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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1919

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NEW BRUNSWICK'S SHAME

The legislature of New Brunswick has now got down to real business. The McQueen report on the Patriotic Potato Gift has been laid on the table. It is well at the very outset to take note of the fact that this gift of about 40,000 barrels of potatoes, to cost about \$75,000, was to be sent to the motherland "for use of the army and navy as a token of the loyalty and attachment of the people of New Brunswick to the throne of the British Empire." Having in mind this declaration of "loyalty" we proceed to learn what their patriotism prompted Hon. J. A. Murray, Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, Mr. B. Frank Smith and Mr. George B. Jones to do.

The story is told in the report published today. It ought to empty four seats in the legislature. It ought to compel the other members of the opposition party to join the government in a polite request for the vacation of those four seats. It ought to move the people of this province to refuse their support to any candidate who does not clearly and without equivocation denounce the whole miserable transaction exposed in the McQueen report.

The findings of the commissioner are really very mild in the face of the sworn testimony.

In the first place it will be noted that the original \$75,000 was swelled to \$103,505.75 and that while \$92,961.89 was shown to be lost the commissioner thinks it may reasonably be supposed the total was very much larger. Mr. W. B. Tennant set aside \$61,500 (as he supposed) to meet the loss, although it was not all spent in that way. We must note also that while great quantities of potatoes more than were needed were bought, they were not all accounted for. In the purchase of potatoes certain persons were selected, and a certain preference was given to Mr. B. Frank Smith. The whole story reeks with favoritism, incompetency and worse.

The public will be particularly interested in the commissioner's findings (from the sworn evidence) concerning the part played by Messrs. Murray, Baxter, Smith and Jones, and the disposition of the money secured from Mr. W. B. Tennant. Mr. Daggett, was only a deputy, Mr. Tennant a convenience. The greater sinners were the four men who now sit in the legislature and have the hardihood to offer criticisms of the Foster government. With their own record on the table they can hardly hope that any serious attention will be paid to their remarks.

Every citizen should read the McQueen report. It lays bare a condition of affairs that existed under a government trusted and placed in power by the people, and which is without parallel in the history of political wrongdoing in the province. The men responsible are still in the legislature, as representatives of the people. If their acts are condoned, we may as well cease talking about a new and better era in this part of Canada. If partisanship is strong enough to cloak their record there is little hope of cleaner politics in New Brunswick. Doubtless they will speak on the McQueen report. Having done so they should resign; but the responsibility of the legislature does not end there. A further accounting is necessary.

EXAMPLE FOR ST. JOHN

Reference was made in the Times yesterday to the splendid new vocational school opened last year in London, Ontario. Note now the following despatch from London in the Toronto Globe:—"Plans for the erection of a new commercial school in connection with the Collegiate Institute are before the Board of Education. It was announced by Chairman A. A. Lanford of the Commercial Advisory Committee, today that the present building is inadequate for the increasing demands put upon it. The new school, which will be up to the minute in every detail will cost in the neighborhood of \$40,000, if the present plans are carried out. The old building will be torn down and replaced by the new one."

The attention of the St. John school board and city council is respectfully directed to the example set by London, Ontario.

It is a pleasure to see those obdurate opponents of woman suffrage rise in the legislature one after another and how to their future colleagues of the gentler sex.

TRUE TO TYPE

Two of the statements mentioned in the McQueen report are directors of the St. John Standard. The other two recognize it as their organ. Naturally it is not pleased with the McQueen report. It says the report was prepared for Mr. McQueen—the inference being that he could not do it himself. The report, however, is based on evidence, including the evidence of these directors and other friends of the Standard. Mr. McQueen's conclusions in the face of that evidence are those to which the people who read the evidence had already arrived. But they knew in advance what the Standard would say. It is running true to type. It applauded every act of the old government, abused those who sought to expose the wrong-doing, and held up the men condemned by the McQueen report as statesmen of the highest order. It seeks now to break the force of the report by belittling the man by whom it was submitted to the House. All of which is perfectly plain. Mr. McQueen is compelled by the evidence to conclude that more than one of those concerned in the patriotic potato transaction brought themselves very close to the provisions of the criminal code. He cites the evidence, and it is there for the people to read. They need not be influenced by his opinion; they have only to read the evidence.

A MUNICIPAL FARM

Toronto has a municipal farm for persons convicted of minor offences. One of the commissioners told about it the other day. We quote a brief summary of his remarks:—

"In introducing his subject, Mr. Chisholm contrasted the old method of sentencing those convicted to imprisonment behind stone walls, in cells guarded with bolts and bars, and the present policy of giving the unfortunates every possible chance to redeem their past and make a fresh start in the open-air and sunshine of the municipal farm. The whole attitude of those in authority towards offenders had undergone a change, said the commissioner. The old, obsolete policy of meting out punishment more or less severe as the offence was more or less serious had been abandoned. Mr. Chisholm gave a large measure of credit for the success of the undertaking to the provincial government, which, he declared, had entered heartily into the spirit of this great work of reform, and had given every possible assistance in carrying it on."

In St. John the best we can do for minor offenders is to put them "behind stone walls."

Of the purchase of patriotic potatoes Commissioner McQueen says:—"The amount expended for this purpose was \$103,505.75. No tenders were called for, but names of certain persons were selected and these given a preference over all others. The names disclosed above are the persons referred to. Within this circle still another preference was extended, this time to the Hon. B. F. Smith, afterwards minister of public works in the late government, and one of the present members for the county of Carleton; this privilege (as set out above) never should have been granted, was shamefully abused and is one of the chief causes for the loss sustained."

That was a lively half hour in the House of Commons yesterday when Hon. Mr. Lemieux set out to cross-examine Liberal-Unionist members of the government. Does Mr. Lemieux by using such terms as "trickster" hope to reunite the Liberal party? It is clear that the triffle issue is not to be side-stepped by anybody, but Mr. Lemieux's attack upon Mr. Fielding and Mr. Calder will not serve any useful purpose unless it is the cause of the manufacturers. His action was very ill-advised.

Commissioner McQueen's report—"The audit act was wholly ignored; drafts were accepted without legal authority and payments made without legal permission. In short, the financial business of the province was taken out of the hands of the auditor-general and placed under the control of a few individuals, so far at least as the same relates to the purchase and disposition of this patriotic gift, and at great financial loss to the province."

Touching the matter of the dispute between the owners of the pulp mill and their employees, the Times learns that the board of trade has held conferences with the parties concerned. One of the facts brought out, and one which is of public concern, is that the company is not getting a sufficient water supply. This is a matter the city council should consider without delay. There is need of a better water supply for the west side. Why delay the work?

Hon. James A. Murray paid his respects to Mr. Tilley yesterday with some degree of heat. Mr. Tilley very promptly returned the compliment.

The Jordan Memorial Sanitarium appears to have been very badly managed. It has nevertheless done a very valuable work.

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MEETING OF THE POTATO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Sessions at Woodstock During This Week — Speakers From This Section of Province — United Farmers of N. B. Also to Meet There

The New Brunswick Potato Growers' Association will hold its annual convention and potato show at Woodstock this week, beginning tomorrow and continuing Thursday. It first was suggested that this meeting be held in Fredericton, but a change was made in order to have the convention during the same week as the second annual convention of the United Farmers of New Brunswick which is to be held at Woodstock Thursday and Friday.

A large number of topics of interest are to be discussed at both conventions and many speakers from other provinces will be in attendance. James Bremner, Jr., of Chatham, is secretary of the Potato Growers' Association. W. H. Moore of Scotch Lake is treasurer. Among the speakers at the convention of this organization will be W. W. Hubbard, W. H. Moore of Scotch Lake is treasurer. Among the speakers at the convention of this organization will be W. W. Hubbard, W. H. Moore of Scotch Lake is treasurer.

RECENT DEATHS

The death of Mrs. Annie Washburn occurred on March 18 at her residence, 91 Thorne avenue, after a short illness. Mrs. Thorne, who was the widow of George Washburn of this city, leaves to mourn her loss one daughter, Mrs. J. Arthur Fitzgerald, of St. John; and four sons, Arthur, of the Nashua Pulp and Paper Company; Walter F. of Brock & Paterson, Ltd.; James, of this city, and George E., of Salem.

Have You Friends Who Suffer?

You have friends who are discouraged, who seem to have lost all interest in life, and whose sufferings are acute—because they are afflicted with Kidney or Bladder trouble?

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Persuade your friends to try them, if only a sample box. Mrs. James Harris of Port Rowan took the advice of a friend and wrote us for a free sample. Hear in her own words the result:

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The case of W. T. Baldwin, of Smithville, Ont., is similar in many respects. Mr. Baldwin suffered from a pain in the back for over three years. Finally on advice from friends he tried Gin Pills, with the result that he obtained relief from his pain after taking the first box.

There is no need for anyone to invest a cent in Gin Pills until they have received a sample free and tried them, as Mr. Harris did. Write to-day, telling us to send a sample box free to your friend's address.

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How Beaverbrook Made a War Government

The story of how Lord Beaverbrook (Max Aitken) played the leading part in the formation of the Lloyd-George Government in the dark days when the war outlook looked uncertain is told for the first time in full detail in the March issue of MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE. "The Canadian King-Maker" is the title and Maurice Woods, the writer, gives an authoritative story of what occurred.

He tells how Beaverbrook won his way into the House of Commons by Barnum and Bailey methods; how he attracted the attention of the Unionist party; how he influenced the selection of Bonar Law as leader when Balfour retired; how he brought Lloyd-George, Law and Carson together to form the insurgent party that ousted Asquith; and finally how he took over the Ministry of Public Information and launched a campaign of propaganda that undermined enemy morale.

The writer has endeavored to present the facts impartially. He picks out the flaws in the gnome-like prodigy from the Maritimes as unerringly as he finds the evidences of power; and he records the mistakes of Beaverbrook as well as the achievements. Also he endeavors to locate the secret of Beaverbrook's power, to find and define the qualities that have enabled the stormy petrel of Canadian finance to play so momentous a part in world affairs.

Altogether Mr. Woods' article is one of the most interesting discussions that has appeared in the press of Canada.

The March number, in fact, is full of live, up-to-the-minute features.

The famous Canadian Ace, Lieut.-Colonel W.A. Bishop is on the cover.

Some of the outstanding articles and stories are:

The Mysterious German "Onions," by Lieut. J. V. McKenzie.
The Transformation (a new serial)—By Fred-eric S. Isham.
Fitting in the Returned Soldier—By George Pearson.
The City of Lost Laughter—By Mary Josephine Benson.

"We Aim to Please," by J. K. Munro.
The Three Sapphires—By W. A. Fraser.
The Strange Adventure of the Nile Green Roadster—By Arthur Stringer.
Fakers—Others—By E. Ward Smith.
Lend Me Your Title—By Onoto Watanna.
A Shady Deal—By Archie P. McKishnie.

Events of the World in the Remaking

Germany Ready for Trade War
Three-Year Marriages in France
No Solution in Ireland Possible?
Germans Hoped to Raise Ships
Is Caesar Still Alive?

Did Dr. Diesel Die?
The Secret British Ferry
The Poison That Didn't
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