

The Carleton Observer

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HARTLAND, N. B., SEPTEMBER 8, 1915.

Whole No. 325

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The Everyday Bargain Store
YOU LEARN TO SAVE MONEY

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The Guaranteed Gas Saver

The Lesgass device is not a liquid, powder or pills to be put into the gasoline tank, but a permanent device which is inserted in the manifold, or intake pipe, as a cartridge is slipped in a gun. No moving parts to get out of order. Will last longer than the engine.

Less Gasoline

Greater Mileage 4 to 6 More Miles per Gallon
Increased Power from 10 p. c. to 100 p. c.

A Lesgass device attached to any automobile will give more miles per gallon of gasoline, more freedom from carbon, greater flexibility, and increased speed and power.

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The famous Lesgass device is sold on a positive money-back guarantee if it does not do all that is claimed.
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A Home Away from Home

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Can give you close quotations on anything in these lines you need, either at the mill or f.o.b. either railway station. A call or correspondence solicited. We will treat you right in any case—fill your order promptly at reasonable price.

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all colors, including black rubber. Men's from \$6 to \$13.
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See Our Men's Blue Worsted Suits

\$12, \$15, \$17, \$18 and \$20

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CENTREVILLE

MR. CARTER DISCUSSES PATRIOTIC POTATOES

E. S. Carter, opposition organizer, says that Royal Commissioner W. B. Chandler "because of other engagements" would be unable to continue his work of investigation into government expenditures and therefore could not go into the inquiry in connection with the purchase of potatoes for the patriotic gift which he had asked him to take up as soon as he had finished with the remaining witnesses in the unfinished inquiries.

Mr. Carter said that the potato purchase involved a large amount of money, about \$150,000, and was undoubtedly the most important of all the investigations asked for. He had evidence to show that a large amount of money was grafted and wasted and only asked an opportunity to prove it. Going into the details of the potato purchase, Mr. Carter said:

The report of the auditor general shows that there were 40,252 barrels of potatoes purchased for the "contribution to the imperial government" and for the use of the army and the navy as a token of the loyalty of the people of the province to the Motherland.

I am using the words of the governor of the province used when he signed a special warrant authorizing his provincial secretary to spend \$75,000 for 100,000 bushels of potatoes.

"In round numbers, forty thousand bushels over run 100,000 bushels, but with potatoes selling for so low a price, 35 to 40 cents a bushel or less, it was felt that the sum of \$75,000 was ample for the purpose.

"But they did not calculate upon the greed of the buyers. Of the 40,000 barrels B. Frank Smith of Carleton county, provided nearly 32,000. He made a profit of ten cents on every barrel and if he bought the potatoes under one dollar he must have made more. He did not even have to worry about the money, for satisfactory financial arrangements were made by the government so that the funds were available when wanted. Anyone can readily see that with the farmers anxious in the face of a falling market to get rid of their potatoes how easy \$3,200 could be made.

"But while the auditor's report says that 40,252 barrels were paid for, the steamship company, carrying the potatoes to England, says they only took on board 10,310 and 49,860 bags or about 35,210 barrels, counting two bags a barrel. Where, then, did the other 5,000 go? There were rumors of potatoes being in the warehouse that were not mature and of a lot of waste but surely there were not 5,000 barrels waste.

However taking the figures of the auditor general, \$90,630.62, as the cost of the 'contribution' and the steamer's account of potatoes received as 35,210 barrels, the cost to the people of New Brunswick was \$2.58 per barrel.

The cost unfortunately did not end there. There was a further sum of \$25,887.43 spent for "patriotic potatoes." But not one bag or barrel of these crossed the ocean. Hon. Mr. Murray, the minister of agriculture, in his reply to some questions, asked in

the legislature, said that because of lack of "satisfactory transportation." I think the people will need some other explanation. There were the potatoes, some \$25,000 worth, that were hawked from door to door in the city of St. John, in many small groceries, hauled also to Lancaster hog pens and finally the balance loaded into schooners to seek a market in the West Indies. First they were loaded with all the "contingent expenses" as Hon. Mr. Murray said. That is, they were "sorted and piled" by A. C. Smith & Co. at over thirty cents a barrel. Then they were placed in expensive new barrels or bags and they were furnished with a guard of several men who remained with them day after day until they were shipped. The returns from the sales were not to be had last spring in the legislature. They may be available next session.

This will give the people some idea of how first \$90,632, then \$25,887 of their money was spent to show their "loyalty to the Motherland." This was how the political parasites were permitted to fatten upon the spontaneous and generous gift of New Brunswick.

Premier Clarke and Minister of Agriculture Murray cannot place the blame upon the former premier for this open and shameless scheme. They knew what was happening. They gave the patronage of the people's gift to their prominent supporters and the most of it to B. Frank Smith, who would soon, they knew, have to run an election in Carleton county.

An investigation would have shown if B. F. Smith was also interested in the "sorting and packing" which was done by A. C. Smith & Co. of West St. John. There were charges of \$12,072 out of the first \$90,632 for filling the barrels and bags and piling them. As for the "sorting" of potatoes that were just picked from the field that is very ridiculous. But, even sorting, the charge of \$12,000 in connection with this shipment of 35,000 barrels made every potato-shipper in the province gasp with astonishment. It was simply incredible to think such charges could have been made and paid. Yet Mr. Murray and his deputy, Mr. Daggett, must be held responsible for this wastage. They knew other firms would have done it for less than half this charge. They could have asked such shippers as W. W. Boyce of York county, McCain of Florenceville or many others and learned that such a charge was outrageous.

"Another question that they must answer is why they permitted B. F. Smith to ship some twelve or fifteen thousand barrels more than were ordered. That was why the governor had to sign a second warrant of \$75,000 to pay for the potatoes that were not ordered and of which eighteen cars were condemned by Inspector Leslie Slipp. Hon. Mr. Murray in reply to a question, said none of the condemned potatoes were sent to Britain or Belgium but what the people want to know is whether they were paid for.

As near as can be figured from the incomplete information there were nearly seventy thousand barrels of potatoes bought from the farmers, but of this amount only thirty-five thousand barrels went to great Britain and a little less than fifteen thousand barrels to Belgium. But the political buyers made a profit on every barrel and the sorters and packers, A. C. Smith & Co., were paid their enormous charges.

"According to the auditor's report they were paid more than

\$12,000 for sorting and packing the first purchase of about forty thousand barrels, and Hon. Mr. Murray said 'the same contingent expenses' were attached to the other purchases. That would allow A. C. Smith & Co. a future bill for this work of about \$10,000. The profit of at least ten cents per barrel, would amount to \$7,000. The evidence of those who sort and pack potatoes is that the work could have been done for twenty-five per cent of what was charged. There should have been no profit for the buyers of the patriotic gift. There were more than enough agricultural officials and presidents of agricultural societies in New Brunswick who for such a purpose would have sprung to attention and given their interest and their time for nothing.

"Contrast the action of little Prince Edward Island with that of New Brunswick. The Island government donated 100,000 bushels of oats which were worth more in the market than New Brunswick's gift of potatoes. Yet a few days ago Rev. D. Gauthier, president of the Grain Association on the Island, told me with pride how the farmers had donated the gift and all that was done to aid them was furnish the bags. There wasn't a cent of profit for any politician, there wasn't a cent to pay for any official and nothing was paid for the oats.

That was true patriotism, and was not tarnished by the presence and greed of political plunderers such as gathered in New Brunswick as soon as it was known that a large sum of money was voted as a token of the loyalty of the people of this province to the Motherland.

"Unless it is the intention of the people to permit such abuse of their noblest intentions, unless they are willing that their loyal feelings and their generosity shall be used to fill the pockets of unscrupulous politicians, they should urge upon the royal commissioner, W. B. Chandler that this is not the time to abandon his work but that it is as much his duty to bring out every fact as it is Sir Charles Davidson to expose the graft in the horse purchase in Nova Scotia, so that it may no longer be possible for the people's patriotism to be made an excuse for the politician's profit.

Death of Mrs. Robt. Jas. Miller

After a brief illness of five weeks, Alma L. Corey, wife of Robert James Miller passed away at her husband's residence, Glassville, on Friday morning, August 20. For some time past she had complained of stomach trouble; but medical skill proved unavailing. During her illness she was attended by Dr. Brown, of Centreville. The funeral which took place on Sunday afternoon was the largest in the district for many years. The services in the house, at the Presbyterian church, and at the graveside were conducted by Rev. E. C. Jenkins, United Baptist pastor, Florenceville, who was assisted by Rev. James Colhoun, Glassville, and E. A. Robertson, student-missionary. Mr. Jenkins preached an impressive sermon from II Timothy, Chapter 4, verses 7-8.

The deceased lady leaves a sorrowing husband, two sons, three daughters, her aged father and mother, and several brothers and sisters to mourn her comparatively early death, having passed her forty-eighth year by only a few months.

"Rough on Rats" clears out Rats, Mice, etc. Don't Die in the House. 15c and 25c at Drug and Country Stores.

PILES

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