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

Evening Telegram

The Evening Telegram, Ltd., Proprietors.

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Tuesday, February 12, 1924.

Italy Under a Dictatorship.

The arbitrary system of Government operating in Italy may not meet with the approval of those countries which have struggled to secure the privileges of democracy, but the success which appears to have resulted from Mussolini's methods cannot but win the respect of those who have watched developments. What ultimate outcome will be is not known, but it cannot be doubted that when once the abuses are rectified, a popular system of government will be restored.

In the Bulletin of the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy appears a summary of the work of the Mussolini Government during the twelve months prior to October, 1923. It is illuminating as indicating what can be effected in purifying public life and in practising economy by a leader or a party determined to effect the necessary reforms.

It may be of interest to cite a few of the measures that have been carried out, and the changes which have been made in the administrative offices. One of the first steps taken was to dismiss superfluous Government employees and those who were temporarily engaged. 33,362 were promptly discharged and 15,050 received notice of dismissal to take effect as soon as the new establishment was in working order.

The Ministries of Finance and of the Treasury were amalgamated, thereby giving unity of control in financial matters, and disposing of a large number of unnecessary civil servants. The Ministries of Industry and Commerce, Agriculture, and Labour have similarly been consolidated into the single Ministry of National Economy.

A Purchasing Department which had fallen into disuse was reconstituted, and has effected a great saving in many directions.

Gaps through which various taxpayers could escape their responsibilities have been closed, and the practice of exempting foreign capital from income tax has been abolished. Taxes have been more equitably distributed, and certain classes of workmen are now included in the income tax schedule.

The policy of the Treasury has throughout been inspired by the principle of reducing public expenditure, so as to balance the budget without increasing the already onerous burdens borne by the tax payers. It is hoped that a saving of 1500 million lire will be effected without in any way prejudicing the efficiency of the public administration.

In order to ensure that this important reduction of expenditure should be properly utilized, the whole of the financial control was put in the hands of the Central Accounting Department at the Ministry of Finance.

A reduction of the deficit has made it possible for the Government to face its financial obligations with a more limited recourse to public loans, and without any inflation of the currency. There has thus been a diminution in the drain on national savings which, to the extent of milliards of lire found their way into the Treasury and were thus diverted to their proper use, namely, the encouragement of national production.

A genuine funding of the Public debt has been in subtance effected by the issue of the Bonds of the three Venetian Provinces for the purpose of liquidating claims in respect of damage caused by the war, bonds which the patriotic inhabitants have gladly accepted. The sacrifice which they have made will be rewarded by the fact that the final liquidation will take place several years sooner than the date originally anticipated.

The Bank of Nova Scotia

The ninety-second annual report of the Bank of Nova Scotia appears on page 8 of to-day's issue. This statement shows the Bank to be in an unusually strong position. The profits for the year amounted to $2,104,532.86 while the balance carried forward to Profit and Loss Account was $252,695.82 as against $173,162,000.00 in 1922. A good feature of the general statement, and one which gives added strength to the Bank, and at the same time goes to prove the careful handling of the affairs of the institution, is the Quick Assets now totalling $131,761,385.00, which is over 66 per cent. of the total liabilities to the public. Savings Deposits increased $2,982,438.00 and the total deposits increased $2,367,096.00. During the year Dividends amounting to 16 per cent. per annum were declared. The War Tax on circulation amounted to $100,000.00, while the Bank's contribution to the Officers' Pension Fund amounted to $75,000.000 and $250,000.00 was written off Bank Premises Account.

The Bank has reason to be proud of its excellent record for 1923 and we congratulate the popular local Manager, Mr. J. A. Young, and his assistants, whose efforts contributed, in no small measure, to the general result.

FISH ! FISH !—I will deliver Fish and Grocery orders to-morrow morning from 9 to 12. No delivery in the afternoon. 'Phone your order and it will be given prompt delivery. J. J. WHELAN, Colonial Street.—feb12,1i

Personal

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. MacKenzie arrived from New York by the Rosalind yesterday.

Mr. J. P. Kiely, Manager of the Nickel Theatre, leaves by the Sachem to-day on a business trip to the States.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Neal are passengers by the Sachem to-day en route to Boston and other cities.

Mr. and Mrs. Robin T. Stick, who have been spending their honeymoon abroad, returned by the Rosalind yesterday.

Misses Flora Wilson, Phyllis Herder and Stella Perlin are leaving by the Rosalind to-morrow for New York, where they enter the Post Graduate Hospital in that city.

The many friends of Mr. P. J. Deneff of the City Club, will regret to learn of him falling and breaking his arm which will confine him to his home for a couple of weeks.

Train Notes.

The local express which left Port aux Basque Sunday morning got as far as Badger Brook at 11 a.m. and is due early to-morrow morning.

The cross country express was at St. George's at 12.30 p.m. and is expected to reach Port aux Basque by 6 p.m.

The local Carbonear train arrived at 1 p.m.

A strong southerly wind with snow and drift is sweeping the railway from Placentia Junction to Bishop's Falls to-day. It is very mild on the West Coast, but the indications are the storm will extend right across country.

A Win for Bp. Feild

The third game of the regular Inter-Collegiate Hockey Fixtures was played in the Prince's Rink at noon to-day, between the Bishop Field and St. Bon's teams. The former were victorious in a well contested game by 7 goals to 3. The battle for the championship will in all probability be left with the Collegians and Fieldians, and when these meet in the second round a spirited game will no doubt result.

Banker's Hockey to-morrow morning 11 o'clock Bank of Nova Scotia vs. Canadian Bank of Commerce. 12 o'clock Royal Bank of Canada vs. Bank of Montreal. General Admission 25c.

Synopsis of Address Delivered By Counsel of Sir Richard Squires.

Owing to the fact that a copy of the address by Mr. Lewis on behalf of Sir Richard Squires was not available until this morning, we regret being unable to publish it in full. The following is a summary of the salient points made by Counsel:—

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Lewis, Attorney for Sir Richard Squires, delivered his argument in reference to the charges made under paragraph II. of the Commission. Mr. Lewis's address occupied an hour and a quarter in delivery. In his opening remarks the charge and the fact that Sir Richmention was made of the gravity of the charge and the fact that Sir Richard had been brought before the tribunal charged with offences of which no honorable man would be guilty. He pointed out that an adverse decision against his client could not fail to result in great injury, and he appealed to the Commissioner to weigh carefully every scrap of evidence. This he said was all the more necessary because the charged were inspired by those whose political interests and political activities were opposed to those of Sir Richard, and it was important that the charges be fully established by competent and legal evidence. He quoted the rules of common Law "Every man is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty," and the burden is upon those who make the charges to sustain them beyond reasonable doubt.

Referring to the second paragraph, Mr. Lewis said that the question to be decided was were moneys paid to Sir Richard Squires while negotiations were in progress as to the obligations which the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. owed the Government of Newfoundland. He pointed out that before determining the guilt of Sir Richard it had to be established that obligations were owing to the Government, that there were negotiations pending, and that moneys were paid whilst negotiaions were in progress. Mr. Lewis pointed out that there was no shred of evidence to show that $100,000 or any monies was paid Sir Richard as a consideration for the elimination of clauses of the Coaker-Wolvin contract, and likewise in relation to the $3000,000 payment. The only evidence to support the claim that there was an attempt to obtain these sums was that given by J. Miller and J. T. Meaney, and Sir Richard denied their testimony. It was not necessary, he said, to characterize the testimony of Mr. Meaney. As for Miller, his story only agreed with that of Meaney on one point, and that was in reference to the conversation with McDougall on the train, when each gave testimony that McDougall had asked "Is Squires crazy?" This similarity of evidence, said Mr. Lewis, is a striking example of the willingness of the two men to perjure themselves. He referred to Mr. Gillis as advancing the proposition that McDougall had asked if Miller and Meaney were crazy. The Commissioner pointed out that this was a misconstruction of Gillis' evidence.

MR. LEWIS then went on to deal with the mysterious package, claiming that at the time of delivery of the $4,000 there was no evidence to show that at that time the D.I. & S. Co. were under obligation to the Government, although it was admitted by Mr. McInnis that at the time of his visit there were discussions re the provisions of a new contract. Unless it could be held that the D.I. & S. Co. owed obligations to the Government of Newfoundland at the time Mr. McInnes or Mr. MacDonald made his contribution, the charge of the receipt of such moneys cannot be sustained, therefore a contribution then made is not within the scope of the enquiry, and consequently the evidence regarding the mysterious package should be disregarded. Regarding the Coaker-Wolvin, Sir Richard had denied knowledge of the negotiations. The agreement was not ratified until July, 1921, and according to the agreement it did not become binding until July, 1921 and as the agreement did not become effective until seven months afterwards or at a period when the last draft of the series drawn upon Miller by Jean Miller as Attorney for Sir Richard and paid by the Bank of Nova Scotia on Nov. 30th followed, he argued that no moneys were paid from the treasury of the D.I. & S. Co. during any period when there was in existence obligations from the Company to the Government and the authority of the commission was confined by the words "while negotiations were in progress" that the payments made could not be made the subject of a finding adverse to Sir Richard.

In referring to the $46,000 transactions in August and September, 1920, Counsel referred to irregular manner in which the note had been endorsed, and he emphasized the clear testimony of Mr. MacDonald and compared with that of Mrs. Harsant to the disadvantage of the latter. The fact, he said, that Mr. Miller had placed the Company stamp on the note negatived Mrs. Harsant's statement that Mr. Gisnnis would accept any note signed by her brother.

On August 10th, a Sight Draft for $4,000 was drawn "R. A. Squires per Jean G. Miller" presented to and accepted by J. J. Miller and paid on August 12th. On August 14th, another draft of $5,000, similarly drawn and accepted, was paid on August 28th. Another draft of $5,000 dated August 16th, drawn by J. J. Miller upon the Dominion Iron & Steel Company, Ltd., endorsed R. A. Squires, by Jean G. Miller, his attorney, and accepted by the Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., per J. J. Miller, paid August 31, 1920. Here again it will be noted that the acceptance of the draft by the Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., by J. J. Miller again subjects him to the charge of forgery of the company's name thereto. The next day, August 17th, a draft of $2,000 was drawn by R. A. Squires, per J. G. Miller, his attorney in fact, on J. J. Miller, accepted by J. J. Miller, and paid on August 23rd, 1920. The last of the series of drafts, dated November 27, 1920, "Payable on November 26th, 1920, without grace" was paid on November 30th. The total of the note and drafts apparently is $43,683.05. The amount, it is conceded, passed through Sir Richard's account in the Bank of Nova Scotia. It will be re-called, however, that Mr. Miller under cross-examination reluctantly testified that he had no authority to make, draw, or any negotiate instrument from the funds of the D.I. & S. Co., Ltd., that the books under his control as accountant did not reflect the transactions referred to, and that he did not until long thereafter advise the company of his misconduct.

MR. LEWIS claimed that in connection with the 20,000 note, Miller had covered the transaction in the payrolls. He deposited the cheque for $46,683.05 in the bank at Wabana, knowing that it would not be paid on presentation but that it would appear to the credit of the company and would inconsequence mislead the Auditors, as it in fact did. The fact that the amount stood as a debit to Miller in the books at Sydney, and that Sir Richard's name does not appear at all was pointed out as indicating that the company still looked upon it as a debt. There was nothing, he said, to indicate that Sir Richard Squires had any knowledge of the receipt of the various items represented by the note, cheque and drafts until sometime in the month of March 1921.

MR. LEWIS remarked it would seem that the Dominion Iron and Steel Company is in such a position as to make it possible for that Company to recover from Sir Richard at least the sum of $43,683.05 as money had and received by Sir Richard. There is no evidence taken before you that indicates any purpose on the part of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., to refrain from enforcing the payment of that sum by Sir Richard Squires. The facts are now all made public.

It is clear that the moneys of the corporation were embezzled or converted by Mr. Miller and that such moneys subsequently were deposited to the credit of Sir Richard's account. When such item was set up on the books of the Company it may be quite true that the company had no such specific information as would enable it to assert a claim against Sir Richard. That situation, however, is different now. Unless it can be held that the Company has no claim against Sir Richard Your Honor cannot hold in this proceeding that the Company has ever paid or permitted its money to be paid, to Sir Richard Squires at any time.

MR. LEWIS dealt at considerable length with the motive which underlay Miller's actions which he claimed appeared to be prompted by the hope of personal advancement through Sir Richard Squires' influence. By trying to bring about the elimination of the clauses of the contract on the one hand, and the obtaining of subscriptions to the campaign funds on the other, Miller trusted to gain the support of both parties. Referring to the evidence of Mr. Miller and his sister, MR. LEWIS said he concluded that Miss Miller was a party to the embezzlement of the funds of the D. I. & S. Co., and the situation as he saw it was that of Miller being a self confessed embezzler and forger, had as his accomplice his sister and the case of Sir Richard had to rise or fall on their testimony. In discussing the testimony of Mr. Meaney, MR. LEWIS said he seems to have been a soldier of fortune, ready and eager for activities along any line, entirely without conscience, completely lacking in an understanding of the ordinary morals of life, delighted with the opportunity of serving the Colony as its hartender and sorry to lose the job which he held for a time. Doubtlessly he felt aggrieved because of his suspension, and he did what men of his type might naturally be expected to do. He sought revenge. He was the prime mover. He had long been suspicious of the intentions of the Prime Minister to give him any position other than that which he held, Acting Controller, and shrewd, cunning and unscrupulous as he was, he prepared himself for the conflict which he saw was inevitable. He regarded himself as in a position when he might be able to force his reinstatement. He is here, continued MR. LEWIS, with his unsavory record, testifying against a man who has hitherto born a reputation as an honest, upright, and capable citizen of the Colony.

He is here testifying that he himself, with Miller, undertook to obtain from the D. I. & S. Co. and the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. large sums of money as a consideration for the elimination of the clauses from the agreement. He claims no authority from Sir Richard to institute or carry on such negotiation. Again I say he lied and has admitted that he lied in order to have the opportunity of spending his time in Montreal in the effort to carry out his nefarious plan. It may be that he supposed he could accomplish his purpose. It is more than likely, however, that he expected in the event of its accomplishment to share abundantly in the distribution of the lot.

MR. LEWIS then went on to deal with the testimony given with regard to the cheque and cheque stubs, pointing out that four cheques dated Sept. 20th, 1920 bearing the signature of R. A. Squires by Jean G. Miller, and indicated by the stubs as issued to Jas. Miller were outstanding and had never been accounted for. Mrs. Harsant, he said, was in charge of the bank account and it may be presumed she was the only person who could supply information on the subject. Her failure to do so discredited her testimony, he claimed, in its entirity. Mr. Frazer, he said, testified that he had totalled the moneys received at the office and distributed during the time Mrs. Harsant was business manager, and as it might be assumed that she entered no money upon the books that had not actually been received, it might likewise be assumed that she never failed to give herself credit for monies actually disbursed; and, as she had full opportunity to contradict the evidence of Mr. Frazer as to his statement that, according to the books, there should be a cash balance of $11,072.38, whereas he found only $505.51, there could be, if the enquiry was a matter of civil action, grounds for a judgment of $10,567.87. That amount, he said, the Commissioner would be justified in holding that Mrs. Harsant had converted to her own use.

Reference was again made by Mr. Lewis to the Coaker-Wolvin contract and the desire of the companies to secure modification. He was not prepared to concede that the companies contemplated to attain their desires, but Sir Richard had testified that when he met the officers of the company in reference to labor troubles, they countered with a demand for elimination. Had Sir Richard, he said, been a corrupt man, it is not inconceivable that the companies would have yielded to a demand if made by him for financial consideration. Had he been a party to the $46,000 transaction, he would not be in a position in 1920 to insist on reopening the mines.

In concluding Mr. Lewis said, "ignoring all the arguments that have already been addressed to you, and taking a single, separate and independent question for consideration, permit me to ask, can you help finding from the testimony and exhibits now before you that the Dominion Iron & Steel Company has a good and perfect cause of action against Sir Richard Squires for the recovery of the $46,000 or such part thereof as may have been received by him? I submit that you must so find that there is no alternative. That being so, you must find that the charges against Sir Richard in this paragraph have not been sustained."

NOTE.—With reference to the impossibility of getting the verbatum speech last night, it may be explained that it was due in no way to the official stenographers, who were advised that it was unnecessary to report the speech as the typewritten manuscript read by Mr. Lewis would be available, but which they did not receive until to-day. We may further state that as no verbatum copy was made, it is impossible to report the comments made by the Commissioner, who on several occasions took exception to the conclusions drawn by Counsel.—Editor.

Have You Seen it Yet ?

The talk along the street is The Archibald Shoe Style Exhibit. Don't fail to see it to-day. Nothing ever seen in St. John's to compare with it. Artistic and superior leather shoes that can be bought at moderate prices. Our American visitor remarked that he did not credit that such goods could be produced outside of Rochester. Every style is a work of art. People travel to the extremities of the earth to see the modern or mediaeval art of an old or new civilization. You have only to step along to S. Milley's window to see real art in shoemaking—examine the graceful lines, the finish, the stitching and the French cording. Your foot comfort and health demand good leather shoes, your aesthetic health feeds on the beautiful. See the Shoe Style Exhibit to-day.—feb11,2i

Springdale St. Sale of Work

On Thursday afternoon Mrs. Herbert Outerbridge has kindly consented to open the Springdale St. School Sale of Work. Great preparations have been made by the lady supporters of the institution to make the sale a great success, and as the proceeds will be expended on school equipment, it is hoped that the affair will be largely patronized. In addition to afternoon and high teas, there will be numerous stalls where visitors are certain to obtain bargains in home cookery, plain and fancy needlework and candies and there will be a special staff for the purchase of the dernier cri in valentines.

NO REPORT.—There has been nothing received from the Prospero since leaving Wesleyville 3.15 p.m. yesterday. It is quite possible that she is steaming outside of the slob ice and her arrival will take somewhat longer than expected.

To-morrow being a General Holiday, the Plan of the Hall for "Belinda" will be at the Casino Theatre from 11 to 12.30, and during the afternoon.—feb12,1i

GENTLEMEN !

It is our pleasure to-day to present our first

SUIT SALE FOR 1924

Incidentally we might mention the fact that in point of perfection, these Suits excel anything we have yet shown. Selected English Tweeds—good looking patterns, medium and dark mixtures—perfect tailoring and every little detail has been carefully considered in the construction of these Peerless Suits.

With such Suits available, it is not extravagant to have at least two on hand.

SPECIAL $17.75

See These Today

James Baird LIMITED

MEN'S DEPARTMENT

PEPYS BEHIND THE SCENES.

Feb. 11th.—All the morning at the office, mighty cold, but much work to do till I am chilled through, almost. Anon to the Enquiry, where Mr. Meaney offers to tell about the shortage in his department, and says he did make a clean breast of it; but the Commissioner will not allow him to say anything. Mr. Jenks speaks for Besco and denies that his Company did give campaign funds to Sir R. Squires. Again to the Enquiry in the afternoon, and hear Mr. Lewis make his discourse for Sir R. Squires. So to the office, where comes Mr. Hartnett and brings me tickets he would have me sell for the Barn Dance. The tickets mighty well done, having a rustic scene imprinted on them, and they appear to be made of grained wood, but are really cardboard. At night to the hockey match, where the greatest crowd to see the Feildians and the Guards play. I did grow so excited, such as I have never been since my schooldays, to see the Feildians, with all of whom I was at school, to win in the last few minutes. Coming home my wife mighty angry, being that I was so hoarse I could hardly speak, and she thinks it a silly thing to be in such a state about a game. But Lord, what a costly game it was, seeing how I shall need a new hat and a stick, because of it. So being weary to bed.

McMurdo's Store News.

HEALTH WITH HEAT.

Toothaches, Neuralgia, Cramps and various other aches and pains, generally indicate congestion—the blood fails to circulate properly. Gentle heat is a natural way of curing these common ills. The prompt application of a

HOT WATER BOTTLE

equalizes circulation, relaxes the parts and soothes the over wrought nerves—often more quickly than internal remedies. One or more of these handy articles should be in every home they may be needed any day or night. Cost too little to be without.

All prices from $1.50 to $4.50.

The Ever Hot requires no hot water. $3.75.

"FEEL IT HEAL"

Mentholatum

COLDS · CHAPPED HANDS · BURNS

(Under the distinguished patronage of his Excellency the Governor.)

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT "THE KING'S MESSENGER"

with Twelve Tableaux and Grand Musical Programme

(Under management of Mrs. Herbert Outerbridge and Mrs. Walter Monroe)

Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 19 & 20

8.15 P.M. CASINO THEATRE.

Candy for sale by the Girls in Costume.

Tickets at Messrs. Hutton & Co's., $1.00, 75c. and 50c. Gallery reserved, 50c., unreserved gallery, 30c., Pit, 20c. Boxes, $10.00.

feb12,14,16,18,19,20

Postpone Racing Meet

The big horse racing meet which was scheduled to take place on Quidi Vidi Lake to-morrow afternoon, has been postponed by the Association owing to the wretched condition of the course. There is general disappointment amongst the racing enthusiasts due to the postponement, but it is hoped that conditions will be much better on Wednesday next. The chief event of the programme is said to be the championship trotting race, on which many wagers have been made. The Association have a sweep on this race which is being rapidly bought up.

SHIPPING.

Schr. Mollie Fearn, cleared from Burgeo yesterday with 2690 qtls. codfish. She now proceeds to Burin to finish loading for Portugal from the Burgeo & LaPoile Export Co.

S.S. Silvia arrived at New York yesterday and sails again on Wednesday.

S.S. Sachem sails for Halifax and Boston sometime this afternoon.

S.S. Rosalind sails at noon to-morrow.

Gold and Coal to be won at Card Party St. Patrick's Old School to-morrow Wednesday, at 8.30 p.m. Fee 50c.—feb12,1i

Coastal Boats.

Argyle leaves Argentia this afternoon on Red Island route.

Glencoe left Argentia 7.30 p.m. yesterday.

Kyle leaving North Sydney for Port aux Basque some time to-night.

There is no report of the Prospero to-day.

S.S Walker is due from Salmonier and intermediate ports this afternoon.

TO-NIGHT ! TO-NIGHT, — The Dance of the Season at "The Gaiety" (Formerly C.C.C. Hall) on to-night (eve of whole holiday). Hear the Mount Cashel Band in all the best Dance hits. They are wonderful. Tickets: Ladies', 70c.; Gent's, $1.00; Double, $1.50.—feb12,1i

Will Attend Play

The Premier, Hon. Dr. Warren and Mrs. Warren, Mr. T. Hollis Walker, K.C., and Mrs. Walker will attend the play "Belinda" at the Casino Theatre Wednesday evening at 8.30 o'clock.

TO-NIGHT ! TO-NIGHT. — The Dance of the Season at "The Gaiety" (Formerly C.C.C. Hall) on to-night (eve of whole holiday). Just a few of the nice Fox Trots, One-steps and Waltzes: "Love Tales," "Bebe," "Nights in the Woods," "Dreamy Melody," "Love Notes," and many One-steps to pick from. All first class dance numbers. Tickets: Ladies', 70c.; Gent's, $1.00; Double, $1.50.—feb12

"BELINDA." — The matinee to-morrow will commence at 2.30.—feb12,1i

Floral Tributes to the Departed

Nothing so nice as Flowers in time of sorrow. We can supply wreaths and Crosses on short notice, and guarantee satisfaction. We will endeavour to meet the humblest purse.

"Say it with Flowers."

VALLEY NURSERIES LTD.,
Tessier Brothers.

DIED.

Yesterday morning, after a short illness, Archibald Avery, aged 65½ years, leaving a wife, three sons, two step-children, four brothers and one sister to mourn their sad loss. Funeral on Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. from his late residence, Beaumont Street, West. Friends and acquaintances please accept this, the only intimation. Foreign papers please copy.

This morning, Feb. 12th, Mary, widow of the late Richard Carberry, aged 75 years. Funeral on Thursday at 2.30 p.m. from her late residence, 218 South Side. Friends and acquaintances kindly accept this, the only intimation.