

The Graphic

CAMPBELLTON, N. B.

H. B. ANSLAW, Manager

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A. F. Macquell, Postmaster.

Campbellton, December, 5th, 1918.

THE SYSTEM.

In another column of the Graphic is published a statement from Hon. Wm. Currie fully setting forth his position as regards the criticism of certain papers, in reference to his connection with stumpage matters. Restigouche electors very generally who, better than the St. John news-papers referred to, understand the system under which stumpage is assessed, (we used the word "assessed" advisedly) have always considered that a grave injustice has been done Hon. Mr. Currie, and a careful perusal of his statement will convince every independent reader that he has done neither the people he represents or the province any wrong.

It has always appeared to us that if Hon. Mr. Currie was guilty of a wrong every lumberman in the legislature and every lumberman in the province was equally guilty. Let us be reasonable in this matter and stand behind the government in its action of changing the "system" so that in future a dishonest scaler can not be instrumental in defrauding the government.

Hon. Mr. Currie's statement is not that of a man laboring under a dishonest action, and we think he makes it clear his position in the matter. No doubt there will be partisans who will still cry "away with him" but we are sure they will not be many and these few are the ones who are still trying to convince the public that there was nothing wrong in the "patriotic potato" and other steals of the late local government.

TO GET THEIR PAY.

In a labored editorial the St. John Standard in a recent issue endeavored to censor the local government for not paying the teachers of Restigouche, and we presume other counties as well, during the few weeks that the schools were closed because of the influenza epidemic. The following from the St. John Telegraph answers the Standard's article.

As long ago as October 29 the chief Superintendent of Education wrote to the secretary of the board of school trustees of Campbellton, in reply to an inquiry, saying:

"In accordance with the provisions of Section 122, School Manual, teach-

ers are entitled to both government and district pay for any time during which the schools have been closed by order of the Board of Health, not exceeding three months."

The Standard, which has been alleging that the Board of Education has refused to pay the Restigouche teachers for time when the schools were closed by provincial authority should publish the Superintendent's letter, even though by doing so it will necessarily convict itself of deliberate misrepresentation and something worse.

HIGH PRICES.

The question is frequently asked why is it that prices in Campbellton are so high. We look at Moncton, St. John and Fredericton market prices and note the difference and wonder why.

The following are the prices quoted in Saturday's market at Fredericton:
Beef, 12 to 15 cents.
Lamb, 20 to 25 cents.
Chicken, 30 cents.
Pork, 14 to 16 cents.
Geece, \$2.50 each.
Potatoes, \$3 per barrel.
Turnips, 70 cents per barrel.
Apples, \$4 to \$6 per barrel.
The above prices are wholesale, but even at that are our producers justified in asking 20c. to 28c. for beef; 28c. to 35c. for lamb. 25c. to 28c. for pork.

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS.

The matter of granting adequate pensions to our returned wounded men is a very important one, yet one which needs to be carefully handled, so that all may be dealt with justly. The pension board no doubt has a heavy task before it, but if it could use a little ordinary common sense in dealing with individual cases, no doubt much friction would be overcome and meetings such as that held at Moncton last Friday evening when Major E. L. Buchanan was host of the platform, would be a thing of the past.

In our estimation pensions cannot be adequately fixed by hard and fast legislation. The pension board should be given authority to investigate cases personally or by duly qualified deputies and grant pensions according to such information. The case of the Campbellton boy who through wounds is unable to earn his living and is only getting \$7.00 a month is a case in point.

SOLDIERS' COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT.

The Returned Veterans of Restigouche are asking the local government, through Premier Foster for a grant of a block of land at Whites Brook to be laid out as a community settlement for returned soldiers. The community settlement idea is a good one and from reports of the suitability of the land for farming purposes, which are very favorable, this should be a good thing for Campbellton and should receive every encouragement.

A community settlement with a little co-operation idea should be a great success.

AN EXPERT BAKER.

H. P. Doyle has secured the services of an expert bread maker, Mr. M. H. Banks.

Obituary. Full dat

Hon. William Currie States His Case

(Continued from page 1.)

all about twenty-five. Mr. McIntosh of Northumberland County succeeded Mr. Barker. During their tenure of office, though Mr. Barker and Mr. McIntosh worked hard, and got as good results, perhaps, for the money expended, as have been obtained at any time under the system, there was no proper survey of the lumber cut on Crown Lands. These inspectors, after the other scalers had visited the camps, usually made a tour of the hovels, sized up the situation and estimated the cut. Sometimes, no doubt, the estimate was excessive, sometimes not up to the mark, but there was, in no case, any statement required by law, from the operator. Neither did the surveyor ask for any statement. The lumberman who did not attempt to conceal his log or his landings, and told no lies about his cut to the scaler, to put the latter on the rack, nor offered any bribe to the scaler to reduce his report, was an honest man, and he himself considered that he was doing his whole duty and all that the law required of him.

After the overthrow of the Robinson administration in 1908 the new government appointed Mr. Berry as chief scaler. He was given many assistants; there were chief scalers, inspectors of scalers, scalers, counters, and also special men to count and measure the stumps. Their name was Legion. Still there was no change in the system, and no attempt to make a thorough survey of the cut. The law still required no statement from the operator, and in a great many cases, with the exception of the larger companies, there was no survey of their own camps made by them. They simply put the logs in as cheaply as they could, saving the expense of a scaler, content if the government officials did not exact too great a toll on their operations.

In practice, the position of the lumberman was parallel with that of a taxpayer under the ordinary assessment law. The assessors make their assessment; that is their business, and the only thing a property-holder is concerned with is that in his case the assessment is not too high. So long as there is no collusion between assessor and property holder, no blame can be attached to the latter if his assessment is too low. Would any one accuse him of being a robber because the assessor was either ignorant or incapable of performing his duties? Would not the only course be that of replacing the official or of amending the system of assessment itself? This is most recently illustrated in the new St. John assessment law, which comes into force this year. Property owners will have to give a sworn statement as to the value of the property they own. Now it is quite possible that in many cases it will be discovered that men have been under-assessed in the past, but as the law stood in the past the new system would not condemn them and mark them as dishonest. The citizens of St. John will not be branded as robbers because the former system did not obtain the highest amount of revenue for municipal purposes; the fault was clearly with the system, and the authorities set about to change it.

The same judgment in fairness should be accorded the lumbermen. The fault was clearly with the system, and the only remedy was to change it.

The foregoing presents a frank statement of the situation as it has existed for approximately thirty years. I now want to speak more particularly about my own action in the matter. Mr. Friel states that it was my duty as a member of the House to see that the province was not defrauded. In the first place my duty as Speaker of the House has nothing whatever to do with outside matters. It is simply to preside over the meetings of the Legislature, and to see to it that the business of the House is conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedure. I consider my position as representative of the people my highest duty, and it certainly is my duty as such to see that the province is not defrauded. In the first place my duty as Speaker of the House has nothing whatever to do with outside matters. It is simply to preside over the meetings of the Legislature, and to see to it that the business of the House is conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedure. I consider my position as representative of the people my highest duty, and it certainly is my duty as such to see that the province is not defrauded.

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It remains now for me to give an account of my attitude towards this whole stumpage question, as a representative of the people. The first session of the new parliament to which I was elected met in May, 1917. An improved lumber policy was one of the planks in the platform of the party to which I was attached. When the Government at its first meeting had this matter under its consideration, I gave them whatever information I had, not with the idea of branding the lumbermen as a lot of timber thieves, but to show that under the system the Government was not getting the best results from their timber lands. That was my honest intention, and I ask was that not doing my part as a representative of the people to bring about a change for the better? And what was the result? A new system was inaugurated under which lumbermen are compelled to take sworn affidavits as to the amount of timber cut by them on Crown Lands. Thus, the Continental Lumber Company as well as every other lumber company in the province must henceforth establish upon oath the amount upon which they will be called to pay. Is this not doing something? Has not the system been bucked? And am I not entitled to share in the credit of having so bucked it? Mr. Friel maintained that I should have taken the side of the people; I assert that I have done that very thing, and have done it in the only effective way. As their representative I did my utmost to bring about this change, and I leave to them to decide whether I have merited the criticism I have received.

Thanking you Mr. Editor, for the courtesy of publication,

I remain,

Faithfully yours,

WM. CURRIE.

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Do your shopping early and get better satisfaction.

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We are showing a much larger and better selection of Holiday Goods than ever.

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\$3.50 to 4.50 value for \$2.98	3.00 and 3.50 value for \$1.98	30 pairs only size 1 to 5
\$5.00 to 7.00 " 3.98	4.00 and 4.50 value for 2.98	\$3.00 to 3.50 value for \$2.49

Bargains

We still have a lot of Winter Goods which were damaged by water in our basement, but are in perfect condition now, and will sell at a big reduction.

Men's Overcoats	Boys' Overcoats	Woolen Underwear
Regular \$12.00 for \$ 8.90	Regular \$ 6.75 for \$4.90	Shirts and Sweaters for Men and Boys which we carried over from last season and selling same as last seasons prices
" 15.50 for 10.90	" 8.00 for \$6.00	
" 20.00 for 15.25	" 10.00 for \$7.50	

Ladies' Coats	Ladies' Furs	Ladies' Wool Scarfs
A lot of last season's coats in good quality at sacrifice prices.	We have many bargains in some Muffs and Stoles carried over from last year	Present value 1.75 for \$1.19 Present value 2.50 for \$1.79

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Local Items

Nearly Notes of Town as Gathered by Geo.

BOUGHNUTS NOW.
The restrictions now being off land you can get doughnuts at Doyle's Bakery. Also all kinds of frosted cakes.

APPOINTED COUNTER.
Harry S. Murray a returned veteran has been appointed to the position as a counter in the sealing of lumber cut from Crown Lands.

SANTA CLAUS AT ATHOL.
At four o'clock on Saturday noon Santa Claus will call at Athol announcing our Grand Xmas Display. F. E. SHEPHERD & CO.

AFTERNOON TEA AND SALE.
The Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church intend holding an afternoon Tea and Sale of Fancy Work and Home Cooking Tuesday, Dec. 17th, from 3.30 to 6.

CORRECTED FIGURES.
The parish of Durham which made such a record in the Victory Loan has done even better than the figures first published. The correct figures are \$113,500 not \$110,500. The honor flags have arrived. That for the county is a very large one, while the ones for the town of Campbellton and the different parishes are smaller.

LIEUT. GEO. HALLETT BACK.
Lieut. Hallett, now of Sussex, but formerly of Dalhousie, arrived in Fredericton last Friday and is at the Military Hospital. Lieut. Hallett is one of the New Brunswick boys to win recognition on the field, having distinguished himself at Hill 70, and received the Military Medal. Many friends of the North Shore are glad to hear of his safe return.

DECEMBER CAME IN COLD.
December came in decidedly cold. The thermometer registered about 10 above zero Sunday with a fifty mile gale blowing. It continued cold Monday and Tuesday. Tuesday morning it was two degrees below zero. The ice has firmly formed across the river above town, and teams are now crossing. There is just enough snow to melt sleighing and business has increased considerably as a consequence.

FUNERAL.
The funeral of the late J. Bradshaw McKenzie was held Saturday afternoon from St. Andrew's church and was very largely attended. The services were conducted by Rev. H. Miller, who paid a fitting tribute to deceased as a member of the session of the church for many years. The service at the grave was conducted by the Masons, of which fraternity the deceased was an honored member. The pall-bearers were Messrs. W. F. Napier, J. E. MacKenzie, A. McManan, D. C. Firth, M. A. Kelly and W. F. Yorston.

SLIGHT FIRE.
A slight fire occurred in the final shop at the McLennan Foundry & Machine Works Monday morning, which demonstrated the effectiveness of the sprinkler system installed in that plant some time ago. The fire is thought to have caught from electric wires and got a good start along the ceiling before the sprinkler heads went off. Fourteen heads in all responded to the heat and the flames were extinguished in short order. A Ford car stored in the building was damaged by having the top and seats burned off. The loss is covered by insurance.

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