

## Serious Fire at Blackville Saturday

Residence of Simon Bean Badly Gutted—Social and Personal Notes

Blackville, July 24—A serious fire occurred at Mr. Simon Bean's residence on Saturday. About one o'clock an alarm was rung from the Chapel and the Presbyterian church. The people soon found that the fire was in the roof of the kitchen. The men and women went to work with a will. All the furniture was removed. Teams hauled water from the pond. They cut their way through the roof and also on the inside of the building. At one time it looked as there were little hopes of saving the building. There was a high wind blowing at the time. If the fire hadn't been stopped the surrounding buildings and residences would have been wiped out. The men and women deserve great praise for their efforts. Mr. Alfred Underhill met with a bad mishap. He kicked out a window and received a bad cut in his ankle. Dr. Beaton dressed the wound. Mr. J. Dale received some bad burns on his back from melted lead. He was up in the roof between the ceiling and the lead was put where the buildings were joined together. The heat was so intense that it melted and run down on his back. The building and furniture are insured.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Shields and son Gordon motored from Fredericton and spent Sunday at Mr. J. Dale's. He and his wife made a nice catch of trout Monday morning at the mill dam.

Mr. Moses Schaffer and family were out motoring Sunday in Mr. Bert Underhill's car.

Stanley Crawford arrived home Thursday from Bangor. Stanley says Canada is good enough for him.

Mark Sutherland was here Sunday in his car.

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

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

Mr. Elwell and wife of Boston, are spending their summer holidays at Mr. George McIntyre's. Mrs. Elwell's father.

A child of Mrs. Walter Johnston found some fruitative tablets Sunday and ate them. It was thought at one time there was little hope of its recovery but the child is out of danger.

Misses R. and L. Stewart of Newcastle, have been visiting for the week-end at Mrs. Thos. McCarthy's. Three children of Mrs. J. Wetmore of Campbellton, Leslie, Nan and Alma, are visiting at their grandfather's Mr. R. Robertson.

Vincent McCarthy of the Wireless has been visiting at his home.

Mr. Simon Bean arrived home from Boston Monday night. He came home to have the damage by fire on his residence adjusted.

Mr. Robert McLaggan lost a valuable cow last week. The animal was sick only a couple of days.

## HOT WEATHER NECESSITIES

Now that the hot weather has arrived you will need:

- 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 our line of Pumps and also give you figures regarding Pipe, etc. We carry all sizes.

**B. F. MALTBY**  
Pumps, Heating, Stoves, Ranges

## Weaver Siding Social News

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

Weaver Siding, July 23—Pte. Earle Weaver of the 136th Battalion, is home from Valenciennes on pass.

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

Miss Wilhelmina Simmons, who has been spending her vacation at her home here, returned to Fredericton on Monday evening.

Miss Greta Weaver had the misfortune to cut her head very badly.

Mr. Joseph Simmons spent Saturday in Doaktown on business.

Misses Gracie, Myrtle and Vina Weaver, spent Sunday evening with Miss Gladys Veno.

Mr. Vincent Cashen had the misfortune to have his bicycle badly broken by lightning on Sunday last.

Miss Gladys Veno and Miss Wilhelmina Simmons spent Wednesday and Thursday in Blackville.

Word was received here on Saturday evening that Pte. Herman Arbo of the 26th Battalion, had been wounded for the third time. We all hope that it is not serious.

Mr. Edward Hogan, who is working with John Simmons, spent the week-end at his home.

Mrs. Joseph Simmons and family, spent Friday with Mrs. John Simmons.

Mrs. Margaret Nolan spent Thursday afternoon and evening with her brother, Patrick Cashen.

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

There was a train wreck on the track here a few days ago. The engine of a special train was off the track.

Mrs. James Nolan was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Joseph Simmons on Tuesday last.

The following letter has been received by Miss Gladys Veno:

France, June 28, 1917

My Dear Sister:

Just a few lines to let you know I am well, hoping you are the same.

Well, Gladys, my old friend, Sandy Peterson, got killed the other night by a big shell. I tell you I am sorry about it, for he was a good friend of mine. We were together ever since I signed on, and it makes you feel bad when you lose a good friend like that. It is hard, but it is all in war.

Harry is well and all the boys from Upper Blackville.

Well, Gladys, I suppose you heard tell of the midnight raid. I was in it, and I tell you it was some sight. It came off June 8th. We were all lined up in the trench and the officers passed the word along eight minutes before we were to go, and I just thought of you and Martha, how you would be sleeping. Then the time was up and the big guns opened fire just like a big thunderstorm in Canada, and over we went. I thought little H— broke out and we cleaned everything before us, just as we always do. I got a little wound in my right shoulder when I got to 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 make you feel bad, as I thought you 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.

We are not afraid of the Germans.

Mr. Jas. Crawford had the misfortune 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 master's wife, is confined to her bed. She had a slight stroke of paralysis. While endeavoring to rise from her bed she fell against a dresser in her room and cut her head quite badly.

Edmund McDonald, son of Thos. McDonald, was suddenly attacked with appendicitis. He was taken to Chatham Hospital and operated on by Dr. John Beaton assisted by Dr. Loggie. 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 box from their son Arnold who went to France in the Heavy Siege Battery. It contained a souvenir silver and gold spoon marked Arras, also two jewel 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 arrived home. He has been working with the Fraser Co. at Edmonton.

Mr. Charles Grady is home on a visit from Edmonton.

Mr. Cull Schofield is building a residence at the station.

Mr. Sutherland is keeping up his record, shooting 2500 yds.

## Tabernacle Orange-men Meet

Addressed on Sunday by P. G. Chaplain Rev. W. McM. Matthews

On Sunday afternoon the Orange-men of Onward L. O. L. No. 45, Tabernacle, to the number of some 60, marched to the Presbyterian church, and were addressed by Rev. W. McM. Matthews of Bathurst. Past Grand Chaplain for N. B., who delivered an inspiring sermon from the text: Honor all men, Love the Brotherhood, Fear God, Honor the King, prefacing his sermon with high encomiums of the Orange Order and its aims and the great need of such an organization.

## CONSCRIPTION PASSES THIRD READING

Ottawa, July 24—The conscription bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 102 to 44, a Government majority of 58.

# 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

THE 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 provoked public unrest.

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 dollars." 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 100,000,000 pounds of Meats. The Company handled 6,550,000 pounds of Butter and Cheese, 5,630,000 dozens 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 tin 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 35c., 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

## 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 acceptable 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 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 "Criminities" if it had occurred since 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 outgoing product was identical with the incoming product, and from the series of reports he has singled out two items—the Bacon and Egg 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 report:

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.

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.

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 whatever for operating charges of any kind, such as labor, curing materials, refrigeration, etc. Such actual charges on the 97,791,000 pounds exported were \$1,102,000—or 1.2 cents per pound. This amount covered all charges up to the point of placing the Bacon on cars for 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 \$2,839,000. 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 show selling values in the country in which the goods were

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.

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 haphazard collection and careless use of important figures.

As far as The William Davies Company is concerned this terminates all public statements of the Company, and it will pay no more attention to speculative and haphazard statements made either by newspapers or civil servants. The only further statement that will be made will be as an official investigation.

Toronto, July 17th, 1917

**E. C. FOX, General Manager**  
**THE WILLIAM DAVIES COMPANY, LIMITED**

## SCHOOLS are CLOSED

After the first week's vacation the little ones become restless and long for a new Toy or Doll.

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

BUY THE KIDDE A DOLL OR TOY AND MAKE IT HAPPY

## FOLLANSBEE & CO.

sea of matrimony.

Miss Katie O'Shea spent last week with friends and relatives here.

Miss Gertie Hall of Newcastle, was the guest of Miss M. B. Nowlan, the latter part of the week.

O large number of people attended

the Ball in Redbank Wednesday night. Every effort was made to make it a success and it was certainly a credit to Redbank.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hogan and family motored to Renous Sunday for the day.