(Founded in 1879 by W. J. Herder.)

Evening Telegram

The Evening Telegram, Ltd., Proprietors.

All communications should be addressed to the Evening Telegram, Ltd., and not to individuals.

Friday, February 7, 1924.

Godspeed to the Fleet.

To-day our sealing ships are off to brave the dangers of the ice floes, and, let us hope, to reap a bountiful harvest. During recent years this industry has not been prosecuted as extensively as it was in the past, but it still awakens the same thrills, and it is still associated with the same spirit of romance and adventure as were the voyages of those Elizabethan sailors who went out into the unknown from the ports of old England to seek fame and fortune, and to extend the sovereignty of the seagirt isle to the furthermost corners of the earth.

Our sealers, descendants of that hardy breed, are lacking in none of the qualities which their forefathers possessed. Theirs, too, is the love of adventure, theirs the disregard of danger. Let perils crowd in upon them, they rise supreme to the emergency, and laugh with glee and forget risks as soon as they are past. Success does not spoil them, discomfort does not deter them, and failure does not discourage them.

Our best wishes go with you, captains and crews. May you strike the leads that will take you straight to the patch, may your trips be the shortest on record and may a bumper trip and top prices be the reward of your venture.

Re Meat Inspection Regulations.

In another column appears a communication from the Medical Officer of Health with reference to the question of the Inspection of Meat to which we called attention on Monday last.

The information which the letter contains is news to the public, and further it is good news. For that reason it is all the more inexplicable why notification has not been made of the action taken in the matter, instead of leaving the public under the impression for months that they were being victimised. Officialdom is not as a rule inclined to hide its light under a bushel, nor can we understand why it should in matters which are of public concern.

Ice Blockade Outside

SEALING SHIPS DETAINED IN PORT.

For some days past the prevailing easterly winds have driven the ice in on the land, and as a consequence the sealing steamers are unable to leave port, which will prove a setback in the prospects of their getting north for the time being. The sealing steamers Neptune and Thetis which were scheduled to sail at 8 a.m., cancelled the previous arrangements, and after calling the roll, both ships moved out into the stream. The Terra Nova and Ranger were scheduled to sail at 4 p.m. Should a heavy swell heave in, the ships will proceed.

Coastal Boats.

GOVERNMENT.

Argyle left Argentia 5 a.m. on bay route.

Glencoe left Hermitage Cove 3.30 p.m. yesterday, coming east.

Kyle left port at 6 p.m. yesterday.

H. M. Walker has been compelled to harbor at Trepassey owing to ice conditions.

Importation of Uninspected Meat Prohibited

March 5th, 1924.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—In connection with your leading article in the Telegram of Monday last, will you permit me to state the following facts concerning the importation of meat from Canada? A press message announcing the suspension of the Canadian meat inspection regulations, for the purpose of permitting the export of uninspected meat to Newfoundland, was published in the evening papers of December 18th. On the following day the attention of the Government was directed to the matter, and the authorities at Ottawa were communicated with. The message was found to be correct, and an Order-in-Council was issued by the Government prohibiting the importation of uninspected meat into Newfoundland. Within a short time the Canadian Government issued an order rescinding the suspension of the meat inspection regulations, the order taking effect on January 26th.

I may say that only one shipment of uninspected meat arrived here, and this meat was carefully inspected on arrival. I am, sir,

Yours truly,
R. A. BREHM,
Medical Officer of Health.

PEPYS BEHIND THE SCENES.

March 6th.—Up betimes and to the office, where most of the morning examining of my letters. So to the Enquiry and hear Mr. Harris, that is Under Secretary of Works, tell about the two relief accounts. These much like the others in many ways, and is no wonder our taxes are so high, when such great sums of money are wasted. Comes to see me Capt. W. Winsor, and he in great hope of a good voyage to the sealfishery, so I to wish him well. To the club, and meeting Batten, he discourses of matters of all kinds, from the abolition of the Caliphate to the Enquiry. He did say that the Truques must be losing their religion, seeing how they did ever look towards the Caliph as its head, and he now sent into exile. He talks also of the Labour Caball, they abandoning the Tory proposal to make a naval base at Singapore, and is very wrath about it, saying that the Labourites do care little for the safety of the Empire and will do much harm.

Mr. Blandford, the Sheriff, gives me to-day, some bark, to put with my tobacco in my pipe, and gives off a most delightful odor, which pleases me mightily and I will use it always.

What of that Lenten Resolution? Has the Sheriff turned tempter? (Ed.)

Kyle in Ice off Cape Spear

SHIP MAKING NO HEADWAY.

S.S. Kyle, Capt. Tavernor, sailed for North Sydney via Port aux Basque at 6 p.m. yesterday, taking a large foreign mail mater, three passengers in saloon, viz, Miss M. Crocker, Miss B. Pike, Thos Evans, besides forty-eight in steerage.

LATEST.

After the ship left port the ice packed in on the land and was found difficult to steam through, and according to a message received from the captain this morning, the ship was engaged butting the ice floes all night and only got as far as Cape Spear. She was in the same position up to 1 p.m. to-day. The message received by the Railway Management at 9 o'clock this morning, reads as follows:—

"Butting heavy ice all night, position 3 miles E. by Cape Spear. Heavy swell now on.

TAVERNOR."

Daring Robbery on Mundy Pond Road

Another daring robbery has been placed before the notice of the police. This time the perpretator gained access to a stable on Mundy Pond Road and made off with horse, harness and sleigh, and then drove to the store of M. M. O'Brien, Grocer, Mundy Pond Road, where they effected an entrance and loaded up their conveyance a stock of groceries valued at $200. The robbery was not discovered until 9 o'clock yesterday morning, when the proprietor went to open the store. The horse and sleigh was later discovered in the locality and returned to its owner. Much petting thieving and glaring burglaries have been going on in the city during the past few weeks, but the police who are working day and night have been unable to lay their hands on any of the perpetrators. In the last instance the thieves made good their escape without leaving any clue behind.

Weather and Ice Report

(March 7th, 1924)

Wesleyville—Light north east wind jam heavy ice.

Bell Isle—Light east wind, fine weather loose ice all around.

St. Anthony—Wind S. E. to-day, mild ice still on land.

Twillingate—Wind east N. E., light breeze several old hoods killed yesterday, bay full of ice.

Greenspond—Wind N. E. light, bay full of ice.

Bonavista—Light N. E. wind, fine, bay full of ice.

Catalina—Wind E.N.E., ice as far as can be seen.

Fogo—Light N.E.E. wind, coast blocked.

(March 6th, 1923.)

Flatpoint—Heavy close packed ice everywhere.

Moneypoint—Heavy close packed stationery.

St. Paul's, Magdalene Is.—Dense fog.

Cape Ray—No ice in sight.

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR DISTEMPER.

Investigation into the Relief Accounts

Deputy Minister of Public Works on the Stand.

When the Enquiry resumed yesterday afternoon Deputy Minister of Public Works Harris took his place on the stand, and the examination by Mr. Winter was resumed. A couple of bills in connection with No. 1 Relief account were examined. One of these was 4 weeks hire of pay office from Mr. W. Brophy at $20 per week, the other was a bill from Hayes for the same amount covering the same period. Witness said the pay offices were necessary in connection with relief work. He could not say that the rent was high.

EXPENDITURE UNDER NO. II ACCOUNT.

With No. II account, witness said, it covered from May, 1922 to May, 1923, and over $600,000 was expended. A general outline of the manner in which this sum was expended was given by the witness. The contracts for road building and other matters were kept under separate heads in the books of the department for some time, but later all the expenditure was put under one head. Most of the work on the roads, witness said, was done under contract. Mr. Davey had complete control of work authorized, but witness did not know if he had the right to open up works on his own initiative.

ALL CONTRACTS CARRIED OUT.

The lowest tender, witness said, received the contract in every case of which he was aware. A contract form in connection with the tenders was shown the Commissioner. Witness said that occasionally small contracts were given by Mr. Davey under another form of contract. This would be for jobs of about 3 or 4 hundred dollars. Reference was made to a contract to widen the South Side Road. This contract was entered into with Mr. Jas. McGrath, the contract price being $13,850. Witness said all the contracts were carried out satisfactorily, and as far as he knew none of the contractors fell down on the job. All the work, witness said, was personally supervised by Mr. Davey. When supplies such as wheelbarrows and shovels were needed they were provided by the Government on the understanding that they should be returned. Witness gave details of the materials and tools that had accumulated at the end of the period. Nearly everything was sold by auction except tahe rock sheds, which were retained for future use. Witness said lots of the tools wore out, some were lost and more were stolen.

DEALINGS IN SPLITS.

Questioned about the splits purchased by the Department, witness said that people outside the city who were destitute and had no other means of getting a living applied for the same relief as the people in the city were receiving. Mr. Jennings took the matter up and decided to purchase splits.

The COMMISSIONER asked what authority Mr. Jennings had for becoming a split merchant.

Witness could not tell whence he derived his authority. He then went on to say that the handling of this business was a difficult matter. There were between two and three hundred people selling splits. At first Jennings decided to buy the splits by the load at so much a load. After a short while the loads began to dwindle and almost disappear. He then decided to examine the loads and buy them on their merits, and in the meantime he tried to arrange to give each person a certain amount per week. Then when a man would get authority to bring a load he would conspire with two or three men and when they would come to a hill a short distance from town they would put all the loads on one team coming down hill and the load would then look like a haystack. Then Mr. Jennings gave it up and handed the job over to Mr. Davey.

COMMISSIONER—He gave the trade up, did he?

A.—Yes. Then it was handed over to Hon. John Davey. But the crowd started to invade his house and hang around his house continually and he threatened to resign and throw up the whole thing.

COMMISSIONER—They invaded Mr. Davey's home, did they?

A.—Yes, all day long they were there.

Q.—Did he give it up too?

A.—Yes, and he threatened to resign the whole thing.

Q.—Well, who was the next victim?

A.—Mr. Kenneth Ruby. He knew all the Broad Cove men personally.

MR. WINTER—Were all the splits bought from Broad Cove men?

A.—Some from Paradise.

Q.—How did Mr. Ruby arrange?

A.—They began breaking into Mr. Ruby's shop and house and he gave it up.

COMMISSIONER—Who was next?

A.—Then they went back on the department and it was arranged to take a list of the names of people who were in want in those settlements and limit the price of each load to $5, and that would represent a half cord or a measure as they called it. There was a man appointed to see that each load was exactly what it was represented to be. Each man was given an order once a week to bring a load and an amount was kept of the date of each load. In other words each man sold $5 worth each week.

$6,400 WORTH SOLD FOR $94.00.

Witness thought that about $6,400 was paid out on account of splits. He said that when the loads reached the hay stack stage some of the men received as high as $12 per load. When all the wood was auctioned, the net returns was $93.85.

ROCK SHED WORK.

Questioned about the work at the Rock Sheds, witness said there was no complaint made to the department that men would register in the morning and then leave the job for the rest of the day. The witness said that a considerable amount of stone has been broken and it is now being hauled to the country roads to be used during the summer. The total received from the sale of broken stone and blocks from both sheds was given by witness as $1050 for the East End and $871 for the West End. Witness thought that the stone was purchased from the quarries in the East End at $1.00 per ton. Questioned about the stone brought from Fallaway, witness said Mr. Davey bought a wall containing 1000 tons for $500.

EXTRA REMUNERATION.

MR. DAVEY was paid direct by the Government for his services, and he was paid on account out of the funds of the Department. As far as witness knew, Mr. Davey had no fixed salary. Witness promised to have itemized accounts prepared of the extra remuneration received by the officials. Witness, in reference to his own remuneration said it was done under order in Council. The total he received for the two years, he said, was $1000. In regard to the other members of the office, they were allowed time and a half for overtime. The Commissioner remarked that the witness had taken the proper course in having authority for his own remuneration.

Questioned about a bill for cab driving of $35 contracted by Mr. Whitty, witness said he was an employee of the Employment Bureau and had to use a cab. After several more questions, the examination of the witness concluded. Following, Mr. Crotty was examined by Hr. Hunt, in reference to the sale of some quarry spalls from the quarry on Signal Hill, owned by his brother. The stone was to be delivered to the rock sheds at the East End at $1.10 per ton under cotnract. The total amount of stone supplied came to $3,800.00.

No other witnesses being available, adjournment was taken at 4.30 p.m.

THIS MORNING'S PROCEEDINGS.

Commissioner Criticizes Auditing System—Model Farm Luxuries.

When the enquiry resumed this morning Mr. J. Luscombe, third clerk in the Auditor's Department, was called by Mr. Hunt. Witness was questioned about the number of clerks in the department and the salaries given. Witness did not know if he was to be given extra remuneration on account of his work. In 1922 witness was assigned to the Agriculture and Mines Department and received $200 for extra service on the authority of the head of the department. The fact was known to the Auditor General that he was to look for extra remuneration. Witness did not get as much as he asked the Minister for. He at other times received the extra pay for working overtime.

DEFIANCE OF AUDIT ACT.

Witness said the payment for extra service to members of the Audit Office has gone on for more than ten years. The payments were for hours outside of from ten to five. The Commissioner pointed out that the auditing was done for a regular department of the Government and the only check on the amount paid was the auditor's own audit. In other words there was no person to say if the payments were proper or not. The Commissioner then pointed out that the practice was in defiance of the Audit Act. Witness stated that there would be certain cases in which special remuneration would be given under the authority of the head of a department when the matter would not be made known to the Auditor General. The fact would only be known to him when the accounts would be submitted.

The Commissioner pointed out that he did not doubt that the payments were well deserved, but his objection was to that manner in which the payments were made might be mischievous. He questioned the witness sharply as to the duties of his department, pointing out that the only check on the expenditure of public monies was a proper audit. Under the Pit Prop account, witness said, he queried payments to the officials, to the police and maybe to himself.

COMISSIONER—But you got the the money?

A.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER.—What happens when monies are unjustifiably paid?

A.—The only thing we do is to query or disallow it. This is all we can do under the Act.

The witness explained that when they audit the books the amounts had already been expended and there would be no pre-audit by the deputy head of the department.

COMMISSIONER—It seems to me to be a funny procedure.

PIT PROP ACCOUNT HELD UP.

Witness said at present the whole of the Pit Prop Account was held up by the Auditor General because a number of vouchers were missing and a large number were not certified by the Minister or deputy—irregular payments such as extra remuneration to the police, officials of the department and the auditors. Other reasons were that the prices of supplies were found too high, overpayments to suppliers and contractors, total absence of returns in respect of potatoes and relief and cab hire. Asked if there were any items queried in the Pit Prop Account which was not going into, witness said there was a payment of $300 to the Centenary Hall School. There were other items which were queried which did not come out in the enquiry but witness could not remember them. He promised to look the matters up and bring the items on Monday.

MODEL FARM COMIC RELIEF ACCOUNT.

Mr. A. J. Bayly, recalled, put in a detailed statement of sundries under Model Farm Account for 1921-22. Amongst these was a suit case valued at $14, shoe brushes, cheese presses, Epsom salts and chocolates.

COMMISSIONER—Were the chocolates for the cows?

WITNESS—Some of the servants had done messages and received the chocolates as presents at Christmas.

Witness' own son received a payment for taking care of some of the Department's geese which could not be properly looked after at the farm, and were taken under the witness' wing. A bill for $750 from the Royal Stores was put in. This was chiefly for hardware. Other items under Sundries were horseshoes and one pair of rabbits. These, witness said were bought by Dr. Campbell from a poor man, and they were afterwards distributed to the poor.

COM.—Why was it that sundries were $2,000 more in 1922-3 than in 1921-2?

A.—I don't know. We bought considerable lumber for repairs.

Witness procured vouchers for 1921-2 sundries. One of the items was for boat hire. The name of the boat was the Desola, and it was used for carrying fish offal used at the farm.

MR. HUNT—Where is that buffalo now?

A.—It disappeared, and was never recovered.

Did your entries at the various exhibitions win any prizes?

A.—They were not entered for that purpose.

Q.—What were these cheese pressers brought her for?

A.—Dr. Campbell has one and Mr. Harrington th other. They are holding them for us. The cheese pressers were brought here to show people how to make cheese.

Q.—Was the Ford car ever in Bay-de-Verde?

A.—Yes, it took Dr. Campbell over at the time of the bye-election campaign. He had no departmental business there that I knew of.

Q.—Do you know if the car was purchased for that purpose?

A.—I do not know.

CHAS. LESTER IN BOX.

Mr. Charles Lester was next called to the stand and examined by Mr. Winter. He was questioned about the nature of the work done by his firm in connection with the Relief Accounts. He said he gave the Board of Works the free use of his quarry provided he got the hauling contract. He accounted for his charge being higher than Crotty's by the fact that he had to use more labor in hauling the stone to its destination. Witness was also questioned concerning harness sold by him to the Government for the logging camps. He did not think his charges for these were excessive. Witness had also sold horses to the Government. For those he had sold Dr. Campbell he was paid $200.

Q.—Where were all these bridles and chains and things sent?

A.—Twin Lakes, I think.

THE ROAD DE LUXE.

Mr. W. B. Jennings, former Minister of Public Works, was next called to give evidence.

MR. WINTER—These Relief Accounts were in your department, were they not?

A.—Yes. They were paid for out of the two six-million dollar loans.

Questioned about early relief work witness referred to the Road de Luxe which had cost $20,000 and was less than a quarter of a mile long.

Q.—Was there much labor unrest in 1921?

A.—Yes. There were several parades of unemployed and relief work was given as a result of the unrest.

COM.—This work on the Road de Luxe, did it go into your ordinary accounts?

A.—There was a special vote for that purpose put at the disposal of the department.

Q.—What was the origin of Relief Account No. 1?

A.—The prevalent destitution.

Q.—Who were the Citizens' Committee?

A.—I know very little about them. I had nothing to do with them in my department.

Q.—Did the Committee take any part at all in the Relief Work?

A.—None that I am aware of.

COMMISSIONER—According to the Minute of Council appointing them, the Citizen's Committee were to do the whole thing?

A.—The employment of the men was in the hands of the Employment Bureau. We had nothing to do but pay. The Citizen's Committee, I think, ceased to function at a later date and the management of the Relief account was in the hands of Hon. John Davey, the East and West End Road Inspectors, Major Butler and Mr. Harris. I had nothing to do with it officially but I did my best to keep an oversight over the expenditure. One recommendation that I made, but which was overruled, was that $2.00 per day would be enough pay.

Q.—When was there a Minute of Council recommending the giving of work for relief?

A.—I think the instructions came verbally from the Prime Minister.

Q.—I want to see a Minute of Council warranting the payment of money by your department for snow shovelling and rock breaking?

A.—We always had a Minute of Council to authorize us to expend the money.

Q.—These Minutes of Council can surely be produced. It is an extraordinary thing that they are not in the Department?

A.—There is certainly a Minute specifying what work should be done but there must be one authorizing the expenditures.

Recess was taken until 3 p.m.

Train Notes

The incoming express which was held up for several hours at Terra Nova owing to the engines and push plow leaving the rails near Port Blandford was permitted to proceed at 4 p.m. yesterday, and reached the city at 4 o'clock this morning.

The west bound train which was also held-up on account of the derailment left Bishop's Falls at 5 a.m., making good headway.

The Carbonear train arrived at 1 p.m.

The weather is mild and dull along

A Sensational Picture STAR Movie To-day

Messrs. Foster and Hawkes Program--March 7-8th

No. 1—Opening Ensemble. My Buddy. Messrs. Foster & Hawkes.
No. 2—Rose of My Heart. Mr. Chester A. Hawkes.
No. 3—Popular Dance Hits:
(a) Burning Sands.
(b) When Hearts Were Young. Messrs. Foster & Hawkes.
No. 4—Goodbye Sweetheart, Goodbye. Mr. C. B. Foster.
No. 5—Love Sends a Little Gift of Roses. Mr. Chester A. Hawkes.
No. 6—Dancing Fool. Messrs. Foster & Hawkes.

"The Famous Leavenworth Case"
By ANNA KATHERINE GREENE, in SEVEN PARTS.
PEARL WHITE, in EPISODE SIX OF
"PLUNDER"
MONDAY—The Thriller of Thrillers
"THE HERO"
DON'T MISS IT.

COMING ? ? ? ? Of course it is the first of it's kind, and it's at THE STAR.
Extra for the Children Saturday—LARRY SEMON in "THE GOWN SHOP."

Men's
good quality
Storm Rubbers
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98 cents
A PAIR

These Rubbers are not a Job Line or shop-worn, but good, clean, new Goods. Every pair wrapped and packed in individual cartons. Bright and soft as velvet. Will wear and give satisfaction. Try a pair.

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Obituary.

ULRIC N. BAGG, J.P.

We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. Ulric N. Bagg, J.P. of the firm of Bagg Bros., of Curling. Mr. Bagg was taken ill on Monday, Feb. 25, and his physician advised his removal to Hospital. The hold up of the trains, however, made it impossible and it was not until Wednesday, 27th that a special was obtained to convey him to Deer Lake. Complications set in and Mr. Bagg was one of Curling's most prominent and respected citizens. In addition to his own business he represented the Farquhar Steamships and also that of R. B. Book Co., of Chicago. In public matters and in Church affairs he was always actively concerned, and his passing is a serious loss to the community. The funeral took place on Monday morning at 10.30. A large concourse of people, many of them from distant parts of Bay of Islands, attended the service at St. Mary's Church, conducted by the Rector, Rev. H. Petley, assisted by the Curate, Rev. Mr. Camp. The remains were laid to rest in the family plot at the Church of England cemetery.

KEEP MINARD'S LINIMENT IN THE HOUSE.

Magistrate's Court.

A sealer charged with being dru was let go on payment of $1.00.

A 16 year old laborer of Gower S arrested by Constables Emberly a Daly at an early hour this morni for loitering on the public stree was granted his freedom.

Albert Fradsham, fisherman, Ba Roberts, arrested under warrant w arraigned before court at noon day, charged with the following in dictment: On the first day of Au ust, 1923, and to 7th day of Octobe 1923, both days inclusive, did mo take and carry away general mer chandise to the value of $24,000 a upwards the property of the Ne York Costume Company, and Th Smyth, both of St. John's, this bein in a certain vessel called the Wilf C., which said vessel was then on a coastwise trading voyage from St John's to Labrador.

Mr. Higgins, K.C., representing the accused, moved for bail which w granted in the sum of $10,000. The accused taking $5,000 in himself a two bondsmen of $2,500 each, to ap pear on March 14th.

Men's Negligee Shirts at $1.2 each, worth $1.95; Men's Kni ted String Ties, 29c. each; Men' Caps from 75c. to $2.50, at
THE WEST END BAZAAR.
mar7,11 51 Water St. We