

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1906.

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR, PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY JAMES MOISAAC Editor & Proprietor.

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Ottawa Weekly Letter.

The Arctic Enquiry.

Majority Applies Whitewash.

Conclusions of the Minority.

Reckless Purchases, wild prices, no check on quantities.

Esquimaux Entertained at Public Expense.

\$10,000 paid for \$2,800 worth of Pemmanic.

Evidence Excluded.

The Merwin Contracts.

The Truth learned about 15 items — \$6,173 profit on \$11,838 — Making 52 per cent for Merwin — What about the other Half Million?

The Lord's Day Bill.

Minister of Justice accepts an amendment which gives provinces power to set the act aside — Mr Emmerson and five of his colleagues voted down — A Deputy Minister who takes no notice when his officer complains that a contractor tried to bribe him.

OTTAWA, June 30, 1906.

The Arctic enquiry has closed, as was expected, with a majority report whitewashing the whole affair, and one from the minority condemning the extravagance and the imprudence connected with the purchases and regretting that the investigation could not be more effective. Messrs Northup, Bergeron, Bennett and Stockton signed the minority report which sets forth the following among other things:

RECKLESS BUYING

though purchases amounting to \$125,000 were made, the amounts reaching \$19,780 from one firm, no tenders were asked for and there was practically no limitation in the price.

That the supplies included \$22,000 worth of clothing for 34 men or an average of \$700 each, which the committee believes to be an unnecessary quantity and cost.

That the original requisition for supplies made by Capt Bernier was based on the supposed needs of a three years polar expedition and was excessive even for that, where as it was not proposed that the Arctic should do more than patrol the coast of Hudson Bay and neighboring waters, and it was arranged that supplies would be sent to her by another ship every year.

NO CHECK

that notwithstanding this liberal outfit other persons than Captain Bernier ordered or procured further enormous quantities of goods especially liquors, tobacco and other luxuries, for which there was no requisition and no necessity. Among the questionable purchases were immense quantities of costly clothing, medical supplies costing \$4,827, tobacco and cigars to the cost of \$3,500 and about \$2,000 worth of liquors. Certificates of the receipt of goods said to have been sent on board were signed by three and sometimes four persons including the captain, the purser and the steward, and yet it was found by the evidence of these same officers that they had not examined the contents of the cases, had no personal knowledge of the matter, and only signed because they were ordered to do so.

That when the minority of the committee desired to have an independent investigation into the quantity of goods remaining in the ship on her return, the majority refused and the committee was compelled to accept the statements of persons engaged by the Department.

That the majority of the committee refused to engage an accountant to go over the invoices, and would not allow samples to be procured so that expert evidence could be taken as to the proper price paid for goods.

EXCESSIVE PRICES

That the Department paid \$1.25 a pound for 8,000 pounds of the article called pemmanic, which as now prepared is ordinary meat, dried, shredded, pounded and mixed with fat and currants. At the last day of the enquiry the manager of the largest firm in Canada engaged in packing meat and making meat preparations was on hand to testify that his firm would be glad to supply the same article that went on board the Arctic in the same condition and quantity, for 35 cents a pound, or \$2,800 for what cost the country \$10,000.

That for 5,900 pounds of bovril the department paid \$1.65 a pound, when the like goods could have been had at \$1.10 a pound. The supply purchased would at the rate in which it was used on the ship have been sufficient for thirteen years.

That the country paid \$1.34 a pound for 805 pounds of T. & B. smoking tobacco, whereas the ordinary wholesale price was sixty-seven cents.

BOARDING THE NATIVES.

That the ship's crew gathered about them at their winter quarters a band of fifty or sixty Esquimaux, feeding them for six or seven months out of the Arctic's stores, and that the majority of the committee prevented the minority making further inquiry into the relations between the crew and these Esquimaux which might explain the reason for this extraordinary hospitality.

That the prices paid and the quantities supplied of fur clothes and sleeping bags, some of the latter costing \$325 each, appeared to be altogether excessive, but as there was no samples available it was impossible to tell what the goods ought to be worth.

That some of the goods purchased and paid for are not shown to have been placed on board the vessel, and that large quantities of medical stores, wines, cigars and cigarettes seem to have been disposed of in a way that could not be ascertained. A considerable quantity of supplies appeared to have been used for refreshments at the dances given for the Esquimaux men and women.

That the witness called to give testimony concerning the proper price to be paid for pemmanic as above stated was not allowed to testify, the majority claiming that the case had been closed.

THE REPORTS PRESENTED.

On Thursday the majority report was submitted to the House by Mr McLean, of Lunenburg, chairman of the committee, and the minority report was submitted in amendment by Mr Northup, who with Mr Bergeron, Mr Bennett, Mr Stockton, Dr Reid, Mr Kemp and the Leader of the Opposition advocated its adoption. It should be stated that the majority found with the minority in one matter. They agreed that the tobacco supplied by Mr Amyot, a favored contractor, was overcharged. For the rest they swallowed everything. Mr Brodeur, the Minister of Marine, closed the debate on his side by complaining that the whole charge against the Department in the matter of the Arctic was a cowardly attack upon the memory of the late Mr Prefontaine. To this Mr Borden retorted by stating that with all his faults Mr Prefontaine would not have been such a coward as to try to shield himself and his Government behind the memory of a dead colleague, and to throw the blame for which the whole Cabinet was responsible upon a man who was no longer present to speak for himself. In the end the majority report was adopted by the House by a straight party vote.

MERWIN'S TAKE OFF.

The Department of Marine has been further investigated in the matter of the Merwin contracts. This enterprising gentleman has received from the Government over half a million dollars for supplies of various kinds furnished without tender or competition. He repeatedly refused to tell the Public accounts committee what was the most price of the machinery and appliances bought from him. Most of these articles were imported, and Merwin claims, though it is said that he has no right to do so, that they can only be bought from him. But the Department has gone to him for engines, boilers, and all sorts of machinery, which are made in Canada and could be bought direct from the manufacturers or from

the jobbers who sold them to Merwin. Mr Wilson, one of these dealers, was on the stand this week and asked what price Merwin paid him for a list of articles which the latter sold to the Government. At the request of Merwin Mr Wilson declined to produce the papers. But the matter became serious and finally consent

THE TABLE OF PROFITS. Table with columns: Merwin paid Wilson, Government paid Merwin, Merwin's profit, Percent.

PROFITS ON PROFITS.

It should be understood that the Montreal house had the machinery shipped direct from the maker to the government, so all that Merwin had to do was to order the goods from Montreal and to present his bill to the department of marine. The government could have purchased from Wilson in Montreal at the same price that Merwin did, or could have done still better by purchasing from the manufacturer at the same price that the Wilsons paid. But for some reasons that ought to be known the Department prefers to pay Wilson's profit and then to give Merwin 52 per cent on the original price and on the first profit. So that the bill which originally should have been about \$10,000 was raised to \$18,000, and the present of \$6,173 was made to the American go-

THE LORD'S DAY BILL.

A large part of the week was devoted to the Lord's Day Bill. The measure was in the hands of Mr Aylesworth, minister of justice, to whose charge it fell on the retirement of Mr Fitzpatrick. Many amendments were made enlarging the number of works of supposed necessity allowable on the first day of the week. Among these are operations connected with fishing, the saving of crops under certain conditions, the manufacture of maple sugar and syrup, the hiring of teams and small boats by persons for their own use or that of their family in driving or sailing on Sunday. The clause permitting Jews and Seventh Day Christians to work at their own occupation in secluded places on Sunday, provided they have consistently observed Saturday as the Sabbath, was struck out after a long and animated debate.

PROVINCES MAY REPEAL IT.

But the most important change in the measure is that introduced and rushed through on Friday. Several days before Mr Piche, one of the Montreal members supporting the Government, tried to amend the principal enacting clause of the bill by providing that any law now or hereafter in force in any of the provinces should not be set aside by the Lord's Day Act. The effect of this change would be to enable Mr Piche's province, or any other, to set aside the measure in its application to any matter within the scope of provincial powers. The general power of the Dominion to legislate for Sunday observance would so far be abrogated by the parliament itself and delegated to the province. Mr Piche's motion was rejected at the time. But by Friday the minister in charge of the measure had changed his mind, and when Mr Piche proposed a reconsideration of the clause which had long before been adopted, and followed the motion by renewing his amendment in another form Mr Aylesworth to the surprise of many supported the motion, declaring himself a life-long advocate of provincial rights. It was pointed out by M. Borden that the amendment gave the provinces power to repeal or destroy the Lord's Day Act in so far as the measure prohibited work, labor and business on Sunday. The portion dealing with Sunday amusements and recreations might be left, and that was the part which should go under provincial control if any were transferred. Different provinces and races had their own ideas about Sunday recreation, but all should be agreed on the necessity of preserving the Lord's Day as a day of rest. Sr Wilfrid Laurier supported Piche's amendment, which was adopted.

TIME TO KILL IT.

Finally Mr Gervais, another Montreal Liberal member, moved a clause providing that the Act should not go into force until next March. This also Mr Aylesworth accepted, Mr Borden remarking that the purpose was undoubtedly to enable the provinces to destroy the bill before it came into effect.

MINISTERS OUTVOTED.

The bill authorizing the Grand Trunk Pacific Beach Lines Company to build a large number of lines connecting with the proposed Transcontinental has been advanced several stages. A queer and significant incident happened early in the week.

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DIED

In this city on June 28th, at the residence of his son, King St, John McMahon, aged 84 years. May his soul rest in peace.

In this city on Friday June 29th, James M Richards, aged 73 years.

In this city on June 30th, Rhoda, youngest daughter of Mrs Patience Irwin in her 21st year.

Summer Outings.

"Routes and Fares for Summer Tours" is the title of a book issued by the Grand Trunk Railway System which is full of interest to the summer tourist who is planning an outing for 1906. In addition to general information, the contents contain particulars of different routes and fares to points in all parts of the country and cover the principal resorts reached by the lines of the Grand Trunk and its connections. It contains a fund of information that will be of great help to those who have not yet decided where to spend their holidays. The book also contains a series of maps for reference. Write today for a copy to J. Quinlan, Bonaventure Station, Montreal.

A P McDonald, aged nineteen, son of the late Michael A. McDonald, was drowned at Lunenburg yesterday. He was bathing off the Lunenburg shore and it is thought he took a cramp and was drowned before assistance could reach him. The body was recovered shortly afterwards.

The Prices.

Table of prices for various goods: Butter, Eggs, Flour, etc.

Our mail order department is growing rapidly—every mail brings us orders from different parts of the country, and we have invariably given the utmost satisfaction. If anything by any possibility might be wrong, we are always here to make it right. Stanley Bros. The Always Busy Store; Charlottetown.

PROWSE BROS., Ltd., Big Departmental Store.

MEN'S CORRECT Headwear!

The Christy Hat

Is the Best Hat on Earth at the price. We received over 5,000 of them, and they are the prettiest styles we have ever looked at.

The Christy knocks the American Hats higher than a kite for style this year.

The Christy always did knock out any other Hat for wear, non-fading color, shape-keeping and non-breaking qualities. \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00 the Hat. Then we have the celebrated

Scott Hat

Made by Christy but sold with the Scott name. It costs \$4.00 here, and is sold at \$5.00 anywhere else in Canada or the U.S.A. It's the pink of Perfection in the Christy Hat making. Only a few of them, so come early if you want one.

The Suffolk Hat

It's the best American Hat that's sold in Charlottetown today, and twenty years' of hat experience tells us so.

PROWSE BROS., The Only Real Hatters.

MEET ME AT THE ALWAYS BUSY STORE

STANLEY BROS.

Wool Wanted Nothing But Good Wool

Highest Price — IN — Cash or Trade PAID FOR GOOD WOOL — AT — Stanley Bros

And remember that everything you buy here is marked in plain figures, so that you know you are getting things at the right price.

Cash If You Want It, If not Cash, then the best value in Dry Goods in P. E. Island.

Wool! Good Wool! Bring it right to us.

Stanley Bros

MORELL Tea Party.

The parishioners of St. Joseph's Catholic Church will hold a grand Tea Party in aid of the church funds, in a beautiful field at Morell Station.

On Wednesday, July 11th, 1906.

The occasion will afford visitors an opportunity to view the far famed Morell River, the beautiful new traffic bridge recently completed, and the great swing span just placed in the Morell Railway bridge.

In addition to luxuriously furnished tea tables, refreshment booths, stored with strawberries and cream, ice cream, fruit, confectionery and other delicacies will be provided, and a well stocked saloon will supply an abundance of cooling temperate beverages. Ample arrangements will be made for dancing, swinging, bowling and other amusements usual at such gatherings. The committee in charge will exert themselves to the utmost to provide for the comfort and amusement of all who attend. An ideal outing may be counted on. Come one and all!

Following are the Fares and Train Arrangements:

Table with columns: Stations, Fares, Train Dpts. Lists stations like Charlottetown, St. Dunstan's, etc.

Returning special train will leave Morell for Charlottetown at 6 o'clock p.m., and train for Farris will leave at 5.30 p.m.

Passengers from Stations between Georgetown and Morell Stewart can go and return by regular trains on the 11th July.

WILLIAM AYLWARD, Sec'y. July 4, 1906—11

ALL KINDS OF JOB WORK

Executed with Neatness and Despatch at the HERALD Office, Charlottetown, P. E. Island. March 29, 1906.



E. W. Taylor WATCHMAKER JEWELER and OPTICIAN. ESTABLISHED 1870.

HANDSOME LADIES' WATCHES (Reliable) \$10.00, \$14.00, \$20.00 and \$50.00.

CHAINS — \$2.50, \$3.50, \$5.00, up to \$20.00.

WATCHES for Men, Regina or Waltham — \$7.50, \$10.00, \$20.00 and \$35.00.

RINGS, for Wedding or Birthday, plain or set with precious stones.

SPECTACLES, in rimless or mounted. Lenses adapted by testing to each eye separately.

E. W. TAYLOR South Side Queen Square.

E. F. RYAN, B. A., BARRISTER & ATTORNEY, GEORGETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.