

## ONE WITNESS OCCUPIED ENTIRE DAY AT FIRST SESSION OF POTATO ENQUIRY

(Continued from Page Five.)  
 stated that H. Colby Smith should be called to prove it. The statement was finally admitted subject to the objection.  
 Mr. Taylor—"Of course this statement would not be admitted in this way in any court, but Mr. Hughes contends this tribunal is conducted under different rules of evidence."  
 Mr. Hughes—"Nothing of the sort."  
 Mr. Taylor—"The ordinary rules of evidence do not obtain here."  
 Mr. Hughes—"Say that when some of them are broken."  
 Mr. Taylor—"Well, it is a most flagrant breach to admit that statement in this way."  
 Continuing, Mr. Daggett said the document had been prepared for submission to the Auditor General. It could not give its approximate date, but thought it was made up during the summer or fall of 1915.

### Potatoes Spoiled In Transit.

Going over the statement with Mr. Hughes, witness said that 4,999 barrels of potatoes shipped to R. G. Wain, of Carleton Place, Northern Ontario, had gone forward in the Irma Bentley. They had been charged at \$2.30 per barrel or a total of \$11,399.70. Some time was received from that shipment, but the amount was very small. The entry in the statement was what should have been received. The same was true of a shipment of 3,975 barrels to a firm in Santiago. This went on the Mineola and was charged at \$2.10 per barrel, or a total of \$8,347.50. This was the amount that should have been received, but so far as he knew it was not.  
 The whole statement showed what should have been received, if the shipments had turned out all right, not what actually did come to the province. Witness took the statement to the Deputy Provincial Treasurer, and explained it to him, telling him that the money had not been received.

### Mr. Smith's Account.

Mr. Hughes—"The sum total reached \$32,861.39, including an amount of \$2,447.50 paid by B. Frank Smith, on account of a shortage. Did Mr. Smith pay this amount?"  
 Mr. Daggett—"I do not know. I put it in the statement as an account due, and handed it in to my chief. He knew the monies represented in the statement had not been received, but that the statement showed what the province should get if the transaction had turned out as expected."

### An Adjournment Asked.

Mr. Taylor—"Would His Honor now consent to an adjournment until Mr. Murray can be here?"  
 Commissioner McQueen—"I have been thinking that matter over since Mr. Taylor made his former application for an adjournment, and I see no reason why Mr. Murray should be present."

Continuing the witness said the sum of \$32,861.39 represented what the government should have received. He did not know that any of that amount was paid by A. C. Smith and Co. If paid it was not paid to him. A. C. Smith and Co. gave a note for the amount. The note was paid, but he did not know to whom Smith and Co. were selling the potatoes for the government, and were not to blame if they went bad.

Mr. Hughes—"Then why did A. C. Smith and Co. give a note to cover the loss?"  
 Mr. Taylor—"Why not call Mr. Smith and ask him?"

### The Story of the Note.

Mr. Daggett then told the story of the note. He said that when the whole matter was closed up he laid the final statement of A. C. Smith and Co. before his chief, Hon. J. A. Murray and Premier Clarke. Mr. Clarke's first thought was to show the loss as it had occurred. Later Mr. Clarke met witness on the train, and said: "I've been thinking that matter over. We cannot show that loss but it must be made good. The loss was a legitimate one, but a lot of people will think the sum has been stolen, and I feel it should be made up."  
 Mr. Hughes—"How did you understand it was to be made up?"

### A Frank Statement.

Mr. Daggett—"I think he meant by the party organization. I said to Mr. Clarke then: 'I was partly responsible for that loss and am willing to contribute to make it good.' Mr. Clarke suggested that if it could be held over the money could be raised. I told him I thought 'I could I met H. Colby Smith in St. John, later, and told him. He gave me a note for the amount. I do not remember the date of the meeting, but it was in the fall or winter of 1915. The note was in favor of the Provincial Treasurer, or of the Province. I handed it to the Deputy Provincial Treasurer, and told him the facts, and that the sum lost on the potato shipments would be made up. Some months later the Deputy Provincial Treasurer handed me the note and said it had been paid. I handed it to H. Colby Smith." Mr. Hughes—"Who paid the note?"  
 Mr. Daggett—"I do not know."

### Did Not Contribute.

Mr. Hughes—"Did you contribute?"  
 Mr. Daggett—"No, I was not asked to contribute, although I was ready to do so."

Continuing Mr. Daggett said that to the best of his knowledge A. C. Smith and Co. made no return to the province except the note. He did not think it was paid by A. C. Smith and Co. At the following session of the legislative witness appeared before the Public Accounts Committee and told them that the total money had been received and that was correct.

### Mr. Manzer Corrected.

The statement from Mr. Manzer that no dealers in Cuba received potatoes from the government in 1915 was not correct. On file in the auditor-general's department were contracts with every firm mentioned and some of

them did receive the potatoes, some of them did not. Witness made a second trip to Cuba at his own expense, investigated the situation and found it exactly as represented that the potatoes were in poor condition when they arrived. On one case this was due to the delay in the arrival of a bill of lading to be delivered at the order of a bank. The potatoes were subjected to the tropical heat during the period of delay and the consequence was that they spoiled. They were thrown out onto a dump. That was one of the shipments consigned to Mr. Manzer.

### Made Loss All Good.

Mr. Clarke, when arranging to have the loss met told witness to make a statement covering the amount of the reasonable rates per bbl., and it would be made good. This was done. The item of \$2,447.50 represented a shortage due to the province on account of potatoes which did not rack out to the supposed contents of the cars and for which Mr. Smith had been paid. Up to the time witness had gone away the arrangement had been that Mr. Smith would be paid for the amount of potatoes said to be in the car and if there was a shortage witness made up the difference by his personal cheque and Mr. Smith sent it back to him. He did this to save drafts from being returned. After he went away there was no one to continue the arrangement and after the account was settled it was found that there was a balance due from Mr. Smith amounting to \$2,447.50. He did not know whether Mr. Smith paid that amount or not but thought it was included in the note. It was put in the final statement as an account due.

The statement of the potatoes sold by Mr. Smith had been made up by Mr. Morton, an accountant in the department.  
 Mr. Taylor—"Why try to prove that

by this witness? Why not call Mr. Morton?"

### Are They Fishing?

Mr. Taylor then asked the commissioner for a copy of the warrant and a list of the witnesses which the government counsel proposed to call. He wanted to get an idea of the scope of the enquiry or whether it was just a fishing expedition.

Mr. Hughes said he had no copy of the warrant but could doubtless get one for Mr. Taylor.

Witness said certain cars shipped by B. F. Smith had been held up by the inspector, Mr. Elpp, but were afterwards passed. His judgment was that they were damp from being shipped too early after digging. Some of the cars racked out more than their supposed contents while others fell short.

### What Farmers Were Paid.

The department had given instructions to its agents to pay the farmers as much as \$1.00 per bbl. for the potatoes but some were obtained cheaper than this. They were to add ten cents per bbl. for commission. There was no exception to that rule that he remembered.

Mr. Hughes produced the Auditor General's report for 1914 and called to witness' attention to an item where Hatfield and Scott had purchased 250 bbls. at 95 cents per bbl., and asked his explanation of that.

Witness said when Hatfield and Scott purchased the market was easy; they had paid the farmers 85 cents per bbl., and had added their ten cents commission.

### Pre-War Prices.

The 1915 Auditor General's report showed a purchase of 292 bbls. from A. C. Smith and Co. at 80 cents per bbl. Witness did not recall this particular purchase but said the sum men-

tioned was probably what the potatoes had cost the firm when purchased, plus ten cents per bbl. commission.

Referring again to the note transaction witness said he had had nothing to do with the renewal of the note, he did not think it had been renewed. He had heard the provincial books had been kept open that year until the money had been received and the accounts adjusted.

The commissioner then adjourned his court until this morning at 10.30. Mr. Daggett, who had to go to Fredericton last evening, will be recalled later for further direct examination as well as cross-examination by Mr. Taylor.

### SUPREME COURT.

The September sitting of the Supreme Court Circuit opened yesterday morning at the Court House with His Honor Chief Justice McKeown presiding. As there were no criminal cases, no grand jury was summoned. The following petit jurors were summoned: John S. Eagles, Fred C. McLean, Benjamin Marry, William C. Bowden, Fred A. Johnston, Michael T. Coholan, Thomas F. Drummond, Stanley Bustin, Herbert H. Butler, Joseph Gilbert, Frank F. Bell, Stanley Webb, Harry C. Green, William J. Thomas, Charles M. Lingley, William H. Sallis, Ernest J. Todd, Osborne Heane, Isaac D. Sparks and Fred Smith.

Following is the civil docket:

### Jury Cases.

Lyman vs. Emory—W. B. Wallace, K.C.  
 Richards vs. Nugent—Teed & Teed.  
 Bowyer vs. Gorham—J. A. Barry.  
 Erb et al vs. N. B. Power Co.—D. Mullin, K.C.

### Non-Jury

Brown vs. Murray et al—Gregory & Winslow.  
 Robinson vs. Tennant—J. A. Belyea.  
 Ritter vs. City of St. John—D. Mullin, K.C.

Fairbrother vs. Eagles Bellows Engineering Co. D. Mullin, K.C.  
 Smith vs. Tennant—E. P. Raymond.  
 The court was adjourned until Thursday morning at 10.30 o'clock, when the case of Bowyer vs. Gorham will be tried.

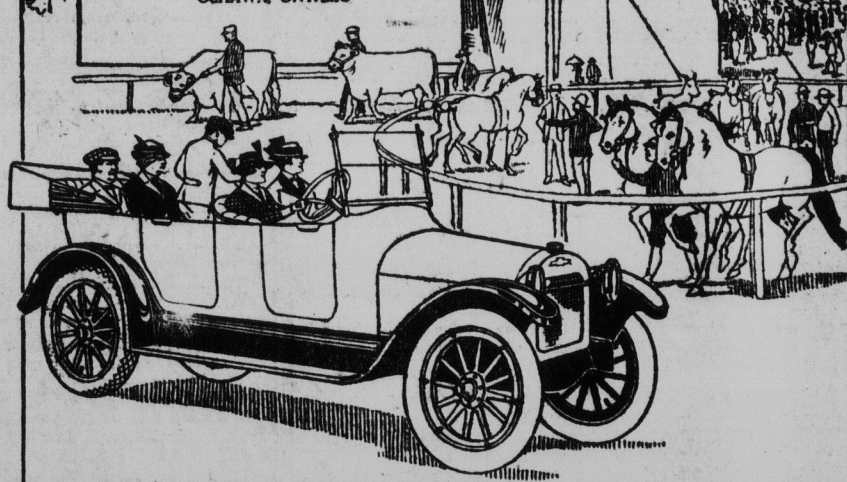
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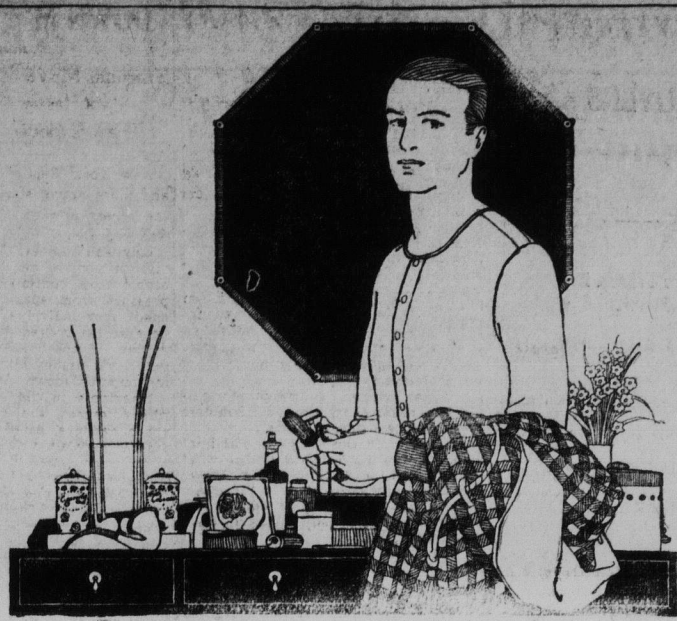
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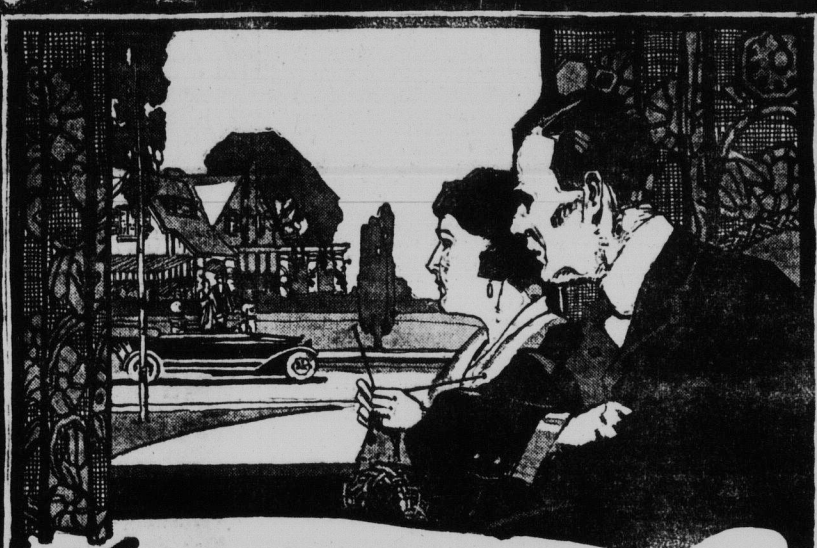
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## Keeping up with the Joneses

One great bar to the practice of thrift to-day is the tendency to let others set for us our standards of living.

MRS. Jones appears on the street in a new gown and at once her neighbour vows she'll have one like it. Or if a new motor car is delivered to a certain home, a nearby family, not to be handicapped in the social race, plan to discard their old car for a new one. And so it goes from one thing to another—a ceaseless, senseless competition which often ends in debts, distress and disaster.

Such silly rivalry is bad enough indeed in normal periods. It is positively unpatriotic in times like these when the country needs all available labor and material

and every available dollar with which to carry on the war.

It is perhaps difficult for us to appreciate that the purchase of things we do not really need may be the direct cause of loss of life on the firing lines.

But you can't escape the fact, no matter how unpleasant the thought, that millions of individual selfish demands at home may prolong the war by causing a shortage of the very things essential to our success at the front. For the money we spend in satisfying these desires represents equipment, clothing, shot and shell that are so urgently needed for our boys in France.

Remember that when you are tempted to spend foolishly in an effort to "keep up with the Joneses."

Published under the authority of the  
 Minister of Finance of Canada