

Unwarranted Charge Refuted

Postal Officials Accused of Tampering with Registered Mail—Sir W. F. Coaker States That Charge is Groundless.

The following correspondence deals with a complaint laid with His Excellency the Governor by the legal firm of Gibbs & Barron to the effect that a registered communication addressed to them by Sir W. F. Coaker had been opened. The brief message from the latter shows that the charge altogether without grounds.

GIBBS AND BARRON TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.
Bank of Montreal Building,
St. John's, Nfld.,
October 18, 1925.

Sir: We have been retained by Messrs. Gibbs & Barron, Barristers at Law, addressed to His Excellency the Governor, with covering letter from His Excellency.

The allegations against your Department contained in the letter of Messrs. Gibbs & Barron are of a very serious nature indeed, and demand immediate and thorough investigation.

In the first place the Telegram Department is attacked as being unreliable, and in the second place the Registration Department of the Post Office is charged with a very serious action in regard to a certain communication posted by Messrs. Gibbs & Barron to Sir William Coaker at Port Union on the 12th instant.

It would appear that it is a very easy charge to answer. The communication of such a nature surely would not be delivered by your official at Port Union or accepted by the addressee unless it were in a proper condition.

The Government are most anxious that the very fullest investigation should be made into this whole affair at the earliest possible moment, so that these charges can be properly dealt with.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) J. R. BENNETT,
Acting Prime Minister.

Hon. W. J. Woodford,
Minister of Posts & Telegraphs,
St. John's.

[Copy]
STATEMENT OF MR. JOHN MURPHY.

I am Receiving Clerk at the St. John's Registration Office. I remember receiving a letter from Mr. Barron of Messrs. Gibbs & Barron, in the forenoon of Monday, 12th October. It was tendered for registration. It was stamped and addressed Sir W. F. Coaker, K.B.E., Port Union. I gave a receipt for it, No. 46. It was in apparent good condition. I am sure that if it was torn or cut I would have noticed it. It is customary then to place such letters in a pigeon hole near the

and report by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.
(Sgd.) W. L. ALLARDYCE,
Governor.

17th October, 1925.

[Copy]
FROM THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER TO THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Prime Minister's Office,
St. John's, Nfld.,
October 19, 1925.

Sir: I have the honor to forward you herewith communication from Messrs. Gibbs & Barron, Barristers at Law, addressed to His Excellency the Governor, with covering letter from His Excellency.

The allegations against your Department contained in the letter of Messrs. Gibbs & Barron are of a very serious nature indeed, and demand immediate and thorough investigation.

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MECCA

IF BABY WERE SAVED
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

YOU WOULD RUSH for the household of "Mecca" and immediately apply a disk of this wonderful ointment to the afflicted area.

Sold Everywhere.

[Copy]
STATEMENT OF MR. CLARENCE STONE.

I am Clerk in the Registered Letter Branch and despatched the registered letters, received on the 12th and 13th inst., to Port Union. I had four registered letters to send to Port Union on the 13th. Those received on the 12th were placed in the vault that night and were arranged for despatch on the morning of the 13th. I entered them on the letter bill. No. 78, 46 and 154 were addressed to Mr. Coaker, No. 146 for the Fishermen's U. Trading Co. As I entered each letter I turned it face down and if there was any break or tear in the envelope, I could not help noticing it. I am confident, therefore, that each of these letters was in good condition when despatched by me. By despatching I mean, I would place the four letters, with the bill, in the regulation registered envelope, which I sealed and addressed to Port Union. This envelope is given to the general mail despatcher to be enclosed in the sealed bag which they despatch to Port Union.

(Sgd.) CLARENCE STONE.

[Copy]
FROM MINISTER TO POST MASTER AT PORT UNION.

Oct. 20th, 1925.

To P.M.,
Port Union.

We despatched four registered letters to Port Union on 13th instant. One, number forty-six, for Sir William Coaker is alleged to have been received by him cut open and contents abstracted. Was in apparent good condition when despatched from here. Wire it bag and package containing

it were intact and condition of envelope, when delivered also, when and to whom it was delivered and if any complaint made to you by receiver or addressee.

W. J. WOODFORD,
Min. Posts & Telegraphs.

[Copy]
FROM POST MASTER AT PORT UNION TO MINISTER OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.

Oct. 20th, 1925.

Your register number forty-six despatched 13th instant, was delivered by us on the morning of the 14th inst. Nothing in regard to bad order was noticed by us and letter taken delivery of by R. Jones one of the Trading Co's Staff. Never heard a word of complaint by him or addressee.

(Sgd.) P.M.

[Copy]
FROM MINISTER OF POSTS TO SIR W. F. COAKER.

October 20th, 1925.

To Sir Wm. F. Coaker,
Port Union.

Post Office Officials accused tampering with registered letter from your solicitors. Enquiries made show proper delivery on 14th in good condition to R. Jones of Trading Company's staff Port Union. Believe charge result misunderstanding and feel assured you will exonerate officials of blame over matter. Enclosed is the enquiry into case now in progress.

(Sgd.) W. J. WOODFORD,
Minister of Posts.

[Copy]
FROM ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF POSTS TO MESSRS. GIBBS & BARRON.

Messrs. Gibbs & Barron, Barristers,
Water St., St. John's.

Dear Sirs:—I am directed by the Hon. The Minister of Posts and Telegraphs to advise you that he is making full inquiry into a case of alleged tampering of a registered article, mailed by your firm at the G.P.O. on the 12th instant.

In order to definitely identify the letter in question, the envelope of which is said to be held by you, the Minister desires to be furnished with the number of it, and a statement from the person who mailed it, as to its condition when mailed, and exact time of mailing.

The inquiry so far made, indicates that all letters from your firm received on that date for the addressee in question were forwarded in apparent good condition to Port Union on the 13th instant, in sealed registered packet, enclosed in sealed sack, which is not usually opened in transit.

The Minister further directs me to say that he has no report from the P.M. that the seals of the bag were not intact when received, neither has he received any complaint direct from the addressee on the subject.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) W. M. CAMPBELL,
Asst. Deputy Minister & Secretary P. O. Department.

[Copy]
REPLY OF GIBBS & BARRON TO ASST. DEPUTY.

October 20th, 1925.

William Campbell, Esq.,
Asst. Deputy Minister Posts & Telegraphs, City.

Dear Sir:—We are in receipt of yours of this day's date, wherein you inform us that the Minister of Posts & Telegraphs is making full inquiry into a case of alleged tampering of a registered article mailed on the 12th instant. You also request us for definite identification of the letter in question, the envelope of which is said to be held by you.

We are not surprised to note that you are not yet convinced of the occurrence of the subject matter of the complaint. However, the envelope itself can be seen at any time by you or any of your officials at our office, but not elsewhere.

We are enclosing herewith a duplicate of the envelope with the end open as in the original; also, copy of letter of Sir William Coaker to us in relation to the matter.

The letter in question was registered by our Mr. Barron on Oct. 12th instant, shortly after 5 p.m. The envelope was in good condition when posted and carefully sealed. The manner in which it was opened proves this fact.

We shall be glad to forward you any further information in our possession that you may require for the purpose of facilitating your inquiry.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd.) GIBBS & BARRON.

[Copy]
FROM SIR W. F. COAKER TO GIBBS & BARRON.

Port Union, Nfld.,
Oct. 11th, 1925.

Dear Sirs:—The enclosed came to me exactly as you find it—open at the end.

(Sgd.) W. F. COAKER.

[Copy]
FROM SIR W. F. COAKER TO MINISTER OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.

To Minister Posts & Telegraphs.

Officials here exonerated from blame regarding opening letter referred to yours of to-day. Find letter was opened by subordinate in our of MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR DIS-TEMPER.

NOW---PLAYING THE NICKEL---NOW**Harry Carey in "TIGER THOMPSON"**

When you see his face, you can read courage there, and strength and tigerish determination—a hold-on-till-I-win spirit.

That's Harry Carey as the "Tiger." It's the greatest role of his colorful career.

Action to thrill you—romance to enthrall you—A Mystery to Tingle the Blood in Your Veins.

EXTRA—ADDED ATTRACTION—EXTRA

"HIS RASCALS" in an OUR GANG Comedy "SEEING THINGS"

COMING—RICHARD DIX and BEBE DANIELS, in Allan Crossland's Production—"UNGUARDED WOMEN."

Local**Damsons**

75^c.

Per Gallon

The Royal Stores, Ltd.

Don't Scratch Your Head!

if you are not sure where you are going to get something better, something more exclusive—

JUST COME TO

STRANG'S

THE SHOP ON THE CORNER.

We have everything just a little better, and prices correct. Newly arrived:

FALL SUITINGS and OVERCOATINGS—LADIES' and GENTLEMEN'S.

Also a New Shipment of Humming Bird Silk Stockings for Ladies—all the latest shades.

J. J. Strang

Corner Water and Prescott Streets.

CARD.

H. A. WINTER,
Barrister and Solicitor,
G.W.V.A. Building,
Oct 2, 1mo
Water Street.

Free! Free!

Every Day During this Week

A Pair of Riverside Wool Blankets

To the person forecasting the correct or nearest correct number of people visiting the Industrial Fair the following day, we will give a pair of the famous RIVERSIDE WOOL BLANKETS.

THERE ARE NO STRINGS TO THIS OFFER.

When you purchase your admittance ticket at the rink, you will receive a card, which you will fill in and deposit in a box provided for that purpose, at the RIVERSIDE MILLS BOOTH.

Make sure you receive one of these cards, and write your name and address plainly, as prize will be sent to address written on card.

In the event of two or more making the correct or nearest correct forecast, the prize will be awarded to first one drawn. Read this advertisement every day, as the winner of each day's forecast will be announced in this space, also at the rink. You may be the lucky winner.

Winner of Blankets, Tuesday, Mr. W. J. Martin, 163 Gower Street.

Winner of Blankets, Wednesday, L. Hiscock, 6 Bell Street.

Winner of Blankets, Thursday, Miss Mabel Parsons, 36 Victoria Street.

The Riverside Woolen Mills Ltd.
Riverside, Brigus, Nfld.