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STATEMENT ISSUED BY R. L. BORDEN

Senate Reading Room
Library—100
SENATE P O

ANEW PO[illegible]R SENSATION

BUT RUSSELL TOOK NO LEGAL ACTION

Sincerity of Mr. Blair's Reasons for Resigning Questioned by The Montreal Herald, That Censures Him for Failing to Confide in Public.

A QUEBEC LIBERAL MEMBER TO MAKE CHARGE IN HOUSE

Montreal, Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Before leaving for Halifax to-night, R. L. Borden made a statement concerning certain features of David Russell's daring attempt to overthrow the government. This was the only development of the great political sensation of the day. Neither Mr. Blair nor Mr. Russell took legal action against the newspapers which published the story. In the statement which he gave out Mr. Russell threatened to promptly commence an action for criminal libel against The Herald newspaper. No papers were served, however, and The Herald gives no sign of withdrawing its story or any portion of it. On the contrary, The Herald questions the sincerity of the reasons advanced by Mr. Blair for resigning the chairmanship of the railway commission, and censures him for failing to frankly tell the public where he stands.

Principals in the Plot.

Senator Dandurand's views are substantially those shared by well-informed politicians in Montreal. Whether Mr. Blair knew or did not know of the game that was being played, those who persuaded him to resign were the principals in the plot. Mr. Blair may have been used by those people without discerning their motives, but this theory is discredited by the well-known intimacy between Mr. Blair and the father of the plot, David Russell. The facts will come out in a parliamentary investigation and probably not before. An action for criminal libel would open up the affair, but Mr. Russell's threat of legal action is generally regarded as bluff. An action for libel would take Mr. Russell into the witness box, in which case there would be some interesting and perhaps embarrassing testimony.

Charges to Be Made.

In all probability a Quebec Liberal member will make charges from his seat in the house as soon as parliament convenes, and a parliamentary committee will follow. If some men who are now members of the Laurier government suffer from the exposures, as they probably will, they will have handed in their resignations before the testimony is brought to light. The revealing process has gone too far to be stopped, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier is credited with intention of making a complete investigation even at the expense of losing a couple of his ministers.

No Real Reason Given.

The Herald comments editorially on Mr. Blair's statement, as follows: "Hon. Mr. Blair has addressed to The Gazette a letter of over a column in length concerning his retirement from the railway commission, and the public are still uninformed as to his real reason for leaving the commission. When he retired from the commission his valedictory address made clear to those who heard hi mtwo very important circumstances. First, that he was doing so with the expectation of best looking after his own interests; second, that it was necessary for him to resign from the commission immediately. He said he could not 'in my own interest forego personal advantages which are open to me in other employment,' and again 'I have had presented to me for PROMPT DETERMINATION, the question as to whether I will turn my energies in another direction, which will be much more profitable to me personally than the position which I now fill,' and again he used the expression, 'if it had been possible to have held further in suspense the question of my retirement,' the difficulty of his going might have been accentuated, etc.

Just Seven Weeks Ago.

"It is just seven weeks to-day since Mr. Blair made those statements on taking leave of a great judicial office, and yet in the course of a letter a column long, he fails to say what it was that was 'presented to me for prompt determination, which made it impossible to have held further in suspense the question of my retirement.' Mr. Blair could have said in ten lines of his letter to The Gazette what was the 'other employment' open to him, and what the direction in which he was to turn his energies. 'which will be much more profitable to me personally than the position which I now fill.' But Mr. Blair has not thought well to pen the ten lines which, if written, would have satisfied the curiosity of the people of Canada. Perhaps it will be argued that the people of Canada have no right to the information. Be that as it may, Mr. Blair evidently did not think so when, on leaving the commission, he voluntarily made these statements.

"But that apart, the work of the commission, the business of the country, has been so thrown into disorder by his resignation, that seven weeks after he made his statements about the necessity for a 'prompt' decision, public opinion might well demand of him a reasonable explanation."

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DAVID RUSSELL'S STATEMENT.

Montreal, Dec. 6.—(Special.)—David Russell made the following statement to-night:

"Hon. A. G. Blair and myself have instructed our lawyers to at once commence criminal proceedings against The Montreal Herald, the only responsible journal, which has copied the malicious attacks upon us.

It is only fair to Mr. Blair, for me to state that when I persuaded him to resign his position as chairman of the railway commission, there was no understanding that he would take the stump.

"I assumed that when he was attacked he would take the stump, and so believing, I wired the editor of The St. John Telegraph that he would do so inside 48 hours. I admit that I assumed too much, but I can assure the public that Sir Wilfrid Laurier or anybody else never sandbagged him into silence. He defies any member of the Liberal party to make the charge."

HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MR. BLAIR'S RESIGNATION

Mr. Borden Declares He Never Even Heard of the Alleged Construction Syndicate and Denies Ever Receiving Any Contribution From Mr. Russell.

Montreal, Que., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—In an interview to-day R. L. Borden made the following statement with regard to Mr. Blair's resignation of the chairmanship of the railway commission, denying entirely that he had any connection with that resignation:

"With reference to certain press statements respecting Mr. Blair's resignation as chairman of the railway commission I wish to say that that resignation came as a great surprise to me. I did not directly or indirectly suggest to him or ask him to resign. I held out no inducement to him to resign. I had no interview with him upon the subject, nor did any one on my behalf approach him upon the subject. In short I had nothing whatever to do with his resignation ,and I was thoroly surprised when I heard of it.

"I had no connection with and I knew nothing of any negotiations respecting the alleged change of ownership of La Presse, and I had nothing to do with such change, if it took place. I never had any interview or communication with any English or American capitalists, or with any other person, with respect to any proposed contracts for the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific. I never even heard of the alleged construction syndicate. No one approached me with any proposal respecting the construction of that railway. Any statement or suggestion to the contrary is utterly without foundation.

"I never received any contribution for any purpose from Mr. Russell or Mr. Greenshields or any gentleman connected with them, or from any English or American capitalist, nor did the Conservative party, so far as I am aware. Until the article in The Toronto World appeared I had never even heard of any attempt by Conservatives to induce the withdrawal of Liberal candidates in the Province of Quebec. It would astonish me beyond measure to learn that any such attempt was made or proposed."

MRS. CHADWICK MOVES OUT FROM ONE HOTEL TO ANOTHER

No Conference Between Federal Officers and Andrew Carnegie Held at Latter's House.

New York, Dec. 6.—The expected did not happen to-night, and all predictions proved at fault when at a late hour it was announced that no conference between federal officers and Andrew Carnegie had been held at the latter's house.

This turn was surprising, for Mr. Carnegie had announced in the course of the day that he would be glad to receive a federal officer, and it was supposed that F. F. Oldham, representing the comptroller of the treasury, would meet him to-night, and the matter of the notes alleged to have been given Iri Reynolds of Cleveland, and said to bear the name of Andrew Carnegie, would be discussed.

As unexpected as the news that no conference was held, was the departure of Mrs. Chadwick from the Holland House, where she has resided, for the new Amsterdam Hotel. She was accompanied by her son and a maid, and took with her some baggage. Secret service men who have been at the Holland for several days, followed Mrs. Chadwick.

KUROPATKIN'S LIFE ATTEMPTED.

Chinaman Arrested With Necessary Material on His Person.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 6.—A very curious despatch has been received from a correspondent at Gen. Kuropatkin's, about the arrest of a Chinaman who was found in possession of 500 feet of fuse used in detonating high explosives. The telegram speaks of the necessity of providing a larger bodyguard for Gen. Kuropatkin. The wording of the despatch generally leads to the inference that an attempt made upon the commander-in-chief's life has been foiled. No confirmation of the report is obtainable here.

Use "Maple Leaf" Canned Salmon The best packed.

Be sure, The Commercial Barber Shop, 52 Yonge, sterilizes everything.

FIRE AT THE ISLAND.

At 2 o'clock this morning a brilliant glare denoted the destruction by fire of a number of frame houses situated along the breakwater at Ward's Island. For a time it looked as tho it might be the old hotel property. A strong west wind was blowing, which, if the fire had broken out on the west end of the island, would probably have ended in a clean sweep, as there is no fire protection now. All of which is another argument in favor of a fireboat for Toronto harbor.

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REPORT OF A JAP DEFEAT BUT NOT YET CONFIRMED

It is Said That the Russians Captured Twenty-Four Guns in a Rout.

Mukden, Dec. 6.—The report that Gen. Rennenkampff has administered a heavy defeat to the Japanese continues to circulate among the Russian troops, but has not yet been officially confirmed. To the earlier rumor mentioned above there is added the report that the Russians have succeeded in carrying off twenty-four guns, which they captured in the rout of the Japanese, but were at first unable to remove, owing to a cross-fire from the Japanese forces.

JAP CRUISER SUNK.

Moscow, Dec. 6.—A special despatch from Vladivostock says that a steamer which has just arrived there from Shanghai reports that the Japanese armored cruiser Adsuma had been blown up and sunk by a mine.

RUSSIANS STILL HOPE.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 7.—(2.55 a.m.)—Altho the war office and the admiralty are still without direct news from Port Arthur, confidence in the ability of the fortress to hold out continues to be expressed. The reports from Tokio of the shelling of battleships, and of heavy losses by the Russians in an ineffective attempt to recapture 203 Metre Hill are considered to be misleading.

The Tokio estimate, that the Russians lost 3000 men in the attempt to recapture 203 Metre Hill, is declared to be absurd, and it is pointed out that such a loss would imply the virtual crippling of the resistance, yet the reports from Tokio admit that Gen. Stoessel continues to make counter attacks.

NO IMMEDIATE FIGHT.

Mukden, Dec. 6.—Everything now indicates that the prospect of an immediate encounter on a large scale has passed. During the fighting below Tsinkhetchen (near Da Pass), the Russian loss was twenty-five men killed and 123 wounded, including two officers. Seventeen Japanese prisoners were taken, one of whom committed suicide.

MAYOR OF WINNIPEG.

Thomas Sharp Was Re-Elected by Acclamation Yesterday.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—The result of the civic nominations today is as follows:

Mayor—Thomas Sharpe, re-elected by acclamation.

Aldermen—Ward 1—James C. Gibson, acclamation. Ward 2—Robert Barclay, Henry Sandison and Adam Reid. Ward 3—James G. Latimer and Alfred H. Pulford. Ward 4—James G. Harvey and Joseph Kerr. Ward 5—James Stuart, Thos. McMunn, Moses Finkelstine, A. A. McArthur, D. D. Wood. Ward 6—John Wesley Cockburn, acclamation.

School trustees—All wards returned candidates by acclamation as follows: Ward 1—Frederick Charles Hubbard. Ward 2—Alex. Haggard. Ward 3—Jas. Scroggie. Ward 4—Geo. A. Lister. Ward 5—J. A. McKercher. Ward 6—J. H. Dullmadge.

THEY HAVE THE STAGE

Will Big Chiefs Blair and Sunny Smile now tell us why the hatchet was dug up—and so suddenly buried again?

YOUR FAULT, SAYS PREMIER IF LEGISLATURE WON'T DO

Tells Sons of Temperance Remedy Is Their Own, Hopes Principle Will Triumph, But Intimates Prohibition Isn't Wanted.

There is little political significance attached to the convention of the Sons of Temperance now in session at Victoria Hall. From all outward indications this fifty-sixth annual session is steering entirely clear of the present issue. While Premier Ross last night delivered an address, in which he took pains to define his own stand on the temperance question, and to justify the action of the convention, his presence was robbed of any special import. He was there as Brother Ross, of forty-one years' standing in the society, and it was with shoulders bedecked with its regalia that he rose to make remarks. He did not mount the platform, pleading as an excuse that he was not so active in some ways as he had been, the nimble enough in other respects.

"I am not very fond of getting up when once I'm settled down," he further confided. Going back to the time of his introduction into the society, away back in '63, he alluded to other temperance organizations of more recent growth, for whose work he professed admiration. In 1869 he had become patriarch, and again in 1878, and he had ever since been identified with the society in one way or another.

He had been delighted to hear the encouraging words from Mr. Spence. There had most certainly been progress in the diffusion of temperance principles in the churches, schools, municipalities, and in politics.

A Promise or a Threat?

"If you are looking for more than you are getting from the legislature," the speaker reasoned, "whose fault is it? You make the legislature, don't you? Well, I am going to give you a chance very soon to try your hand at it."

Mr. Ross thought the temperance cause should take what it had got and reach out for more later. The temperance ladder had to be climbed like any other ladder. There was much truth in what Mr. Spence had said, that the congregations of Toronto's 200 churches could dominate in politics if they chose. He had no doubt they could. But they wouldn't do it. He wanted principle to triumph, the people to choose men so bound. Whether of his own or the opposite party was no consequence to him. The country's good was more at the premier's heart than other considerations.

Blame on Legislature.

SO FAR AS HE PERSONALLY WAS CONCERNED, THE CAUSE HAD GOT ALL IT COULD. HE COULD NOT FORCE THE HAND OF THE LEGISLATURE. HE WAS WILLING TO BE USED AS FAR AS THE LEGISLATURE WOULD PERMIT. If the legislature was wrong, then the people were wrong. If the legislature declared for prohibition to-morrow and the people didn't want it, out they would go. Mr. Ross further intimated that the people didn't want prohibition.

Coming to local option, the speaker mentioned its growth in the United States. If Toronto had given 1600 majority for prohibition, why could it not carry local option and thus banish the bars? The premier was heartily applauded.

A Goodly Gathering.

Grand Worthy Patriarch Samuel Holland, Aurora, is presiding over the convention, which has attracted about 150 delegates from all over the province. The morning session was taken up with the initiation of new members and the appointment of committees. In the afternoon officers were elected. To-day the various reports, showing among other things the society's financial status, will be handed in.

Last night's gathering was in the nature of a reception to the representatives of other temperance organizations. Mrs. Stephens, on behalf of the White Ribboners, said it was being planned to erect a large building at the corner of Elm and Terauley-streets. Hundreds of young girls living in boarding houses had no means of entertaining, and this was to meet the need.

Get Into Politics.

F. S. Spence, after tendering the greetings of the alliance, said he was glad to note the growth in temperance sentiment, never more in evidence than now. But the province was still short of desired legislation for two reasons: too much partyism, and, contra, too little politics among a certain class who held aloof, viz., the churchgoers. Politics should be as important a part of a man's character as religion. There were 200 saloon keepers in Toronto who swayed political issues. There were also 200 churches, but the members thereof were divided by party. If they stood together it was in their power to secure the nomination of good men of moral principle.

Officers for 1905.

After W. B. Burgoyne, most worthy patriarch of the national division of North America, had conveyed that body's felicitations the premier was called upon. Brief speeches were made by other representatives of visiting organizations.

The elections in the afternoon resulted: Grand Worthy Patriarch, S. Holland, Aurora (re-elected); Grand Worthy Associate, Jas. Maginn, Wexford; Grand Scribe, J. M. Walton, Aurora (re-elected); Grand Treasurer, Thos. Caswell, Toronto; Chaplain, Rev. A. B. Brace, Newtonbrook; Grand Conductor, A. Baird, Oshawa; Grand Sentinel, Hugh McMillan, Toronto; Superintendent Young People's Work, Miss L. M. Hogarth, Solina; Grand Trustee, J. O. MacCarthy, Toronto.

A presentation of a purse of gold was made to Mr. Caswell in recognition of years of service, he being the society's oldest lecturer.

BRO. ROSS TO THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Speaking to the Sons of Temperance as a member of forty-one years' standing, the premier last night said that if they were looking for more than they were getting from the legislature, whose was the fault? "You make the legislature,don't you?" he asked. "Well, I am going to give you a chance very soon to try your hand at it." He said the churches could do more in politics. He himself wanted principle to triumph, whether it went for or against him. He could not force the hand of the legislature to do any more for them, and if the house was wrong it was because the people were. He intimated that the people did not want prohibition. Why didn't Toronto carry local option? he asked.

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"Ask Adams" about Office Furniture.

To Buy Gas Plant.

St. Thomas, Dec. 6.—City Solicitor Doherty was instructed by No. 1 committee of the city council last night to prepare a bylaw to provide for the purchase of the gas and electric light works, and to be submitted at the municipal elections. The price to be paid the gas company is $205,397.35.

WATER FAMINE IN THOROLD MANY IN A DESPERATE WAY

Twelve Families in Many Instances Depend on One Well—Prayers Offered for Rain.

St. Catharines, Dec. 6.—(Special.)—There is a serious water famine in Thorold, owing to the lack of rain and many families are in a desperate way. The town has now waterworks, and most of the wells and cisterns have given out. The few which still hold water are being severely taxed, for as many as 12 families in sections depend on one well for all the water they use, and on Sunday prayers for rain were offered in some of the Thorold churches.

The water famine has opened new possibilities in trade. One man has obtained a street watering cart and peddles water which he gets from the canal, to families in Thorold at 35 cents a wagon load. The situation among the farmers is growing worse. The country roads are almost unbearably dusty.

The farmers view with tremendous misgivings the prospect of winter setting in without rain falling. A great quantity will have to fall before the farmers around here will be ready for winter. Most of the streams and ponds where they get their water for cattle have dried up.

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DEATHS.

COMMON—On Tuesday, Dec. 6th, 1904, at 143 Spadina-avenue, Ellen, beloved wife of James Common, aged 33 years.

Funeral private to ount Pleasant Cemetery.

FOY—On Tuesday, Dec. 6th, at his late residence, 40 Bloor-street West, John Foy, president of the Niagara Navigation Company, aged 50 years.

Funeral private. Requiem mass at St. Basil's Church on Friday at 10 a.m. Friends are requested not to send flowers.

HIGGINS—At his late residence, 715 Dufferin-street, on Monday, Dec. 5th, at 8 p.m., W. H. Higgins, assistant inspector of division courts; formerly editor of The Whitby Chronicle, in the 75th year of his age.

Funeral Wednesday, at 10 a.m., from St. Helen's Church to St. Michael's Cemetery.

SMITH—Suddenly, on Tuesday, the 6th December, 1904, J. E. Berkeley Smith, bursar of the University of Toronto, aged 72 years.

Funeral from St. Philip's Church, Spadina-avenue, on Thursday, the 8th, at 2.30 o'clock. Interment in St. James' Cemetery.

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THE ONTARIO WINTER FAIR IS NOW IN FULL PROGRESS

Crowds Attend Show at Guelph and Great Interest in Exhibits Being Shown.

Guelph, Dec. 6.—(Special.)—The Ontario Winter Fair which opened here on Monday, is now in full progress, with the largest attendance in the history of this great show. Since Saturday visitors and stockmen have continued their influx into the city, and already some of the hotels are completely filled up, tho all have greatly increased their accommodation. Thousands of spectators passed thru the doors into the immense building during the day, and to-night sogreat was the attendance that it was with much difficulty that the people made their way thru the passages. The judges are progressing rapidly with their work and to-morrow will see most of the awards made.

The following are the results of the dairy tests as announced this evening:

Shorthorn cows, 36 months and over—James Brown, Norval, Ontario, 120.92 points; J. W. Armstrong, Speedside, Ontario, 119.78 points; L. D. Currie, Hillsburg, Ont., 115.40 points; H. J. Davis, Woodstock, Ont., 100.04 points.

Shorthorn heifers, under 36 months—James Brown, Norval, 70.68 points.

Holstein cows, 36 months and over—James Rettie, Norval,Ont., 140.20 points; James Rettie, Norval, Ont., 137.48 points; G. W. Rice, Tillsonburg, 135.58 points; G. W. Rice; Tillsonburg, 132.20 points; W. S. Schell, Woodstock, Ont., 122.40 points; P. D. Ede, Oxford Centre, 120.96 points; O. A. C., Guelph, 103.92 points.

Holstein heifers, under 36 months—James Rettie, Norval, 106.58 points; G. W. Rice, Tillsonburg, 106.00 points; P. D. Ede, Oxford Centre, 84.36 points.

Jersey cows, 36 months and over—S. J. Lyons, Norval, 79.06 points; S. J. Lyons, Norval, Ont., 74.92 points.

Jersey heifers, under 36 months—O. A.C., Guelph, Ont., 52.40 points; O.A.C., Guelph, 38.14 points.

Grade cows, 36 months and over—P. D. Ede, Oxford Centre, 140.64 points; H. McDougall, Guelph, 124.88 points; O.A. C., Guelph, 91.42 points; O.A.C., Guelph, 50.36 points.

Grade heifers, under 36 months—O.A. C., Guelph, 49.80 points.

The lectures in the building were commenced this evening with F. W. Hodson presiding. The subject of "A modern poultry house for the farm" was discussed by F. C. Elford. In the first place he maintained it should be built on dry land or on the slope of a hill facing the south and east. A good run should be provided on land that will give the fowls something to eat.

Prof. Graham of the O.A.C., and John Clark of Cainsville, added a few points of interest in the discussion following this address. Prof. Graham addressed the meeting on winter egg production. Good stock, a good house, proper food, reasonable exercise, cleanliness and favorable weather were considered by Mr. Graham as essential to satisfactory results in producing eggs during the winter months. He recommended such varieties of stock as the

Continued on Page 2.

CANADIAN STORE CATTLE.

Freeman's Journal Sees Loss to Small Irish Farmer.

(Canadian Associated Press Cable.)

London, Dec. 6.—The Freeman's Journal, quoting a correspondent, says that the importation of Canadian store cattle is about to assume importance. The Journal says that should the restrictions be removed, the whole profit now secured by the small Irish farmers of from 20 to 40 acres, would be destroyed. Store cattle formed two-thirds of the Irish export, the profit on which would almost entirely disappear, while the rents of the middle-sized and mixed farms would at one stroke be rendered entirely unpayable, and the prices being paid for these farms would become impossible. The exclusion of foreign store cattle is the one absolute condition making it possible to repay these advances.

ALMA TO GET $15,000.

St. Thomas, Dec. 6.—At the council meeting to-night Treasurer Perry was authorized to pay to the Alma College management the $15,000 granted by the ratepayers, as soon as the mortgage had been signed and the other terms fulfilled.

The Canadian Muskrat.

The animal most extensively used in Canada fur trade is the Canadian muskrat. It has recently been proved useful and stylish in jackets for ladies and has no peer as a lining for gentlemen's coats. The Dineen Co. are offering a splendid assortment of these at $50 each.

FAIR AND COLDER.

Meteorological Office, Toronto, Ont., Dec. 6.—(8 p. m.)—Gales have been blowing on the lakes to-day and scattered snow flurries have occurred in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, while showers have been fairly general in British Columbia. In other portions of the Dominion fair weather has prevailed.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 2—14; Port Simpson, 34—50; Victoria, 40—46; Calgary, 16—34; Qu'Appelle, 6—30; Winnipeg, 6—28; Port Arthur, 14—28; Parry Sound, 4 below—30; Toronto, 14—32; Ottawa, 6—14; Montreal, 10—14; Quebec, 6—10; St. John, 16—28; Halifax, 20—22.

Probabilities.

Fresh to strong west and northwest winds; fair and a little colder again; local snow flurries.

Georgian Bay—Fresh west and northwest winds; fair and colder; light local snow falls.

Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence—Fresh to strong westerly winds; mostly fair and cold; scattered snow flurries.

Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf—Fresh to strong winds, shifting to south and west; light scattered snowfalls.

Maritime—Fresh to strong south to west winds; fair and comparatively mild; local showers of snow or rain at night.

Superior—Fresh to strong northwest, shifting to southwest winds; fair and cold.

Manitoba—Fair and moderately cold today; Thursday milder.

Rounders on rising rapidly reduce remorse with Radnor.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

Dec. 7	At	From
Minnehaha	New York	London
Liguria	New York	Genoa
Neckar	New York	Naples
Finland	New York	Dover
Ionian	Liverpool	St. John
Numidian	Glasgow	New York
Frankfurt	Bremen	New York
Phoenicia	Genoa	New York
Kroonland	Antwerp	New York

Need Filing Cabinets? "Ask Adams."

Smokers' presents—buy from Alive Bollard.