

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES

NEWFOUNDLANDER

WASHED OVERBOARD FROM

SCHR. DAVID C. RITCEY

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.

Alfred George, the cook on the British schr. David C. Ritcey was lost overboard during a storm on the night of Feb. 10th. The officers of the ship reported on arrival here yesterday from Halifax. George's home was in Newfoundland.

SEPARATISTS HAIL DOWN THEIR FLAG.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.

The Autonomous Government pulled down its green, white and red flag at 7 o'clock this morning and public buildings were turned over to the control throughout the district of the Provisional Government, established by Inter-Allied investigating committee which is pledged to maintain order and to make no change in administrative organization.

BRITISH PREMIER'S SUGGESTION

NOT ACTED UPON.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.

Action on Premier MacDonald's suggestion, Robert Clive, the British Minister at Munich, has urged the Bavarian Premier to use his Government's influence with the nationalist organizations in the palatinate to prevent acts of violence calculated to delay the restoration of the German administration there. The Bavarian Government has replied that it will be unable to take the suggested action because events at Pirmasens were not artificially created, but were a natural outbreak among the terrorized population for which the nationalist organizations were in no way responsible. Moreover, he added the Bavarian Government has no authority in the palatinate.

SUNDAY TRANQUILITY IN THE DOCKS. FORCES NOT UNITED.

LONDON, Feb. 18.

There was nothing unusual to disturb the customary Sunday peace around the British Docks today, but there were numerous meetings of the strikers to discuss the situation. It was not known until to-morrow how solid the dockers are for a strike or what action the Government proposes to take, if any, to reach a settlement. There is a close connection between the Poplar Decision and the Dock Strikers, which would naturally make the Government anxious to prevent a serious situation from developing for a large part of the population of the Poplar District consists of Dockers, and heavy cattle on the Poplar Guardians would have to be made for the relief of unemployment, because of the casual nature of the work in this calling. In London, the solidarity desired by the strike leaders does not seem to exist. After an unofficial dock strike last summer, a new and hitherto unrecognized rival to the Transport Workers' Union was formed, the National Amalgamated Stevedores, Longshoremen and Dockers' Union, which claims to have 20,000 members in the port of London and to represent all Stevedores and Lightermen and 50 per cent. of the Dockers. The Executive of the new Union has recommended a policy of strict adherence to official port hours, going slow on piece work, and refusal of any overtime.

DISCIPLINE AVERTED DISASTER WHEN ACADEMY IS DESTROYED.

NEWCASTLE, N.B., Feb. 18.

St. Mary's Academy was burned to the ground here last night. The fire being discovered about 10 o'clock by the Mother Superior, the children were marched out under splendid discipline. The building, a three-story frame erection, was raised to the ground and practically all furnishings were lost. The total loss is over \$100,000. The building was built in 1913 at a cost of \$60,000, and insured for \$10,000. School will be continued provided a home can be found for the children.

ASQUITH TO RETIRE FROM PARLIAMENT

LONDON, Feb. 18.

Belief is widespread in West Scotland that Mr. Asquith will not again be a candidate in Paisley. It is reported that Lady Bonham-Carter, his daughter, will succeed him in that constituency as a Liberal candidate.

THE NEW GERMAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS.

PARIS, Feb. 18.

Dr. Leopold von Hoesch was formally received as the new German Ambassador to France by President Millerand on Saturday. The Ambassador presented his credentials to the President at the Palace of Elisee amidst the customary pomp and ceremony of such a function in the presence of Premier Poincare and the presidential household.

12 KILLED IN EXPLOSION.

ERITH, Kent, Eng., Feb. 18.

Eleven women and one man were killed here to-day in an explosion which followed an outbreak of fire in a cartridge filling factory.

STRIKE AS EFFECTIVE AS A BLOCKADE.

LONDON, Feb. 18.

The dock strike which was declared Saturday noon affecting 120,000 men in the ports of the United Kingdom, was expected to reach full effectiveness to-day, according to the officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union. The country is thus threatened with a blockade from within as complete as that which the German U-boats vainly tried to achieve during the war. At the moment of writing there is nothing to confirm the report that Premier MacDonald or the Council of the Trades Union Congress is likely to intervene to-day, but the public is basing its hopes on them.

EXPERTS MEET TO RECONSTRUCT RECOMMENDATIONS.

PARIS, Feb. 18.

Two expert committees which have been investigating Germany's financial situation under the presidency of Brigadier General Charles Dawes and Reginald McKenna met this morning to discuss the reconstruction of their recommendations to the Reparations Commission.

U. S. NAVAL SECRETARY RESIGNS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.

Edwin B. Denby has resigned as Secretary of the Navy, and his resignation has been accepted.

Shipping.

Schr. Isabel Moore has cleared for

Seville from Lazo & Co. with 5,000 qtls. Labrador codfish.

See the Queens Messenger and

Tableaux, Tuesday and Wednesday, Casino Theatre. Management Mrs. Outerbridge and Mrs. Monroe. Tickets at Hutton's.

Season baked apple roll with

clonon and serve with lemon sauce.

Relief Expenditure, \$1,600,000; Returns, Only \$400,000

30,000 Cords Pulpwood Lost--Rossoed Wood, Costing \$14.65 a Cord, Sold at Half Price.

When the enquiry opened this morning, Mr. Wm. Gillingham, labor agent of the A.N.D. Co. was called to the stand and examined by Mr. Winter. Asked if he remembered a contract which the company had with the Government in 1922, witness said yes, there was a contract with regard to building Twin Lakes Road. Asked if he purchased supplies for this road, witness said he bought a motor truck and supplies such as boots, oil, clothing, etc. These things, he said, were to be supplied by the Government under the contract. Asked about the purchase of the truck, witness said the particulars were that a request was made to the Department of Agriculture & Mines to provide a truck to move supplies up country. Following this, he was asked by Dr. Campbell to see where the best purchase could be made. Dr. Campbell did not want himself or the Department to be known in the transaction, as he thought that would be the best way a bargain could be secured. Witness said he purchased the truck from Dodd's garage for \$385.00.

COMMISSIONER--Is that the Ford truck?

A--Yes.

Q--The best you could get was \$385.00?

A--Yes.

MR. WINTER--The idea was that you should do the buying and not have the Department known in the matter?

Q--How did you pay Dodd?

A--In cash. The idea was to give the transaction the colour of a personal transaction, and I was given a cheque from the Department to pay for the truck.

Q--What was the idea of making it a personal transaction?

A--So that better value could be got in the purchase of the truck.

Q--Does that mean that suppliers were more likely to charge the Government more than they would under a personal transaction?

A--That is a question I would not like to answer; but that was the idea in that case.

COMMISSIONER--The idea was that you could get a better bargain than the Government could?

A--I think that was the idea.

MR. WINTER--You cashed the cheque and paid the \$385.00. Will you look at that cheque? (Produces cheque and is identified by witness.)

Q--What is the meaning of those figures on the back?

A--I am sure I do not know.

Q--Do you know who wrote them?

A--No. It is the first time I have seen them.

COMMISSIONER--Let me see that cheque.

A--Paid Dodd's Garage, Limited, \$385 per R. W. Gillingham.

At the back there is an addition of figures. Whose figures are those on the back, are they yours?

A--No, sir.

COMMISSIONER--Did you see those figures before on the back?

A--I noticed them before.

Q--Did Dodd's garage understand at the time that it was a personal transaction, or a Government transaction?

A--Latterly, they knew, but at the time the transaction was made they did not know.

COMMISSIONER--Did they know about it when they got the cheque?

A--They never saw the cheque, they were paid in cash.

Q--Did you give them the whole \$385 in cash?

A--Yes.

MR. WINTER--Did they think then that you were buying for yourself or for the Government?

A--They did not think it was for the Government.

COMMISSIONER--At the time you gave them the money?

A--I gave them the whole \$385 in cash. At that time I had not told them it was not for the Government.

MR. WINTER--You are quite sure you did not write those figures on the back of the cheque?

A--I am sure I did not.

A--And you have no idea who else would have done it?

A--No, sir.

Q--And this was second hand truck was it not?

A--Yes, but there were spare parts went with it, such as wheels, fittings, etc.

Q--Have you any personal knowledge of what happened to the truck afterwards?

A--Yes, the truck had to take provisions from the depot up country a distance of between twenty and thirty miles to where the 300 men were working. The roads were extremely bad, and as far as I can understand, when the job was finished the truck was about finished also. I know that we had to do a lot of

patching and repairs to the truck to get the service out of it and to get it to last the time. The witness said he had nothing to do with the final disposition of the truck.

Following the examination in chief there was a short cross-examination by Mr. Howley. Witness was asked several questions re the conditions existing during the period that he had dealings with the department, that in the summer of 1922 Mr. Gillingham said his knowledge of labor conditions generally led him to conclude that relief was necessary, and he never experienced anything like the conditions thus existing in Conception Bay. He had no previous experience in buying trucks, but before purchasing he saw nearly every dealer in St. John's. Witness did not know anything of the mysterious figures on the back of the cheque. He said he received a small personal commission from Dodd.

MR. WINTER--What did you do for the truck included your commission?

A--Yes, but I spent two days looking about it, trying to get as good a bargain as possible.

Mr. Turner was next called to the stand and made some corrections in reference to the Bryant Contract. He said the total cost should have been \$51,000 instead of \$51,000. In connection with the Bryant Contract it was credited with \$13,400 which the department hoped to get. Instead of \$53,000 the figures should be about \$37,600.

MR. WINTER--The \$13,400 is a contingent asset?

A--Yes.

In reference to Moore's operations, when the final adjustment is made, it will be less than the figures given in the previous evidence.

The witness was then questioned re the method of roasting by hand and by machinery. Witness said he did not know if Bryant had purchased the five machines before the contract with the Government was made. Witness was then asked to explain some vouchers of the scalers in reference to the roasting contract. Asked what amount of wood had been used by machinery to date, the witness said their books showed the items but they were not totalled. The same applied to the costs of moving and loading the machines in connection with the roasting contract.

COMMISSIONER--According to these papers by the Auditor, the cost is \$207,000.

MR. WINTER--That is up to June 20th, 1923. Mr. Watson is coming to explain these figures later.

Asked next about the collecting of the wood, witness said it was at one time done under the direction of R. G. Winsor, but afterwards the contractor did it himself.

MR. TURNER--You made out the figures for roasting etc.?

A--Yes, I made an estimate which showed the wood roasted, cost about \$14.56 per cord. The witness then explained how he arrived at these figures; after which the Commissioner read a number of telegrams in reference to driving wood to the roasting machines, cost of roasting and collecting the wood.

MR. WINTER--You note that Mr. Coaker says the loss on roasting is only 20%. You say it is 40%.

A--I still think I am nearly correct.

Shown a memorandum re moving bill, witness said it was letter from the Minister complaining that their moving bill was too high. A further letter in reply stating that Bryant was obliged to employ skilled men was also identified by the witness.

Asked what was the cost of hard peeled wood, the witness said that at first it was done at \$2.55, then by a special agreement, authorized by order in Council, the price was made \$2.50, and in a special case \$4.00 was asked. This was at Alexander Bay. This price was agreed to for various reasons, principally, shortage of labor and difficulty of collecting. Seven hundred cords at a total cost of \$2,500.00 was raised at this place. The witness said there was no standard rate for hard peeling, different rules prevailing in different sections of the country. At Clode Bound hard peeling was done directly for the Government, some at \$2.00 and other quantities at \$2.00 per cord. The witness did not know what made the difference between \$2.50 and \$2.00. The witness said that in the case of Bryant the hard peeling was done at the request of the department so that they could fulfil their contract with Rodgers.

MR. WINTER--Some of this wood at Bay d'Espoir was supplied by Fr. St. Croix. What was the cost of peeling?

A--About \$2.00, I think.

MR. WINTER--Has Rodgers a big claim against the Department?

A--Yes, chiefly on account of the

To-Night! To-Night! The Southern Song Concert at the POPULAR STAR MOVIE!

Messrs. Foster, Hawkes & Zabriskie

PROGRAMME--FEBRUARY 18-19-20TH

No. 1--Opening Ensemble: Swance.

Messrs. Foster, Hawkes & Zabriskie.

No. 2--Old Kentucky Home.

Mr. J. Pete Zabriskie.

No. 3--(a) Every Mammy Loves Her Child.

(b) Carry Me Back to Old Virginny.

Mr. Chester A. Hawkes.

No. 4--(a) Good Old Georgia.

(b) Old Black Joe.

Mr. C. B. Foster.

No. 5--(a) Swantee River.

(b) Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground.

Mr. J. Pete Zabriskie.

Grand Finale: Way Down Yonder in the Corn Field.

Messrs. Foster, Hawkes & Zabriskie.

Musical Direction Chester A. Hawkes

A STATE RIGHT SPECIAL IN SEVEN PARTS.

Thursday is Irish Concert Night. Hear Mr. Foster Sing "THE TUMBLE DOWN SHACK."

Our price is lower on the new shipment of

"JUMBO"

IMPORTED TOBACCO

21-lb. caddies

2 oz. and 4 oz. plug

LIGHT and DARK

HARVEY & CO., Limited

(Trade distributors)

at the Government?

A--Yes, part of it is for the non-delivery of clean peeled wood?

Q--What value did he place on the clean peeled wood in the writ he has issued against the Government?

A--I do not know.

Q--Was it about \$9.00 per cord?

A--I cannot say.

Q--A good deal of this wood has disappeared since it was cut?

A--Yes.

Q--Has the contract been carried out?

A--About 30,000 cords have been delivered and of this 16,000 cords were clean peeled.

Q--How much have you received from Rodgers?

A--\$123,815, including the deposit of \$55,000. That pays for all that has been delivered to him.

Q--Do you know how much wood is left?

A--About 13,000 cords. We have shipped some to other parties. The total export is 43,349 cords. There are about 30,000 cords short, stolen or strayed.

Q--What was the total cost of cutting wood to the Government?

A--\$1,679,230 and receipts were \$465,538. The loss is over \$1,200,000. This cost includes total expenditure on the account.

Q--What was the nature of the relief work?

A--Roads, bridges, etc. In the ordinary course of events, the Dept. of Public Works, and Marine and Fisheries would look after these matters. Allocations from this pit-proposed were made to people recommended by members for the various districts. Returns would be sent in by the people receiving the money.

Q--Would you verify their returns?

A--We had no means of verifying them. There were, in some cases, pay sheets signed by the men employed on relief work.

A specimen pay sheet was put in. The Commissioner remarked that all the men had not signed by any manner of means.

Q--In some cases allocations were made to the members for the districts, were they not?

A--Yes.

Q--Here is a cheque payable to T. Bonia, Ferryland District, for \$3,000.

Q--Has Mr. Rodgers a claim against

wood not being properly rossoed. A lot of correspondence between the Dept. Mr. Coaker and Rodgers representing Gillingham in reference to the roasting and peeling of the wood was put in.

The COMMISSIONER after reading said it was part of the history of the matter. The original contract 13th May, 1922, between J. H. Rodgers and the Government was sent put in and read. Rodgers agreed to purchase 70,000 cords wood 70 per cent. spruce. The price agreed was \$5.00 per cord for hard peeled and \$7.00 for rossoed wood.

RELATED TO WOLVIN. WITNESS said that contract was made in New York, with Sir W. F. Coaker, who was deputed to make it. Witness had never seen the authority given to Coaker in this connection.

MR. WINTER--Do you know Mr. Rodgers?

A--I have met him. He is a broker. I think.

Q--I understand he is a relation of Mr. Wolvin's of Besco?

A--He is some connection, I think. Telegrams were put in with reference to and leading up to the contract. One was from Sir W. F. Coaker, advising the Government of Rodgers' offer and stating that he had given an assurance of the Department of Agriculture's acceptance. A message from Dr. Campbell to Coaker stated that he had consulted the Prime Minister and they accepted Rodgers' offer and authorized Coaker to proceed with the finalization of the contract.

Q--Who drew this contract up?

A--Francis A. Noble of New York. Correspondence was read in connection with the Bill, which was for \$751,775. Mr. Coaker wrote Dr. Campbell that this was an outrageous charge.

Q--Did the Government pay the whole of the expenses in drawing up this contract?

A--It appears so.

Q--What was done under that first contract?

A--Practically nothing. Rodgers was to send the ships in the first year, 1922. No ships were sent by Rodgers.

Q--What did the Government do?

A--They were getting the wood ready for Rodgers to take delivery of it.

Q--What happened then?

A--The Government notified Rodgers in April, 1923, of the cancellation of the contract.

NEW CONTRACT MADE. Q--What did Rodgers do?

A--He accepted that position and came down to negotiate a new contract. The new contract, dated June 16th, 1923 was put in and read. Dr. Campbell acted for the Government. The prices under the new contract were \$5.00 for clean peeled and \$7.00. The cost of loading was to be borne by the purchaser.

MR. WINTER--Can you account for the drop in price.

A--No.

Q--Can you state what the wood had cost the Government?

A--Some had cost as high as \$14 per cord.

Q--Has Mr. Rodgers a claim against

Unedda Biscuits

Lorna Doone, Doris Sandwich, Cheese Sandwich, Zu Zu, Ginger Snaps, Vanilla Wafers, Unedda Soda, Oysterettes, Barnum's Animals, Coconut Taffey, Social Tea, Arrow Root, Cameo Sandwich, Raisin Fruit, London Cream, Old time Sugar Cookies, Fig Newtens and Hundreds of others—all baked by NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY "UNEEDA BAKERS".

Leo A. Duffy

Nfld. Representative.

STATUTORY NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that all parties having claims against the estate of Isaac Primmer, late of Barr Islands in the Electoral District of Pogo in the Island of Newfoundland, planter, deceased, are required to furnish particulars thereof in writing duly attested, to the undersigned solicitor for the Executors of the will of the said deceased on or before the 18th day of March 1924, after which date the said Executors will proceed to distribute the said estate having regard to those claims only of which they then shall have had notice. St. John's, February 9th, 1924.

CYRIL JAMES FOX,

Solicitor for Executors, with Isaac Primmer.

ADDRESS: Board of Trade Bldg., Water Street, St. John's, Nfld.

Feb 11, 1924.

MINARD'S LINTMENT FOR CORNS, BORN.

KEEF MINARD'S LINTMENT IN THE HOUSE.

AFTER TOMATO BRUCE.

Wonderful Values! LADIES' BOOTS!



BLACK ONLY \$2.75 PAIR. MAHOGANY ONLY \$2.75 PAIR. LADIES' BLACK VICI KID BOOTS—Medium Cuban Heel; all sizes. Only \$2.75 Pair. LADIES' MAHOGANY CALF BOOTS—Medium Cuban Heel, Goodyear welt; all sizes. Only \$2.25 Pr. LADIES' VICI KID 1-STRAP COMFORT SHOE—Rubber Heel Only \$2.50 Pair.

F. SMALLWOOD,

THE HOME OF GOOD SHOES, WATER ST.