Blackville Saturday

Residence of Simon Bean Badly Gutted-Social and Personal

Blackville, July 24—A serious fire three'on Saturday. About one o'clock and the Presbyteria . shares The ole soon found that the fire was n the roof of the kitchen. The men Teams hauled water from the pond. ton on Monday evening. They cut their way through the roof

little hopes of saving the building There was a high wind blowing 'Misses Gracie, Myrtle and Vina at the time. If the fire hadn't been Weaver, spent Sunday evening with stopped the surrounding buildings Miss Gladys Veno. and residences would have been wiped out. The men and women deserve Alfred Underhill met with a bad mis-He kicked out a window and received a bad cut in his ankle. Dr. and Thursday in Blackvilla Beaton dressed the wound Mr. J. Word was received here on Sat-Dale received some bad burns on his urday evening that Pte. Herman Ar-Beaton dressed the wound Mr. J. the lead was put where the buildings hope that it is not, serious. down on his back. The building and week-end at his home

Mr and Mrs. Ernest Shields and spent Friday with Mrs. John Simson Gordon motored from Fredreic mons ton and spent Sunday at Mr. J Mrs. Margaret Nolan spent Thurs-Dale's. He and his wife made a nice day afternoon and evening with her catch of trout Monday morning at

Mr. Moses Schaffer and family were out motoring Sunday in Mr. John.

Stanley Crawford arrived home Thursday from Bangor. Stanley says gine of a special train was off the Canada is good enough for him track. Canada is good enough for him Mark Sutherland was here Sunday

Mr. Robert Gillespie is confined to his home . There is little hopes for

Miss Helen Coughlan and Miss Harrigan of Nelson, were calling on My Dear Sister, friends last Wednesday. They returned by train that evening to

Mr. Elwell and wife of Boston, are spending their summer holidays at by a big shell. I tell you I am sorry Mr. George McIntyre's, Mrs. El. about it, for he was a good friend of

time there was little hopes of its Harry is well and all the boys from recovery but the child is out of dan. Upper Blackville

castle, have been visiting for the it, and I tell you it was some sight. week-end at Mrs Thos. McCarthy's. It came off June 8th. We were all Three children of Mrs. Jas. Wet-lined up in the trench and the offi-

Vincent McCarthy of the Wireless has been visiting at his home. Mr. Simon Bean arrived home from Boston Monday night He came home

father's Mr. R. Robertson.

residence adjusted. able cow last week. The animal in my right shoulder when I got to was sick only a couple of days.

HOT WEATHER **NECESSITIES**

Now that the hot weather has arrived you will

Fly Swats Fly Traps Oil Stoves Sprinklers Refrigerators Screen Doors Garden Hose Ice Cream Freezers Screens & Screening

How about that Pump you were thinking of installing? Nothing is nicer than a cool refreshing drink. Call and let us show you out line of Pumps and also give you figures regarding Pipe, etc. We carry all sizes.

From your loving brother.

CONSCRIPTION PASSES

GEO. VENO, 87ht Battalion

bill passed its third reading in the

Somewhere in France.

An Interesting Letter From Pte. George Veno, Telling of Midnight Raid

you all the news. Give my love to all. Be sure and answer soon. Weaver Siding, July 23—Pte. Earle Weaver of the 23th Battalion, is home from Valcartier on pass.

Mrs. E. Fader of Newcastle has been visiting her sister, Mrs Henry

Miss Wilhelmina Simmons, who and women went to work with a has been spending her vacation at her home here, returned to Frederic

Miss Greta Weaver had the misfor tune to cut her hand very hadly. Mr. Joseph Simmons spent day in Doaktown on business

Mr Vincent Cashen had the mis

fortune to have his bicpole badly great praise for their efforts. Mr. broken by lightning on Sunday last Miss Gladys Veno and Miss Wilhelmina Simmons spent Wednesday

back from melted lead. He was up bo of the 26th Battalion, had been in the roof between the cealing and wounded for the third time. We aft Mr. Edward Hogan, who is work-

so intense that it melted and run ing with John Simmons, spent the Mrs. Joseph Simmons and family.

brother, Patrick Cashen. Mr. James Hogan of Blackville, is paying a visit here to his brother

track here a few days ago. The en-

of her sister, Mrs. Joseph Simn

on Tuesday last. The following letter has been received by Miss Gladys Veno:

Just a few lines to let you know am well, hoping you are the same. Well, Gladys, my old friend, Sandy Peterson, got killed the other night mine. We were together ever since A child of Mrs. Walter Johnston I signed on, and it makes you fee! found some Fruitative tablets Sunday bad when you lose a good friend like and ate them. It was thought at one that. It is hard, but it is all in war

Well, Gladys, I suppose you heard Misses R. and L. Stewart of New. tell of the midnight raid. I was in more of Campbellton, Leslie, Nan and Alma, are visiting at their grandutes before we were to go, and I just thought of you and Martha, how you would be sleeping. Then the ed fire just like a big thunderstorm in Canada, and over we went. I to have the damage by fire on his thought little H—I broke out and we Mr. Robert McLaggan lost a valu- we always do. I got a little wound the front line, but I never stopped The boys were all feeling fine when we got back. We lost a few, not many. I am all well now, I don't

mind it. Well, I hope this will not would like to hear about that raid. Well. Gladys, it is not so bad as I thought it would be, so don't worry about me, for we will not die until

our time comes.

Mr. Jas. Crawford had the misforine to, lose the only cow he had. His boy was driving it home from pasture. It slipped on the road and broke its leg and had to be killed.

Mrs. Roderick Robertson, our post naster's wife, is confined to her bed. She had a slight stkroe of paralysis. While endeavoring to-rise from her bed she fell against a dresser in her room and cut her head quite badly. Ellnunl McDonald, son of Thos. McDonald, was suddenly attacked with appenlicitis. He was taken to Chatham Hospital anl operated on by Dr. John Beaton assisted by Dr. At last report he was out

of danger.
Mrs. Gordon McDonald was taken to Chatham Hospital Tuesday night with typhoid fever.

Miss McIntosh of Bathurst and Miss McEwen of Chatham are visiting at Mr. Albert Coughlan's. Mr. and Mrs McLaggan received a

to France in the Heavy Siege Bat-tery. It contained a souvenir sliver and gold spoon marked Arras, also two lewel boxes marked Arras, two aluminum rings made from the fuse of German shells, one marked On the Somme, 1915. His many friends wish him the good luck to come through this great war. He has been in some of the large battles. Mr. Robert Ross has strived home He has been working with the Fras-

or Co. at Edmonston.

Mr. Charles Orady is home on a visit from Edmondston.

Mrs. Cull Schooledd is building a residence at the station.

Gr. Swithen is keeping up his record, showers every day.

Addressed on Sunday by P. G. Chaplain Rev. W. McM. Well, Gladys, I guess I have tole

On Sunday afternoon the Orange-men of Onward L. O. L. No. 45, Tabicintae, to the number of some 60. arched to the Presbyterian church and were addressed by Rev. W. McN. Matthews of Bathurst Past Grand Chaplain for N. B., who deliv-THIRD READING text: Honor all men, Love the Brotherhood, Fear God, Honor the King, prefacing his sermon with high encomiums of the Orange Order and House of Commons by a vote of 102 to 44, a Government majority of 58

an organization.

SUNNY CORNER

Sunny Corner, July 23-Miss Lauretta Young was the guest of her Mrs. William Nowlan spent last week with her daughter, Mrs. Kiah

Miss Frances Nowlan was visiting her parents the former part of the

Miss Ida Mullin is the guest of Mrs. Jeremiah McCafferty, Bridge-

Miss Lorna Mutch spent last week with friends at the Corner. Mr. Miles McAllister and his bride his home in Lyttleton weanesday.

comiums of the Orange Order and tis aims and the great need of such friends wish them bon voyage on the

SCHOOLS are CLOSED

During the summer of 1916 our sale of Dolls was unprec dented. This year our stock is much larger and more varied and we have the Unbreakable Dolls from 25c to \$3.50

FOLLANSBEE & CO.

BUY THE KIDDIE A DOLL OR TOY AND MAKE IT HAPPY

Miss Katie O'Shea spent last weel with friends and relatives here Miss Gertie Hall of Newcastle, was latter part of the week. O large number of people attended the day.

make it a success and it was cer tainly a credit to Redbank. The bride is one of Sunny Corner's the guest of Miss M. B. Nowlan the Mr. and Mrs Michael Hogan and

Alleged Profits of The William Davies Company in 1916 on Bacon, as Indicated by Department of Labor to be Five Cents per Pound, Untrue:

Actual Profits Two-Thirds of a Cent per Pound

HE statement issued by the Department of Labor concerning the business of The William Davies Company Limited has been given widespread circulation throughout the country and

Whatever the technical wording of the report was, the effect has been that the newspapers have published that "the profits on Bacon alone" of this Company "for 1916" were about "five millions of

This interpretation of the official report is not surprising in view of certain statements that the Commissioner of the Cost of Living makes. The Commissioner is reported as saying that "There were two individual cases of profiteering in 1916 and that had these cases occurred since the passage of the cost of living Order-in-Council, he would consider it his duty to recommend that

For the last fiscal year ending March 27th, 1917, The William Davies Company bought and killed 1,043,000 head of Live Stock (Cattle, Hogs and Sheep.) This, plus purchases of outside Meats, produced 160,000,000 pounds of Meats. The Company handled 6,550,000 pounds of Butter and Cheese, 5,650,000 dozens of Eggs, and manufactured 26,500,000 tins of Canned Goods.

of Eggs, and manufactured 26,500,000 tins of Canned Goods.

The net profits on these were .68 cents (or two-thirds of a cent) per pound on meats, 1.04 cents on Butter and Cheese, 1.04 cents per dozen on Eggs, and .47 cents (or slightly less than one-half a cent) per tim on Canned Goods. These profits include profits on all By-Products derived from these accounts.

During the year the Company served at its retail stores 7,500,000 customers, the average purchase of each customer was 85c., and the net profit upon each sale was 5-8 of 1 cent.

The turnover of the Company from all its operations for the last fiscal year ending March 27th, 1917, was \$40,000,000. The net percentage of profit upon this turnover, after deducting war tax, was 1.69 per cent., or including war tax

the facts be laid before the Attorney-General for consideration as to their criminality." The situation created by such erroneous and damaging statements is serious as emanating from a Government official, from whom one looks for not only accurate statements but correct conclusions.

The William Davies Company, being a private concern, has followed the practice of all private corporations, except when it made a bond issue in 1911, in that it has not published reports of its assets and liabilities or profit and loss. The present circumstance, however, in which a Government Official has led the public to false conclusions, makes it advisable for this Company, for both the public interest and its own interest, to publish particulars of its business as well as point out the error of the statement of the Government Official.

3.45 per cent.

The William Davies Company has assets of \$13,385,000 of which \$3,865,000 is tied up in fixed investments.

To provide the necessary facilities for the increased volume of business the Company expended \$750,000 in buildings and equipment during the year.

Companies of other character present no more reasonable statement of profit and loss based upon the investments made in the business.

The William Davies Company offered to the Imperial authorities, as well as the Way Office Service (which represents the Imperial authorities in Canada) to the War Office Service (which represents the Imperial authorities, as went as to the War Office Service (which represents the Imperial authorities in Canada) to place the output of its Factory with respect to Bacon supplies, Canned Beef and Pork and Beans at the service of the authorities, on the basis of cost plus an agreed percentage. These offers were successively declined as the authorities evidently desired to purchase in the open market, and on this basis The William Davies Company has secured War Office business by open competition with the

Respecting the Report of the Commissioner on the Cost of Living:

Last Winter the Commissioner, under authority of order-in-Council, required packers to submit statements under oath for some years back and up to December 1st, 1916, of incoming stocks of Meats and the cost of such, as well as statements of outgoing product and the selling value. This Company represented in writing at the time that the information as specifically required was not in accordance with Packing House Accounting methods, and invited the Commissioner to send an Officer to the Head Office of the Company to examine the books for any information desired, and to secure a viewpoint as to the best way of collecting data which would be of use to the Government. This offer was declined, and there was nothing to do but fill in the information required as literally as we could determine it. For example, there was no recognition of the fact that a raw product may enter a factory under a specific classification and leave the factory as a finished product under some other classification.

We submitted a series of accurate figures based upon our

classification.

We submitted a series of accurate figures based upon our interpretation of the official requirements which made no provision for charges of any description other than incoming freight and unloading charges to be included in the cost or to be deducted from the selling price. There was nothing in the report which could be read so as to determine a profit and loss statement. The very fact that with only a statement based upon cost of raw products and value of sales in Great Britain a Government Official has deduced "Large margins," "Profiteering" and "Criminality" if it had occurred since the passage of a recent Act, shows too dangerous a trifling the passage of a recent Act, shows too dangerous a trifling and incapacity to be permitted to deal with any important situation. The statements of this Company have been treated by the author of this report as if the out-going product was identical with the incoming product, and from the series of reports—and from them deduced an erroneous "margin" which the newspapers have interpreted as "profit." The author of the inquiry shows a strange lack of even a fundamental knowledge of simple bookkeeping and a dangerous inability to co-ordinate figures. The following are specific and outstanding errors in the zeport:

The principal item that is causing excitement deals with cold storage bacon. The term "cold-storage" is not defined, and the public is allowed to make its own definitions. As all Bacon in a packing house is under refrigeration it is really all cold-storage, and therefore this Company's figures of cold storage Bacon represent the complete quantity of Bacon handled in its entire Plant, whether in freezers or in process of cure for immediate shipment. That some com-

panies interpreted cold-storage product as "freezer" product only is evidenced by the smallness or entire lack of figures on the Bacon list for some Plants, indicating that many Firms did not submit statements of their complete stocks, as did this Company. An Official of this Company pointed out this cold-storage distinction to Mr. O'Connor and Miss McKenna in Ottawa a few weeks ago, and the failure to make the distinction after having had it pointed out evidences lack of desire for accuracy of the real information desired.

of desire for accuracy of the real information desired.

It is true The William Davies Company, in 1916, exported 97.791,000 pounds of Bacon, but we do not know how the margin of 5.05 cents per pound is arrived at by Mr. O'Connor, as there were no figures to justify such a conclusion. The probabilities are that the margin is arrived at by taking the average cost per pound of incoming product from the average selling price per pound of outgoing product. This may be a rough way of estimating the gross margin when dealing with small figures, but when dealing with figures the size that Mr. O'Connor has to deal with, a very small fraction of a cent per pound of error makes a very important difference in the total, and one must be careful to make sure that the outgoing product is the same finished merchandise of the incoming product reported on.

Allcwing it to pass, however, as a rough estimate, we

allowing product is the same missined merchandise of the incoming product reported on.

Allowing it to pass, however, as a rough estimate, we wish to point out—(first)—the inquiry of the Commissioner allowed only for incoming freight and unloading charges, and made no provision whatsoever for operating charges of any kind, such as labor, curing materials, refrigeration, et eetera. Such actual charges on the 97,791,000 pounds exported were \$1,162,000—or 1.2 cents per pound. This amount covered all charges up to the point of placing the Bacon on cars f.o.b. packing-house. In addition to this was the actual cost to land and sell this 97,791,000 pounds in England after leaving the packing house, which involved charges of 2.9 cents per pound—or \$2,836,000. Thus 2.9 cents per pound included inland and ocean freight, landing charges, war and marine insurance, cables, and selling commission to agents. The ocean freight and war risk alone would make up 2.4 cents of the charge of 2.9 cents per pound. This 1.2 cents, plus 2.9. cents—a total of 4.1 cents—must be deducted from Mr. O'Connor's margin of 5.05 cents per pound, leaving a margin of .95 cents, or slightly less than a cent per pound, which still has to be reduced because of the error of premises and because of further factors which have to be considered to determine net profits.

It is quite evident some of the other packers did not because of the context in the goats were

sold—a proceeding quite proper, as the forms submited to be filled in were indefinite and ambiguous, thus permitting without charge of evasion a variety of interpretation as to the information required. It is thus possible that of all the figures submitted by the different packers that no two sets of costs and sales prices are determined at the same common point. It is this difference of interpretation of what was required that accounts for the difference of the alleged "margin" made by the different companies. Common conclusions, however, have been drawn by the author of the report from varying bases of premises.

The figures of the Egg business were submitted on the

same basis as Bacon, and similar deductions must be made.

(Second)—The above margin is further reduced in that
the author of this inquiry singled out the Bacon figures as an
item in which the selling price shows an alleged improper
advance over cost, but he did not give us credit for the
statements of other products, of which figures were submitted
the selling prices of which were under cost. The reason
of this was that through failure to inquire the Department
entirely overlooked the fact that product may come in as
pork and, through the process of manufacture, go out as Bacon
or, in another instance, enter the factory as beef and go out in
the form of canned meats; for example: much of the product
which came in as pork, and which was entered on the pork
sheet submitted to the Commissioner—about which he makes
no mention—was cured and left the factory in the form of
Bacon, and was, therefore, entered on the outgoing side of the no mention—was cured and left the factory in the form of Bacon, and was, therefore, entered on the outgoing side of the Bacon sheet—the result is that the Bacon sales are increased by this amount over the incoming stocks of Bacon, and, likewise, the sheet showing sales of pork is reduced by the amount that went out in the form of Bacon. If the Department takes one set of figures that show favorable to the Company they should take another set of figures that show unfavorable, as the principle in either case is the same, and failure to do so looks as if the author of the report was exercising more enthusiasm than sound judgment in his investigations.

(Third)—It is queried in the report, that "if the margin of 3.47 cents," alleged to have been made in 1915, "was satisfactory, why was it necessary to show increased margin in 1916?" Assuming again for the moment the soundness of the premises in asking such a question based on an erroneous "margin", it will be found that the increased margin is chiefly absorbed in increased ocean freight rates and war risk insurance in 1916, of which apparently the author of the report was in ignorance.

The Company does not challenge either the legal or moral right of the Government to investigate business enterprises when public interests directs such an investigation should be made. If an investigation of the packing and meat business is ordered, the Company will place at the disposal of the Government not only the data it would be required to supply under Order-in-Council directing that inquiry be made, but will place the experience of its officers at the disposal of the investigating committee, if it is considered they can render any service which will be of value. The Company has not now—nor at any time during the fifty years of its operation—anything to conceal in method or practice of carrying on its business. It does, however, claim the right to conduct its export business without abusive comment from Government civil servants—especially when the conclusions drawn from the data asked for are improper and false.

One of Canada's chief export industries is the packing business. It is essential to the live stock industry, and, along with other export industries, it maintains the financial stability of this country, and should, providing it is on a sound basis, receive encouragement and not slanderous abuse. In view of the publicity given to the report of the Commissioner on the cost of living, the Company demands the same publicity in having an official Government investigation of this report to determine the truthfulness or untruthfulness of its conclusions. We do not seek public consideration as a company, but we do say that untruthful official statements, or statements the effect of which is to create an untruth,

adversely affect the live stock industry of this country, which is so valuable and essential a wealth-producing power and, in the long run, are harmful to the very people that the statement seeks to benefit.

If the passing out of existence of a corporation such as The William Davies Company, or if nationalization of packing houses would materially and permanently reduce food prices, then in view of the present world tragedy it ought to be consummated without delay. The fact of the matter is, however, that with millions of people in Europe turning from producers into consumers because of the war, and the tremendous destruction of food products incident to war, there is no remedy for the high prices of food while such conditions last, except the remedy of thrift and increase of production. the remedy of thrift and increase of production.

Long before there was talk of a Food Controller in the United States or

Long before there was talk of a Food Controller in the United States or Canada The William Davies Company urged the Government at Ottawa, in writing, to appoint a Food Controller with full power to do what he saw fit, as we realized at that time the upward tendency in the price of food commodities unless checked by official effort. At the most a great deal cannot be done in reducing food prices while currency is inflated and until the scale of prices of all kinds of commodities declines also. What can be done can only be done by a Food Controller. We wish to point out that nothing at all can be accomplished unless the data secured are accurately and clearly made and the deductions therefrom sound. Only public harm arises from dangerous incompetency in the haphasard collection and careless use of important figures.

E. C. FOX, General Manager

THE WILLIAM DAVIES COMPANY, LIMITED