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HENRY BLAIR

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Jan 21, eod, tf

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VETERANS' WIVES' MEETING.—A meeting of the wives of sailors and soldiers will be held in Bishop Spencer Hall to-night. A special programme of music has been arranged, and teas will be served.

Come and taste the delightful Homemade Candy for sale at the Irish Afternoon Entertainment at the Aula Maxima on St. Patrick's Day, and buy a pretty programme.—mar13,31

Lieut. Garland Replies to Dr. Blackall.

ACTION PROBABLE RELATIVE TO PUBLICATION OF CONDUCT SHEETS.

Soldiers' Conduct Sheets and Medical History Sheets.

The public are disgusted at the action of the Star in publishing the conduct and medical history sheets of Ptes. Milley, Doran and Tracey. However, as steps are being taken to bring this matter before His Excellency the Governor and the Premier, I shall only point out the difference between the Civil and Military Law. In the first place, the Manual of Military Law states:

"When a man is discharged from the Army, his conduct sheet is destroyed." The Manual of Military Law also states:

"The object of military law is to maintain discipline amongst the troops on active service. Offences which in civil life would be punished by a small fine, are in the Army dealt with as crimes, and render an offender liable to heavy penalties."

After the signing of the armistice a deputation of three officers from each unit in the British Army held a conference in London, to arrive at decisions in matters relating to repatriation of prisoners of war, soldiers' conduct sheets, etc. They decided that a soldier upon discharge from the Army would be given a clean conduct sheet.

Why, then, should these rules be departed from, as in the case of Ptes. Milley, Doran and Tracey?

The Star states that Pte. Milley had ONE conviction for drunkenness, and as he was over four years in the Army this record is favourable, as a soldier is not fined for his first offence. The Star goes on to say Pte. Milley had four convictions for minor offences. These are not serious crimes, as a soldier can be convicted for having omitted to polish his boots, failing to shave, or for being five minutes late on parade, etc.

S. C. E. Committee.

Now I am going to present my own case so that the PUBLIC MAY KNOW AND JUDGE if I have been treated fairly or otherwise by the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Committee.

About the first week in July I applied for a course, which was granted on July 28th. I proceeded to Halifax on Aug. 23rd, my course starting there on Aug. 23rd, nearly two months from the date on which I applied for my course. (It is known to me that a soldier can apply for a course here on a Thursday, have it granted on Friday of the same week, and start same on Monday of the following week.)

As soldiers whom I know had been paid for the period elapsing from the application for course to the commencement of same, I applied for this money which is the equivalent of one month's S.C.R. pay. My application was rejected, the lame excuse being that "the delay while unfortunate, was on the whole unavoidable." Thus, the Committee did not explain why it took from the first to the last week in July to grant my course. Now, at the Civil Re-establishment Committee meeting Feb. 27th, Dr. Blackall stated that he was sick during the period July 28th to Aug. 6th, that being the reason for no communication being sent to Canada until Aug. 6th relating to my case. In a letter after the meeting of Feb. 27th, the Committee informed me that a small number of soldiers had been paid for this period, but for particular reasons. It is up to the Committee to explain these peculiar reasons, and let the public decide if they are any more peculiar than the reason which Dr. Blackall puts forward for not communicating with Canada re my case previous to Aug. 6th, although he had a staff of about ten assistants in his department. Before proceeding to Halifax I told Dr. Blackall that the Canadian rate was higher than the Newfoundland rate. He assured me if such was the case my wife and self would be paid Canadian rate. On the completion of my course, I applied for the difference between the Canadian and Newfoundland rate during the period of my course, and this

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SMOKED KIPPERS.

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Confectionery.

also was refused, although other soldiers had been granted it. My wife and self were paid Canadian rate for one month, due to the S.C.R. at Halifax sending instructions to the Halifax Branch to pay same. Later Dr. Blackall sent instructions to Canada to pay Newfoundland, and not Canadian, rates in my case. A married ex-soldier who served with the Newfoundland Regiment, applied for a course and was granted it at Halifax. He and his wife were paid Canadian rate of allowances. Let Dr. Blackall explain why he was the means of cancelling the Canadian rates in my case, while at the same time forwarding instructions to have the Canadian rates paid to the above-mentioned. I also made application for bonus on completion of my course, as several Newfoundland soldiers taking courses in Canada had been paid this. Again my application met with refusal, though the Halifax S.C.R. wrote me to the effect that I am entitled to this bonus. Let the Committee explain and let the public decide. These were the questions which I put to Dr. Blackall at the meeting of the G.W.V.A. on Jan. 12th. This extract was taken from the Star of the following day:

"At the close of his lengthy address, several questions were put to him, some of which were not answered to the satisfaction of the questioners, and from the tone of the questions and answers it was evident that all the soldiers were not as favorably im-

pressed with the value of his work as could be desired."

Dr. Blackall's Letter.

It evidently suits Dr. Blackall's purpose to discredit the statements in my letter. The men taking courses at the S.C.R. school assure me that the facts I stated in reference to their petition are perfectly correct, only Dr. Blackall chooses to refer to it in different terms. Dr. Blackall did not in his reply to mine refer to the assertion which I made to the effect that Newfoundland soldiers receiving bonuses in Canada were receiving higher allowances than those taking courses in Newfoundland. Again, Dr. Blackall states that the Committee is not made up of ex-soldiers, there being only two on the Committee. When I referred to the majority of the Committee being ex-soldiers, I considered that as I am an ex-Lieut., so also should they be ex-Cols., Capt., etc., as the finish of the war dates into the second year. The following is an extract from the Daily News of Feb. 23, and was written by one of the Committee present at the meeting of Feb. 27th, and was one of those who considered my case:

SOLDIERS' RE-ESTABLISHMENT
Committee Had Busy Session Yesterday.

Hon. J. M. Kent presided over the regular meeting of the Civil Re-establishment Committee yesterday afternoon, when 54 cases were considered and 43 were granted. The following members were in attendance: Rev. Dr. L. Curtis, Lieut.-Col. G. T. Carby, Major Parsons, M.C., Major Butler, D.S.O., M.C., Capt. Leo Murphy, Major J. W. March, M.C., Capt. J. B. O'Reilly, Capt. G. J. Whitty, M.C.; Dr. W. W. Blackall, Vocational Officer, and Capt. G. Byrne, M.C., Secretary.

Dr. Blackall says the statement which I made regarding soldiers who, having parents in influential positions can demand and GET courses, is not true. I will leave this matter for decision to a Committee which I hope the G. W. V. A. will appoint and at an early date. Dr. Blackall says no one draws a salary as a member of the Committee. Will Dr. Blackall say he does not receive a salary?

The Daily Star.

Will the Daily Star explain why the application of an ex-soldier for a position in the Customs Dept. was considered by Mr. Brownrigg, and subsequently filed, and finally given to Mr. Foley, a civilian?

If in the matter of pensions, S.C.R. allowances, gratuity, etc., the Daily Star will point out to me that Newfoundland's obligation is less than Canada's: that Nfld. is not in a better financial position than Canada: that the people of Nfld. don't want to pay their sailors, soldiers and dependants these allowances, then I would take it that there were some logical reasons for not increasing said allowances, etc. I am not aware of the fact that payments made to soldiers on account of disability are greater in Nfld. than in Canada. The Star evidently refers to an extract from a Canadian paper, which stated that when Canada increased the disability pension, she lowered the rate of percentage, which is denied by the Canadian pensions department.

C. F. GARLAND.

St. John's, March 13, 1920.

TO CORRESPONDENTS!

Correspondents are requested to accompany contributions with their real names, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. In future no correspondence will be considered unless this rule is adhered to. It is also requested that all letters "For Publication" be so marked on the envelope.

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NOTICE!

Nfld. Government Coastal Mail Service.

FREIGHT FOR GRAND BANK.

Freight for Auxiliary Schooner "DOROTHY MELITA" for Grand Bank will be received at the wharf of Messrs. Bowring Bros., Ltd., from 9 a.m. to-day, Saturday.

W. H. CAVE,

Acting Minister of Shipping.

California Pears, soft and juicy; Green and Red Grapes, ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP. — At the regular monthly meeting of the Grape Fruit, wholesale and retail, T. A. Society, held yesterday afternoon, several candidates were admitted to membership. — feb13, f.s, tf

IT SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE THE WAY MUTT TELLS IT.

By Bud Fisher.

