

The Evening Times and Star

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AFTER PROROGATION WHAT? Parliament will prorogue today. The scandalous revelations made before the fringe of the muckers which ought to be investigated. The Financial Post of Toronto, which is not a party paper, but a representative of business interests, makes the following statement which cannot well be ignored by Sir Robert Borden.

"There is much to be done yet in the way of investigation. Only the little things have been investigated so far. There are well authenticated rumors of rake-offs going to middlemen, ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 on some of the bigger contracts. One important Canadian manufacturer of the highest reputation was unable to get an order until he agreed to give a middleman, who had a pull of some kind, a percentage which will amount to well over \$50,000. The late Lord Strathcona once said that if he had not sent Fred Taylor—now Sir Fred Williams—Toronto to Ottawa to watch his interests, the equipping and despatching of the Strathcona Horse to South Africa would have cost him several hundred thousand dollars more."

In order to divert public attention from such statements as this the government has made charges against Hon. Frank Oliver, and the former Liberal government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier promptly rose in his place yesterday and called upon the government to prosecute any and all cases of wrong-doing it could discover, and Hon. Frank Oliver made an effective reply to the charges made against him. The Borden government cannot shield itself by any such pedantic dodge as an attack upon its predecessor in office.

THE EMERGENCY

The Standard quotes a statement by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in January, 1914, in which Sir Wilfrid said the German peril had disappeared and asked: "Who speaks today of an emergency?" The views held by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on this subject in January, 1914, were evidently the views of the Borden government as well as those of the fact that when the war broke out in August of the same year it was impossible to put the cruisers Niobe and Rainbow into service for a considerable time because they were not at all in a fit condition for active service. As a matter of fact, in January, 1914, and for some time before that, the apparently growing friendliness between Britain and Germany was the subject of comment not only in Canada, but in the British press. What has been revealed since the war broke out came as an amazing surprise in England as well as in Canada. Had the Borden government believed there was an emergency they would have had the Niobe and Rainbow ready for active service, and when the senate rejected the Borden naval bill they would have immediately appealed to the country. They did neither, and thus proved that, like Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and practically everybody else, they saw no emergency. Actions speak louder than words, but in this case inaction was the real evidence that the Borden government did not believe until the war actually broke out that there was a real emergency.

HAVE WE COME TO THIS?

The Frederick Gleason has declared his political creed. It is one that must bring the blush of shame to every honest Conservative. It practically says that it is perfectly proper for public officials to take everything they can get from people who are doing business with the government. Such an open and brazen confession of faith must have shocked even the party friends of that reprobate newspaper. Discussing the case of W. H. Berry, and the charge that he received for his own personal use from people having business with the government, while he was a government official, sums ranging from \$1200 to \$5,000, and Commissioner Chandler's refusal to investigate the charges. The Gleason makes a savage attack on Mr. E. S. Carter, and then says: "If, as Mr. Carter says, some lumbermen on the North Shore sent some deals and boards and shingles to his friend and political emissary, Mr. W. H. Berry, at the time he was building some fine barns at Oak Bay, and otherwise improving the value of his property, what has that to do with the public? It has never been shown that the public receives anything that has been done in that direction. If a banker on the North Shore made the now famous Willard a money contribution—we do not know that he did—whose business it is that if the public interests have not been touched in any way? What the lumbermen or the bankers or others who, according to Mr. Carter, appeared to have an exceptionally warm feeling for Mr. Berry and his welfare may have expected, becomes merely a joke on them if they did not receive anything in return from the public resources; and the howl and the groan of the lumbermen is that they did not. In fact, it has been admitted on all sides that the alleged generosity of the donors was wasted. Commissioner Chandler would have been wasting valuable time and incurring a good deal of useless ex-

pende had he accepted the Carter bluff seriously." The Gleason's charge that Mr. Berry was a "political emissary" of Mr. Carter is of course intended to mislead the readers of The Gleason, but they know very well that it is right for every man who does business with the government to be investigated. Mr. Berry was the "political emissary" of Premier Flemming.

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In other words according to the peculiar-political morality of the Frederick Gleason it is merely a joke when a government official, who ought to be a man of the highest integrity, accepts large personal gifts for his own use from persons doing business through him with the government. What do decent Conservatives think of this confession of faith? What would be the condition of affairs throughout Canada if every public official had his hand out for personal contributions from everybody doing business through him with the government? If anything would prompt the government and Commissioner Chandler to probe thoroughly the charges made by The Gleason it would surely be the article in The Gleason. What have they to say about it? Do they endorse or repudiate the doctrine that it is right for every man doing business with a government to be bled by public officials?

CIVIC TAXATION

Mr. Townshend of Toronto does not appear to have shed a flood of light upon the question of assessment in his address last evening. He made it clear that they are not satisfied in Toronto with their assessment system, and the chief merit he found in the St. John system was that it attempted to make everybody pay taxes on everything they had. He was of the opinion, however, that the tax on personal property in St. John was out of all proportion to the tax on real estate.

It may be observed that if the Toronto system is not satisfactory to Toronto it would probably not be satisfactory in St. John. One valuable outcome of last night's meeting was the decision to appoint a committee to consider the whole question of taxation from the standpoint of the retail merchant, and to co-operate with the board of trade in a general and thorough study of the whole subject. If the united business interests of St. John thoroughly study the question, and insist upon a revision of the assessment system their wishes will prevail. It goes without saying that so long as the citizens generally content themselves with growling about the taxes and making no effort to study the general question of taxation, or to secure an equitable system, nothing will be done. The present year should not only see the appointment of a commission by the city council, but should be marked also by a careful study of the whole subject by business men and their hearty co-operation to enable the commission to produce satisfactory results.

Hon. Mr. Murray made the amazing statement in the legislature yesterday that the portion of those patriotic potatoes purchased but not shipped across the Atlantic are being handled by brokers in Cuba. He adds that culls and affected stock were sold in St. John. The answer he gave to the inquiry makes it more evident that this whole matter of the patriotic potatoes should be thoroughly investigated.

It is rumored that the general question of the lumbermen, has paid back 50 per cent of the amount to the various contributors. He had been \$20,000 and \$30,000. The rumor says that an arrangement was made to pay the lumbermen 50 per cent down, and that they are to accept 40 per cent more at a later date as final payment. This leaves 10 per cent and all the interest in the hands of Mr. Teed, who also told the Royal Commission that he had received \$10,000 for his own trouble. Mr. Teed appears to have come out of the affair very well financially, if this rumor should prove to be correct.

Guard the Tongue. You would not think of taking your neighbor's life or wounding him with any physical weapon. But you perhaps do not realize that when you say an evil thing about your neighbor you are wounding him more grievously than you could possibly wound him with gun or dagger. You may be killing his reputation, which may be a worse calamity to him than killing his body. It is strange, indeed, that the terrible habit of wrong-doing is so easy and so widespread. It is hard to understand the peculiar pleasure which many people seem to feel in saying unkind things about others. Bad as it is simply as a breach of good neighborliness and good citizenship, it is unspeakably bad from the standpoint of Christianity and the teachings of Christianity's founder.

LIGHTER VEIN.

Declined With Thanks. Beggar—Won't you give me a nickel for my stick, sir? Pedestrian—Nothing doing; I'm married already.

"I want you to understand," said Young Spender, "that I got my money by hard work and a dry dock."

"Why, I thought it was left to you by your rich uncle." "So it was; but I had hard work to get it away from the lawyers."

"Was the car crowded that you came on?" "Not very. I had a strap all to myself."

Doctor—"Do you talk in your sleep?" Patient—"No, I talk in other people's, I am a clergyman."

Misinterpreted. Stern Father—I hear you were out gambling last night. Is it true? Gay Youth—No, sir; I was in—\$17.

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Wounded Soldier. "Say, doc," "Yes, my brave man?" "I'd like to trade two duchesses for an ordinary nurse."

Allee—"Trust her! You surely don't think she could keep a secret?" Marie—"Well, I've trusted her with other things and she kept them."

Given Away. Young Van Winkle waited nervously in the drawing room for Julia to appear. He had been sitting there twiddling his thumbs for half an hour. Finally a step was heard in the hall, and he rose to his feet expectantly. But it was not Julia. It was her maid.

"Mama," said the impatient young man, "what keeps your mistress so long? Is she making up her mind whether she will come or not?" "No, sir," answered the maid, with a wide smile. "It's her mind, with she's making up."

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PRINCE OF WALES COURT-MARTIALED

Saved German Prisoner From Being Shot as Spy LATER FOUND TO BE RIGHT

But British Discipline Demanded Reprimand for Prince—Severe Censure For His Royal Highness

London, March 31.—(Correspondence)—The Daily Telegraph publishes the following: The Prince of Wales recently saved a German prisoner taken at St. Eloi from being shot as a spy under circumstances that led to a court-martial inquiry to investigate the charge made by Major Deane against the prince, that of committing an act gravely violating military discipline. The prince was sent with despatches to Major Deane, the officer commanding at a village near St. Eloi. On the prince's arrival he saw a German being led off to be shot as a spy. Asking the reason, the prince was told that the man had been found in the British lines wearing a British officer's overcoat and that he was trying to make his way back to the German lines when captured. No intention of spying. The prince spoke to the German in his own language, and learned that the man had become detached from a German patrol, and was simply endeavoring to regain his own lines when he was taken prisoner. He had taken the coat, he said, from a dead British officer, as he had lost his own, and had no intention of acting as a spy. The prince believed the man's story and asked the British lieutenant in charge of the firing squad to send the German to the local prisoners' camp and to have his case inquired into. The lieutenant declined to do this on the ground that his orders were to shoot the prisoner. The prince, however, persisted that the German should be sent to the prisoners' camp, and pointed out that there was every probability the man was not a spy.

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No Right to Interfere. Major Deane informed the prince that whether the man was a spy or not the prince had no right to interfere with the lieutenant, who was carrying out definite and strict instruction, and that he would be compelled to report to the British headquarters that the prince had used his rank as the son of the sovereign to prevent those instructions being carried out. As the result of Major Deane's report, a court martial was held which resulted in the prince being severely censured and suspended from duty for three days. This sentence was passed as a matter of discipline, for the court-martial was satisfied the prisoner was not a spy, and he has been sent to England as an ordinary prisoner of war.

A Modest Man. She—No, Mr. Jimson, I'm sorry but I wouldn't marry the best man living. He—No, Well, at any rate, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that he offered himself.



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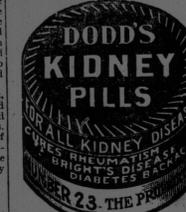
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GERMANY TO STOP SALE OF DISTILLED LIQUORS "Schnapps" to be Unobtainable Until the War is Ended.

Berlin, April 15.—It is learned from a reliable source that the imperial government will soon issue a decree prohibiting the sale of distilled liquors in Germany. "Schnapps" the traditional drink of the German workman, is to be unobtainable until the war is ended. The decree which is to enforce this proposed sweeping measure is being worked out now. The order is not to be a temperance measure, but is made necessary to conserve the supply of alcohol. Fearing a possible shortage of potatoes, from which products of the spirits are distilled in Germany, the government proposes to make the new order "work both ways." No opposition is looked for against the order when it comes up for the sanction of the Reichstag at its next session.



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