

WHITEWASH BRUSH USED BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

Hon. Mr. Veniot Endeavors, by His Report, to Make the Public Believe That All Was Fair and Above Board in the Shippegan Allegations—Hon. B. F. Smith Who Attended Hearing Gives the House Evidence from the Testimony Which Veniot Wanted Suppressed.

Fredericton, N.B., April 3.—The House met at three o'clock.

Mr. LeBlanc presented the report of the municipalities committee.

Notices of inquiry were given as follows: By Mr. Smith (Albert): As to whether the position of registrar of Westmorland County has been offered to Col. B. H. Anderson; as to whether A. B. Carter mentioned in the comptroller general's report, as having drawn the respective sums of \$268.00, \$43.25, and \$50.00 is one and the same person, and as to the relationship of the said A. B. Carter with Mr. B. S. Carter.

By Mr. Dixon, as to the names of the attorneys employed by Chief Inspector Wilson under the intoxicating liquor act and as to whether he acts on his own initiative in selecting the same.

By Mr. Campbell as to the acreage of the ungranted land in the Blue Bell tract, suitable for settlement.

On the order of the day being called, the House took up consideration of the report of the Honorable Minister of Public Works on the inquiry into road matters in the parish of Shippegan, Gloucester County.

The report, having been read to the House by the clerk, Mr. Smith (Charles) said that he considered it unfortunate that the report of the Honorable Minister had not been printed for the convenience of the members of the House.

He said that there had been delay in bringing down the Auditor General's report last session, consequently the committee did not have opportunity to go fully into the account.

He had been informed of certain irregularities in connection with road matters, and had brought the matter to the notice of the Committee on Public Accounts.

He had not made formal charges but allegations, and had asked for an investigation. The Honorable Minister had been called to the committee room and, when told by him (Smith) that there had been duplication in the pay list, and that it contained the names of boys eight or twelve years of age, the Honorable Minister had said that it was all nonsense.

It was not his intention to criticize to any great extent the findings, but he did propose to call attention to some matters which the Minister had overlooked.

He then told of his visit to Shippegan for the purpose of attending the inquiry, of the difficulties he had encountered in reaching the place, owing to the irregular service. He said he questioned the propriety of the Honorable Minister holding such an inquiry, although he undoubtedly had authority to do so.

He thought it would have been better had the minister referred the matter to an impartial tribunal. He wished it understood that he (Smith) was not acting in the manner, by way of retaliation, his object being to put a stop to such irregularities.

Referring to the inquiry he pointed out that the name of Alphonse Robichaud had appeared on the pay roll under three different headings.

Notwithstanding the fact that his attention had been called to the matter by the Secretary of the Department, Robichaud did not in the following month correct the error.

One boy, whose name appeared on the pay list, was only eight years of age and that being so, he was unable to see how the Honorable Minister had been able to arrive at the conclusion that no wrong was done.

It looked to him (Smith) that there had been a deliberate attempt to defraud, and he had reason to believe that there had been collusion between Supervisor McNally and John G. Robichaud, a member of the House.

Continuing the speaker read extracts from the evidence of Alphonse Robichaud and Supervisor McNally, for the purpose of illustrating his point that the Honorable Minister in his report had overlooked some important features of the evidence.

He pointed out that there were matters in the evidence, not touched upon by the report of the Hon. Minister, and that the evidence of Supervisor McNally was taken in preference to that of other witnesses, which would have substantiated the charges.

McNally, in his evidence, admitted that he had sent in incorrect pay sheets to the Department. What sort of a system was it when the evidence of that man was taken? It was not necessary to go farther in relation to the evidence of McNally.

If he sent in incorrect pay sheets, very little could be known about the nature of the work that had been done. Another matter, which had been overlooked by the Hon. Minister was the fact that Alphonse Robichaud had gone moose hunting at Paquetville for a day and a half for which time he was shown on the pay sheets.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—"I referred to that in my report. I said his brother drove the truck during that time and was not paid."

MONTREAL RIGHT UP TO TIME

Ask Permission to Establish Hydro-Airplane Garage on Waterfront.

Montreal, April 3.—An application has been made to the harbor commission for permission to establish a hydro-airplane garage on the waterfront.

At a meeting in the Windsor Hotel, the aero clubs of the city were united under the title of Aeronautical Association of Montreal. Its purpose is to encourage flying and to provide suitable landing grounds in the vicinity of Montreal.

Had Hacking Cough Couldn't Sleep Nights.

Hacking coughs are very wearing on the system. The constant coughing disturbs the rest, and keeps the lungs and bronchial tubes in an irritated and inflamed condition.

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Mr. Smith, continuing, said that the evidence also showed that Alphonse Robichaud broke his Ford car, and his brother drove 35 miles at the expense of the Province and brought him back. The Hon. Minister did not touch upon this in his attempt to clear John G. Robichaud, M.P.P., but he (Smith) intended to touch upon the matter. The evidence showed that John G. Robichaud went to the post office and took a cheque made out in the name of August Millet, whose name mysteriously appeared in endorsement, and John G. Robichaud received the proceeds.

The speaker then moved the following resolution: "Whereas this House has heard the report of the Minister of Public Works upon an investigation held by him on the 14th day of May, 1918, and

Whereas the Minister in said report has ignored portions of the evidence which showed material irregularities in connection with the Public Works Department; and

Whereas, several findings of the Minister are calculated to whitewash irregular actions on the part of several employees, notably in the case of Alphonse G. Robichaud, who appeared on the pay roll as "Alphonse," "Alphonse G." and "Alphonse J." Robichaud, so that he could draw money not only for work done by him personally but also for work done by other men who should have received the cheques in their own names; and

Whereas, it appears from the evidence that John G. Robichaud, a member of this House for the County of Gloucester, had work done by Government employees upon his own property at the public expense; and

Whereas, it also appears from the evidence that John G. Robichaud, without authority, endorsed the name of at least one employee of the Government upon a cheque sent to the employees by the Department of Public Works, but received by the said John G. Robichaud, who also received and retained a cheque sent to said Robichaud, so that he could draw money not only for work done by him personally but also for work done by other men who should have received the cheques in their own names; and

Resolved, that, in the opinion of this House, the findings of the said Minister of Public Works are not supported by the evidence made by him for partisan purposes; and

Further resolved, that the conduct of the said John G. Robichaud, M.P.P., and especially in the matter of endorsement of the cheque as aforesaid, was absolutely illegal; and

And, in the opinion of the Minister of Public Works and of the said John G. Robichaud, M.P.P., deserves the censure of this House."

LIBERAL PARTY CAUCUS FORMS PLANS FOR ITS CONVENTION

First Consideration Will be the Adoption of the Platform of the Liberal Party of Canada—Basis of Representation Already Formulated and Agreed Upon.

Ottawa, April 3.—The parliamentary Liberal party held another caucus today and gave further consideration to matters connected with the holding of the national convention on August 6, 7 and 8 next. Decisions arrived at were as follows:

1. All the members of the Senate and of the House of Commons who desire to co-operate with the Liberal party, and all the Liberal candidates who were defeated at the last Dominion election.

2. The Liberal premiers and the leaders of the Liberal opposition in the several provinces.

3. The presidents of the nine provincial Liberal associations.

4. Three delegates from each Dominion constituency who will be elected at a local convention, to be called for that purpose. In the case of constituencies having two parliamentary representatives, six delegates will be elected. Women will be eligible for election as delegates in all constituencies.

5. The Liberal members of each provincial assembly and the Liberal candidates defeated at the last provincial election in each province, acting jointly, shall have the right to select from among themselves a number of delegates equal to one-fourth of the total number of representatives in each provincial assembly.

In addition to the foregoing it is national Liberal platform. When all the details connected with the holding of the convention have been settled, they will be embodied in a call to be issued to the Liberals of the Dominion by the temporary leader of the party, Mr. D. D. MacKenzie, M. P.

MURMANSK REGION CAUSES WORRY TO THE BRITISH

American Troops Now on the Way to North Russia and British Reinforcements Will Follow.

London, April 3.—The situation in the Murmansk region in Northern Russia is giving the British military authorities considerable anxiety. An announcement was made today that British reinforcements will follow immediately the American troops now on the way to North Russia.

The Murmansk region is the northern coast of the Kola peninsula, which lies across the White Sea from Archangel. The town of Murman is on the railroad running south from Kola through Kamb to Petcheng.

There has been no fighting recently in the Murmansk region, most of the activity in Northern Russia being confined to the front south of Archangel.

SHIPBUILDERS AND EMPLOYES MET

In Conference With Dept. of Labor to Work Out an Agreement Which Would be Satisfactory to All.

Ottawa, Ont., April 3.—A conference of shipbuilders from Port Arthur to Halifax, with representatives of their employees, which has been in progress for the past two days at the office of the Department of Labor, concluded today with an agreement to form a single organization called the Marine Trades Federation. The question of a working agreement was thoroughly discussed, but it was found impossible to formulate the terms of an actual agreement during the meetings of the conference. It was arranged, however, that a further conference would be held shortly, after the points brought up at this one had been considered.

CANADIAN CLUB HAD SOME LIQUOR

Inspection of Ruins of a Building in Hull, Destroyed by Fire, Revealed Thirty Cases, Mostly Gin.

Hull, Que., April 3.—While inspecting the ruins of the Dorion Block, which was gutted by fire this morning, the firemen discovered thirty cases of liquor—most of it gin—in the third floor of the building, which had been occupied by the Canadian Club. The local police were immediately notified and the whole consignment was soon made safe in the police cells. Hull is a "dry" area.

MR. BAKER ADMITS U. S. OFFICERS TRIED TO KIDNAP KAISER

Secretary Won't Tell Who Led Adventure, But Colonel Lea is Suspected.

New York, April 3.—Several American army officers obtained entrance to the one-time Kaiser's retreat at Amerongen some weeks ago, Mr. Baker, Secretary of War, said today, regarding the reported attempt of Luke Lea, formerly senator from Tennessee and now colonel of the 114th Field Artillery, to kidnap the fugitive German ruler.

An official report was filed with Mr. Baker describing in detail how these officers made their way into the quarters of William Hohenzollern and sought an appointment with the fugitive Emperor. They were refused an interview and left.

Mr. Baker did not disclose the identity of officers who undertook what is believed to have been an effort to kidnap the one-time Kaiser, but it is believed a Colonel Lea led the expedition.

Mr. Baker and officers at the War Department displayed amusement in discussing the bold scheme, but there was little disposition to look upon it seriously.

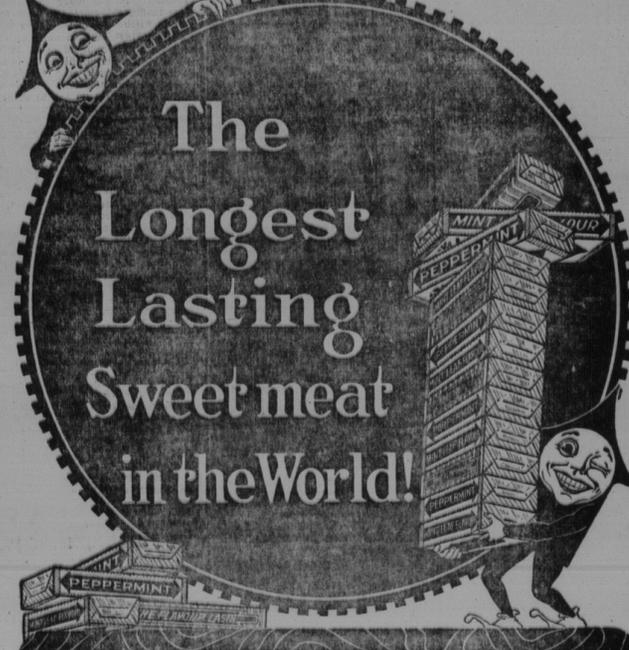
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candidates defeated at the last provincial election in each province, acting jointly, shall have the right to select from among themselves a number of delegates equal to one-fourth of the total number of representatives in each provincial assembly. In addition to the foregoing it is national Liberal platform. When all the details connected with the holding of the convention have been settled, they will be embodied in a call to be issued to the Liberals of the Dominion by the temporary leader of the party, Mr. D. D. MacKenzie, M. P.



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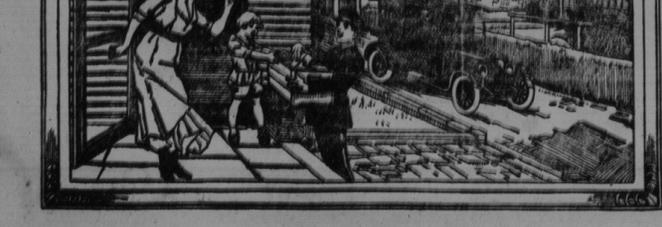
IMAGINE what strides we have made since Grandmother's time! Really our house-keeping is now only a matter of remembering names—we step to the telephone, and command as we will! And think how vastly better the article—how clean, wholesome, uniform it is, from the maker to your table! Take, for example,

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