

Mutt and Jeff--Believe Me, Mutt Spoke a Mouthful of Tautth at That

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By "Bud" Fisher



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You'll find what a man wants in a man's store.

We've made a special study this season in what men like best for Christmas Gifts.

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Semi-Ready Store

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FRENCH DEPUTY CHARGES GRAFT

Exciting Debate Over War Supplies Purchases

DIG PROFITS FOR ODD AGENTS

Fake Charities Scored Also—Cites Case of Woman Condemned Twenty-one Times But Still Operating

Paris, Dec. 20.—In the course of a debate in the Chamber of Deputies there was severe criticism of alleged relations between the war ministry and some individuals who are selling supplies to the government. It was asserted that the ministry had dealt with persons whose sole occupation hitherto had consisted in frequenting pleasure resorts at night and there picking up customers. These persons, it was said, were regarded as worthy to furnish shoes, clothing and cannon.

Deputy Julien Antoine Simyan said this was scandalous, and even criminal, and that a government official who, being informed of the facts, declined to strike the guilty persons became an accomplice.

M. Simyan asserted that proper precaution had not been taken and that excessive prices had been paid for supplies. He then referred to certain papers in regard to dealings with an aeroplane company which, he said, could not be found at the Ministry of War.

An attack was then made by M. Simyan upon those who are conducting, for private gain, enterprises described as charitable. One woman, he said, had been condemned twenty-one times for this offence, but was still operating, notwithstanding the fact that the first magistrate of the republic had demanded that her activities be ended.

Another abuse, the deputy continued, consisted in paying large sums on account, in violation of the usual procedure when contracts for supplies were signed. He asserted that for one year officials had been discussing what action

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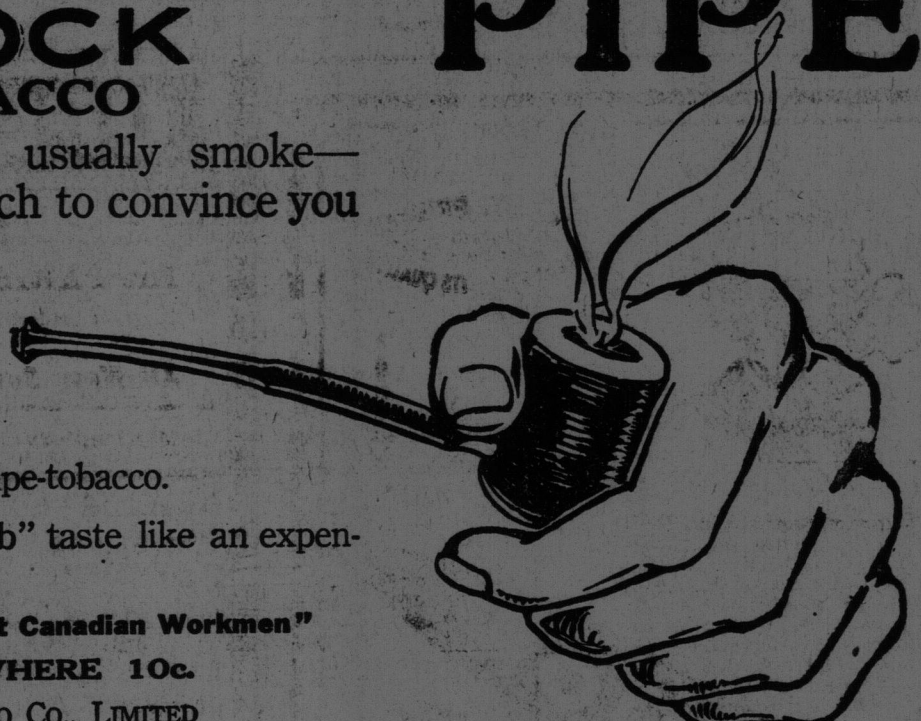
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should be taken against a contractor who swears 2,000,000 francs to the government.

M. Simyan continued his attacks on contractors, heedless of numerous deputations who attempted to interrupt him. He demanded that the chamber compel Joseph Thierry, under secretary of state for subsistence, to throw open his files bearing on these affairs asserting that many interesting facts concerning the purchases of war supplies had not been brought to light. He said 80,000 horses had been purchased from an English dealer for about 60,000,000 francs. Information regarding this transaction, he said, had been furnished by a man named Debray who, according to the deputy's information, received a fantastic commission.

M. Simyan in concluding turned to General Gallieni, minister of war, and said: "Say little, write less, but strike hard."

The chamber applauded as M. Simyan concluded.

Further discussion of the interpellation in regard to contracts was postponed.

The French ambassador at London, M. Simyan said, had made a report on the activities of certain persons there who were endeavoring to obtain big profits from the government.

The ambassador's report, he said, concluded with the statement that it would be well if the minister at Paris established the fact that he was compelled to submit to the actions of these persons, without profiting therefrom.

In the purchases of horses alone, M. Simyan declared, commissions amounting to several million francs had been realized.

He characterized this as scandalous and said Inspector Galliard of the army had demanded a searching investigation. An inquiry was ordered, but the commission which controls government purchases took the ground that if the facts were known they would cause a public protest. The secretary of Alexander Millerand, then minister of war, was of the same opinion, and M. Millerand approved his views.

BRITISH MAY RAISE JEWISH REGIMENTS

Plan to Have Army Authorities Take Step Meets With Opposition

London, Dec. 20.—A movement has been started to induce British army authorities to authorize the formation of Jewish regiments, to be incorporated in the British army. The scheme has a great number of supporters, but it has

met also with considerable opposition. Many members of Anglo-Jewish community object to the creation of any specifically Jewish regiment on the ground that there is no more reason for them than for Catholic or Methodist regiments.

Among the British forces there is one regiment recruited entirely among the Jews, the Zion Mule Corps. Most of its members are refugees from Palestine, but many are residents of Egypt. This

regiment has been praised in despatches on several occasions and two of its men have gained the Distinguished Service Medal.

Those who are opposing the movement point out that Jews are already serving in the armies of all the belligerent countries under the flags of the various nations to which they owe allegiance. Foreign Jews in England represent it is estimated, about 80 per cent. of those who are of military age, but despite this fact the War Office has repeatedly refused to sanction the creation of a special Jewish legion.

There could be no better illustration of the share that Anglo-Jewry is taking in the work of the British armies than the remarkable list, published in the Marylebone Record.

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Week-End Fires

The one storey wooden building, 120 Charlotte street, occupied by Henry Goldberg's tailoring establishment, was gutted and the contents of the store destroyed by fire at midnight on Saturday.

At noon yesterday the shanty enclosing boiler and machinery at the Dominion Coal Company's pocket, West St. John, was destroyed by fire and the machinery badly damaged.



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