

ARE ASKING FOR INFORMATION

Messrs. Dugal and Pelletier
Want to Know Certain Things

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

What About the Patriotic Potatoes and the Sources of Certain Refunds to the Province?—Why the Omission of Certain Item from Auditor's Report in December Last?—Other Matters.

Fredericton, March 14.—In their search for information, the opposition members, Messrs. Dugal and Pelletier, queried the government upon many subjects this afternoon, the most important of which were those concerning the money spent upon patriotic potatoes and the sources of certain refunds to the province within a short time; the funds in the hands of the Provincial Trust Company for the construction of the Valley railway, and what expenses have been charged against them by the lawyers and officials of that concern. The questions call for reply next Friday.

The potato inquiry embraces some questions that were not answered last week by the Hon. Mr. Borden. Mr. Dugal, the deputy minister, in addition to the shipment by the Thomson steamer to England and a later consignment to Belgium, a large quantity of the tubers were left in the warehouses on the West side of the value.

"With Contingent Expenses," Minister of Agriculture Murray said last session, the amount of \$25,887.43, which was the amount of the expenditure when the house opened last year it had disappeared from the public accounts as published in the Royal Gazette in December.

The opposition seeks to know how this amount was wiped out, and the questions which follow give an idea of the information asked for:

1. How many barrels of potatoes, purchased by the agricultural department, to export to the United States, were sold to the New Brunswick people, and what was the sum of \$25,887.43, which amount was brought down in the Consolidated Revenue statement, last session?

2. Is it true that potatoes bought through this expenditure were in a large measure condemned by the inspector as unfit to be forwarded, or for any reason whatsoever?

3. To whom were these potatoes sold? How many were sent to Cuba? By what vessel? Through what broker? And who were the net proceeds of the sale?

4. How many were disposed of to local grocers or brokers, and to what brokers or grocers, in what amounts, at what prices, and what were the net proceeds of these local sales? Were any further quantities sent by rail to United States ports for shipment to the West Indies? And in what quantities, to whom sold and what were the net proceeds? Was there also a sale of unmarketable potatoes to any party, and how many, and at what prices?

5. What was the total revenue to the province from the potatoes thus sold? What was the amount of the expenditure, given to the legislature in March 1915, accounted for, as it did not appear in the Auditor's Report published in the Royal Gazette in December last?

The expense in connection with the Chandler investigation and how much was paid to the commissioner and his staff and the witnesses?

The amount paid to the Ontario auditor, W. M. Dunlop, and giving reasons for refusing an investigation into their work. The whole effect of this speech was nothing to the fact of the committee did such magnificent service that the Dominion of Canada and the Empire as a whole were under a debt of gratitude to them. Suppose that this had been no accident, but that it was the result of a deliberate policy, not to make the mystery all the more deep as to why these men were thrown into parliament as a committee, and over, in the appointment of which the government was not given a free hand by the British authorities, as it had been with the old shell committee? If this old shell committee did such wonderful work it would not be almost in the nature of a crime against the well-being of the Empire to tell them one and all that their services were no longer required?

This, however, is not the only curious thing about Sir Robert Borden's defection from parliament. He claimed that there had been no slackness in the delivery of shells, as had been charged by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. This statement he quoted a letter from Mr. Flavelle, dated January 14, stating that \$100,000 worth of shells had been ordered, and that the order had been delivered on time. The premier chose to avoid a direct answer. We doubt very much whether he did Mr. Flavelle justice in quoting him in such a manner as to make it appear that Mr. Flavelle was authorized for claiming that no precious time had been wasted by delay in making delivery. We also are in a position to quote a letter from Mr. Flavelle, also written in January last, which shows that at that time Canada had only exported parts of shells, and that not one single completed shell had been delivered. Here is an extract from the letter:

"Unfortunately we (Canada) have only developed a capacity to produce a shell upon which the easiest work has been performed. The difficult task of providing the fuse has

BORDEN'S "DEFENCE" OF THE SHELL GAME WAS VERY WEAK

While government organs heap abuse upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Carvell, what does the country think of an open investigation of the shell scandal, which does the country think of St. Robert Borden's refusal to permit an investigation? The Telegraph republishes here an editorial from the Independent-Conservative Ottawa Citizen and another from the Liberal Montreal Herald.

THE SHELL PROFITTEERING.

(Ottawa Citizen, Ind. Con.)

By refusing an inquiry and defending the Canadian shell profiteering, the government is lending itself to the internal enemies of the nation and the empire. Nowhere in the history of Canada has there been a more disgraceful and unbecoming display of greed and revolting indifference to human suffering than in this profiteering out of the nation's agony.

Canadian soldiers, for lack of shells, were compelled to hold positions and be mangled and torn and maimed by German's artillery and poisonous clouds and flame projectors. While the brave men stood with only their rifles to resist the German terrorism, groups of shell profiteering interests sat at home, wallowing in the fat of war contracting and government shops were being kept in ill-health lest they should cause the profiteering game to come to an end by increasing the output of shells and drive down the prices thereby.

It is no defence to say, as the dominion government is trying to make out, that in some instances higher prices were paid in the United States or in Britain than in Canada. Some Canadian profiteering interests, with high-sounding patriotic names, condemn themselves for their own stock boosting circles. They boast of supplying shell work at a rate of \$880,000 when it costs only \$180,000, including all expenses, to produce. At such a rate, plainly, the British armies were getting only 100,000 shells where they might have been supplied with 200,000.

What if profiteering did take place in the United States and Britain too? Is it any excuse for the Canadian crime, because evidence is produced to show that Austria or Turkey committed similar crimes in the Mediterranean? Furthermore, there is this difference between the position of national leaders in Canada and in Britain. Profiteering has been roundly condemned by leading public men in Britain. What respect more Canadian public men has expressed himself as the chairman of the steel company of Scotland, and other men with ideas above the service of money, have done? What dominion minister has spoken out from the treasury bench as Bonar Law did in the British parliament against the rapacity of the war contractors?

What effort has the federal government of Canada made, up to the governments of the Motherland and the commonwealth and states of America and other parts of the king's dominions are making, to apply the principle of national service to the munitions industry? Has the dominion government done anything but oppose national service in shell making lest it should interfere with private profiteering?

This is its proud record. While Canada's men were bleeding on the fields of Flanders, Sir Robert Borden delivered an oration in London, saying what Canada would do. The whole power of the nation must be consecrated to the task. Invited by the British authorities to begin concerning the power of the nation by organizing the war effort, Transcontinental railway shops for national service, the dominion government consented. Then after being publicly thanked for the service, Mr. George's representative, Canada's government failed to live up to its word. Instead of the whole power of the nation being collected into the hands of the only national shop in use is one placed at the disposal of one more private profiteering group.

So, the dominion government has been and is being, to the reproach of leaders in the federal house of commons. The whole power of the nation, with its downy oratory and sophistry, is to be consecrated to the task of defending war. But does the dominion government truly represent the spirit of the Canadian people?

BORDEN'S "DEFENCE" (Montreal Herald.)

Sir Robert Borden never made a weaker speech in his life than the one he made in parliament this week, defending the old shell committee, and giving reasons for refusing an investigation into their work. The whole effect of this speech was nothing to the fact of the committee did such magnificent service that the Dominion of Canada and the Empire as a whole were under a debt of gratitude to them. Suppose that this had been no accident, but that it was the result of a deliberate policy, not to make the mystery all the more deep as to why these men were thrown into parliament as a committee, and over, in the appointment of which the government was not given a free hand by the British authorities, as it had been with the old shell committee? If this old shell committee did such wonderful work it would not be almost in the nature of a crime against the well-being of the Empire to tell them one and all that their services were no longer required?

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IN LOCAL HOUSE

Lt. Col. Guthrie In Favor Of Conscription

First Evening Session is Held—Important Queries by Messrs. Dugal and Pelletier—Bills Agreed To

Fredericton, March 14.—Lieutenant Colonel P. A. Guthrie, M. P. E., closed the debate upon the address this afternoon in a speech that dealt almost wholly with the duty the same of New Brunswick owed to the empire, the splendid bravery shown by the men who have gone to the front from this province and what was due to those who have returned and will come back from the battlefields.

Colonel Guthrie never had such a subject to speak upon in the assembly chamber, nor one with which he was so well acquainted. Naturally fluent, he found no difficulty in being really eloquent in his remarks about things he found. He had the closest attention of the house through and at the close he congratulated those of his fellow members who had taken the part in the debate.

Colonel Guthrie made kindly and timely reference to the clerks in the house with respect to the long service and illness of Mr. Ramsford and the affliction and bereavement of Acting Clerk Dibble and the late Speaker Dickson.

He spoke strongly in favor of conscription, and intimated that he would bring the question up later in the form of a resolution. His defence of Colonel F. F. McLeod and scathing reference to those who had talked about him, his statement that Captain Tilley hoped soon to join a battalion for overseas service, was probably the most interesting part of his speech.

When the house re-assembled in the evening the amendment to the registry act was taken up and agreed to. Other bills agreed to included that to amend the provincial court act, and that to amend the married women's property act.

The bill respecting election to the legislature was taken up and Hon. J. K. Pinder spoke strongly in favor of political corruption. Hon. Mr. Baxter agreed, saying that it was folly to waste so much money at election times. Progress was reported on the bill.

The house met at 8 o'clock. Mr. Dugal gave notice of inquiry regarding the Robinson, a game warden in the county of Gloucester, regarding the Upper Fountain creek bridge, parish of Carleton Place, New Brunswick, regarding the crossing the new suspension bridge at St. John by a street railway company, and the amount of the bill to be paid for the crossing of the bridge.

Mr. Pelletier gave notice of inquiry regarding the Robinson, a game warden in the county of Gloucester, regarding the Upper Fountain creek bridge, parish of Carleton Place, New Brunswick, regarding the crossing the new suspension bridge at St. John by a street railway company, and the amount of the bill to be paid for the crossing of the bridge.

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Hallam's Weekly Market Report

Toronto, March 13.—Beef hides are unchanged. Tanners object to paying present prices for late take-off, as the quality is becoming poor, and they do not wish to long-haul or grubby stock except at a material reduction in price. City butcher hides, green flat, 18 to 19c; per lb.; country hides, green, 16 to 18c; per lb.; flat cured, 17 to 18c; per lb.; part cured, 16 to 17c; per lb.

Calfskins are steady and in good demand. City skins, green, flat, 18c; per lb.; country cured, 19 to 21c; per lb.; part cured, 18 to 19c; per lb.; deerskins or bob calf according to condition and take off, \$1.10 to \$1.30 each.

Horsehairs are in fair demand at unchanged prices. City take off, \$8 to \$8.50; country take off, No. 1, \$4.75 to \$5.50; No. 2, \$3.75 to \$4.50.

Sheepskins are in good demand and are being marketed freely. City sheepskins, \$2 to \$3; country sheepskins, \$1.50 to \$2.

Tallow is firm, the demand being good for all grades. City rendered, sold in barrels, No. 1, 7 1/2c; No. 2, 6 1/2 to 7c; extra, 1 1/2 to 1 3/4c; No. 2, 1 to 1 1/2c.

Horse hair is coming to market in large supply and is being absorbed at unchanged quotations. Farmer pedlar stock, \$7 to 40c per lb.

Wool is in good demand at unchanged prices. Washed fleece wool as to quality, 45 to 47c per lb.; washed rejections (burry, cottoned, chaffy, etc.), 35 to 37c; unwashed fleece wool as to quality, 35 to 38c; northwestern unwashed according to quality, 28 to 35c.

Old rubbers, junk, etc., are in better demand for some articles and are being sold at slightly higher prices. Rubber boots and shoes, according to time, 7 to 8c. Auto tires, 5 to 6c. Bicycle tires, 2 to 3c. Lead, heavy, 8 1/2 to 9 1/4c; No. 2, 7 to 7 1/2c; No. 3, 6 1/2 to 7c; light, 5 to 6c; copper, heavy, 10 to 12c; light, 8 to 10c; zinc, 6 to 8c.

Furs. There is no change in the fur market, and trappers are disposing of their catch at the same prices as last week. The market is a lower range of prices when the rubbed, shedding, faded and springy skins come to market. The past season has been very satisfactory to the manufacturers and retailers and they are encouraged to go ahead with their sample lists to care for next season's business.

REPORT SAYS THEY WANT THREE-FIFTHS CLAUSE IN BILL. Fredericton, N. B., March 15.—It is reported here that liquor interests are making strenuous efforts to have the three-fifths clause inserted in the prohibition bill to come before the legislature this session.

D. C. Davidson, formerly of Rothesay, who has been manager of the Royal Bank at Disbury, Alta., for several years, has been transferred to Weymouth, N. S.

"Have you any references?" "Yes, many, but I left them at home. Like my photographs, they don't do us justice."

Don't Worry Over the Shortage of Help! Though you have to get along with less help since prohibition has made men so scarce, you can still get as many or more men as you need if you try the

EMPIRE Mechanical Milkier. One man with double milk "Empire" Mechanical Milkier will milk 15 to 20 cows an hour and keep it up! As one man can milk 15 to 20 cows an hour, you can get a short and easy job instead of a long and hard one. Think of the wages it will save!

Write for Illustrated Booklet. Just say "Please send me information about the Empire Mechanical Milkier." Address: The Empire Cream Separator Co. of Canada, Limited, MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG.

To amend the act for suppression of infectious and contagious diseases among bees, and the act to provide for inspection and registration of bees.

To confirm a grant to the Canadian patriotic fund and an act to amend the act for the purpose of the fund.

The bill to provide for the granting of land to certain persons serving his majesty in the present war was taken up and progress reported.

Hon. Mr. Murray presented a petition of the Bishop of Chatham in favor of a bill to authorize him to sell certain lands at St. John and Liddow.

Hon. Mr. Carson presented a petition of the St. John street railway company, and the amount of the bill to be paid for the crossing of the bridge.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said it would be noted that the old provision requiring the sheriff to keep his court open from 12 o'clock until 2 o'clock was dropped out of the bill. The speaker appeared to him to be no sound reason for its retention.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said it had been a rule almost from time immemorial that such cases of want of knowledge and all non-contentious cases agreed to. Some little discussion took place regarding the amount of remuneration to be paid to the sheriff for posting notices, the bill allowing ten cents per mile traveled one way only.

Mr. White (Victoria) expressed similar views to those of Mr. Slipp and Mr. Smith, and in the end the bill was amended to allow mileage to be paid at the rate of ten cents per mile both ways for the requirements.

Hon. Dr. Landry presented the annual report of the Miramichi Natural History Society for the past year.

The house adjourned at 10:15.

NOW AS CASES IN NEW TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL.

The nurses' report to the St. John Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis shows that there were 108 patients on the list in February. The month brought along new ones. It may be added that there are now forty-three patients in the new hospital for advanced cases, and it is predicted that the institution will soon be found too small for the requirements.

The report of the nurses in connection with the 108 cases attended at the dispensary and in their homes follows:

On Feb. 28, 1916: Children, 18; adults, 90; total, 108.

Dispensary

Days open for 4

Attendances 21

Prescriptions filled 17

Patients new 10

Patients new 7

Phthisis pulmonary 6

General observation 15

Sent to County Hospital 2

Discharged 8

Died 1

Nurses' meeting, new, 17; patients receiving milk, one.

LARGEST CONVENTION EVER HELD IN KENT

Allison Dysart, Phileas Melanson and A. J. Bordage Chosen as Opposition Candidates—Many Former Supporters of Government Present at Enthusiastic Meeting.

Renfrew, March 15.—That a wave of opposition is sweeping over Kent county was evidenced today by the large convention at Renfrew to choose candidates to opposition to the provincial government. Among the delegates were recognized numerous old time supporters of the present administration. The candidates chosen were Allison Dysart, Phileas Melanson and A. J. Bordage. Dr. E. A. Smith, president of the Provincial Opposition Association, was present and delivered a strong address. The convention was the largest ever held in this county. Besides the naming of candidates the convention organized a strong county association.

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