

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1918

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STILL A LONG ROAD.

An armistice is not peace. It is simply a preliminary. Following it will be acceptance of peace terms and putting them into effect. This will take a considerable time. In the meantime armistice must be kept in the field. There can be no immediate demobilization. The Allies must be prepared to face any and every new situation that may develop. This means a continued large expenditure. Canada, which has already spent over a billion dollars, must go on spending until the soldiers come home and the army is demobilized. For this reason the Victory Loan must be subscribed. It is a part of Canada's pledge to her sons, and must be redeemed. New Brunswick must do its part. St. John must do its part. The people should rally with enthusiasm to the standard of Victory. It would not be creditable news to send to the soldiers that the people at home had fallen down and failed to do their part. That is why every man or woman who can buy even a \$50 bond on the instalment plan should do so, and do it now.

MORE REVELATIONS.

Another chapter in the sordid story of the patriotic potato transaction was revealed at yesterday's enquiry. The policy of deception adopted by the government was further exposed when Rev. J. B. Daggett admitted that he wrote the name "William Thompson" on the deposit slip for the \$300,000 sent to Mr. F. W. Sumner. Mr. Daggett emphatically observed that there was nothing criminal about it. But Mr. Daggett's loss of memory gives him great concern. He really cannot remember things, and there appears to be a painful blank in relation to that affair of the draft of A. C. Smith & Co. for \$9,201.95 and the various financial transactions connected therewith.

It is to be remembered that Mr. Daggett was secretary for agriculture, and as such the custodian of the public interests. He appears to have had unusual powers, and he certainly seems to have exercised them. However, he says he kept Hon. James A. Murray posted daily about the transactions with A. C. Smith & Co. The more this matter is probed the more clearly the people can see how recklessly their money was squandered by a government which also deliberately deceived them. Certain gentlemen who are still members of the legislature should resign their seats. If they fail to do so, the legislature should attend to their case before it proceeds to do other business.

THE GERMAN LEADERS.

It is apparent that the leaders who plunged Germany into the war are very reluctant to effect themselves. On the contrary they appear to be determined to retain power, hoping that by giving a measure of self-government to the people they may still retain their influence and standing in the country. The appeal sent out by the government to the people, assuring them that the largest measure of liberty and democratic control will be given, and urging them to stand fast and prevent the invasion of Germany, shows very clearly that the government is unwilling to give up the reins of power. It is true that neither Hindenburg nor Ludendorff has been delegated to discuss an armistice with Marshal Foch, but the effectment of the most prominent leaders in the war is only temporary and for a purpose. Unless the people of Germany are prepared to accept as their spokesmen others than those who now claim that authority there will be no satisfactory peace. It would be quite impossible to arrive at a satisfactory basis of agreement, because the word of these men is not to be relied on for a moment. Indeed the world is not prepared to accept the word of any German. It must have guarantees. That is why the Allied nations have turned over the business of discussing an armistice to Marshal Foch. We may be sure that he will waste no time in listening to arguments or protests from the representatives of Germany. Therein lies the only hope of a lasting peace ensured by a league of nations. The most satisfactory news of the day is not that Germany has named her delegates to discuss an armistice, but that which tells of imminent disaster to German armies in the field. A revolution in Germany would be a welcome supplement to this news, for it will probably be necessary to have such revolution before the terms to be submitted by Marshal Foch are accepted. The particular business the Allies have with the present leaders of Germany is to bring them to justice, and it may be hoped this will be provided for when Germany is finally brought to terms. To think of Germany still controlled by these murderers is not in accord with the desire of the people of the Allied nations, or with that justice which ought to be meted out to men guilty of such hideous crimes. The suggestion of an international court to deal with them is universally commended.

HURRY MAY MEAN DEATH.

St. John has perhaps suffered less than any large city on the continent from the influenza epidemic. This is entirely due to the fact that it met here an organization which did not wait till it spread all over the city before closing theatres, schools and churches. The testimony comes from Moncton and elsewhere that putting the ban on public assemblies greatly aided in checking the epidemic. There is no doubt whatever on that score.

This is a sufficient argument in support of keeping the ban on until the situation clears. If it were lifted at once, there would be a rush of convalescents and others who might spread the disease to places of assembly and the portion of the community that has escaped might easily contract the disease. There is hardship in keeping places closed, but it has saved St. John. The doctors today tell those entering rooms where patients are to wear masks. Too many families know what a scourge the epidemic has been. To plead for selfish reasons that the ban be lifted regardless of the conditions is to ask that the great mass of the people who have escaped be made subject to contagion. Let this question be faced in a common-sense way. When the health authorities are convinced it is safe let the ban be lifted—not before.

ADDS TO IMPORTANCE OF THE N. B. DISTRICT

Halifax, Nov. 7.—The re-arrangement of the lighthouse and buoy service in the maritime provinces, announced from Ottawa, considerably reduces the importance of the Nova Scotia district and adds correspondingly to those of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. One steamer instead of three will henceforth be required at Halifax and the Nova Scotia agency will control one hundred lights less than before. It is said the distribution of supplies from this point will be \$1,000,000 less than before.

BUY VICTORY BONDS—BOMBING ENEMY AIRDROMES.

London, Nov. 6.—An official communication dealing with aerial operations issued this evening says: "The independent air force Tuesday afternoon bombed the Morhag airdrome and railways. Tuesday night the Morhag, Freecay, Deuse and Lellinghen airdromes and today the Buhl airdrome."



Record Sales Last Night.

Reports at the Victory Loan headquarters last night showed that Landon ward is the second in the city to go over the top, having surpassed their objective, \$100,000, by several thousand. The meeting held in front of the Imperial Theatre last night attracted many buyers and a new record was established, a sum of \$12,550 being subscribed. These taking part in the programme were: Stanley E. Elkin, a huge band under the leadership of Major Burton, R. E. Armstrong, Steve Matthews, W. Luce of Wisconsin, DeWitt Cairns and Miss —BUY VICTORY BONDS—

A fire broke out in the ceiling of the store occupied by A. E. Henderson in King street last night, but was extinguished before much damage was done. It is thought that the fire started from some electric wires.

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Bulk of Surplus From B. F. Smith

J. B. Daggett, at Potato Inquiry. Tells More of Financial Transactions with A. C. Smith & Co.

Three witnesses were heard at the afternoon session of the potato inquiry yesterday. Leslie Slipp, potato inspector, gave evidence that he had paid to Mr. Morton in the office of the department in Fredericton the sum of \$126.91 received from the sale of potato culls. His receipt was put in evidence.

J. P. Atherton, chartered accountant, told of preparing a statement of A. C. Smith & Company's potato transactions, at the request of Hon. J. A. Murray. He identified his statement and his figures on the vouchers. He received no pay for this work.

Mr. Daggett could not explain what had happened to the money turned in by Mr. Slipp. He thought it might have been credited to the shipper's account and distributed with the proceeds of the rejected potatoes.

When Mr. Daggett took the stand again, the auditor-general's report was produced and reference made to the statement of the "surplus" potato account. The witness read the statement showing the quantities of surplus potatoes furnished by the various shippers. B. F. Smith's total was 11,940. Other amounts were: B. C. McLeisen, 522 barrels; Sussex Mercantile Co., 622 barrels; A. C. Smith & Company, 522 barrels. The grand total was 13,612.

Regarding B. F. Smith's account, the witness said that he had asked Mr. Smith several times for the balance of \$2,447 due the department, but Mr. Smith had not paid it. He had not absolutely refused but he had objected to the count of the out-turn of the ears and the quantity of culls rejected. Mr. Smith never had paid back this amount and the witness did not know what Mr. Smith had meant by his statement in the house that he had paid back the amount to the department.

The final statement submitted to close A. C. Smith & Co.'s account, which the witness said was designed to cover the loss, still showed a loss of \$1,954.70 on the transaction.

Q.—But why did you not make it square?

A.—I cannot tell you that. I am trying to give honest testimony, whether you believe it or not. I took the actual quantity of potatoes at a fair price. If I had made up the whole loss I would have shown more potatoes than there were.

Returning to the final draft of \$2,500 made by A. C. Smith & Co. on the department and accepted by the witness, and not paid by the government, the witness, after some questioning, admitted that he (the witness) had advanced \$1,320 to Mr. Smith which had been applied on the draft. He advanced money for a check for \$1,000 and he would send it. A few days later he would get their check in return. He accom-

dated them and, in turn, they accommodated him at times.

The witness still regarded the \$3,531 check as the final settlement with A. C. Smith & Co. The records showed that they had received \$5,000 as the proceeds of the Jones-Daggett note; \$4,453.56 by Mr. Daggett's check and \$906.91 from the Cuban draft, a total of \$10,350.47. Out of this, A. C. Smith & Co. had paid Boyce something more than \$400, leaving them overpaid, the witness agreed, by \$500 or \$400.

The witness said the whole mix-up in finances was due to the fact that A. C. Smith & Co. were not able to finance the business. He had been foolish enough to put his head in the halter

and try to pull them out. As a result, he was \$1,000 or perhaps \$2,000 the poorer for it.

—BUY VICTORY BONDS—

TRIBUTE FROM COLONEL TO LIEUT. H. R. SIMMS

Mrs. T. S. Simms, Gernash street, has received a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. Brown, O. C., the 28th Battalion relative to the death of her son, Lieutenant H. Rutherford Simms, who died of wounds October 14. He states that Lieut. Simms was in charge of an advanced report centre during recent operations and he gave his life at his post. He says that he was a very cheerful companion to them all at headquarters.

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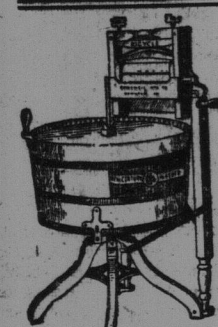


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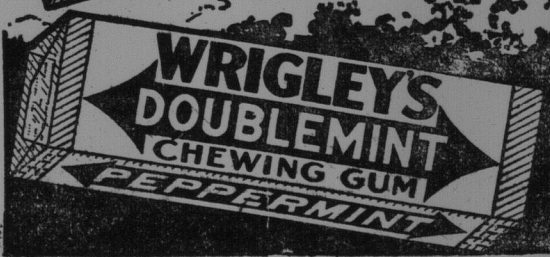
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