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THE DAILY MAIL.

WEATHER REPORT.

Toronto (midnight)—Fresh to strong easterly winds; continued unsettled with occasional rain or sleet.

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ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1914.

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HOUSE DEBATED THE BUDGET AT THE SESSIONS OF YESTERDAY.

And the Opposition Gave the Government a Hard Time of It.

MINISTER CASHIN AND "THE MAIL."

Executive Member Denies in Toto Rumors re Tobacco Deal.

MR. COAKER SCORES.

Makes Some Very Apt Criticisms of the Acts of Government.

In the House of Assembly last night Minister of Finance Cashin furnished an exhibition of a kind that has been rarely witnessed in the Legislature of this or any other country. He was attempting a reply to the scathing criticisms of the Budget Speech by the Leader of the Opposition, who had preceded him, when he let loose on The Daily Mail. He read for the House extracts from this paper and characterized the writer thereof as a coward, a liar and a slanderer, and threatened what he intended to do in the morning, presumably have recourse to the law of libel.

He can do no less; but his case will have to be tried in the court of public opinion which cannot be said to favor the explanation offered by the Minister last night.

The Finance Minister's claim that he and no one on his behalf made any deal to purchase or take out of bond, directly or indirectly, any tobacco, in order to evade taxation stands on its own denial.

He was told by Mr. Coaker that no one would be better pleased than he, if the Minister was in a position to clear his skirts of even the faintest shadow of suspicion; but he should tell the whole truth about it.

On Monday last the manager of the Tobacco Factory came to the F.P.U. President and wanted him to buy a large quantity of tobacco. He was told that all hands were stocking up largely before the duty went on, but he refused at that time to buy because he did not believe that the Government was foolish enough to put a duty on the poor man's tobacco.

Public Statement

Another gentleman in town had come to his office and told him that a statement had been made publicly in the Board of Trade in the presence of forty persons, that a Minister of the Crown had purchased 50,000 lbs. of tobacco in the local market a few days ago, and asked Mr. Coaker, "Didn't you hear the news?" Mr. Coaker denied writing or having anything to do with the publication of the article, which reflects so seriously on Mr. Cashin; but the Minister was unable to control his tirade (Continued in 4th column this page)

Mr. Cashin!

We were glad to notice the display of indignation made by Mr. Cashin in the House of Assembly last night over the letter of "Civis" which appeared in yesterday's issue of The Daily Mail.

But it was quite unnecessary for the Minister of Finance to refer either to the writer of that letter or to the Editor of The Daily Mail as a "liar and a slanderer."

Neither this paper nor its correspondent made or make any charge against Mr. Cashin. We called his attention to rumors afloat on the street; in the offices; in the rink and in the business places.

We represented to him that to permit these rumors, that he had profited personally by his knowledge of tariff matters, to pass unanswered and disproved was to outrage the whole dignity of the Government; to destroy all confidence in the Minister and—incidentally his colleagues—and to allow himself to be branded as politically degenerate.

So all this loud talk about libel suits and about "liars" and "slanderers" was absolutely unnecessary.

Let Mr. Cashin state in straight, unequivocal language that he did not purchase tobacco just previous to the tariff changes from Bowings or any other local firm, whatever the quantity.

The point of the argument will be but little affected by the number of pounds in question; that would simply bear on the amount of profit made.

It is a principle that is at stake—a great one; one that must be adhered to if the whole fabric of our public life is not to collapse.

And the principle is that no Minister of the Crown or Member of the Administration of the day must be allowed to profit by the information he obtains in virtue of his high position.

Now the statement of excise duties for the last six weeks, as tabled last night shows that during that time many times the amount of duties usual to this season of year were paid.

And there is very little doubt that these big deals in tobacco were due to the impression general for quite a while that an extra tax was to be placed on that article.

It is plain, therefore, that the public revenue has suffered and a number of persons have profited by this impression getting abroad. The public alone gain no advantage—in fact suffer in point of loss of revenue to the Country and in increased prices of an article in very general use.

How did this impression, that an extra tax was to be placed on tobacco get abroad?

Was there a leak of information?

Did Mr. Cashin or any other Member of the Government embark on purchases of tobacco or other goods covered by the surtax, and previous to its imposition, and so set the business fraternity on the alert?

These are virtually the questions we propounded yesterday. A definite, explicit, well-substantiated answer will settle the whole matter quickly.

In this great public question personal abuse should be shelved—the only thing that will count will be a presentation of cold, hard, incontrovertible fact.

During the last six weeks—according to information tabled by Mr. Cashin—the amount of excise duties paid on tobacco was \$51,000. The facts required are these:

- 1. What firms paid these excise duties? 2. When did they pay them?

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF 961 PEOPLE

Vanish in Three Months and Leave No Clue as to Their Whereabouts.

NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED GIRLS AND WOMEN.

New York Police Now Campaigning Vigorously Against the White Slavers.

New York, February 25.—Facing the startling fact that no fewer than 961 New Yorkers have disappeared from the face of the earth in three months, 387 being girls and women and that only 194 of them have been found by the police, the head of the police department has ordered the guardians of the greater city to divert their attention for a time from the gangsters and gunmen to the cadets and white slavers.

With eight young girls of good family on the missing list at one time, the police awoke to the undeniable fact and for several minutes continued to abuse the member for Bonavista in a most insulting manner.

Mr. Coaker, then went into a slashing criticism of the Budget, and for an hour and three quarters scored the Government unmercifully.

The sops to party heelers were bared to the bone. The increase in taxation of \$700,000 to pay for the wild extravagances of the Government were exposed in a manner such as has never before been witnessed on the floors of the Assembly. \$50,000 to provide new jobs while hundreds of old women and old men were perishing from the lack of the bare necessities of life—was this the land flowing with milk and honey that the Budget Speech portrayed, and the Finance Minister had asked the country to swallow \$2,200 for six sticks to an Executive member of the Government, while you increase the burden of taxation to the poor man \$700,000. Every garment he wears, every stitch of clothes that goes on his wife's back, or his child's back, you load up with extra taxation; the butter which he eats, the tobacco, his only luxury, you tax heavily, and still (Continued on page 4.)

that white slavery with all its almost unbelievable horrors, is a real institution in New York. Discoveries made recently in the finding of several lost girls have shown that a state of affairs exists in the heart of New York whereby young girls can be snatched bodily from their homes, almost under the eyes of their families and sold into bondage that is worse than death.

For Vigorous Campaign

The police, therefore, have undertaken a campaign of vigorous rough handling against the white slavers, similar to the war they recently waged against the gangsters of the East Side. The gunnery crusade was in a measure successful. It is believed that a similar move against the enemies of women will have equal success.

Instead of arresting gunmen in a dignified manner and giving them the benefit of long drawn out arraignments and trials, allowing them to swagger in court and receive the homage of their satellites while in the Tombs, the police were ordered to use their clubs on gangsters wherever found. The uniformed men and detectives were authorized to beat the gunmen on the slightest provocation. In a short time several of the worst of the East Side rowdies were sent to hospitals instead of police stations and one policeman was highly

- (a) Why did any of these concerns deal so largely in tobacco at this particular time? (b) Did anyone or any number of them do so to fill any order or orders for members of the Government? (c) Was an order for Mr. Cashin filled by any of these firms and if so, for what quantity of tobacco? (d) To whom did the firms concerned dispose of wholesale lots of tobacco during the period under consideration?

As to the first two points the Government can give us all the information we require; as to the others, there are various ways and means of obtaining information thereon.

We admit that Mr. Cashin has great cause for indignation. We have brought this matter to his attention and we assure him that we will give the best prominence we can to any evidence he produces proving himself above suspicion in this matter.

If he can't or won't do this, then—but that's another matter.

General Election Is Inevitable

Unionists Will Endeavor to Force the Hand of the Government.

London, March 3.—The Pall Mall Gazette declares a general election inevitable. Unionists in both Houses will unite to force the Government's hand.

The Ulster "covenanters" will mobilize as soon as Home Rule passes the Commons. The Chronicle says that the Cabinet will not consent to the dismemberment of Ireland, but will propose that education and licensing remain under Imperial control, with the police for six years.

Arrangements will be made to ensure proper appointments on merit, and not on a sectarian basis; Ulster members will have the right to veto legislation inimical to Ulster's interests; North East Ulster will be included, but the right to withdraw by plebiscite after five years may be permitted.

The Ulster Gazette asserts that the Government is preparing its suggestions while well knowing they will be rejected. Will Resist It

Unionists of both Houses will resist will use every constitutional method which is likely to compel the Government to face the country before actual civil war is inevitable. News from Ulster leaves little doubt that the covenanters are prepared to mobilize as soon as the House Rule Bill passes the Commons.

The whole situation is so profoundly altered that if Ministers are not constrained to face people before the Bill is passed, they must be induced to dissolve parliament immediately afterwards. The Westminster Gazette demands a settlement of the question whether

commented for killing a thug who tried to escape. The fellow and struck down an old junk dealer who refused to give him money for whiskey, and when he attempted to escape in the maze of East Side tenement areas, as was always permissible in "the good old days," the policeman shot him dead. That sort of thing had a wholesome effect on the gangsters.

Timely Rescue.

Recently a passer-by on one of the apparently respectable streets on the upper west side saw a piece of folded paper flutter down at his feet. It was a note from a 16-year-old girl who wrote that she was being held as a white slave. The man called a policeman and they invaded the flat from which the note was thrown. They found there two men and a woman. In a rear room, locked up without clothing was the girl. She said she had been seized on the street near her home, thrust into an automobile and brought to the flat, where she was held prisoner. Police investigation verified the story. Many similar stories have been told to the police in the last three months and the authorities now know that the white slave traffic, with all its insidious ramifications is no myth in New York.

GENERAL ELECTION IS NOW DECLARED TO BE IN SIGHT

Leading British Papers Declare It is the Only Way Out.

NO OTHER CHANCE OF A SOLUTION.

Nationalist Control of Government Prevents Possibility of Compromise.

London, March 3.—The Pall Mall Gazette declares that a general election is in sight, the present deadlock being absolute, with no prospect of its being solved under the conditions existing in the present Parliament. Nationalist control of the Commons and Government forbids every effective attempt to secure a compromise.

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Raise \$1,000,000 For Suffragettes

To be Expended in Nevada, Montana, and North and South Dakota.

New York, March 1.—To aid the women of Nevada, Montana and North and South Dakota to obtain the ballot, when the question comes before the voters for final settlement in November suffragists throughout the United States will begin this month to raise a fund that probably will exceed \$1,000,000.

The campaign is being carried on by the National Association, which, working with local societies, will hold mass meetings at which the money will be sought. Part of the fund will be used for state campaigns, the remainder going to the National Association, which will use it to carry on a vigorous campaign in the four states.

one party has the right manipulate army in order to exempt Ulstermen in the case of their resistance.

Will Not Consent

Commenting on Asquith's promise to introduce the Irish Home Rule Bill for the last time with a statement of what concessions the Government is inclined to make to Ulster, the Chronicle says the Cabinet will not consent to the dismemberment of Ireland, but will propose that education and licensing remain under Imperial control, as already provided for in the case of the police for a period of six years.

Newspapers say also that the post-office will remain under the Imperial Parliament, and that provision will be made for Board patronages so as insure that all public appointments will be made on merit, not on a sectarian basis, that Ulster members of the Irish Parliament will have the right to vote down legislation inimical to Ulster's interests; that North-east Ulster will be included in the Irish Parliament from its inception, but with the right to withdraw from it by a plebiscite in five years.

A MINE TRAGEDY

Brussels, March 3.—Seven coal miners were drowned today in a mine at Braquegnies, by the bursting into one of the galleries of a subterranean stream. The danger signal was sounded throughout the mine, and hundreds of employees escaped.

Thirteen Deaths Due To Storm

Philadelphia, March 3.—Thirteen deaths, due to the storm, are reported in this city, and vicinity; also four at Scranton. A young man was frozen to death, while snow-buried in a sleigh at Hazleton.

TRY A WANT ADVT. IN THE DAILY MAIL.

And the Paper is Still Waiting for Jeff's War Story. - : : By "Bud Fisher"

