

Grave Charges By H. M. Blair

Tells of Hold up of Contracts For Large Sums—Sensation in Carleton Bye-Election

Woodstock, N. B., Sept. 13.—A sensation was sprung at the Lakeville meeting last evening by H. M. Blair, former deputy minister of public works. Messrs. Vesiot and Adair were advertised to address the meeting, and when they had done so Chairman King invited any one, Conservative or Liberal, to address the audience. There was no response for a moment, until someone shouted:

"Harry Blair is a good Tory; let him talk."

The chairman called on Blair, and for half an hour there was at times a shouting crowd and at other times intense listening to the speaker. Blair did not mince matters. He enlarged upon his affidavit and told them that at the present time the treasury chest was empty and the accounts were being tucked away to be paid after the close of the financial year and so create the impression that the bills had all been paid and a surplus in the treasury.

BUT THE MOST SERIOUS STATEMENT BLAIR MADE WAS THAT RAILWAY CONTRACTORS HAD BEEN HELD UP WHEN THE ACCOUNTS WERE SETTLED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST FALL, AND LARGE SUMS DEMAND TO EXPEDITE THE SETTLEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT A PROMINENT MEMBER OR MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THIS AND CONSENTED TO IT. HE SAYS THE CHECKS BY WHICH PAYMENT WAS MADE ARE IN EXISTENCE AND WILL BE PRODUCED BEFORE THIS CAMPAIGN WAS OVER.

AND ANOTHER STATEMENT HE MADE WAS THAT HE HAD ACTED SINCE 1912 AS THE AGENT OF OTHERS AND PAID LARGE SUMS TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TO INFLUENCE THEIR VOTE UPON CERTAIN MEASURES. THIS, HE SAID, HE WAS PREPARED TO PROVE AT ANY TIME THERE WAS AN INVESTIGATION.

GRAVE STATEMENTS.

The very great gravity of these statements was realized by those present, and little else is talked of today. Blair apparently did not spare his own party in regard to these transactions. He told how for years he had been a blind and unquestioning follower of those corrupt legislators; that he was their instrument and they had used him to the limit. He paid his respects to the government papers, the Gleaner and Standard, saying he was not sure when he got up in the morning whether he had spoken the night before or not, as the Gleaner and Standard had represented him as speaking at opposition meetings when he was actually in Maine and again when he was actually present at a government meeting. He said he was not in the county at the request of the opposition. His affidavit and statement had been prepared when the opposition organizer, Mr. Carter, was in Westmorland. In spite of what the government press said, he was just as ready to speak at a government meeting as at an opposition gathering.

U. S. AMBASSADOR AND PARTY VISITORS ON ITALIAN BATTLEFRONT.

Udine, Italy, Sept. 13, 11.10 a. m.—Thomas Nelson Page, the United States

ambassador, arrived here today for his announced visit to the Austro-Italian front. He was accompanied by Capt. Elvin H. Reiberg, military attaché, and Lieut. Commander Charles Russell Train, naval attaché of the embassy.

Ambassador Page and the members

of his suite were received by both the military and civil authorities on their arrival. They will be the guests of the supreme command of the Italian army during the time they remain at the front, which will be about a week.

FRENCH STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION NEAR COMBLES

Paris, Sept. 13.—North of the Somme the French enlarged their positions opposite Combles, and stormed new trenches south of Prieur Farm, says the official statement issued by the war office to-night. After desperate attacks the Germans, having lost their lines of communication, recaptured a farm in L'Abbe Wood and their 76. But both were retaken by the French, who maintained all their gains on the centre and on the right. The total captures of yesterday and today were 2,300 prisoners, ten guns and forty machine guns.

SOLDIERS' COMFORTS

At the monthly business meeting of the Soldiers' Comfort Association, held yesterday, many interesting reports from the circles and prominent branches were heard and all are busily engaged knitting and packing boxes for the Christmas shipment which will be forwarded to England the latter part of September or the first of October so that the boys may have them in time this year. Shipments are forwarded weekly and all cases forwarded through the S. C. A. have reached their destination. Some slight delay may occur in transportation but in nearly every case they reach Shorncliffe in six weeks from date of sailing. The report of the treasurer, Mrs. J. Walter Holly, showed the balance on hand to be \$12,000.75; during August fifteen hundred pounds of wool was purchased and will be supplied to any who are willing to knit on application at the depot. The returns in knitted goods for June-July and August was \$791 pairs socks. East St. John reported that a successful fair was held during the summer and the proceeds divided between the Y.M.C.A. work in France, the Blind Soldiers' Fund and in purchasing comforts which will be forwarded in one hundred Christmas parcels to France.

The Douglas avenue circle have already packed one hundred Christmas parcels as have also the Girls' circle of the S.C.A. The West St. John circle, under the leadership of Mrs. Fraser, have raised over \$280 and will forward two hundred Christmas parcels. This circle, to earn talent money, will take orders for plain sewing.

Mrs. Harrison, president of the Alexandra circle, reported that this busy circle gives a regular monthly subscription to the year fund, and are now working on their Christmas parcels. From Sussex, Chipman, Ingleside, Oonette, Pandemic, St. Martins and from many others generous cash donations have been received. All of these are acknowledged monthly by the presidents. Large khaki stockings with S.C.A. posters will be placed during the next week in some of the stores in which it is hoped the friends of the boys will drop their contribution in the form of candy, gum, soap, notepaper, etc. These will be made up into parcels for the lone soldier who will appreciate the fact that some one in St. John has remembered him. A package of tobacco and a pipe is always welcomed by the boys in service in the trenches. The association has adopted a pin in the form of three links done in red white and blue enamel, with the letters S.C.A. inset. This pin is a badge of membership and will sell for forty cents. The annual fee is only twenty-five cents and the treasurer would like to enroll at least five hundred as regular members. Christmas parcels may be sent to any Canadian soldier, whether in France or England, hospital or camp. All must be securely wrapped and correctly addressed.

STYLISH YOUNG MAN ALSO WAS A BURGLAR

Police Find Costly Loot in Room of Di Stigny

A Connoisseur in Art

Only Valuable Paintings, Cut Glass, and Silver Taken by Man Now in Hackensack Jail—Thousands of Dollars Worth

New York, Sept. 13.—The discovery of more than \$2,000 worth of jewelry, rare silverware, fine cut glass, costly paintings, and many pawn tickets in a furnished room at 226 East Sixty-second street by John Pye, chief of police of Englewood, N.J., is said to have cleared up robberies that have taken place in that town during the summer. Ralph Stigny, known as Raphael L. Stigny, has been in the Hackensack (N.J.) jail since Aug. 24, charged with having committed the thefts.

The robberies all took place in the most fashionable district in Englewood, and in every case the thief took only articles of value. His knowledge of old silver and cut glass was that of a connoisseur, while his choice in pictures showed that he was a good judge of art. Stigny was captured at midnight on Aug. 24 by Policeman William Mooney, of the Englewood department as he was forcing a rear window in the home of Walter Dodsworth in Hamilton avenue. At that time he was dressed in very expensive clothes and was without a hat. He wore pumps and seemed to be the young man of leisure he had pretended to be during the summer months, when he drove about Englewood in a fast automobile. Stigny pretended to be very indignant when he was arrested and threatened the policeman with dire punishment. Nevertheless, Mooney had an assortment of skeleton keys and a short "jimmy" in his pocket, and he forced him to the police station. The next day Stigny was held in \$500 bail for the grand jury on a charge of attempted burglary, and in default of bail was sent to the Hackensack jail. Only the police would believe that Stigny was implicated in the robberies. Those who had met him had found him to be a very attractive young man, seemingly much younger than his thirty-seven years.

Chief Pye learned from Stigny that he lived at 224 East Sixtieth street, and the policeman paid a visit to that house. There he was told that Stigny's family lived in East Sixty-second street. The chief started an investigation, taking with him Stigny's picture. At 226 East Sixty-second street the landlady recognized the picture as that of Raphael L. Stigny, her lodger, who was ill in a hospital somewhere in New Jersey, according to the word she had received from him.

An investigation of Stigny's room followed. In it was found a valise full of cut glass, silverware, pictures, fine clothing and a large bundle of pawn tickets. All this the chief of police loaded into an automobile and took back to Englewood. Immediately on his arrival word was sent to all those who had been robbed, and they began to arrive at the police station.

Has Pye, a banker, whose home was robbed on Aug. 1, identified a mass of cut glass and silverware. Arthur E. Poole, an advertising man of this city, whose home was entered on Aug. 1, identified \$2,000 worth of silverware and jewelry and two oil paintings, which he said were "priceless." Charles F. Parks, Jr., a banker of 14 Wall street, whose home was robbed on Aug. 18, identified \$1,700 worth of silverware and cut glass. Frederick C. Walcott, a broker of this city, whose home was entered on Aug. 17, identified more than \$2,000 worth of cut glass, silverware and other articles. Others who have been robbed are expected to pick out their property, as there is much yet unidentified. The articles pawned by Stigny will be redeemed.

True to his character as a "gentleman burglar," Stigny gave a characteristic excuse for his presence in Englewood on the night he was captured. He was unable to explain why he was forcing the window of Mrs. Dodsworth's house, but it was in Englewood, he explained, to keep an "engagement with a lady." On being pressed for the woman's name, he indignantly refused to give it. "No gentleman would," he said.

WEST SIDE FAIR.

The Christmas Soldiers' Stocking Fair, which is being held nightly in the West St. John curling rink, drew an exceptionally large crowd last evening, the number in attendance surpassing even that of the opening night. The various games and amusements were well patronized and large numbers availed themselves of the excellent supper served by the ladies at a minimum cost. G. E. Barbour donated the tea which is being used at the fair and a number of his staff was on hand to assist in dispensing it. The winners of the prizes last night were:

Door prize, \$5 in gold—Mrs. Walter Peterson.
Bean board, ladies—Miss E. McAllister, prize a sofa cushion; gentlemen, John Carr, prize, an order for a hat.
Astr gun—Ladies, Miss Young, prize, hand-bag; gentlemen, John McAndrews, carpet sweeper.

The Temple of Honor Band was present last night and played throughout the evening. Tonight the City Cornet Band will provide the music.

"STAN" RATES TO WED
Announcement of the engagement of Miss Charlotte Marion Babitt, daughter of the late B. H. Babitt of Gibson, and Stanley S. Bates of Boston, is made. The wedding is to take place in October. The prospective groom was formerly one of the star pitchers of the

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Frederickton Baseball Club, playing with that team during the first two seasons of the New Brunswick and Main League. He later went to Nova Scotia and figured on several professional teams there. Mr. Bates has also played with the Worcester Club of the old New England League and at one time was given a try-out with the New York Giants, being later sent to the International League. His father is the owner of extensive quarries at Quincy, Mass., and Mr. Bates has been assisting him in the management of these during the last summer. The wedding is to take place at the bride's home, and after the ceremony they will leave for Boston in Mr. Bates' automobile.



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Can it be kept up, on a steadily growing scale, till Belgium is free again?

That depends largely on Canada, and partly on YOU.

The demands on the Fund are steadily growing, as more and more Belgian families reach the end of their resources. More money must be given to keep up even the slender rations now possible. But the end of the war does not seem so far off now, and if we can keep up and even increase our givings for a little while longer, we shall be able to save the heroic Belgian people for a new and regenerated Belgium.

Will you do your part? Will you undertake to feed one—or several—Belgian families till the war is over, by contributing \$2.50 per family per month?

Whatever you feel you can give, send your subscription weekly, monthly, or in one lump sum to Local or Provincial Committees or

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