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PROBS—FAIR

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RUSSIANS IN CONTROL OF IMPORTANT PASSES PREPARING DESCENT ON PLAINS OF HUNGARY

COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT OF BOOTS INQUIRY

No Boot Could Remain Watertight Under Abnormal Condition at Salisbury Plain this Year, But Canadian Boot Stood Test Well—Standard British Army Boot Not Suitable for Standard Army Boot in Canada—No Paper or Fraudulent Material Used in Soles or Uppers.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 9.—The committee which was appointed by Parliament to conduct an inquiry into the boots supplied the Canadian contingent placed its report upon the table of the Commons tonight. The committee reports that the total number of boots condemned by various military boards throughout Canada was 7,807 and of these 6,599 were repairable, 510 burnt, 319 mutilated by cutting and 379 useless owing to other causes.

The boots supplied by the manufacturer were substantially up to sample. The military boot adopted by the Department about 15 years ago was similar to the present sample boot. This boot was used by Canadian soldiers in the South African war, where, according to the evidence of Sir Wm. Otter it proved satisfactory.

All the soldiers at Salisbury Plain on active service who appeared before the committee and gave evidence favored the Canadian boot rather than the British boot.

No commission was paid by the government to any middlemen or agent. In one case, the Gauthier Co. made an agreement with Charles E. Slater to pay him a commission and Slater acting on behalf of Gauthier sold boots under this agreement. Slater had represented to the minister that he was a partner of Gauthier.

The only material variations made from the contracts were a substitution of side leather in some cases for winter or storm calf. This was permitted owing to the supply of storm calf in Canada having become exhausted.

The boots in dry weather gave fair satisfaction and the committee are satisfied that no boots under the conditions at Salisbury Plain would remain water tight, yet the Canadian boots stood the test well. Col. Cussey, M. P., commander of the 48th Highlanders had stated that the Canadian boot stood the conditions better than the British boot.

The committee comes to the conclusion that the standard British army boot is not a suitable boot for adoption as the standard army boot of Canada. No paper or other fraudulent material was used in the construction of the soles or uppers of the boots.

GERMANY HAS LOST ANOTHER SUBMARINE?

London, April 10.—Discussing reports in circulation of a cannonade in the North Sea yesterday the Morning Post Christiania correspondent says:

"The Norwegian newspapers conclude that a German submarine was observed and pursued by a British fishing squadron and that it was either destroyed or forced to disappear."

"No credence is given to the reports that a squadron of German ships escaped from the British squadron watching the North Sea."

THREATENS GENERAL STRIKE OF RAILWAYMEN

Syracuse, N. Y., April 9.—With the New York State railways enjoined by court order from preventing the Auburn and Syracuse Electric line from operating its cars over the former's tracks, in this city, a new and more serious angle in the strike of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway employees against the United Empire railways was reached tonight.

The injunction was granted today by Justice William S. Andrews in an action brought by the Auburn and Syracuse Electric Railway Company against the New York State Railways. M. J. Sullivan, president of the local division of the Amalgamated Association, when told of the injunction tonight said that unless an immediate hearing were granted, steps looking to a general strike would be at once taken.

BOB FITZSIMMONS WEDS AGAIN

Washington, April 9.—Bob Fitzsimmons, former heavyweight champion of the world, was married here yesterday to Miss Temo Ellen of New York by Rev. L. Morgan Chambers.

MONTREAL HERALD SUED BY PRESIDENT OF RIVAL PAPER

Montreal, April 9.—An action for alleged criminal libel was begun this afternoon by President M. E. Nichols, of the Montreal Daily Mail Publishing Company, against the Herald Publishing Company, and summonses were obtained for C. Gordon Smith, managing editor of the Herald, and Arthur Leithard, secretary treasurer, to come before the court to answer to a charge of criminal libel. In addition, a search warrant was issued to enable the complainant to search the offices of the Herald company in order to obtain possession of the original manuscripts of two articles of which complaint is made.

They were entitled "Conspiracy," and implicated the Daily Mail, President Nichols, vice-president and editor B. A. MacNab, and directors H. A. Dorsey and Louis Henry Timmins, of the Daily Mail Publishing Company, in an alleged scheme to make a big haul out of the government in connection with the sale of the Carleton Hotel property to the Dominion Government.

RENEW ATTACK ON DARDANELLES FORTS

London, April 10.—The Allied fleet bombarded the forts in the Dardanelles all day Sunday and during part of Wednesday, but on those days everything was quiet in the Straits, according to the Daily Telegraph's Millyene correspondent.

WELSH RETAINS TITLE

Toledo, Ohio, April 9.—Billy Wagner failed to capture the lightweight crown from Fred Welsh in their ten round match here tonight. Welsh did all the leading and was awarded a newspaper decision by a fair margin. The bout was very tame until in the tenth, when the champion cut loose and muzzed up his opponent.

Success of Russian Campaign Revives Talk of Separate Peace Proposals by Austria-Hungary

Italian Anti-Neutral Party Fear May Soon be Too Late to Intervene Advantageously—Fierce Battle in West where French are Hammering at Enemy's Line—British Repulse Attack.

London, April 9.—The Russian successes in the Carpathians mountains, where the Muscovites are now said to control virtually all the important passes and are preparing for a descent of the southern slopes onto the plains of Hungary, have revived unofficial talk of separate peace for Austria-Hungary, and seemingly increasing anxiety on the part of the interventionists in Italy for their country to take up arms on the side of the allies and secure territory which they have failed to get in the negotiations through Germany with Austria.

The Russian newspapers seem convinced that Hungary, if not the whole of the Dual monarchy, is ready to seek peace, and it is said that Emperor Francis Joseph has requested Pope Benedict to intervene in his behalf. Except Italy, the neutral country most directly interested in this question, little credence is given this report, although the opinion is expressed in military circles here that if Russia succeeds in overrunning the joint resistance of the Austro-German troops in the Carpathians, as she apparently has that of the Austro-Hungarian armies, Hungary, at least, will be ready to bring the war to an end, as far as she is concerned.

However, the Russians have some way to go as yet before they reach the plains of Hungary, and the Austro-German forces are placing every obstacle in their way. The whole southern slopes of the mountains have been strongly fortified, and troops are being poured into the region in dispute. It is said there are now twenty-four Austrian and six German army corps facing the Russians, and that more are on the way. On the other hand the Russians are still bringing up reserves, and, according to the Austrian report tonight, they are attacking without any regard for the loss of human life.

The British military critics express the greatest admiration for the manner in which the Russians have handled the Carpathians campaign. Their advance between Polonka and Bartfeldt, they say, squeezed the Austrians out of the Dukla Pass, that from Dukla squeezed out of Mezolaborca, and from west to east this

REDUCTION IN THE PROBATE COURT FEES ON SMALL ESTATES

Bill to amend Probate Court's Act passes—Tribute to good work done by Judge Armstrong—Legislature may prorogue April 21st.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 9.—The legislature adjourned this evening until Monday night when the final lap of the session will be commenced. Members were asked this evening by Premier Clarke to arrange to remain here over Saturday next week so that the business of the session could be completed early next week. April 21st or 22nd is said to be prospective date for prorogation.

For the third time since the Hazen government came into power in 1908 a further reduction has been made in probate court fees on small estates, the latest reduction being announced in the house this afternoon by Attorney General Baxter. The time of house was taken up today principally with going through this bill to consolidate and amend the Probate Courts Act.

This evening Premier Clarke is hearing a delegation of members of New Brunswick Guides' Association, headed by President W. Harry Allen, protesting against any change being made in the open season for big game and discussing game law generally. (Continued on page 5)

MURDERER PARDONED AFTER SERVING YEAR IN PENITENTIARY

Shot Bartender Who Refused Him Liquor—Will be Deported.

London, Ont., April 9.—It was learned here today that Tom Riley of Everett, Mass., has been pardoned and released from Kingston penitentiary after serving less than a year of a fifteen years' sentence for the murder of George Blackburn, a bartender at the Hotel Cecil, this city. Riley, who was a Grand Trunk brakeman here at the time, shot Blackburn dead when the latter refused him liquor. It was believed at the time that a death sentence was inevitable and word of his release after serving but a year has come as a distinct surprise. The man, who was drunk at the time of the crime is to be deported to the United States.

REPLY TO CRITICISM CONCERNING BAYONETS SUPPLIED TO CANADIANS

Militia Department Gives Measurement of Bayonets Used by Armies at War.

Ottawa, April 9.—The following memorandum was issued tonight by the Militia Department, apparently in reply to comments in letters received from Colonel Currie, M. P., from the front:

"Articles have appeared in the press recently, attempting to point out the disadvantages of the Ross bayonet, with which the Canadians are armed at the front, in comparison with other makes, particularly on account of length. The following information will, no doubt, be of general interest:

Length of rifles and bayonets used by the principal nations at war are: Germany, rifle 4 feet 1.4 inches, with bayonet 5 feet 9.95 inches. Austria, rifle 4 feet 2 inches, with bayonet, 4 feet 11.5 inches. Turkey, rifle 4 feet 0.6 inches, with bayonet, 5 feet 0.6 inches. Belgium, rifle 4 feet 2.25 inches, with bayonet, 4 feet 11.75 inches. France, rifle 4 feet 3.12 inches, with bayonet, 5 feet 11.84 inches. Russia, rifle 4 feet 3.875 inches, with bayonet, 5 feet 9 inches. Great Britain, (short Lee Enfield) rifle 3 feet 8.5 inches, with bayonet 5 feet 1.7 inches. Canada, (Ross) rifle, 4 feet 2.5 inches, with bayonet, 5 feet 1 inch. It is interesting to note that the American rifle is 3 feet 7.2 inches long, and with the bayonet 4 feet 11 inches.

RUSSIA TO SPEND 5-12 MILLIONS TO RELIEVE WAR VICTIMS IN GALICIA

Petrograd, April 9.—The Russian government has appropriated \$5,500,000 for the relief of war sufferers in Galicia. The money will be largely used to purchase wheat and horses for the farming population.

FIRE IN MONCTON BARREL FACTORY

Moncton, April 9.—Fire in Acadia Sugar Refinery barrel factory shortly after seven tonight, caused loss of about \$5,000. About half million barrel staves burned.

GRAFTERS WILL HAVE NO CHANCE TO ESCAPE MAKING RESTITUTION

War Contracts Probe Will be Carried on Through Justice Department After Prorogation, and Those Guilty of Defrauding Will be Compelled to Make Restitution.

Special to The Standard

Ottawa, Ont., April 9.—Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Customs, who has been in charge of the investigation which the government has been carrying on in the Public Accounts Committee, made the important statement tonight that it was the intention of the ministry after the prorogation of the house to continue the inquiry through the justice department and to enforce restitution wherever wrongdoing was found.

The committee will now wind up its work tomorrow. Dr. Reid offered on behalf of the government to have the committee continue its inquiry, but pointed out that it would delay prorogation for another month. As the Liberals are anxious to get away from Ottawa and prepare their political fences for the election which they fear is imminent, his offer was not taken up and Messrs. Carvell and Kyte admitted that every assistance had been given by the government in prosecuting the inquiry by the committee. They agreed to the termination of work tomorrow, when a report will be made to the house.

No Escape For Grafters

Hon. Dr. Reid assured the committee tonight that wherever wrongdoing was even suggested the government would continue the work of investigation. He reminded the committee, however, that when war broke out there was a great rush, the officials were over-worked and perhaps some things were not as right as they should be.

A similar state of things had existed in nearly all the belligerent countries and he did not think Canada was any exception. The government had no desire whatever to stop inquiry and flung the door wide open. He was sure Mr. Carvell and Mr. Kyte who had been the most active members of the opposition in the committee would frankly admit that the government had assisted in every way to bring out the facts before the committee.

PLUCKY WOMEN DEFY BANDITS

Put up Stiff Fight When Robbers Attempt to Steal Pay Envelopes and Saved Hundred Dollars of Company's Money.

Toronto, April 9.—Undismayed by revolvers in the hands of two bandits, and despite the fact that the male employees of the Sterling Actions and Keys Company, Limited, of Noble street, were ignominiously herded under the muzzles, two stenographers employed in the office of the company put up a plucky fight to prevent the looting of the company's pay envelopes. Their resistance saved their employers several hundred dollars.

Twenty-three hundred dollars, the amount of the pay roll, was in two baskets in the factory office when a couple of armed men entered, and warned the two stenographers to keep quiet and hand over the money. Both women screamed loudly, and the male employees rushed to the office, but a pistol in the hands of one of the bandits drove them back into the factory.

The women were then ordered to make no resistance, but Miss May Halsprott refused to give up the money and was brutally choked. Miss Alice Robertson, disregarding the pistols, ran to her companion's aid, and met with similar treatment. During the scuffle the two baskets fell to the floor and one turned bottom up, its contents escaping the notice of the robbers. Miss Robertson broke away and ran to the door leading to the factory, and one of the men fired at her, the bullet passing close over her head. The men then gathered fifteen hundred dollars into a bag and made their way to the street. A third man who had been keeping watch outside, joined them and the trio disappeared along the railroad tracks at the back

Mr. Carvell—"That is a pretty large order but we are not complaining."

Mr. Kyte—"No we are not complaining."

The committee will meet tomorrow morning to hear Arthur Dewitt Foster, M. P. and Dr. Chipman regarding the purchase of horses in the County of Kings, N. S.

"What's the use of locking the door after the money has been stolen?" asked W. F. Nickle of Kingston of the Auditor-General when the charge for drugs by Mrs. Plamondon of Quebec were under review.

"All I can do is to bring things to light as well as I can," replied Mr. Fraser. "That's what I am doing."

The committee desired to know from the Auditor-General how it was that accounts should be audited when overcharges appeared in them.

Mr. Fraser explained that war expenditures had all been paid before the accounts came to him for auditing. This, he said, was the custom in most of the departments and had been so for years. If the government increased the staff large enough it might be possible to audit the accounts before they were paid. The whole trouble was that the departments were supposed to do their duty. He said he could use a large staff of private detectives. He noted that he had called attention to this in his annual report to a large account which had been paid but which had not been authorized by the parliamentary vote. Nothing had been done about it, however. In the course of some verbal exchanges Hon. Dr. Reid retorted that the goods had been bought by officials appointed by the late government.

Mr. Carvell explained to the committee that the receipt for \$1,200 which Major McQuarrie and given to Wylie Bros. of Ottawa "for influence with the Minister of Militia" to secure an order for trucks had been sent to him anonymously. He also had received a number of other communications regarding war contracts anonymously.

PRISONER MAKES BRUTAL ATTACK ON WITNESS

Sentenced for burglary, leaps from prisoner's dock, strikes witness blow in face and bites his ear.

Ottawa, April 9.—(Via Canadian Press)—In the County Police Court this afternoon Onesime Lefebvre, a 55-year-old resident of Eastview, a suburb of the capital, on being sentenced to two years, less one day, in prison, jumped from the prisoner's dock and struck County Constable Prior a terrific blow in the face, and followed this up by grappling with the officer and biting through his ear. The prisoner was subdued by other constables in the room. Lefebvre and his son Alexander had just been found guilty of burglarizing a butcher shop in Eastview, and had each received the same sentence. The constable was one of the witnesses against the prisoners. There are sixty previous convictions registered against the elder Lefebvre.

FORBIDS SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES

Windsor, Ont., April 9.—Orders received from the Militia Department at Ottawa today forbid any Canadian soldiers in uniform from entering the United States.

of the factory. There is no clue yet to their identity. The robbery had evidently been carefully planned.