

# The Evening Journal

3 P.M. Edition

ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1920

PRICE—TWO CENTS.

## The Military Court is Trying to Get at the Facts

## French Take Hun Cities With No Opposition

## Another Officer Turns Up Whose Name Was Drawn on Pay Sheets But Who Didn't Get the Money

### W. A. Stevens "Drew" \$135 For August, 1914, But Didn't Get It—Down For Horse Allowance and Had None—Former Paymaster Examined To-day.

This morning's session of the military enquiry developed another interesting case. Capt. W. A. Stevens, who had received pay in August 1914 and whose name was down as having drawn \$135.

When shown the pay sheets the signature was not his and he had never authorized anyone to sign for him. Horse allowance was claimed for him but he had no horse.

Mr. C. S. Patterson, who acted as paymaster early in the war for the 19th, was called to the stand next, and questioned closely as to the funds of the unit. Although cut off strength, he had continued as paymaster and kept control of the account. Sgt. Turnbull being assistant he said Turnbull had no access to the bank book, but he had no reason why Turnbull should not have kept an accounting of the funds.

### TRAIL'S PAY

Asked about the \$155 down for Col. Trail, Patterson said he had no recollection as to why he and others were down on the pay sheets. The only explanation he could think of was that the names were probably submitted by Col. Burleigh.

S. B. Scobell, the adjutant, applying to Col. Young, Patterson said the pay sheets were open in the adjutant's room and anyone could see them. But he knew of no one particular who would have access to the sheets but himself and Turnbull.

When you tell the court candidly that these signatures were placed?" "I can tell you absolutely nothing," said the witness. There was a possibility that someone had written the names at the order of someone. "You paid the officers by cheque," said General Crickshank.

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something to go on," said Patterson grimly.

He said there was a possibility that this unclaimed money had gone into the general fund of the regiment. "Do you remember taking up this question of unclaimed pay with Scobell or Burleigh?" asked the General. "No recollection."

"Of L. A. fines etc." "No sir."

### BOOKED LIKE DISHONESTY

The General put the straight question to the witness. Did it not look in the light of the Trail and Stevens affair that there was dishonesty on the part of someone?

He admitted that the thing did look a little queer. But he had kept no accounts of the money he had received.

"It seems utterly incredible that you did not keep some memoranda or date of the money that came into your hands or paid out," remarked the General.

"Incredible as it may seem, it is true," said Patterson, "and why were not these forms supplied us by headquarters?"

"You could have had this by incident," said Col. Young.

### Civic Employees and Civic Finances

While deeply deploring the precipitate action taken by the firemen who have offered their resignations in a body because they were not granted an increase in wages of twenty-five per cent, there are phases of the controversy that are worthy of review and also, in justification of the cause, though not of the method, of the men.

In dealing with the matter The Journal desires it to be understood that it has little sympathy with "en masse" action by any group of public service employees because of the peculiar position they occupy toward their fellow citizens, lives and property. More than this now that the estimates have been struck there is only one way of paying out money to the men, regardless of how deserving they may be, and that is by overdraft at the bank, which while not good business has often been resorted to by Councils for other purposes. For the whole body of firemen to resign though at a given hour differs slightly indeed from a strike, and this procedure might well have been prevented.

At the same time there are always two sides to a question and we must in all fairness try to look for a moment through the glasses of the men.

They see that out of the people's taxes year after year well over a hundred thousand dollars has to be paid out in interest on debentures, bank borrowings, etc. that are put on in that circuitous way of borrowing against the future.

They see civic boards engaging two medical officers of health when one could and should do everything that is required.

They see memberships taken out by the Council for civic officials in a public organization, excellent though it may be, but which costs money and are not absolutely essential.

They see the Board of Education casting its net for an expensive site for a new Collegiate, a site that may cost \$75,000 and another \$300,000 will be required for the building itself, and yet there is never money enough to give increases to employees consistent with the increased cost of living.

They see, as any intelligent reader can see, that scores of thousands of dollars are found year after year for all kinds of public work and civic improvements.

They see that considerable increases are given to officials, who however capable and useful they may be are in a fairly comfortable position in the world.

We are all human, all more or less critical and all selfish enough to want to look after our own individual interests and those of our families when we know such things go on, and recognizing this it is not difficult to understand, if prejudice be banished for a moment that men who are drawing less than a hundred dollars a month feel that they must take arbitrary means of securing a wage they consider adequate to meet the ever advancing cost of living.

In this respect The Journal does not hesitate to say that the firemen and other employees are right. Let what will be said about the ease of the position, about the lack of technical knowledge or about the readiness of the men to accept civic positions, there is nevertheless an unanswerable argument belonging to the firemen, and other municipal employees when they contend that when many thousands of dollars can be found one way and another for all other enterprises a couple of thousand could be found for them.

As against the present Council, however, it would be equally unfair to hold that they have not tried hard to make a little money go a long way. Two and two make only four and the extravagances of previous Councils are falling like the sins of a father upon the present occupants of office. This year's council as frequently pointed out through the columns of this paper, and as stated during the municipal elections last December, is crippled. The borrowing power of the city is gone and the law requires that it do not exceed twenty five mills on the dollar for general purposes. Regardless of how just or how strong the demands of the firemen may be a Council cannot exceed the law and therefore we sympathize with the dilemma in which the Council finds itself, not through any wanton waste of its own, but by reason of the extravagances that have been carried on in the past, and the firemen while feeling aggrieved and resentful should not withhold from the Council the same fair consideration that they themselves demand now by compulsory methods.

Continued on Page Eight

Sept. 18th, he gave the balance on hand to Capt. S. B. Scobell, the adjutant, in the absence of Col. Burleigh.

It was under \$1,000.

He, could not recall signing the pay sheet for any officer or man on anyone's instructions. He said however every paymaster in the old militia used to do this but Turnbull did not think he would have signed for an officer's pay. Sometimes the company commander or the colonel would sign for a man in hospital.

The Lotbiniere & Megantic Railway is said to be the latest addition to the Canadian Government Railway system.

Sergt. Turnbull said when shown the

## FRENCH STEP IN QUIETLY AND TAKE POSSESSION OF FRANKFORT AND OTHER GERMAN TOWNS

### Put Questions To Mr. Rollo

#### MEMBERS ASK HIM TO EXPLAIN HIS STATEMENTS AT LONDON CONVENTION

TORONTO, April 7—Echoes of the London Labor Conference sounded in the Legislature yesterday, but died down after Hon. Walter Rollo had answered a series of questions from members of the opposite side of the House. The Minister of Labor was more at home in his replies than he was when worried about the One Big Union some days ago.

The Premier gave his Government an aibi on the reported London remarks of his Labor Minister by stating that the Minister was "speaking as a private citizen, without the knowledge, approval or consent of the Government."

R. L. Brackin (West Kent) brought the matter to the attention of the House by reading a report which stated that Mr. Rollo said that the Labor group was the only group in the House heartily in favor of the Mothers' Pensions Bill.

Premier Drury explained that personally he was heartily in favor of the bill and thought the Farmer members were.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson wanted to know if the bill was discussed clause by clause, as it had not yet been discussed in the House. The Premier didn't know, and Mr. Rollo said that it was not. He saw nothing to warrant any suggestion that it was. Mr. Dewar pressed still further into the matter, and wanted to know if there was a draft of the bill at the convention or one of the Minimum Wage Bill. He was informed that there was no draft. Mr. Rollo explained that a few weeks ago a draft of the bill had been published in all the papers, and that it was from that published report that the convention got its information.

P. Heenan, (Kenora) caused laughter when he denied that he had made the remark credited to him that the "Labor group was the brains of the Government." He didn't even think so, he declared.

## Son Declares Briscoe Summers 103 Years Old

The funeral of Briscoe Summers, supposed to have been 103 years old, took place this afternoon at Victoria Lawn.

According to Charles Summers of Niagara Falls, N. Y., son of the deceased, Briscoe Summers was a veteran of the Civil War, and was born in Atlanta, Ga. When ten years old he was separated from his family and sold into slavery in the South. He never saw any of the members of his family after that.

Briscoe Summers had lived in St. Catharines for 27 years. His wife died three years ago at the age of 98. Besides his son Charles, Mr. Summers leaves another son, W. J. Summers of Cleveland, Ohio.

Stratford's tax rate has been struck at 39½ mills, one mill higher than last year.

## Population Offered No Objection, But Rather Showed Disposition to Assist the Invaders — Done Because of Violation of Treaty in Ruhr District.

FRANKFORT, April 7—At dawn yesterday the French tri-color flew over the town halls of Frankfort and Darmstadt. During the day the French troops occupied the towns of Homberg, Hanau, and Deisburg.

This operation was one of the most quietly conducted and most wonderful ever carried out by one army in another country. The march from the outposts of the Bridgehead into Frankfort is not long but it occupied some time as cavalry screens were at the same time being sent north, south and east of the city. It was still dark when the outskirts of the city were reached and the houses were still shuttered and the people asleep. The rolling of the tanks may have awakened the mob but they gave no sign.

Undisturbed and impertrubable, the Moroccans marched down the long Mainzerlandstrasse in full fighting kit, with helmets and rifles ready for action. Once inside the city the column began to break up some men being told off to occupy the Town Hall, others the postoffice, others the station and barracks.

As quietly as they had entered troops carried out these operations, and Frankfort woke up to find itself in French hands.

It was not long however, until the news of what was afoot spread, and by 8 o'clock the streets were crowded with inhabitants. For the most part they were very indifferent. There were neither scowls nor cheers. Just as the Rhineland people did when the march forward took place after the armistice, they crowded around tanks and field kitchens, examining everything and commenting. The children liked it all and marched in front of the companies of soldiers everywhere, shouting.

Among the working people there is an element which seems considerably relieved rather than otherwise, for they hope that the move of the French will check any danger of a massacre of the Ruhr Reds in the Ruhr Basin.

### No Hostility Shown

There was no hostile demonstration of any kind whatever and the people seemed anxious to be helpful, acting as guides to the French officers and troops. By 10 o'clock the walls of the city were picketed everywhere with General De Goutte's proclamations, explaining that France's advance was the result of the infringement of the treaty in the Ruhr district by the German Government and the Reichswehr.

### THE WEATHER

TORONTO, April 7—The Barometer is now lowest in the St. Lawrence Valley and New England and relatively high south and west. The weather continues cold throughout the Dominion and snow flurries are prevalent in Ontario and Quebec.

FORECASTS—Fresh westerly wind mostly fair today and on Thursday, not much change in temperature.

Michigan motorboat men are secretly building a challenger to send to England in quest of the Harmsworth Trophy.

The Tecumsehs of Toronto have applied for membership in the National Lacrosse Union, and are willing to post a forfeit to finish the season.

### COST CANADA \$270,000 FOR THE L. OF N. EXPENSES

OTTAWA, April 7—According to estimates which have been received here it will cost Canada \$270,000 a year to enjoy membership in the League of Nations. The total cost of that organization is estimated at \$4,600,000 of which 000 0 is chargeable to capital.

## Suggestion That Busses Be Used to Serve the Northern Sections of the City

The Municipal Voters' Association held a successful meeting last night at the central school. The President P. G. Wilson was in the chair.

Addresses were given by Aldermen Graves, Riffer, Dakers, Veale and Murphy, Vice-President White and others.

Aldermen Graves and Veale explained the financial situation in St. Catharines giving a clear idea of how the city stands.

Ald. Dakers gave a history of the controversy with the firemen, giving the meeting the true facts.

Ald. Riffer made the suggestion that there be a line of motor busses run to the northern section of the city to make up for lack of railway extensions. They could be carried on either by the city or a private corporation.

The meeting seemed to approve this idea but no resolutions were passed.

## Remains of Edwin J. Blanchard Were Buried With Full Military Honors on Tuesday Afternoon

The funeral of the late Edgar J. Blanchard took place yesterday from his late residence, 34 St. Paul street west to Victoria Lawn cemetery. Rev. Dr. G. H. Smith conducted service at the house and also officiated at the graveside.

A large number of members of Union Lodge I.O.O.F. of which deceased was a valued member attended in a body and accompanied the remains to the grave where Dr. Smith read the committal after which the

Rev. A. H. Priest, Chaplain of Union Lodge assisted by the Noble Grand, Fred Carley read the Odd Fellows ritual.

After this three volleys were fired by his comrades of the G.W.V.A. as the conclusion the last post was sounded by comrade Stanley Smith.

The remains were conveyed to the cemetery on a gun carriage. The numerous floral tributes from sympathizing friends were very beautiful.

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The Weather MOSTLY FAIR, COLD.

April 5 S. TORONTO

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C. Tyler 1.50 and \$2.00

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Wood's Phosphorated Tonic and invigorates the blood, old Venes, Cures Nerve and Brain Weakness, Drops of Energy, Patience, of Memory. Price \$1 per box. Mail please, we will free. Sold by all druggists. Write for circulars. 1000

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