

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1915.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

MR. GARLAND'S CASE.

From the evidence so far adduced before Sir Charles Davidson's enquiry into charges of alleged grafting in war supplies, it appears that there are in this country a few men so bent on material gain that they are not above profiting at the expense of the people even when forced to use the Empire war as an excuse for their illegal gains. There is no indication that such men are as much in evidence in the Conservative party as in that remarkable collection of purists led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the contention of the Grit newspapers to the contrary.

At Monday's session of the enquiry, Mr. W. F. Garland, Conservative member for Carleton, Ontario, was the principal witness. He admitted that he had received from Powell, his clerk, some \$9,000 of profits from the sale of \$40,000 worth of surgical supplies to the government. He also said he had been advised by "members of the government" to get the money back—that is, to make prompt restitution. This point is grasped by the machine Grit Times which asks: "Who are those members of the government? Why did they make that suggestion to Mr. Garland?"

There is nothing in Mr. Garland's statement, as it appears in the Telegraph, to indicate that the instruction to restore the money, came as a suggestion; it might as well have been an order, and honest men will agree that, if made, it was a most proper order for a member of the government to make. As soon as it became known that Garland, himself a member of parliament, had profited from war contracts, he was instructed to get the money back, to make restitution at once.

This method may come as a surprise to the Times and Telegraph, particularly as their present conception of political ethics is founded on the doctrines of Mr. Pugsley of "sawdust wharf" fame, and Mr. Carvell of malodorous memory—it will be generally agreed that the blatant member for Carleton, N. B., is so nearly politically dead that to refer to him as a member is but anticipating the result of the next election; but it is not uncommon that honest men, finding a wrong done, should move to secure restitution of that wrong.

The next question raised by the Times is "What will Sir Robert Borden do with Mr. Garland?" That question has already been answered by Sir Robert himself, and before there was any suspicion that Mr. Garland had personally profited from the drug contract. Speaking on April 15th last, in reference to the Powell contract, and also dealing with Mr. DeWitt Foster's horse purchases, Sir Robert Borden said:

"As far as the member for Carleton, Mr. Garland, is concerned, I have already alluded to the purchases by Mr. Powell. Mr. Garland was formerly the owner of the business which is now carried on by the Carleton Drug Company, as I understand. The business was transferred to an incorporated company and I think we may fairly assume without doing any injustice to Mr. Garland, that he is the principal person interested and concerned in that company. He had in his employ this young man who was devoting 12 to 14 hours a day to his duties and who received a salary of \$75 a month. He not only permitted but he encouraged and assisted that young man to make a contract with the government under which, within a few weeks, he acquired a profit of \$9,000. I CAN NOT FOR ONE MOMENT GIVE MY SANCTION OR APPROVAL TO A TRANSACTION OF THAT CHARACTER, BECAUSE, TO SAY THE LEAST, IT IS BOUND TO AROUSE A VERY GRAVE SUSPICION; AND A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, IN RESPECT OF CONTRACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, OUGHT TO KEEP HIMSELF ABSOLUTELY ABOVE SUSPICION. THEREFORE, IN RESPECT TO THE HON. MEMBER FOR CARLETON, AND IN RESPECT OF THE HON. MEMBER FOR KINGS, N. S., I FEEL THAT I OWE IT AS A DUTY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF WHICH I AM THE HEAD, TO THE PARTY OF WHICH, IN FEDERAL AFFAIRS, I AM THE LEADER, AND TO THE HOUSE AND TO THIS COUNTRY, TO EXPRESS, AS I DO HERE, MY DISAPPROVAL OF THEIR CON-

DUCT IN RESPECT OF THE MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Sir Robert Borden repudiated Mr. Garland when there was no evidence that the member for Carleton had done more than assist a clerk in his employ to make a profit from a government contract. Now that Mr. Garland has admitted that he, himself, profited from the contract it is not at all likely that Sir Robert will recede from the position he has already taken. The Premier of Canada is not that sort of a man. The very fact that he encouraged an investigation by Royal Commission and that this investigation is now being held, at once disposes of the suggestion that any member of the government had guilty knowledge that illegal profits were being made from war contracts. For the Telegraph or Times to insinuate anything else is not only unfair but too manifestly absurd to warrant discussion. There are no Frank Olivers in the Borden Government.

CONCERNING BINOCULARS.

The Telegraph would be well advised to exercise care in the adjustment of its editorial vision to the case of the "binocular scandal." Indignations, or too hasty action by which even one of its editors does not happen to be indulging in summer recreation when it becomes necessary to apply the "binoculars" may result in the presentation to the readers of that paper of some two-edged facts. There is a sad evidence of such haste in yesterday's paper. In handling the binocular case at Ottawa the Telegraph relates the story of how one Mr. Birkett obtained a contract for the supply of these very necessary articles, and succeeded in persuading Colonel Hurdman, a militia department official, to pass certain glasses which Birkett admits were of inferior quality.

The paragraphs of the Telegraph article bearing on this matter are of particular interest. That newspaper says Birkett "told of securing an order for 400 binoculars at \$52 a pair from the militia department, on the suggestion of Lieut.-Colonel Hurdman of the department, and under the supervision of P. W. Ellis & Company of Toronto. Birkett delivered 120 glasses at \$52, and forty-six at \$48. The majority were below the required standard, but all but five or six passed the inspection of Col. Hurdman."

In order to properly deal with this statement it is necessary that some facts be given concerning the gentleman named, facts which the Telegraph neglects to furnish. The Colonel Hurdman in the case, is the cousin of the Grit member of the Ontario legislature for the City of Ottawa. When the binocular matter came before the Public Accounts Committee some months ago, and his connection with the case was established, he was at once suspended from the service pending the investigation, which is now being held. At that time Liberals declared he was a Conservative in politics, and this contention caused an Ontario publication to present certain facts regarding him, which have not been refuted.

The publication in question said: "After appointing Col. Hurdman to a responsible position in the Militia Department, and making him a part of the 'system' inaugurated by Sir Frederick Borden, Liberals have discovered that he is a Conservative. For twelve years they remained ignorant. The discovery followed the implication of Col. Hurdman in the 'binocular deal.' All this time the recently discovered 'Conservative' was a political and business intimate of his cousin the local Grit member. How carefully Col. Hurdman must have concealed his political views even from his own relatives. He is the only known 'Conservative' appointed to office by the Liberals and the only one of the name of that family in Ottawa—and the members of the family are numerous. Whatever may have been Col. Hurdman's politics at one time, the fact is he was appointed to office by the Liberals and was always recognized as a Liberal. He was a part of the 'system' under Liberal rule and until this exposure a member of the gang appointed by Sir Frederick Borden. Liberals might as well disown him. Frank Oliver and Hon. William Pugsley as Col. Hurdman. Their reputation is no better and

the former was an 'independent' when first elected and the latter was a 'Conservative' nominee in 1896. How remarkable that such a trio should find a congenial home in the Liberal party."

From the evidence of Mr. Birkett it was at the suggestion of Col. Hurdman that the contract was awarded to him, and the same official afterwards passed glasses not up to the required standard. The question will arise, "What did this protégé of the Grit minister of militia receive for his kindly interest in the binocular contractor?"

Apparently the Government set a standard for binoculars to be supplied to the soldiers, and the fact that the price of \$52 and \$48 was not considered extortionate, illustrates that the standard was high. If Mr. Birkett was enabled to purchase inferior glasses for \$17 and have them passed by a Grit official, as of the proper quality, in order to receive the price of the supposed first class article, surely the Government cannot be blamed unless it be for leniency.

Grit newspapers have been wont to complain that under the present administration contracts and positions are given only to men of the Conservative party. This is an instance where that policy was not followed. If Col. Hurdman, who, apparently, is a man of very much the same type as the political parasites who control the Telegraph and Times, had been judged by his politics his position in the Militia Department might have been declared vacant more than two years ago and an honest man installed in his place. Because of the fairness and broadmindedness of the Conservative Government he was not deposed, but left in his position where, on the first opportunity, he engaged in the practices which won favor for him under Sir Frederick Borden.

The facts of the case are that the Government desired a good article and were prepared to pay for it; through the dishonesty of a Grit official and a contractor, an inferior article was substituted. The official has already been suspended and will likely be dealt with according to his deserts. Meanwhile, the Government is co-operating in the effort to ventilate every fact which will lead to the proper and prompt punishment of the war grafters. No government could do more; the Laurier government never showed the slightest disposition to do half so much.

The Telegraph is very welcome to all the political capital it can secure from the binocular incident.

SIX GRADUATE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL AT HAMPTON

Closing exercises held last night—Large audience—Prizes and certificates presented.

Special to The Standard.

Hampton, June 29.—The closing exercises of the Hampton Consolidated School for the term were held in the exhibition hall this afternoon before a large audience. The programme was long and full of interest. Chorus, duets, physical exercises and drill formed the opening numbers in which the schools made pleasing impressions and won much applause. Certificates for highest standing in the several grades were presented by Mr. S. H. Flowering to those of first and second rank in each standard, and the honor attendance roll consisting of those who had not missed one session during the school year was read. It consisted of the following—Grade 11, Edward Harrington; Grade 10, Albert Crandall; Grade 8, Arnold McInnis; Grade 6, Constance March and Oressa Bannerman; Grade 5, Eunice Stephenson; Grade 4, Ralph March; Grade 3, Fawcett Stephenson, and Whitfield French; Grade 2, Clyde Roberts and Lole March. Each member of the family of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. March now attending school was present at every session of the school year.

Medals and other prizes were presented as follows:—by Mrs. T. W. M. Barnes to Laura Manning, for best standing in Grade 4; to Olive Seely, for proficiency in mathematics in Grade 11; to Alice Clarke for proficiency in history in Grade 9. Mr. G. O. D. Otty's prize for best standing in Grade 5 was presented by Dr. F. H. Wetmore to Lole Fowler. Mrs. P. Palmer's history prize for Grade 6, was presented to Jack Angevine by Mr. Guy Kierstead. Mrs. W. M. Langstroth's prizes for best standing in Grade 7 was won by Irene Appleby, and for best work in drawing in Grades 8 and 10 by Joseph A. Lawrence; Grade 9 were presented by Miss Ruth Thurber. Mr. Geo. W. Fowler's gold medal for proficiency in Canadian history, won by Allan McGowan, Grade 8, presented by Rev. J. Mortimer; Miss Sybil Barnes presented her prize for spelling to Brock Flewelling, Grade 9; the F. M. Humphrey memorial medal for mathematics won by Edward Harrington, Grade 9, was presented by Mrs. F. M.

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

I was feeling kind of pale after supping yesterday, and pop sed, Wats the matter with our youngest awfapping. Mother, he looks as if he had jest lost his last friend awn erth.
Benny, dont you feel well, sed ma.
Not verry, I sed.
Ware dus the seat of trubbel seam to be localized, sed pop.
Sir, I sed.
Ware do you hert, sed pop.
Erround the stumick, I sed.
Have you bin eeting anything you shooodnt of, sed ma.
No mam, I sed.
Think hard, sed pop.
Well, I sed, the fellos had a eeting contest this afternoon.
Ah hah, a clue, sed pop, well, who won the contest.
I did, I sed, I beet Puds Simkins and Skinny Martin, and thare sippled to be the 2 biggest eetrs eround heer.
Brave lad, sed pop, show yure stumick no mersey wen yure yung and it will show you nun wen yure old.
But my goodness, you must of eeten a drdill quantity, sed ma.
No mam, I ony ate 6 peeces, I sed, I ate 6 peeces and Puds ate 4 and Skinny ate 3, we was the 3 highest.
They must of bin tremendously big peeces, sed ma.
No mam, they wasen: so big, I sed, they was pritty littel.
In the nam of Eppy Curus, 6 peeces of wat, sed pop.
Soap, I sed.
For mersey sakes, Willyum, go and get the aromattick spirits of amonits, sed ma.
With pop did, and I had to drink a littel glass full of it, talsting fearee but no fearser than wat the soap had taisted.

DUTCH GOV'T TO ISSUE WAR LOAN OF \$36,000,000

London, June 29.—An Amsterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that the Dutch government has decided to issue a new war loan of \$36,000,000 to pay the cost of mobilization and other war expenditures. The draft of the bill was sent to the Council of State today.

The graduating class was composed of Edward Fairweather Harrington, Helen Ruth Humphrey, Katherine Edith Baxter, Andrew Malcolm McGowan, Mahel Kelse Smith, Harriet Ada Barnes, Annie Grace Wetmore, Dorothy Louise Brewster. The class prophecy was given by Miss Baxter and the valedictory by E. F. Harrington.

Six of this class take the matriculation examination in St. John next week and one the Normal school entrance. Dr. C. C. Jones L.L.D. of the U. N. B. delivered an address to the graduates.

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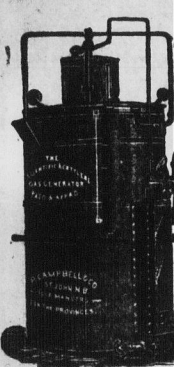
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WEDDING

Cameron-Gregg
A very pretty wedding at the Zion Methodist day morning when Rev. pmon, assisted by Rev. mond, united in marriage Hamilton Cameron to May Gregg, daughter of Abraham Gregg. She church on the arm of Edward Lecelles. Champion played the violin from Lohengrin. The bride was in a grey tulle hat to match, and carried a bouquet of roses. The groom is a member of the Hamilton Savings Bank. Cameron left on the morning for a trip to Scotland. On their return reside at 185 Waterloo the many beautiful gifts a case of silverware the staff in the bank, cut glass centre-piece, and a very nice set of silverware. Telephone Company station.

Webb-Gregg
A pretty wedding yesterday afternoon at home of Mr. and Mrs. ory, Lancaster, when Helen was united in marriage to Percy LeRoy Webb, son of E. Barbour Co., Ltd. Archibald tied the knot in the wedding march. The room was adorned, and the bride showered bouquet of roses to the bridesmaids. The bride and groom stood under the arch and bell. The bride wore a navy blue, with a white lace train. Mr. and Mrs. Webb left for Boston on an extended tour. The bride is a former member of the teaching staff. The bride and groom were very happy.