

went uptown to "rustle" overcoats and warm underwear.

Hardships on the Ocean.

These men were all compelled to travel in the steerage, and although many were in very delicate health and very badly clothed, they were forced to go on deck in all kinds of weather for two hours every day while their ill-ventilated quarters were being cleaned and aired. It was charged that many men who were seriously sick asked for permission to remain below and this was curtly refused.

On the boat they were given \$10 and at Quebec another similar amount. At Quebec they were given the option of accepting a cheap suit of clothes or receiving \$13 instead of the suit when they reached their military headquarters. Practically without exception the men described the clothes as shoddy and so poor looking that they would be ashamed to be seen in them on the street.

Penniless, Awaiting Pay.

Arrived at Winnipeg, many of the men destined for points further west found themselves without funds to pay for accommodation in Winnipeg while waiting for their discharge pay, and owing to red-tape delays they had to wait several days for this pay, depending in the meantime on the charity of the people of Winnipeg. Some of the men, anxious to get to their families, actually had to proceed home without their pay, and without a cent to take home with them.

We have but briefly reviewed a few of the complaints that seem to show an incompetence and red-tape carelessness that should disgust every decent Canadian. If these indicate all that the Government of Canada is prepared to do for the men who have fought and bled for Canada and the Empire, it is about time that the public became aware of all the facts.

HORSE BUYING IN ONTARIO

GOVERNMENT purchasing of war horses in Ontario was attended with most of the evils proved some time ago in Nova Scotia according to revelations before the Davidson Commission which sat at Toronto and Brampton for four days, commencing December 1st. Backed up by a letter of recommendation from the Militia Department to the government horse buyers, Mr. James R. Fallis, Conservative M.P.P. for Peel County succeeded in making for himself a thoroughly watertight monopoly in the selling of horses in the county of Peel, which yielded large profits for himself and his partner. Mr. Fallis admitted in evidence that he had gone to Ottawa and secured from the Militia Department the letter which gave him the inside track, and also readily admitted that so far as he knew, every one of the 362 horses bought by the government in the county for the first contingent passed through his hands and yielded him profit. He took E. J. Jones of Brampton, a horse dealer, into partnership, and later on had himself appointed government buyer of horses.

There was plenty of evidence to show that all sorts of unfit and aged horses were palmed off on the government buyers, also that horses rejected by the buyers at other places were readily accepted in Peel when brought along, even at higher prices, by Mr. Fallis and his partner. Horses were "doctored" and fixed up to make them look worth the prices asked, one at least was "painted" to make him look young and smart, while among those that passed without question at the prices asked by Mr. Fallis were the spavined, the balky, the lazy, the winded and others suffering from most of the ills that horseflesh is heir to as it gets old.

Sold Horses before Buying Them.

Fortified with his letter from the Militia Department, Mr. Fallis was able to make profits without

any chance of losses. He admitted that he did not have to take chances, because he never paid the farmers for their horses until they had obligingly been passed by the government inspectors. When they were passed he sold them to the government at his price and paid the farmers at a price fixed before. This "open and shut" monopoly method Mr. Fallis freely admitted and vigorously defended. Answering the somewhat mild censure of Sir Charles Davidson, he declared that he "had a perfect right to do as he did" and that it "was his business and it was legitimate business." As an apparently honest admission of the true Tory attitude toward patronage profits for the party man who knows how to get on "the inside," the attitude of Mr. Fallis was frankly illuminating. When Sir Charles Davidson suggested that the government could have purchased the horses direct from the farmers, Mr. Fallis said the horses were wanted in a hurry, and that once they were passed he purchased them from the farmers.

Farmer Got Less, Government Paid More.

"So the farmer got less and the Government paid more for them as a result of your intervention" commented Sir Charles. Mr. Fallis answered: "My business is the live stock business; I had a perfect right to what I did."

Later on Sir Charles said he would like to give Mr. Fallis the fullest opportunity to explain why he stepped in "between the government purchaser and the farmer and made a profit of \$3,000" but Mr. Fallis had nothing more to say than that he thought he had a perfect right. When it was suggested by the counsel for the commission that he had sold the horses before he bought them, Mr. Fallis was cynically frank. He said: "No sir, I raised the prices before I sold them."

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