

200 PER CENT. PROFIT ON DRUGS FOR SOLDIERS

Public Accounts Committee Hears of Exorbitant Charges by Sister of Tormy P. and Deputy Speaker of the House

Ottawa, April 9.—The connection between the patronage list, under the present government, and the prices paid for the camp at Valcartier by Mrs. M. P. Plamondon, a sister of Albert Serigny, M. P., deputy speaker of the house of commons, was worked out in the public accounts committee for the benefit of the taxpayers who have to pay for the enhanced prices out of the "war taxes."

The evidence showed that the profits which Mrs. Plamondon made varied on the items examined by the committee from 100 per cent. to no less than 300 per cent. Not only were retail prices charged in most cases, although the order was for so large an amount, but prices considerably higher than the usual retail prices were collected from the government. The items supplied by the militia department, and in this connection it is significant to note that Mr. Serigny himself wrote to the paymaster of the militia department, J. W. Borden, on Oct. 20, asking him if he would "please be good enough to pay this account as soon as possible."

For instance of the price charged by Mrs. Plamondon was \$6.50. According to wholesale prices it would cost her \$2.27. That meant a profit of about 190 per cent. On another item, for which Mrs. Plamondon charged \$9.50 per thousand, witness estimated her profit at 100 per cent. On absorbent cotton \$1 per pound had been charged for \$2.00. "I charge for the highest grade 75 cents retail," said Mr. Waters. The excess charge would therefore be on this item \$1.70 or 70 per cent. For Epsom salts, Mrs. Plamondon charged 20 cents per pound. Mr. Waters said his retail price was 15 cents a pound and in 10 pound lots 10 cents per pound.

Richard tablets had been sold by Mrs. Plamondon at \$8 per thousand. The wholesale price was \$4. Twenty-five pounds of chloride of lime was sold at 85 cents per pound, which should have been 15 cents. Twenty-five pounds of bichloride tablets cost the government \$5.10, the wholesale price was \$3.85, nearly 300 per cent profit for Mrs. Plamondon. Four pounds of fluid extract of licorice had been purchased, according to the invoice, for \$9.88. The long price charged by the wholesaler would be \$6.60, said Mr. Waters. "Simply there must be some clerical mistake here," said Dr. Reid. "Mrs. Plamondon's profit on this at no less than 200 per cent."

The wholesalers of which listed had been charged at \$1.25 per pound, \$1.75 for the lot. "This," said Mr. Waters, "should have been only \$1.25 per Winchester, or \$3.75 for the whole lot." The examiners and officials responsible for checking over this invoice have been certainly lax in their duty, and the minister should look into this," declared Hon. Dr. Reid. Mr. Waters told the committee that he had only taken some forty out of all of the items on the list, which numbered hundreds. It would be impossible to cover the whole list in a short time. Generally speaking, however, he declared that the prices on all the items with a very few exceptions were exorbitant. In concluding his evidence, Mrs. Waters declared that there should be in every department a qualified man to examine prices paid for supplies. "No well-conducted business," he declared, "would tolerate the methods shown here. It is revolting to a business man."

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Then Henry Waters, an Ottawa druggist took the stand to tell the committee something about the prices which Mrs. Plamondon, who keeps a small drug store in Quebec, and who has the patronage for drug supplies for the Valcartier Camp, charged for the \$28,000 worth of supplies she sold to the department last autumn. Original invoices were not available for the committee, and Mr. Waters declared at the outset that the documents in the case for the committee showed no evidence of having been checked over. He noted that there had been a variation in the prices charged for certain standard articles which were supposed to have been bought at fixed prices. For instance, aspirin tablets had been bought at \$1.20 per pound, but at \$1.20 per pound, and at 65 cents per pound. "Sixty-five cents per pound," said Mr. Waters, "would be a reasonable price, but \$1.20 per pound would be very high."

Another invoice showed that Mrs. Plamondon had charged \$15 per pound for aspirin tablets. "This is a retail price," witness thought this was too high even after allowing for increased war prices. In another instance, aspirin tablets had been charged at \$1.25. Mr. Waters thought that the department ought to have got them for \$9 per thousand. "I supplied them at less than that in September," said the witness. Sixty pounds of oil of wintergreen had been purchased at prices varying from \$9.50 to \$5.50 per pound, the total

OBITUARY

Mrs. Thomas Chisholm.

Dagby, N. S., April 6.—(Special)—Mary, wife of Thomas Chisholm, died at her home in Birch street, tonight, after two years' illness, aged 79 years. She was a native of Windsor, and moved to Dagby sixteen years ago. She was a member of the Methodist church at Dagby, and was a devoted and successful housewife. She was survived by her husband, three sons, and a daughter. The funeral will take place on Monday at 2 o'clock.

Dr. Frank H. Dickie. The death of Dr. Frank H. Dickie, of the late George W. Dickie, occurred Saturday morning at 80 Crown street. Doctor Dickie, who was a graduate of St. Joseph's College, Menomonee, and later of the Tufts Dental College, Boston, was thirty-eight years old. He was in the service of the Halifax hospital. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock.

Miss Charlotte Stevens. Monday, April 13.—The death occurred yesterday of a well known resident of Ingleisle in Miss Charlotte A. Stevens. She died at the home of George R. Johnston, Paradise road, where a funeral service will be held on Monday at 2 o'clock. The late Miss Stevens was a daughter of the late Stephen E. Stevens who was one of the best known men in Ingleisle and she had passed her long life practically free from all ailments. She was survived by her husband, Mr. C. H. Stevens, of the North End.

Thomas M. Cunningham. Monday, April 12.—The many friends of George A. and Mrs. Cunningham will sympathize with them in the death of their only child, Thomas M., who succumbed to an attack of meningitis yesterday. He was only 16 years of age and had been employed at the Mutual Film Company, Waterloo street, where, as in school before, he was very much liked for his brightness and good nature.

A. C. Woods. Chatham, April 8.—(Special)—A. C. Woods, one of Chatham's prominent citizens, passed away this morning at 9 o'clock. Besides his wife, formerly Miss Dwyer, he was survived by three sons, William, William Wood, of Chatham, and two sisters, Mrs. Richard Walker, of Chatham, and Mrs. H. Creighton, of Dartmouth (N. S.).

Mrs. William Bryenton. Newcastle, April 8.—Mrs. William Bryenton, of Bryenton, who was stricken with paralysis two weeks before, died yesterday, aged 58 years and 30 days. Deceased was born in Upper Derby, and was a native of Upper Derby. She was a highly respected member of the Presbyterian church. Deceased was a widow, her husband having died in 1908. She was survived by three children, but the following step-children survive: Percy Bryenton, at home; Margaret (Mrs. Geo. Patterson), St. John; Harry Redbank; and Marshall, at home. The following brothers and sisters of deceased are left: William Parks, Bryenton; John and Francis, at home; Robert, in Saskatchewan; Mrs. A. Davidson, at home; and Mrs. Newman, of Saskatchewan.

Mrs. Sanford Smith. Saturday, April 10.—Mrs. Sanford Smith died at her residence in Moore street, yesterday morning, after a lengthy illness. She was 78 years of age, and is survived by her husband. Friends will regret to hear of her death.

John McGahay. John McGahay died suddenly Thursday night at his home, St. Patrick street. He is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters.

Mrs. Arch Rees. A telephone message received by Mrs. W. F. Roberts, North End, announced the death of her daughter, Mrs. Arch Rees of Cumberland Point, Queen's county on Thursday the 8th inst. Mrs. Rees had been in poor health for several months and was eighty-five years of age. She was the wife of the late Dr. W. F. Rees, who was a prominent citizen of the town. The funeral will take place on Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

WEDDINGS

Newton, Friday, April 9.—An interesting ceremony was performed at the residence of the officiating clergyman, Rev. J. H. Jones, when Herbert Newton, of the 26th Battalion, was united in marriage to Miss Stella Barry, formerly of Moncton, by Rev. Dr. Hutchinson. W. H. Jones, of the 29th, and Dr. C. H. Jones, of the 29th, were bridesmaids, and Sadie E. Jones was bridesmaid.

McDonald-Fitzgerald. To two young St. John people on Tuesday was given the honor of being the first to be married in the new Congress church, attached to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Montreal. The new edifice which has recently been erected, was used for the first time for the performance of a wedding ceremony when Miss Jennie Fitzgerald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fitzgerald, became the bride of Louis McDonald, both of whom are residents of this city. The wedding was performed by Rev. Frank Singleton, brother-in-law of the bride, W. P. McDonald, Sr., of this city, returned home Saturday, accompanied by his wife, after having attended the ceremony.

Following the wedding Mr. and Mrs. McDonald left on a honeymoon trip to Toronto and Niagara, returning later to their home in St. John. The ceremony was engaged with the Canada Cement Company as civil engineer. Both Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have numerous friends about St. John who will wish them happiness in their new life.

Franklin-Abram. A wedding of much interest was performed Saturday morning in the African Methodist Episcopal Parsonage, 321 Queen street, when Rev. J. Harrison H. Franklin, D.D., pastor of St. Philip's church, was united in marriage to Miss Beatrice Ince Abram, of El Paso, Texas. The bride has only recently arrived in the city. The ceremony was performed by Rev. R. S. Tapp, pastor of Exmouth street church, in the presence of a few friends of the groom. It was followed by a luncheon. Dr. Franklin has been popular as pastor of St. Philip's church in Kings county, and the reception he got from them was apparently a decidedly cool one.

Carson-Murdoch. Miss Jessie Armstrong, Murdoch, daughter of William Murdoch, the city engineer and Mrs. Murdoch, of St. John, who has been in Calgary for about two years, was married there on Saturday last to Mr. Carson, of the city. The bride's father left the city some days ago to be present at the ceremony. Mrs. Carson will have the good wishes of a host of old friends in her native city.

King-Halliburton. Annapolis, N. S., April 10.—The marriage of Claude C. King, of the firm of A. M. King & Son, and secretary of the Annapolis Royal, to Miss Mary Halliburton, daughter of Mrs. William Halliburton, both of Annapolis Royal, took place in New York on Wednesday, April 7, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, in the presence of some of their most intimate friends. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dean Grosvenor. After the ceremony the happy couple took train for Washington, D. C., where they will be married on Monday.

Buetouche, N. B., April 6.—The death took place at the home of her son-in-law, John McPadden, this place, today, of Mrs. John Lynn at the ripe old age of ninety years. Deceased was born in County Kildare, Ireland, her maiden name being Julia Moran. She came to this country when but young girl, and landed in Chatham (N. B.). She married John Lynn in Buetouche (N. B.), and moved to Milford, St. John, remaining there for over thirty years, returning to this town some four years ago. She was much loved and respected by all who knew her. Death, although not a surprise, was hardly expected at this time, as she had been quite active right up to a few days ago. She is survived by her husband, one daughter, six grandchildren, and a score of nephews and nieces.

SCHUR, W. R. HUSTON ABANDONED AT SEA; HER CREW RESCUED. St. John's, Nfld., April 10.—The schooner William R. Huston, hailing from Fall River (Mass.), has been abandoned at sea, and her crew is aboard the schooner Ada Peard, from Pernambuco for St. John's, which signalled Cape Race today. No details of the abandonment of the Huston were given. The Peard is due here tonight. The William R. Huston was registered 221 tons net. She was built at Fall River (Mass.), in 1874. She sailed from Portsmouth on Bridgewater

FOSTER "EXPLAINS" HORSE PURCHASES

(Continued from page 1.)

regarding the \$15,000 and \$20,000 which had been paid over to Messrs. Keever and McKay and signed by Mr. Foster, M. P., as purchasing agent for the government, and Dr. Chipman, as a veterinary inspector. "You signed these checks?" asked Mr. Carvell. "Yes." "Who presented the checks?" "Mr. Keever." "Signed Checks Blindly." "And you signed not knowing anything about them?" "On each of these checks the number of horses purchased and the total amount was given." "You simply signed a check made out to Mr. Keever or to Mr. McKay which these gentlemen had made out themselves?" "Yes." "You did not know that the horses mentioned in the check had actually been purchased?" "No, sir." "Do you know whether McKay and Keever had actually bought the number of horses mentioned on the check and whether they had paid the price represented?" "Yes, sir." "You simply took their word for it. They presented the checks made out to themselves and you signed them?" "Yes, sir."

The checks had been made out, written and signed by Mr. Keever and Keever had actually bought the number of horses mentioned on the check and whether they had paid the price represented?" "Yes, sir." "You simply took their word for it. They presented the checks made out to themselves and you signed them?" "Yes, sir."

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PRINCESS PATRICIAS

Ottawa, April 11.—The casualties among the Canadian expeditionary force announced by the militia department today are as follows: PRINCESS PATRICIAS. Died of Wounds. Corporal E. C. King, April 10 (transferred from 2nd battalion), at Canadian Military Hospital, Shorncliffe. Next of kin, Y. King, No. 83 Randolph Gardens, London, W. England.

SECOND BATTALION. Wounded. Private John Carpenter, March 30. Next of kin, Mrs. J. Carpenter (mother), No. 100 Crescent street, Malden, Kent, England.

TENTH BATTALION. Wounded. Private F. C. Hunt, March 31. Next of kin, Mr. C. Hunt, No. 23 Valetta Grove, Plaistow, Essex, England.

ELEVENTH BATTALION. Death. Lieutenant Stanley Hall Mitchell, April 7, at Royal Victoria Hospital, Shorncliffe, from the evidence given by Mr. A. L. Mitchell, No. 197 Mayfair avenue, Winnipeg.

FIFTEENTH BATTALION. Wounded. Lance Corporal Hugh Rose, April 1. Next of kin, Mrs. Jane Rose, No. 170 University avenue, Toronto (Ont.)

March 28.—Corporal John Wilson Thompson, cerebro spinal meningitis, at Falmer, Plaistow, Essex, England. George Thompson, relationship not stated, at Cameron street, Toronto.

THIRTY-SECOND BATTALION. Seriously Ill. Private Thomas P. Thomas, pneumonia, at Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, from the evidence given by Mr. N. Flower (sister), Shellmouth, Manitoba.

Private Charles Booth, admitted to Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, with erysipelas. Next of kin, Mrs. N. Flower (sister), Shellmouth, Manitoba. DIVISIONAL SIGNAL COMPANY. Wounded. March 29.—Private R. T. Douglas. Next of kin, Edward Douglas, (father), 6 Glenburn Terrace, Rowlandsgill, Durham, England. THIRD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION. Died of Wounds. April 2.—Gunner David Miller. Next of kin, Hugh C. Miller, relationship not stated, Felham Road, St. Catharines (Ont.)

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HOLIDAY STORIES

Reads Two Premier Excoriates M. P., for T. Horses and D. Ises Reform in He Will Prosecute Restitution, if

(Special to The Ottawa, April 15.—Foster, Conservative M. P. Nova Scotia, and William Serigny, Conservative member for Halifax, have been publicly wronged by Sir R. Premier, in parliament, in their endeavor to obtain redress for the wrongs done to them by the government. The Premier's conduct is a disgrace to the government and a disgrace to the country. The Premier's conduct is a disgrace to the government and a disgrace to the country.

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