

ROYAL COMMISSIONER CHANDLER OPENS COURT

Messrs. Carter and Veniot Present Matters to Be Investigated, and Sessions Are Likely to Be Held in Fredericton, Bathurst and Buctouche—Berry to Be Subpoenaed—Attorney General Announces That the Probing Should Be Thorough.

Fredericton, N. B., March 16.—When W. B. Chandler, Royal Commissioner investigating the government departments, opened his court this morning there were present Attorney-General Baxter and Hon. John Morrissey and Messrs. B. S. Carter and P. J. Veniot who laid certain information before him.

The attitude of the commissioner and the attorney-general was that the government departments, through investigation and the request of Hon. Mr. Morrissey to have this done was published some time ago. The commissioner decided to summon some witnesses by letter and to issue a subpoena for W. H. Berry, to inquire into the complaint of E. S. Carter and hear the evidence on next Thursday morning, March 25.

Mr. Carter said that he had no idea that any witnesses would refuse to attend with the exception of Willard H. Berry. "That is just what occurred to me," replied the attorney-general and laughter.

Commissioner Chandler, speaking with regard to the information concerning the work of the Farm Settlement Board in Gloucester county said that he doubted if the matter came within the scope of his commission. The board practically was a corporation.

Mr. Veniot said that last year the Farm Settlement Board had been placed under the supervision of the minister of agriculture and must be regarded as a portion of that department.

Attorney-General Baxter: "If there is anything wrong we want it made right. If there is anything rotten we want it cleaned out."

Mr. Veniot said that he had suggested to Commissioner Chandler that, on account of the large number of witnesses who would be called in connection with the matters affecting Gloucester county, the hearing could be better had at Bathurst or Carleton Place.

In accordance with the suggestion sessions will be held at Bathurst in connection with the charges connected with public works in Gloucester county and probably at Buctouche on charges connected with public works in Kent county. The services of interpreters are to be procured on account of many of the witnesses being French.

Attorney-General Baxter repeatedly made the statement that the government was desirous of unearthing any wrong doing and made particular reference to certain people who, he said, had been going through the country making charges of wrong doing against certain departments. Those were the people whom he meant to have before the commissioner to show if they were speaking of facts or hearsay.

As this reference of the attorney-general plainly referred to members of his own party and to certain members of the legislature his remark was received with interest.

The commissioner viewed the formal reading of the charges preferred by Mr. Veniot in connection with public works in Gloucester and Kent counties and read a list of witnesses required by Mr. Carter in connection with the information in relation to the Dalhousie Lumber Company.

The attorney-general inquired concerning the nature of the information on Shippegan Island barren toward Lameque road, saying that all government departments continually had to hold up accounts for unauthorized cost. If such accounts had been sent in and held up the department had done what it ought to have done.

Mr. Veniot: "My information leads me to believe that the accounts sent in to this department are padded accounts, if the minister of public works will state that they will not be paid until fully investigated by his department, I am willing to drop the matter."

The attorney-general said that the government did not wish any of the information to be withdrawn. He could see, however, no reason why a department should be blamed if certain people attempted to defraud it and were prevented.

Mr. Veniot said that the men who were said to have made the attempt in regard to the roads were also acting as foremen on bridges.

Attorney-General Baxter asked if there would be any further information against any departments. He did not want an investigation in connection with one completed only to find that another was required in some other department.

Mr. Carter replied that the business of investigation was no more pleasant to him than to any one else. He had no intention of bringing forward information that he did not believe to be authentic and hoped there would be no necessity of asking further time than next Thursday. There was much hearsay and many stories were in circulation.

The attorney-general then made remarks concerning those who had been attacking various departments.

"There are certain gentlemen, said he, who from time to time have indulged in a good deal of talk. I think that if they don't come out and make their charges that the commissioner should summon them and find out if they are speaking facts or merely hearsay. If there is something wrong we propose to put it right or stop the mouths of those who have been going about the country slandering people."

Thus did the attorney-general serve notice upon the insurgents among the supporters of the government that they must come out into the open. Whether Flinder, Woods, et al. will accept the invitation remains to be seen. The information of Mr. Carter was contained in his letter to Mr. Chandler of March 17 which Mr. Chandler produced in court. It has already been published.

MR. VENIOT'S INFORMATION

The information furnished by Mr. Veniot is as follows:—The information of the RUISSEAU CARRIBOU BRIDGE, PARISH OF SHIPPEGAN, GLOUCESTER CO.

In the item \$42 for 3,000 feet spruce lumber, credited to P. F. Boudreau, I am informed and have reason to believe that this lumber was never delivered by him to this bridge when the bridge structural superintendent, Valentine Robichaud, subscribed the oath as to the correctness of this account before M. J. Robichaud, M.P.P., and justice of the peace, he must have known, as I have reason to believe, that no such lumber had been delivered by P. F. Boudreau to said bridge.

I am informed and believe that the said M. J. Robichaud, M.P.P., was in possession of knowledge of the fact that said lumber had not been delivered when said oath was subscribed by the structural superintendent before him.

The said amount of \$42 was paid by check No. 41,821, dated January 9, 1914. Work of repairing this bridge was done in 1913.

The pay sheet for this bridge for December, 1913, contains the items \$22.80 and \$80 paid to one Antime Chiasson. The said Antime Chiasson informs me that he only worked on said bridge for amount of \$28; that he was paid the sum of \$28 in cash by foreman of bridge; that he never saw the check issued in his favor for \$22.80 and that the endorsement of his name on said check is a forgery. Check No. 41,815, issued February 16, 1914.

The pay sheets of this bridge for August, 1913, contain the name of "Edward D. Chiasson" horse and cart, one day, \$21; for September, "Edward D. Chiasson, horse and cart, twenty-six days, \$22"; October, "Edward D. Chiasson, horse and cart, twenty days, \$20"; November, "Edward D. Chiasson, horse and cart, fifteen days, \$20"; December, "Edward Chiasson, horse and cart, twenty-three days, \$44."

In all the sum of about \$170 was paid to the said Edward D. Chiasson. I am informed and have reason to believe that this person is only a child and at this time repairs to this bridge was not more

BRITAIN LOSES THE OCEAN AND PRESSIBLE; FRENCH SUFFER LOSS OF THE BOUVET

London, March 19, 11.10 p. m.—The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines, while engaged with the remainder of the Allied fleet in attacking the forts in the narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday.

The crews of the two British ships were virtually all saved, having been transferred to other ships under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place on board the Bouvet after she had fouled the mine, and most of her crew were lost. The Bouvet sank within three minutes of the time that she hit the mine.

The waters in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines, but the British Admiralty asserts that the Turks and the Germans set floating containers of explosives adrift and these were carried down by the current into the water where the Allied ships had gathered inside the entrance of the Straits.

ALL WERE OLD SHIPS, BUT VALUABLE

All the ships that were sunk were old ones, the Bouvet having been completed nearly twenty years ago and the Ocean and Irresistible in 1898. They were very useful, however, for the work in which they were engaged in the Dardanelles. The sunken British ships are being replaced by the battleships Queen and Implacable, vessels of a similar type. They are said to have started some time ago for near eastern waters in anticipation of just such losses as have occurred. The other ships engaged in the fighting, the British battle cruiser Indefatigable and the French battleship Gaulois were hit by shells and damaged. The British casualties, according to the British official report, "were not heavy, considering the scale of the operations."

STILL FIRING AT FORTS.

The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not yet been ascertained. It is stated that the operations against them are continuing. The forts attacked were those on either side of the Kepez Bay and on Kepez Point, outside the narrows, and those on the Kild Bahr and Chanak in the narrows.

The Kepez forts replied strongly when the battleships advanced firing up the Dardanelles and all the ships were hit. It is asserted that these forts finally were silenced and a bombardment of those in the narrows was under way when the three battleships struck mines. The blowing up of the ships did not cause a cessation of the fighting, which continued until darkness intervened. It is understood that the engagement was resumed today.

Vive Admiral Sackville Hamilton Carden, who is ill, has been succeeded in command at the Dardanelles by Rear Admiral John M. Derobeck.

HERE'S WHAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RECEIVED AND PAID OUT SINCE OCT. 31, 1914

Hon. Dr. Landry, provincial secretary, on Friday presented to the legislature the annual report of the auditor general and the following statement of receipts and expenditures on consolidated revenue account from the close of the fiscal year (Oct. 31) to March 11:

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts include: To balance from 1914, Administration of Justice, Agriculture, Auditor general, Colonization roads, etc. Expenditures include: To balance from 1914, Administration of Justice, Agriculture, Auditor general, Colonization roads, etc.

(These are the figures of the official report, but the amounts when added will not produce the totals as given. Evidently some of the figures are wrong.)

STAMP TAX ON BILLS OF LADING IS DROPPED

Ottawa, March 19.—The "war tax" resolutions of the government were finally put through the commons today and bills based thereon were given first reading. The increased tariff protection proposals are tabbed "The Customs Tariff War Revenue Act," and the stamp taxes are to be known as the "Special War Revenue Act."

The finance minister announced that the government had decided to drop the stamp tax on bills of lading. He also announced that the additional one-cent tax on letters and post cards might be paid with an ordinary one-cent stamp instead of a special war stamp. He promised to consider the suggestion that a three-cent stamp be issued as to avoid the necessity of putting two stamps on each letter or post card.

Advised to Get Out. Rome, March 21, via Paris, 1.30 p. m.—German and Austrian subjects who reside in Italy have been advised by their respective consuls to leave the country as quickly as possible.

It is reported here that so many German military spies have entered Italy that the general staff has been obliged to change its mobilization plans because there is reason to believe that some of the secrets connected with them have been revealed.

Parts of the Italian police force have been detailed to help under surveillance Germans who are considered suspicious circumstances.

The Rev. V. E. Harris, of Halifax, has been appointed secretary of the House of Bishops for the ecclesiastical province of Canada.

THOSE PATRIOTIC POTATOES CAME HIGH

Government Paid \$1.10 a Barrel, Also Railway, Freight and Other Expenses—B. Frank Smith Sold Nearly 32,000 Barrels—A. C. Smith & Co. Got Over \$12,000 for Handling Them—Wm. Thomson & Co. Shipped 9,000 Barrels Less to Britain Than Messrs. Smith Were Paid for Packing—Auditor General's Report Gives Some of the Details.

Fredericton, N. B., March 19.—(Special)—Potato shippers throughout New Brunswick will read with interest the detailed statement of the enormous cost of about 40,000 barrels of potatoes said to have been shipped to Great Britain as New Brunswick's Patriotic gift.

It will be noted that B. Franklin Smith sold nearly 32,000 barrels of the quantity and that about 30,000 of them cost \$1.10 per barrel. The prices paid by Mr. Smith ranged, it is said, from 80 cents to \$1.00 per barrel.

Shippers will be astounded at the enormous charge for handling paid A. C. Smith & Co. St. John. It cost more than \$12,000 to sort and pack the potatoes.

A comparison of Wm. Thomson & Company's shipping bill and the quantities put in packages does not agree. There should be an explanation why there were nearly 9,000 fewer barrels shipped and over 8,000 more bags than were put up by the sorters.

Where the Money Went. The account, as itemized in the auditor's report, brought down in the house today is as follows: B. F. Smith, 29,977 barrels of potatoes at \$1.10, \$32,974.70; B. F. Smith, 2,068 barrels potatoes at \$1.05, \$2,171.40; S. J. Hatfield, 1,068 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$1,174.80; A. A. Riceout, 1,090 1-2 barrels at \$1.10, \$1,188.55; Leonard Mercereau, 182 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$200.20; Robert Kidney, 242 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$266.20; Strong & Nodden, 1,007 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$1,107.70; Geo. A. Fawcett, 1,487 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$1,635.70; Hatfield & Scott, 1,055 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$1,160.50; Hatfield & Scott, 251 barrels potatoes at 85 cents, \$213.45.

B. C. McLaas, 1,262 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$1,388.20; H. T. Douglas, 212 barrels potatoes at \$1.10, \$233.20; Freight, \$8; J. F. Griffiths, 278 barrels at \$1.10, \$305.80; Freight, \$8; Jones Bros., 287 barrels at \$1.10, \$315.70; Mills-Rochelle Ltd., 220 barrels at \$1.10, \$242; A. C. Smith & Co., paid freight on 171 cars potatoes to St. John, \$9,281.70; Barrelling, cooping, cutting and piling, \$1,242 bags and 19,119 barrels potatoes, at 20 cents each, \$12,072; Paid Canadian Bag Co. Ltd., 50,000 bags at \$106 per thousand, \$5,300; Wm. Thomson & Co. Ltd., 900 lbs. hank at 25 cents, \$225; Paid S. M. Wetmore, insurance on potatoes, \$112.50; Paid Hall & Fairweather, insurance on potatoes, premium on \$10,000, \$50; Potato sorters, \$45; freight and expressage, \$109.90, \$164.90; River Valley Lumber Co., Ltd., 1,500 empty barrels at 30 cents each, \$450; Taylor & White, 8,980 empty barrels at 80 1-2 cents each, \$2,788.61; Taylor & White, 100 barrel heads, \$3; Wm. Thomson & Co., freight, \$8; John to London on 10,810 barrels potatoes, 49,860 bags potatoes, 292 barrels apples, 44 boxes apples, 2 cases wheat, 2 barrels merchandise, \$16,206.95; Wm. Thomson & Co., demurrage one day, \$200; Wm. Thomson & Co., insurance on cargo, \$78.80; Total, \$90,630.62.

This is all the expenditures in the report up to October 31, the end of the financial year, but there were two government warrants passed for \$75,000 each, the last one three days before the account closed for the Patriotic gift and assistance to the Belgians. There was therefore \$50,000 left to buy potatoes after October 31, for which there is no public account yet.

On the organization of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and late military secretary to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, governor-general of Canada, has been killed in action at the front. A cable to the chief of staff of the Canadian militia department conveyed the news late tonight.

The late Colonel Farquhar came to Ottawa in October, 1913, as military secretary to his royal highness, and by his charming courtesy made himself a popular figure in official and social circles in the capital.

On the organization of the Princess Patricia's he was chosen commander, the appointment proving a most popular one. He had a most distinguished career as a soldier and won the distinguished service order in the South African campaign while serving with his regiment, the Coldstream Guards. He married in 1905, Lady Evelyn Hely-Hutchinson, daughter of the Earl of Donmore.

Lady Farquhar is at present in London. Colonel Farquhar's death makes the third official connected with Government House to fall in the present war, the others being Captain Rivers-Bulkeley, Scots Guards, former comptroller of the household, and Captain Newton, former A. D. C., who was the first officer of the Princess Patricia's to meet death in action.

The message from the war office reads: "Colonel Farquhar, Princess Patricia's, died. Lt. Mason of same regiment dead. Three killed, twenty wounded."

The message was communicated to Government House and the royal family was deeply moved on its receipt. The duke and duchess sent a message of condolence to Lady Farquhar and a separate message of sympathy was sent to the regiment by Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia, whose name it bears.

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HELP WANTED

WANTED—Competent housework. Robson, N. B.

AGENTS WANTED

RELIABLE represent meet the tremen fruit trees throughout at present. We wish four good men to visit and general agents in the fruit-growing New Brunswick offer opportunities for men to pay a permanent offer to the right man. Toronto, Ont.

THERE is a boom in New Brunswick Agents. Pay well. Palman Nursery Co.

Full Staff of Teachers. The Best Courses. Individual Attention. Student. Our Best Advers. Success of our Students can be seen in our Catalogues to

THE ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

BIRTH

RAMSAY—On the 19th inst. Mrs. F. J. Allan, 49 Cornhill—At 8:15 a.m. March 19, 1915, to Mr. T. Cornell, a daughter.

DEATH

WILSON—At 78 years, instant, in the 85th Wilson, Esq., of Charlton, widow of Charles W. White, Esq., sheriff of the county of York. In the instant, Charles W. White, Esq., in his 85th year, leaving one son, to be mourned.

BRANTINE—At 81 years, instant, Sarah of the late William G. years.

MANNING—At 78 years, instant, in the 85th Mannings, leaving wife, daughters to mourn.

OLEARY—On March 19, 1915, Gertrude (N. Y.), Gertrude years, daughter of Golden Grove.

TONGE—Suddenly the residence of her Mrs. F. J. Allan, 49 Cornhill. In the instant, Phoebe E. Tonge, in the age, leaving besides parents, one brother, to be mourned.

MURPHY—In the instant, at the residence Mrs. William McE. Alice Murphy, aged the late William M. sons and two daughters and a grandchild.

HUNTER—On the 19th inst., at Point, Kings county, illness of paralysis, in age, 87 years, leaving three daughters, to be mourned (pers. file copy).

LINTON—Charlotte Linton, sr., Fairville, aged 23. In the instant, Mary Teresa, in the age, leaving husband and two brothers and a sister to be mourned.

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