

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 10, 1913.

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THE BRAND OF INFAMY.

The revelations at Ottawa which have been so jauntily discussed by the St. John Standard are too much for the Conservative press in Toronto. The Telegram declares that "the provincial drunken sailor is a model of wisdom and economy in the outlay of money compared to Canada's militia department in many phases of its expenditures." The World says "war graft must go." The Mail and Empire calls the "graft" "infamy money," and significantly observes that "looters caught in the act are usually shot in their tracks." The Conservative Ottawa Citizen has been even more vigorous in its denunciation of the shameful acts revealed before the public accounts committee at Ottawa.

It is easy to understand why the St. John Standard brands Sir Wilfrid Laurier as an enemy of British connection and charges the whole Liberal party with disloyalty. It wants its readers to forget about the real traitors and grafters who are in its own party. "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel," and the people of Canada will have no difficulty in locating the real scoundrels.

Never in the political history of Canada has there been anything to compare with what has been brought out in the inquiry at Ottawa into the matter of military supplies. Nobody, however, is so simple-minded as to believe that the same sort of thing has not been going on and is not now going on all over the country in connection with government contracts. It is not surprising that the people have to face an increased tariff with the burdens it imposes upon them, and the other burden described for political effect as "war taxes."

The Borden government cannot be absolved from responsibility in connection with the scandals which have aroused so vigorous a protest from Conservative newspapers. Everybody knows there would have been no inquiry and no revelations but for the vigilance of the members of the Liberal party. Of course the government press will say that the government is determined to punish every wrong-doer, but the wrong-doers would have remained under cover, just as a host of others are still under cover and will remain there unless the Liberals can force an investigation.

And these are the gentlemen who avow their patriotism and charge Sir Wilfrid Laurier with disloyalty, and make the same charge against all those Liberals whose sons are fighting, or are going forward to fight, and offer their lives if necessary, for the defence of Canada and the Empire. Surely the people only await an opportunity to set the seal of utter condemnation upon those who are willing to traffic in the lives of men and make the flag of their country a cloak for acts of infamy.

REVELATIONS AT OTTAWA.

As was to be expected, the Conservatives on the public accounts committee at Ottawa have submitted a report extenuating the government in the matter of the soldiers' boots, on the ground that great haste was necessary in purchasing the boots, and contending also there was no time for proper inspection; and that the government did the best it could under the circumstances.

There is, however, a minority report, which not only states the facts, but also points out by extracts from the evidence, showing that poor materials, poor workmanship, poor inspection, poor specifications and the influence of the middlemen figured in the cost, and that there was wholesale condemnation of the boots by regimental boards of inquiry and by men who wore them. It is further shown by the minority report that despite warnings and protests the government went on buying the same kind of boots, although the excuse of haste in providing for the first contingent could not be offered in the case of the second and third.

The boot scandal is in itself a sufficient condemnation of the government, but when to the revelations in that inquiry are added those concerning the horses, surgical supplies, motor vehicles, binoculars, drugs and other supplies, the tale of graft and incompetence brings the blush of shame to every patriotic Canadian. It is to divert attention from these revelations that the flag is being waved, and that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his followers are being charged with disloyalty and a desire to deprive the soldiers of their franchise. Apparently it is all right to give the soldiers rotten boots, and to make the grafters rich by traffic in war supplies, if only the attention of the people can be diverted from the operations of the grafters.

AT FREDERICTON.

There is a possibility of some interesting disclosures before the public accounts committee at Fredericton. The chairman of that committee has been requested to summon a number of witnesses to tell what they know about those patriotic potatoes. There is reason to believe that a portion of the money which should have gone entirely for the benefit of the people of the Mother Country was diverted to the pockets of grafters and middlemen.

The sum of \$100 per year has been paid to a contractor for operating a ferry at Medicine. It appears, however, that the ferry has not been operated. At

least when the ferryman learned that the matter was likely to be inquired into, he returned \$100 to the department. The chairman of the public accounts committee has also been requested to summon witnesses and inquire into this matter.

A young man in one of the northern counties whose name appeared on the pay list as having worked twenty-two days on one bridge and thirteen days on another bridge says he never did, say such work. Who got the money?

It is said there is a vigorous effort on the part of the enemies of Hon. John Morrissey to crowd him out of the government and give the office to Mr. P. G. Mahoney.

Mr. E. S. Carter is still awaiting Commissioner Chandler's reply to his last request for an inquiry into definite charges that W. H. Berry, while an official of the province, received sums of money ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for his personal use from leases of crown lands, and the other charge that certain public works cost four or five times more than the estimate. Mr. Carter very properly contends that these charges ought not to be overlooked and he quotes in his letter to Mr. Chandler the invitation of the attorney general at the opening of the inquiry, when he said "even if there is but a suspicion of wrong the government will not let it pass." That persons who may have knowledge may be summoned to appear. If the government does not block inquiry before the Royal Commission and before the public accounts committee some very interesting information will doubtless be secured.

VOTES AND BOOTS.

The Standard continues to charge the Liberals with a desire to rob the soldiers of their votes. The charge is absolutely false. In the course of the discussion on this question the Liberal speakers have distinctly stated that they favor giving the soldiers votes, but they want it done in such a way as will ensure that they vote intelligently and that the votes are recorded in accordance with their wishes. As one Liberal speaker put it very tersely yesterday, it is quite possible, if the government has its way, that there will be as great a scandal about soldiers' votes as there has been about soldiers' boots. It is not necessary to point out that no Liberal desires to rob his own son who is a soldier of the right to vote.

The Standard this morning returns to the attack on Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and charges him with "flagrant and notorious disloyalty." Sir Wilfrid Laurier sent Canadian troops to South Africa. He gave the British preference. He has made recruiting speeches and urged French-Canadians to enlist in the present war. He has given the Borden government the most loyal support in its war measures. He was the honored leader of the government of Canada for nearly sixteen years, during the period of the greatest prosperity and development this country ever enjoyed. This is the man who is charged by the St. John Standard, organ of the grafters, with "flagrant and notorious disloyalty."

Has any of the "infamy money" come to St. John?

It must not be assumed because there is to be a large increase in the tax apart for cemeteries that the people of St. John are "dead ones." It is merely an evidence of a "certain liveliness" in real estate.

The Conservative Toronto Mail and Empire says: "No patriot will envy the man who has taken the opportunity of the war to fill his pockets." Nor a government which will utilize a patronage list to enable men to fill their pockets with war graft.

A cable from Rome says that political meetings are to be held throughout Italy tomorrow to urge the government to participate in the war. Another cable says that Germany has prohibited exports to Italy and that Germans from Italy are crowding into Switzerland.

That is an interesting rumor which comes from York County to the effect that Mr. James K. Pinder may be a Conservative candidate for the house of commons. If Mr. Flemming in Carleton County, why not Mr. Pinder in York County, and Mr. W. H. Berry, for example, in Charlotte County?

Of course we are interested in what Kitchener says, or Joffre, or even Lloyd George, but for real news of the day commend us to what Jack Johnson says about Jess Willard, and what Jess Willard says about Jack Johnson, and what Jeffries and Fitzsimmons, and other great warriors have to say about Willard and Johnson.

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"I expect it's 'cause I don't get things given to me often enough to practice," answered the young diplomat.

Bella—"Tom didn't blow out his brains when you gave him the mitten last week. He came over yesterday afternoon and proposed to me."

Kate—"Then he must have got rid of them some other way."

"What do you think of married life?" asked the henpecked man, addressing the youthful bridegroom.

"Billie is a name for it," said the young husband enthusiastically.

"You are right," said the henpecked one gloomily. "Billie is no name for it."

"Do you think you will be able to keep me out of prison?" asked the client, after he had made a full confession to his lawyer.

"I may not be able to do that, but I can make the prosecution spend a lot of money in putting you there!" said the lawyer.

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IN THE LEGISLATURE

Raise Interest Rate on Bonds—
Probate Court Matters

Fredricton, N. B., April 9.—The house met at 9 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Baxter introduced a bill to amend the act relating to the Boys' Industrial Home, which he said was to remove a difficulty which had arisen in the city of Fredericton and county of York. He also introduced a bill relating to sewers and marsh lands.

Mr. Dugal gave notice of motion to have the report of the royal commission brought down to the house.

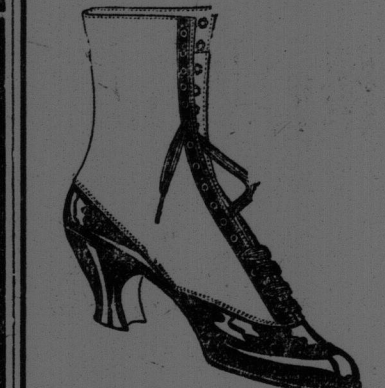
The bill to permit the government to pay 8 per cent instead of 4-1/2 on some debentures issued a short time ago, to enable the province to sell them, was assented to.

Further consideration was given the

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was more concentration of heart power. Highlanders were not tall men, as was commonly supposed. The Gordons averaged in height more than 5 ft. 7 1/2 in. Even statistics of the present war showed that "fine men do not resist disease and wounds," so effectively as the shorter or more compact men. In marching and shooting and staying powers the figures were all on the side of the shorter men.

The total amount of property not subjected to taxation in New York city is \$1,878,895,248.

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