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THE DAILY MAIL.

WEATHER REPORT.
Toronto (noon)—Strong winds and gales N. E. and East; sleet and rain Wednesday, continued stormy.

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OPPOSITION MAKE INSISTENT DEMAND FOR STATEMENT OF EXCISE DUTIES.

Want Returns For the Last Six weeks on Tobacco and Liquors.

GOVERNMENT IN NO HURRY TO RESPOND.

Their Hesitation Makes The Whole Country Very Suspicious.

SHOULD ACT AT ONCE.

And Silence the Rumors that Are so Persistently Repeated,

An Appalling Crisis.

The editorial observations of *The Daily Mail* yesterday have stirred up the whole city and will, we believe, set the country generally in a ferment.

In another column on this page, we publish a letter signed "Civis" dealing with the matter of increased Customs duties. Now we want an early, explicit and definite pronouncement on this matter from the Premier and the Executive member concerned.

We cannot afford to have any suspicion rest on our administrators and especially on one set so high as the Minister of Finance and Customs.

We want to know, therefore, whether there is any truth in the rumors now current:

- (1) That the firm mentioned by "Civis" did receive an order for thousands of pounds of tobacco from the Finance Minister just before the announcement of the increase in duties;
- (2) That the firm in question, made use by this unusually large order, took 40,000 pounds out of bond on "spec";
- (3) That a West Coast merchant also placed a big order for tobacco, immediately before the announcement of the Budget;
- (4) That a Middle Street Grocer, a strong supporter of the Government, got in a large supply of cigarettes about the same time.

This matter must be dealt with at once; it must be proved to the bottom.

For the sake of the dignity of the House, let Mr. Speaker act.

For the sake of his reputation as a statesman and an administrator, let Sir Edward Morris act and act promptly and decisively.

THE QUESTION THAT HUNG UP BUDGET DEBATE.

Mr. Halfyard.—To ask the Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing:

- (a) What amount of duties were paid upon liquors during the last six months;
- (b) What amount of excise duty was paid upon tobacco during the last six months.

Contrary to general expectation the House yesterday did not debate the Budget, deferring consideration on the representation that the questions regarding excise duties should first be answered by the Government.

The leader of the Opposition drew particular notice of the Finance Minister to a question of Mr. Halfyard's asked on Thursday last, as the information asked for, viz., (the amount of duties collected on liquors and tobacco for the past six weeks) was very material before the criticism of the Budget was proceeded with, he (Mr. Kent) moved that Ways and Means be deferred until the information was furnished.

Another red letter day has passed into history for the F.P.U. and President Coaker.

The visible signs of the end of the present session of parliament were strongly in evidence yesterday, and we were prepared for the announcement by the Prime Minister that the end was in sight. No further legislation other than the Bill respecting Municipal Affairs which was given a first reading, and which will be read a second time to-day, is contemplated this session, and the adjournment of

CAN THESE THINGS BE? SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PROMINENT MEN.

The increased Custom duties are the principal topic of discussion everywhere and on all sides there is general condemnation.

Every one is disgusted with the pack of spendthrifts at present in power, and I am certain that the most unpopular Premier that the Old Colony ever had is Sir Edward P. Morris.

It is now an open secret that his removal of the duties last year was not for the benefit of the people but an Election Dodge.

I, like hundreds of others, believed in him then, and last fall voted for his party because, in spite of all that was said to the contrary, I believed him honest and just. How mistaken I was is now apparent.

But it is not of my political leanings that I intend to write you. It is of something of far more consequence, and of interest to every man, rich and poor—increased duties.

It interests the laborer.

It interests the mechanic, clerk and professional man.

It interests the members of parliament.

It interests Speaker Goodison.

It interests the Hon. John Harris, who is Chairman of our House of Lords.

It interests His Excellency the Governor.

It interests everyone who has any love for his Country, and I call on W. F. Coaker and J. M. Kent to see that Justice is done.

The Story Current.

The story which is in every one's mouth is that just before the extra duty was placed on Tobacco, Messrs. Bowring Bros. received an order from Mr. Cashin ("Hon." M. P. Cashin is Minister of Finance and Customs) for Five Thousand Pounds of Tobacco (5,000 pounds). Such an exceptionally large order at this time of the year from Mr. Cashin caused quite a stir, as such was never heard of in mid-winter before.

The attention of Mr. Munn was at once drawn to the big order, and he being a keen business man, at once "smelled a rat."

For some time previous it had been discussed along Water Street that there would be increased taxation, and while some thought that the extra duty would be placed on Tobacco, no one was sure of it.

This exceptionally large order from Mr. Cashin led Messrs. Bowring Bros. to believe that there was "something doing," and they took a large quantity out of bond on spec (I hear it was 40,000 lbs.)

No Blame To Them.

No one can blame the Bewrings. To my mind they took a business chance, and they won.

But the whole Colony must blame Cashin, if the story be correct. If it is not correct, then it is a very easy matter for Mr. Cashin and Mr. Munn to contradict the rumor and to publish the facts.

At present scores of people believe it to be correct. The matter has been freely discussed during the last week and I have it from several who are on the inside track, that it is substantially true.

Let Him Be Dismissed.

If such be the case, I call on His Excellency the Governor to dismiss Cashin at once, and I call on Sir Edward Morris to resign, as we have lost confidence in his party.

I call on Mr. Coaker and the Union members to tie up the proceedings of the House of Assembly until this matter be set right.

I call on Mr. Kent and his followers to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Union members until the matter be set right.

If need be summons Mr. Munn to the Bar of the House, and let the story be either denied or proven.

If true, this is the greatest scandal that has ever been perpetrated since Newfoundland has had responsible Government, and the eyes of the public are turned on the principals.

Must Clear Himself.

Cashin must prove his innocence.

(Continued on page 6)

American Continent Is Swept By Storms.

Much Damage At Toronto

Toronto, March 2.—The storm struck Toronto to-day, resulting in thousands of dollars worth of damage.

The railway service throughout Ontario is paralyzed.

Toronto streets are flooded. Signs and loose materials from buildings fell, plate glass windows are smashed. Wires, trees, fences and poles are blown down.

The wind was 72 miles an hour, with occasional gusts of 80 or 90 miles an hour.

Moosejaw Swept By a Big Blaze

Moose Jaw, March 2.—A fire which occasioned a loss of \$100,000, destroyed six stores and a block of dwellings in the business section, threatened to wipe out the entire town of Chaplin, 40 miles west of here.

Good work on the part of a bucket brigade, organized by the villagers, saved the whole town from going up in smoke.

Wind And Fire Create Havoc

Baltimore, March 2.—A terrific wind storm swept over this city and vicinity last night and continued this morning with diminishing strength.

Reports of property damages come from all quarters. Roofs and signs were blown down all over the city. Thousands of panes of glass were broken.

The Lutheran Reform Church caught fire and was destroyed. Thousands of barrels of whiskey were destroyed when two big warehouses of the Canton Distillery Co., at Canton, a suburb, were burned to-day.

The loss, based on the amount of whiskey stored in the two warehouses is estimated at \$100,000.

Thirteen Sailors Were Drowned

Cuxhaven, Germany, March 3.—Thirteen members of the crew of the Norwegian bark Tasman perished yesterday in the North Sea, when the bark capsized.

News of the disaster reached here when a fishing vessel came into port, six men of the Tasman's crew, the only persons who survived the wreck.

New York Storm Killed Five

New York, March 2.—This city is suffering from one of the worst storms in its history.

Five are reported as killed. Few trains are leaving to-day. On many lines, including the Elevated, and street car services to the suburbs, traffic is suspended.

Not since the blizzard of 1888 has a storm resulted in so much suffering.

APPEALS AGAINST HOME RULE BILL

Lord Milner and Other Notables Circulate Manifesto in England.

London, March 3.—Lord Milner conveys through the press a solemn appeal to the people of Great Britain against Irish Home Rule which manifestly breathes resistance to the measure if it is legislated upon without the endorsement of a general election.

It also contains a declaration in favor of supporting any action necessary to prevent putting the measure into operation.

The other signatories include Field Marshal Roberts; an Admiral of the fleet; Seymour, Duke of Portland; Viscount Halifax, Lord Lovat, Sir Hayter Chubb, Sir William Ramsay, Rudyard Kipling and many other prominent names.

It is intended to circulate copies throughout the country.

Answering Hope, the Unionist member for Sheffield, Asquith stated in the Commons last night that he was most anxious to expedite the financial business of the Government to enable him to make a statement on the Government of Ireland Bill at an early date.

John Redmond, T. P. O'Connor, John Dillon and Joseph Devlin had a long interview with the Prime Minister yesterday, and the inference is that the Irish leaders met to confer on the Governments proposals with regard to Ulster.

No Recognition For Carranza

New Orleans, March 2.—Britain will never recognize the Constitutional party in Mexico, even to the extent of requesting Carranza to investigate the death of Benton, according to Sir Lionel Carden, British Minister to Mexico, who was here to-day on his way to Washington and England.

"Britain has recognized the Huerta Government as the only constituted authority in Mexico, then why should my government request Carranza for a report of the killing of Benton?" Sir Lionel asked.

DAMAGE BY FRESHETS

Waterford Bridge river overflowed its banks this morning and caused considerable damage to property.

Mutt Evidently Has No Sympathy For The Bards. : : : By "Bud" Fisher

