

THE DAILY NEWS

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Saturday, March 13, 1915.

EDITORIALS

The war in the Tory camp at Victoria is not of recent origin. Its roots extend back into the history of the McBride government. Dick McBride has always played the roll of applying the oil to the troubled waters while he delegated to his lieutenants the task of doing the coarse and rough work. While he has not appeared on the surface, however, it is well known that he has been a party to all the evil deeds of his government. Now, however, his "chickens are coming home to roost" and Sir Dick is trying to disown them. It is well known that when the scandal of Bowser's connection with the Dominion Trust failure was exposed the Premier tried to "fire" the Attorney General but Bowser wouldn't be fired. Price Ellison, being a less aggressive member, was easily disposed of. The trouble began right there, however, and it has ended in open revolt. With the Conservative party split in two a change is assured. Help it along.

Sir Richard McBride made an awful mistake when he dissolved the House. No doubt he had hoped that he could hold the party together till after election and then he would either leave the ship and depart to Ottawa or dismiss entirely all discordant elements. The Premier missed the chance of his life, however, at the time of the Dominion Trust exposure. If he had got up in his place and denounced the Attorney General to his face he might have had some chance of convincing the people in his integrity. The trouble, of course, was that Bowser knows too much about the Premier, and a few words from him would silence Sir Richard forever. The whole matter shows that the Conservative party in British Columbia is rotten to the core and unfit to hold office. It's time for a change, and the change is almost here.

It's a lame excuse of Sir Richard to pretend that he has deferred the election because of the incomplete state of the Voters' List. No doubt the Voters' List is in a very bad state. We have just had a redistribution bill passed, and considerable time should have been given to allow all concerned to have their names and addresses adjusted to the proper constituencies. It is safe to say that the Conservative party has had ample notice to ar-

range this but all others were ignored. The real reason for the delay is the hope that a fix-up may be made in the party. Any patching, however, that may be done will be too thin to affect the minds of the people, who have already seen through the bubble. Nothing short of an entire clean-out will suffice. In this every man has a duty to perform. Let us stay right with it till victory is assured.

Whenever disorders of the human system occur it is usually found necessary to resort to a remedy of herbal extraction known as bitters, the most popular of which have been advertised as "B. B. B." What is true in the human system is usually found true in a system of government and the present conditions in British Columbia politics demand a most violent treatment if political health is to be restored. The Daily News has concocted a remedy that is guaranteed to cure a large portion of the ills of the province. It, too, is advertised as "B. B. B."—Banish Bully Bowser—and every honest elector should take a heavy dose of the remedy.

NO RELIEF GRANTED PULP WOOD SHIPPERS

Washington, March 10.—Relief was denied by the interstate commerce commission to shippers and consumers of pulp wood, who complained against present joint through rates published by Canadian railroads and concurred in by roads in the United States. The commission points out that since the United States lines merely concurred in the rates it could do nothing except to order them to desist from such concurrence, leaving the old combination rates to and from border points in effect. The commission says the rates were found reasonable by the Canadian board of railway commissioners.

GERMAN ESPIONAGE.

Toronto, March 13.—A lady who recently came to Canada from Liverpool tells a remarkable story of German espionage. Her cabin mate was a "lady" of about 50 years old, with whom she became a great friend. Reaching her port of destination the two descended the gangplank together and to her surprise they were met by a squad of police and her companion handcuffed. It turned out that her cabin mate was a German male spy, and that a wireless warning had been sent to Canada to prepare to meet him.

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DECLINE SUBSTITUTES

ENORMOUS DIFFERENCE IN PRICES OF EQUIPMENT

Spread of \$143 Per Set of Tires
Alone Between First and
Second Lot.

Ottawa, March 13.—An inkling of what promises to be one of the big sensations of the session in connection with the purchase of war supplies was contained in a return tabled in the House by Major General Sam Hughes. It has to do with the purchase of motor-truck equipment for the first and second contingents.

On the return tabled, which was brought down in response to an order of the House secured by W. M. German, M. P. for Welland, it is shown that the government bought 28 2-3 sets of various sizes of tires for motor trucks, at an average price of \$390.18, from the Canada Cycle & Motor Company. These tires were for replacement purposes on the trucks which went with the first contingent. Later on, for the second contingent, after the government had got prices from various firms, the tires for the motor-trucks for the second contingent from the above figures would therefore seem to be \$143 per set. It is known, however, that the tires purchased from the Canada Cycle & Motor Company, referred to above, are only a small proportion of the total number obtained for replacement purposes on the 142 trucks sent over with the first contingent. The average price paid is said to be very considerably higher than was paid on the lot purchased from the company named above, and it is understood that when all the facts are disclosed it will be found that there was a spread of something like \$400 per set between the prices paid for tires for the first contingent and those paid for tires for the second contingent.

This spread of prices applies only to tires. When the full list of prices for the entire transport equipment is brought down there will certainly have to be a lot of explaining done by the government to show why this class of supplies for the first contingent cost tens of thousands of dollars more than they cost when purchased for the second contingent.

FROZEN DURING A STORM.

Quebec, March 12.—Lost in a terrific snow storm in the wilds of Kisisink, a lumber district, 120 miles north of Quebec City, Wilfred Couturier, aged 35, was frozen to death near the lumbering camp he worked for.

AGRICULTURAL VALUES ARE KEEPING UP

A press bulletin issued by the Census and Statistics Office summarizes the results of inquiries made by crop-reporting correspondents as to (1) the values of land, (2) the values of farm help and (3) the values of farm live stock in 1914.

Values of Farm Land.

For the whole of Canada the average value of farm land held for agricultural purposes, whether improved or unimproved, and including the value of dwelling houses, farms, stables and other farm buildings, is returned as \$38.41 per acre, which is about equal to that of the last similar inquiry in 1910, when the value was given as 38.45 per acre. In 1911 the average was returned by the Census as \$30.41, but this value was based upon returns from all occupiers, including farms only recently settled and, therefore, of less value. By provinces the average values of 1914 range from \$21 per acre in Alberta to \$450 per acre in British Columbia. In this province, however, the high value is due to orcharding, ordinary agriculture being subsidiary to fruit culture.

Wages of Farm Help.

In recent years the wages of farm help have increased considerably, and they reached their highest point during the bumper harvest of 1913. But in 1914 the pendulum swayed back, less labor being required on farms owing to lighter crops. Since August the war has had for one of its effects an increase in the supply of labor and consequently a fall in the wages. The demand for labor this winter has also decreased cost of board. For the Dominion the average wages per month during the summer, including board, were \$35.55 for male and \$18.81 for female help. For the year, including board, the average wages were \$323.30 for males and \$189.35 for females, whilst the average cost of board per month works out to \$14.27 for males and \$11.20 for females, as compared with \$12.49 and \$9.53 in 1910. Average wages per month in 1914 were lowest in Prince Edward Island, viz., \$24.71 for males and \$14.48 for females; in Nova Scotia they were \$31.20 and \$14.80 and in New Brunswick \$31.93 and \$15. In Quebec the averages were \$33.56 and \$15.65, and in Ontario \$32.09 and \$16.67. In the western provinces they were for males \$39.13 in Manitoba, \$40.51 in Saskatchewan and \$23.63 in Alberta. The highest wages were paid in British Columbia, viz., \$47.85 for males and \$31.18 for females, these averages being substantially less than in 1910 when males received \$57.40 and females \$38.

Values of Farm Live Stock.

Values are well maintained so far as comparison with the three years ended 1910 is concerned; but during 1914 there has been a substantial reduction in the value both of horses and of swine. It is a cause of general complaint that the demand for horses other than for military purposes has fallen off, and that prices are less by from 25 to 40 per cent. than they were in 1913.

Owing to the high price of

THE KING'S MESSAGE TO CANADIAN TROOPS

His Majesty Bids Godspeed and
Voices Appreciation of
Their Spirit.

Ottawa, March 13.—Following his inspection of the Canadian First Contingent on February 4 on Salisbury Plain, His Majesty the King wrote a gracious message to their troops, to be read to all units on board ship after their embarkation for France. The government has issued the text of the farewell, which follows:

"Officers, Noncommissioned Officers and Men:

"At the beginning of November I had the pleasure of welcoming to the Mother Country this fine contingent from the Dominion of Canada, and now, after three months' training, I bid you Godspeed on your way to assist my army in the field.

"I am well aware of the discomforts that you have experienced from the inclement weather, and abnormal rain, and I admire the cheerful spirit displayed by all ranks in facing and overcoming all difficulties.

"From all I have heard and from what I have been able to see at today's inspection and march-past, I am satisfied that you have made good use of the time spent on Salisbury Plain.

"By your willing and prompt rally to our common flag you have already earned the gratitude of the Motherland.

"By your deeds and achievements on the field of battle I am confident that you will emulate the example of your fellow-countrymen in the South African War, and thus help to secure the triumph of our arms.

"I shall follow with pride and interest all your movements, and I pray that God may bless you and watch over you."

TOTAL GERMAN LOSSES ESTIMATED AT 3,000,000

Paris, March 12.—An official note issued by the French Press Bureau declares that the German losses since the beginning of hostilities in killed, wounded, sick, and prisoners reach the enormous total of three million men. This calculation is based on the known casualties in ten German regiments.

grain the keeping of swine in the west is said to be no longer a paying proposition. Hogs have been sold for what they will fetch—frequently for as little as 34 cents per pound—and may have been marketed in an unfinished condition. On the other hand the prices of cattle have been well maintained and the average values for dairy cows and for other horned cattle are considerably above those of 1910. The average per head for all Canada comes to \$127 for horses, \$57 for milk cows, \$42 for other cattle, \$7 for sheep and \$12 for swine. The following is believed to be a rough approximation of the total value of Canadian farm live stock in 1914: Horses \$371,430,000, cattle \$297,134,000, sheep \$14,551,000 and swine \$42,418,000, or an aggregate of \$725,530,000 for all descriptions.

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