter from this department dated 20th of January last forwarding you statements of balances due this department in connection with the pulpwood operations of Messrs. George Jennings, John Gilliland and S. Budden Bros., and to ask you to let me have a settlement at as early a date as possible.

Yours truly,  
DEPUTY MINISTER AGRICULTURE AND MINES.

(Copy)  
J. J. McKay, Esq.,  
Assignee Steer Bros.,  
City.  
July 5, 1923.

Dear Sir.—I am instructed to again draw your attention to the balance due this department in connection with the pulpwood operations of Messrs. George Jennings, John Gilliland and S. Budden Bros. I wrote you on May 25, with regard to a settlement of these balances, but to date no reply has been received. I have to point out that as it is necessary to have the accounts for the past fiscal year completed, a reply leading to an early settlement of this matter will be appreciated. Kindly let me hear from you in this connection at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,  
DEPUTY MINISTER AGRICULTURE AND MINES.

Those letters are all upon the same subject, have you ever had any reply?

A.—No reply at all.

Mr. Fetham received a total of \$6922.09 for 596 cords wood. He first received payment at the rate of \$4 per cord. In the following year, 1922, he was paid \$1,942 making the rate \$5.50. Payment was made on the recommendation of Messrs. Winsor and Abbott although the report of scaler Sampson showed that 50 cords were not barked.

J. J. House, Georgetown, contract on 500 cords wood at \$5.50 per cord, \$2,750. The first payment was made to House personally, the other payments were made to Dr. W. Roberts. Mr. Turner explained that he thought Dr. Roberts had financed the contractor. The payments were made with no scalers' report.

R. G. House, St. John's, contract to cut at Newman's Sound. The scaler reported for 2,800 cords, total payment was \$12,461.25. In respect of rough wood, House was paid as high as \$4.50 per cord. Scaler's report saw wood was impossible to measure on account of its getting adrift.

German Polk, Wellington assignment of contract to A. E. Hickman. Advanced \$1,250. The scaler reported of 500 cords wood at \$2.50. The witness asked if the wood in this instance was received by the Government, said he was not sure but he thought that Hickman had seized it. He put in the sheriff and sold it.

MR. HOWLEY—Besides getting paid by the Government?

MR. TURNER—It is a very funny thing how the Government should pay him after he had been paid for the wood. But not so funny that he should seize the wood after he had been paid by the Government, funny way of doing business. But you do not know much about it; your duties were merely office duties?

A.—I do not know anything outside of that.

MR. TURNER—All this wood was eventually sold or contracted to be sold to Mr. Rodgers?

MR. TURNER—Yes.

H. A. Russell contract assigned to the Union Trading Co. Advances were made to the amount of \$2,850. The wood returned according to the scaler's report showed a value of \$1,410.

In answer to Mr. Turner, witness said the contract was to cut 1,000 cords.

COMMISSIONER—The contract may have been for an enormous amount. I mean the ultimate result of the contract never justified it.

MR. TURNER—Was not Russell's contract, this contract given at Mr. Coaker's request?

A.—I think so.

COMMISSIONER—Is there any point in it? Because we are told that a great many contracts were given at the request of members who were, I suppose, badged by their constituents to do it. If there is any point in it I am up by all means.

Alphamus Macdonald contract assigned to A. E. Hickman. The total payment amounted to \$2,212, which was covered by the quantity of wood

## Still Going Strong at THE POPULAR STAR

THIRD WEEK OF THE PLANTATION TRIO  
**Messrs. Foster, Hawkes and Zabriskie**  
IN AN ENTIRE NEW PROGRAM.

VITAGRAPH BLUE RIBBON PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS  
**"THE LOVE BANDIT"**

A THRILLING DRAMA IN EIGHT PARTS.  
(See the Famous French Annie's Dance Hall)

FEARLESS PEARL WHITE in EPISODE THREE OF "PLUNDER."

Extra for the Children to-morrow's Matinee LARRY SEMON

MONDAY—The Cream of Music. The Plantation Trio in all Southern Selections. A wonderful treat of Music. See this space to-morrow for further particulars—and by no means miss it—Monday next.

cut. According to a note in the books of the Department the wood in this case was also seized by Mr. Hickman. Mr. Turner stated proceedings had been instituted against Mr. Hickman to recover the wood or its value.

Thomas White, St. Brendan's contract assigned to J. B. Orr. The total value of wood was \$1707.50. He had a contract for 10,000. There was an overpayment of \$1151.11 which was charged to Relief Account. Mr. Orr claims to have supplied White to the extent of \$4,355.00. The following letter was put in:—

May 26th, 1922.  
Dr. A. Campbell, City.

Dear Doctor:

Regarding Thos. White of St. Brendan's, whom we supplied to the extent of \$3385.00 of which we have received from you \$1,652.50 for scaler's report of 475 cords, leaving a balance due us of \$1,732.50.

Mr. R. C. Winsor states that a large portion of the wood was sent to Mr. White in view of relief purposes, and the circumstances are that if he did not give these supplies for relief purposes, that the Government would have had to supply the poor of that section, and in view of these circumstances I think that we should be reimbursed further to the extent of at least half of the wood in question \$1732.50 and if you will go into this matter for me, it will be greatly appreciated, as we are badly in need of funds at the present time.

Thanking you for your favours,  
Very truly yours,  
(Sd.) JOHN B. ORR.

Samuel Tetman gave a contract on the request of Sir W. F. Coaker, Tetman assigned to the Union Trading Co. and \$2250 was paid. He turned in 1000 cords wood, valued at \$5500. The balance owing the department on this transaction is \$1461.

S. D. Collier, Fortin, contract given at instance of Hon. W. R. Warren.

COMMISSIONER—Let us see how Collier fared. Did he assign his contract?

MR. TURNER—No, he just gave orders for certain sums to go to different parties. Payments were made to Harvey and Company, and the Hermilene Bay Trading Co. According to the scaler's report he turned in 3176 cords wood valued at \$18,877.

The payments on this account totalled \$21,156.00. The overpayment of more than \$3,000, the witness thought, was made on account of relief distributed.

W. E. Lake, Contract assigned to Harvey & Co. Advances were made to the amount of \$1515. The returns were 527 1/2 cords wood credited at 36 per cord.

Arthur House, St. Georges—Quantity of wood scaled 561 cords. Payment in full at the rate of \$5.50 per cord amounted to \$3,081.50 was made. Examination of documents disclosed that a further payment of \$692.27 was made on March 6th, 1923, and charged to relief account on the strength of House's statement that he had given out the amount. The Commissioner asked for an explanation and Mr. Turner replied that House claimed to have a shortage of 100 cords, and subsequent by the amount was charged to relief account.

Adjustment was taken at 5 p.m.

THIS MORNING'S SESSION — PIT PROP CONTRACTS INVESTIGATED.

There was a great falling off in the attendance at the Enquiry this morning and when the session opened only one lady visitor was present.

Later one prominent member of the Women's Franchise League turned up but neither stayed for the whole proceedings. Mr. George Turner was again on the stand. He produced some documents in relation to the seizure of wood in the cases of Pelley, Evesleigh and Standford on writ of Hickman. Standford received a payment after the wood was received but the department had no knowledge of the seizure. A list of parties to whom contracts were given was next put in. The witness said the contractors generally filled less than specifications. Asked if efforts had been made to recover balances owed by the Fishermen's Union in the matters of Russell, Brown, Groves and Yelaman for \$1250, \$177, \$5515 and \$1450 respectively, the witness produced documents to show that efforts

had been made. Letters were also put in claiming that the balances had been expended in relief and claiming that \$1700 was due the Trading Co. for extra supplies. The witness said the department has been advised that the Company is liable to the amount. They have given no particulars of the relief they claimed was given. Groves' contract assigned to the U.T. Co. showed that the agreement and an advance of \$5,000 for which he turned in 735 cords unbarked. His contract was for 10,000 cords. The value returned was \$2,184. Witness could not explain why such a small quantity of wood was cut on the contract.

MR. WINTER—Who recommended the contract?

MR. TURNER—Practically all in Bonavista Bay were recommended by Sir Wm. Coaker, I think.

Witness asked to look up Edward Honnoney, of Monashen, said he was paid \$1,500.85. He turned in wood valued at \$801.68, leaving a balance of \$699.18 owing. Orders on Baird, showing that the department had made itself responsible for more than \$700. The witness stated that the contract was really retail, and the same applied to practically all the contracts in Placentia Bay. Vouchers for the total of \$1209.54 were returned to the department.

MR. WINTER—What cheque have you to show that the goods got to the men?

MR. TURNER—We have nothing to show in this instance the ultimate distribution. The witness said that under the existing conditions reliance had to be placed on the integrity of the contractors.

MR. WINTER—I think you had a big contract with the Anglo-Nfld. Dev. Co.?

MR. TURNER—Yes, not a contract to cut. They agreed to purchase wood cut under a contract Dec. 2nd, 1921, agreeing to purchase 20,000 cords, 50 per cent. at \$1.50 per cord delivered at Grand Falls.

Witness said the contract for cutting was with outside parties, viz: Thos. Ryan, 2,500; Milligan, 1,000; P. Woodman, 4,000; J. Penman, 2,500; H. Brown, 1,000; Saunders & Howell, 3,000. The price was the same as was called for in the agreement with the Government and the Anglo Development. Ryan delivered 2,600, Milligan 284, Woodman 1,300 cords. Although there was a considerable shortage, the wood was delivered by the Government in the following year from Government cut. So that nothing was outstanding between the Government and the Company in respect to this matter. The contractors were paid between 2 and three thousand dollars more than their returns called for. The wood was brought to Grand Falls by train and the amount deducted from the contract price. In the case of woodmen, there was an extra freight charge on account of loading on the main line. The Department at first refused to refund the amount charged against woodman but later paid over the money. Another contract with the A.M.D. Co. Rep. 1922 showed that the agreement was for the purchase and sale of 10,000 cords logs at prices from \$2.50 to \$4 per cord. The wood was to be cut at Twin Lakes, on limits leased to the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. The camp was operated by a man named Moore for the Government. Another contract August 22, 1922 with the A. & D. Co. under the pit prop account had to do with the construction of roads at Badger Falls Bay. The company undertook to pay for the work at a price which they could build the road for themselves. The Government advanced \$51,600 on this contract. All the amount has not yet been refunded by the company, so it is not yet due under the contract. The Government agreed to provide for the tools and equipment which included a Ford Truck.

The witness had no record whatever of what became of the equipment.

Asked to look up a contract with M. E. Martin, witness said it was dated Nov. 24th, 1921, permitting him to cut 10,000 cords on Crown lands in Placentia Bay. The price agreed upon was \$4 per cord. For the purpose of financing, the Government agreed to deposit \$20,000 against which he should draw as the wood was cut. A further agreement was entered whereby Mr. Martin undertook to purchase the wood from the Government. This contract is not yet adjusted, and appears that he is on debt to the Government about \$8,700 which he disputes because a lot of the wood was lost or stolen.

COMMISSIONER—There is a provision in the contract that the Government had property right in the wood until it was all delivered. In this matter the witness explained that there are claims and counter claims that have not yet been adjusted.

A contract July 8th, was next examined. This gave permission to cut on lands at Colinet. The price agreement was \$3.50 per cord. He was paid in respect of this \$5,300. The fish advance was made five days after work began. The witness explained that although financed in the same way, it was more in the nature of relief. His returns showed 13,855 cords wood.

On the books of the Department it appears that Mr. Martin is liable for \$35,000 under a purchasing contract. Against this he has a number of counter claims. A contract with Wm. Dawe & Sons, Bay Roberts, Dec. 1921 examined showed that a permit was granted to cut hand-wood logs \$400,000 Government to pay contractor, \$35 per m. A repurchasing contract was contained in the agreement. The sum of \$5,199.44 has been paid, and no refunds have been made. The collector has begun proceedings to recover the amount. The party admits the indebtedness and it is only a matter of collecting.

A letter was submitted authorizing the Minister to open an account at the Bank of Montreal for the pit-prop account. Cheques had to be signed by the Minister and the Deputy Colonial Secretary. Later the latter signature was changed to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Later on Mr. Turner was away and Mr. Howley, first clerk, neither the bank nor Auditor General ever questioned the procedure as far as the witness knew. Letters put in showed the department had been allocated \$535,000 estimated losses on pit-prop, relief works, etc.

Questioned by Mr. Winter about contracts for pulp cutting, witness put in a contract with Clirran to employ men and look after operations at Glenwood at \$200 per month. A second, in charge of Goodyear at Skull Hill was in the same terms. The third contract was with Moore at Skull Lake, north of Twin Lakes. The arrangement with regard to paying the men was that the money was deposited against the pay sheets presented fortnightly to the department. Witness had no idea of the amount paid in wages but he promised to have this looked up. Supplies under these contracts were purchased by the Minister. These included horses, harness, axes and other logging camp requisites.

MR. HOWLEY asked if the questions suggested an imputation against the Minister.

MR. TURNER said there were some matters that will have to be investigated in detail at a later stage.

Asked if tenders were called for in relation to some of these supplies, Mr. Turner said he could not tell and explained that the department was not a regular purchasing one to any extent. Asked about the destruction of the purchases the witness said unless there was a stock account kept at the camps there was nothing to show that the supplies reached their destination. Respecting the purchase of horses witness said most of them were bought personally by Dr. Campbell. The total cut of wood by Curran at Glenwood was 2,261, of which 4,000 cords were left in the woods.

Adjustment was taken until 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Shipping.

S. S. Sachem arrived at Halifax at 6 o'clock this morning.

S. S. Digby is due at Liverpool to-morrow. Her next sailing for this port will be on the 26th inst.

S. S. Hiram arrived at Allente yesterday, all well.

S. S. Rosalind is due at Halifax to-morrow morning.

S. S. Silvia leaves Halifax for this port to-morrow.

ernment about \$8,700 which he disputes because a lot of the wood was lost or stolen.

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