

W. F. O'CONNOR, RESIGNED.

The High Cost of Living Commissioner, Mr. W. F. O'Connor resigned on April 4th, 1918, which brings to a close in this branch of Governmental work a career of one man in whom the public at large had absolute confidence. For seventeen months, or since November, 1916, Mr. O'Connor had held the position of High Cost of Living Commissioner. While dealing generally with the problems of the High Cost of Living as it relates to the Dominion, his most effective work was the inauguration of a system in the Labour Department whereby Cold Storage and Meat Packing companies, and others, were compelled to submit to the Department each month sworn statements of their food holdings.

Mr. O'Connor analyzed these statements and from them compiled some most interesting statistics which, when incorporated into a report, startled the Public. The inside workings of these Meat Packing Companies were laid bare. The hoarding of food was proven, excessive profits, due to exorbitant prices charged, were shown. In all this work the congratulations of the public were extended to Mr. O'Connor, but, alas, there was another side to the question. The packers had been dealt a blow which would take them years to overcome. Mr. O'Connor's reports had contained information which was not intended for the public. In short the cat was out of the bag, and Mr. O'Connor's resignation was demanded by those who were affected. At first the Government stood firm, but eventually things became so uncomfortable that Mr. O'Connor has been obliged to resign, and the consumer and wage earner have lost the services of their best friend. It is hoped the whole matter will be ventilated in Parliament. The packers and Big Interests must not rule.

SACRIFICE REWARDED.

The new Postmaster at Ottawa, Mr. A. G. Acres, appears to have been heavily endowed by the Borden Government. Just prior to the outbreak of war he was paid, according to a question asked by Mr. Proulx and answered by the Hon. Mr. Sifton on April 3rd, \$22,260.42 for purchasing some property in Ottawa upon which the government intend some day to erect a public building.

From August 1st, 1915, to December, 1916, Mr. Acres was an Honorary Captain and Paymaster of the 77th Battalion and drew as his regimental pay \$3.00 per day, plus travelling expenses \$867, plus separation allowance \$680, and all this time he was able to look after his own business in Ottawa.

These sacrifices have been rewarded by his appointment as Postmaster at Ottawa.

ENLISTMENTS FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE.

On March 25th, 1918, the Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, in answer to a question asked by Mr. J. Demers, M.P. for St. Jean-Iberville, Que., informed the House that the total number of voluntary enlistments in Canada from the beginning of the war to date was 448,062, that out of this number 47,727 had voluntarily enlisted between the dates of January 1st, 1917, and September 1st, 1917.

THE DESTRUCTION OF FOOD.

An investigation at Winnipeg proved that 5,000 pounds of poultry were destroyed on account of being unfit for human consumption, the William Davies Packing Company having held them too long in cold storage. Subsequently 2,000 additional pounds were destroyed by the same company, a great tribute to Sir Joseph Flavelle, head of the company.

The papers of April 12th contain a remarkable statement headed from Toronto, April 11th, to the effect that between April 4th and April 10th, 100,000 pounds of vegetables and apples were destroyed in a crematory situated in the Western part of the City of Toronto, near the Don. Turnips and onions were the principal vegetables destroyed. The report says that this announcement is made by Street Commissioner Wilson of the City of Toronto.

Again on July 22nd, 1918, a Vancouver paper The British Columbia Federationist stated "If the high cost of living investigations are carried far enough it is expected that it will be shown that a considerable number of persons ought to be in jail. For instance more than 800,000 pounds of fruit, vegetables, and eggs have been destroyed in the Vancouver incinerator. Why was this held up until it was unfit for consumption."

Surely here is an opportunity for the Food Control Board, and we wait with much interest the action they will take in the matter.

HOW THE GOV'T. PROTECTS ITS OWN.

The story of the dynamiting of Lord Atholston's (Sir Hugh Graham) residence in Montreal by agitators who were supposed to be not in sympathy with the Military Service Act, was recently revived in the House of Commons on a question asked by P. F. Casgrain, M.P., for Charlevoix-Montmorency.

It will be remembered that during the summer of 1917 demonstrations against the Military Service Act were frequent in the City of Montreal. It was obvious that someone was attempting to incite the people against the Conscription Bill. Orators would appear on street corners, and in some instances halls where meetings were advertised, and openly advocated resistance to the Military Service Act. Eventually the residence of Lord Atholstan was dynamited and the family narrowly escaped instant death. The Montreal police took hold of the matter and several arrests were made. The guilty were brought into court where it was proved that a detective, in the employ of the Dominion Government, by the name of Charles Desjardins, was the leader of the gang of agitators who were working in Montreal, which gang was responsible for the dynamiting.

In the House of Commons on March 25th, the Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, informed Mr. Casgrain, that this same Mr. Charles Desjardins was employed by the Dominion Police as a detective at \$2.50 per day and that after he (Desjardins) was arrested in Montreal and awaiting trial the Justice Department deposited \$10,000 in lieu of bail for him, pending his trial.

This is the same Desjardins referred to in the speech of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, reproduced in this issue of the Monthly.