

Large Crops

Is what you will experience if you procure your SEEDS from us. We keep only the best.

- Choice Clovers & other Grasses.
- Steele's Royal Giant Sugar Beet.
- Giant Yellow Mangel.
- Rennie's Giant Sugar Mangel.
- Sawlog and Gate Post Mangels.
- Rennie's Mammoth White Carrot.

These are all thoroughly tested and the best varieties procurable.

Dwarf Essex Rape & Lawn Grass Garden Seeds. A complete assortment by package, ounce or pound.

ONIONS are very scarce. We have a few Dutch Sets—all we could get.

If you have any Potato Onions to sell bring them in.

MacFARLANE & CO.
Druggists and Booksellers.

DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

Durham, June 9, 1904.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

Toronto Saturday Night.

On April 5th, the Ottawa "Journal" came out with the following exposure of one of the biggest grafts that this country has ever seen, yet up to the present no other representative daily paper, with the exception of the Toronto "News," has had the courage to take the matter up.

THE STORY IN SKELETON.

1. Eleven days before the general election of 1896 an order-in-Council was passed by the Conservative Government of the Dominion, giving to Mr. M. F. Davis of Ottawa a contract to supply light and power on the Cornwall Canal at high prices for 21 years, without calling for other offers or any information as to prices.

2. Twenty-nine days before the general election of 1900 the Liberal Government enlarged the contract of Mr. Davis in a way enormously advantageous to the contractor, and extended the term of the contract to eighty-three years (seventy-nine from that date).

3. Mr. Davis in 1902 rendered an account for light which had been supplied only in part, and for power which had not been supplied at all, yet for which he appeared to have a legal right to charge by the terms of the later contract.

4. The Dominion Auditor-General, meeting the account and becoming thus cognizant of the matter attempted to upset the contract. Failing in that, he made such a fuss that the Laurier Administration appointed experts to examine the conditions; and, in consequence of the contentions of the Auditor-General and report of experts, the Government forced amendments upon Mr. Davis which will render the Government payments under the contract probably less by over half a million dollars than they would have otherwise have been.

5. Nevertheless, a point which the experts insist upon as important, namely, that the Government should take power to revise the prices at reasonable intervals, was ignored by the Government.

6. There does not seem to be any constitutional or parliamentary safeguard against any Cabinet doing the same sort of thing, or worse, whenever it pleases.

A PREFACE.

The Auditor-General's big blue-book, a few pages of which gave the

correspondence from which this story is extracted, was laid before Parliament last week. At the time a brief mention appeared in the press of the Davis transaction. Only a few copies of the blue-book had at that time been printed, however, and a copy was not at the time available to the "Journal." The full story is given at the earliest convenient moment.

A point to be borne in mind is the current conviction that political leaders, especially those of whatever party may be in power, go to contractors and other persons who do business with public money, to get large subscriptions for political purposes—if for nothing else. The popular conviction is that a lavish reciprocity exists between contractors and political leaders. The popular conviction is that the politicians often scratch the backs of contractors with easy contracts, and that the favored contractors scratch the backs of the kind politicians with large subscriptions at times when the money will do the politicians the most good.

The "Journal" does not wish to reflect upon the contractors, nor to be thought to do so. The blame rests upon those in public office, those public trustees who in their positions of public trust deal with the public's property in a way in which they would not dream of dealing with their own. Any person who would say that Hon. Mr. Haggart, and far more, the Hon. Mr. Sutherland, or any Cabinet Minister, would have made with his own property such contracts as these Ministers signed with Mr. Davis regarding public property, would simply set himself down as a fool. They would not. Why did they do so as public trustees?

Mr. Davis is in a different category. He was a private business man, looking after his own interests. If he may have been giving big election subscriptions, that to him would be simply part of his business price.

As for the Auditor-General—Lord! what a lonely, game old fighter he is!

THE STORY IN CHAPTERS.

Chapter I.

Chapter I of the story dates eleven days before the general election of 1896. That's the sort of time when governments want subscriptions badly.

Hon. John Haggart, Conservative Minister of Railways and Canals, and M. P. Davis of Ottawa, contractor for the building of the Cornwall Canal, signed on June 25, 1896, an agreement and lease giving to Mr. Davis a contract of great value in connection with the Cornwall Canal.

This agreement was signed two days after the general election of 1896, but that was merely a formality. An order-in-Council authorizing the agreement had been passed by the Tupper Cabinet on June 12, eleven days prior to the election. The agreement gave Mr. Davis a valuable site and privileges for water-power in connection with the canal for a rental of \$1,000 a year, and gave him a contract to supply all the light and power required on the canal for twenty-one years thereafter on the following terms:

For power, \$63 per horse-power. Power was selling cheaper elsewhere at the time.

For light, 30 cents per night arc light. In the city of Ottawa at that time, for lights of the same power, the civic contract was for lights at considerably less than that.

The Auditor-General subsequently challenged the department to show that any effort whatever had been made to get information as to prices elsewhere before making the agreement with Mr. Davis. The challenge was not accepted.

A SAVING CLAUSE.

Bad as this contract was in its method, Mr. Haggart put in it a clause which has probably saved the country from millions of eventual loss. This was, that the Government could at any time expropriate Mr. Davis or his successor in the contract.

Chapter II.

Chapter II dates twenty-nine days before the general election of 1900. This time there was a Liberal Government in need.

This is the worst era of the business.

The Liberal Government through the Hon. James Sutherland, acting Minister of Railways and Canals, and upon his recommendation, made the contract worse for the public in almost every conceivable way.

The first contract merely stipulated that Mr. Davis should supply such quantities of power and light as the Government engineers should call for; and the agreement was for only 21 years.

The Liberal Government on October 9, 1900, passed an order-in-Council fixing it that the number of lights Mr. Davis should be paid for should be not less than 250, whether used or not (so Mr. Aylesworth, K. C., later interpreted the agreement), and that the power paid for should be not less than 400 horse-power, whether used or not (and Mr. Davis actually put in a bill for \$19,182 before any power was used).

And by further order-in-Council on October 16, twenty-one days before the general election, and upon a further recommendation by Mr. Sutherland, the Liberal Government made this most extraordinary agreement (which had but 17 years to run), good for 79 years thereafter.

At the time this agreement to pay \$63 a horse-power for 79 years to come was made by a Liberal Government, the E. B. Eddy Company in

Hull, under the shadow of Parliament Hill, was buying horse-power for \$15.

One thing the public may be thankful for. The Government did not appropriate the clause entitling it to expropriate Mr. Davis. That stood. Lucky that Mr. Haggart had put it in.

Chapter III.

Chapter III brings the Auditor-General on the scene.

Along in 1902 the first bill of Mr. Davis came in to the Government. It was for light.

The Auditor-General asked first for proof that all the lights billed for had been in use. They told him that that did not matter, as Mr. Davis was entitled to be paid for anything he chose to bill for up to 250. The Auditor-General appealed to Mr. Aylesworth, K. C. At first the Auditor-General got an opinion that Mr. Davis couldn't charge so; and then later an opinion that Mr. Davis could. This mixed things up rather.

The Auditor-General also tackled the price. As tenders had not been called for, the auditor wanted Mr. Cellingwood Schreiber to certify that the prices were "fair and just," as the law requires in certain cases. Mr. Schreiber declined. He said it was none of his business, as the contract had been awarded by order-in-Council. Mr. Aylesworth, again appealed to, ruled that Mr. Schreiber was right.

Then came in a bill from Mr. Davis for \$19,182 for power. There had been no power used. The Auditor-General raised more Cain. He was at first overruled by the Treasury Board (alias a committee of Cabinet Ministers), which possibly did not quite catch the point at first, and may have thought the Auditor-General was in a mere ordinary tantrum—the thing was too gross and dangerous, and suddenly caught the Government's attention forcibly. The order overruling the Auditor-General was rescinded.

Chapter IV.

Chapter IV is a sort of sidelight. Off goes the Auditor-General to find out what electricity on the Soulages Canal costs. On the Soulages Canal the electric plant is worked by the Government itself. The Auditor-General gets an official report that the Government plant cost \$160,000 to install, and is operated at an annual cost of \$5,000 a year. Allowing 10 per cent. for interest and depreciation on the plant (16,000 a year), the annual cost thus would be \$21,000.

The price which by the terms of the contract of October, 1900, Mr. Davis was to get for light and power for the Cornwall Canal was \$52,575 a year.

Reports of engineers secured by the Auditor-General show that the needs of the two canals for power and light are about the same.

Chapter V.

Now appears an expert commission appointed by the Government to look into the conditions and prices of the Davis contract. The commission consists of three electricians, Louis D. Herdt, A. A. Dion and Roderick J. Parke.

These reported in February 1903, that they think that for the original date, 1896, and under the then circumstances, the price for light and power which Mr. Davis was given were reasonable. They were careful not to extend that to the prices in 1900. They aimed evidently to let the Government down as easily as possible, but after detailing many reasons why the contract was not so very bad, they concluded as follows:

"Whilst the principle of basing charges on the maximum power and maximum light as a fixed amount to be paid yearly, is just and fair under the conditions existing at the Cornwall Canal, the effect of charging for the quantities agreed upon in 1900, namely, 400 h.p. and 250 lights all the year round at the rates of the 1896 agreement, is to make the cost of these services at the present time much larger than warranted by the rates generally prevailing for similar services.

"In conclusion, now that the conditions as to capital investment and cost of operation can be determined, we would recommend that the Government endeavor to effect a compromise with the lessee.

"Such compromise, while reducing annual charges to be paid by the Government, should secure to the lessee an annual revenue over and above depreciation and cost of operation, representing a fair return on the capital investment; we have estimated the capital investment required for the supply of power and light on the Cornwall Canal at \$162,500. This return on investment should in no event exceed twelve per cent., thus:

Depreciation (Addendum 'E') \$ 9,400
Operation expenses (Addendum 'E') 9,600
Rental of water-power 1,000
Twelve per cent. on \$162,500 19,500

Mak's the annual payment of \$39,500

"This amount of \$39,500 represents in our opinion, a reasonable compromise under all existing circumstances, but any compromise that may be effected should provide for readjustment of charges by mutual agreement or arbitration, at stated intervals, not exceeding twenty-one years."

Mr. Davis, it will be remembered, was by his contract to get \$52,575 a year.

Has . . . Anybody

Found in Grey County a place where Hardware and Tinware can be purchased with so little money as at our store? No, such is impossible. We have an endless variety of every description which is going at a low figure.

IF YOU are interested call on us. We want your trade. If prices, variety and quality count we should get it.

F. Siegner

HARDWARE AND TINWARE.
Opp. Caldwell's Livery.

Chapter VI.

Finally, the Government took action. Here came in the luck of that saving clause of Hon. John Haggart's, that the Government could expropriate the plant at any time. By virtue of that clause, doubtless, the Government was able to put pressure on Mr. Davis. At all events, Mr. Davis agreed to a reconstruction of his contract whereby he abandoned a large amount of his claims up to that time, and accepted large modifications of what he would by his contract of 1900 have been entitled to charge for the next 79 years.

The new agreement, in other words the contract which now exists, differs from the old one in the following respects:

Instead of a minimum of 250 arc lights every night all the year round to be paid for by Government whether used or not, Mr. Davis is to be paid for 250 lights per night during the navigation season (specified to be eight months) and for 100 lights per night the rest of the time.

Instead of a minimum of 400 horse power to be paid for by Government, whether used or not, Mr. Davis is to be paid for at least 125 horse-power, and for whatever more is called for on the canal by the Government chief engineer.

Also for the time previous to the new agreement Mr. Davis agreed to accept payment for only such light as had been used, and for power at the rate of 125 h.p. instead of 400 h.p.

The details are technical; but they are summed up by the Auditor-General thus:

"NOTICE.—I was consulted about this contract and assented to it.

"From this final contract, the third, the present value of the payments to be made, presuming that the requirements of the Government on the Cornwall Canal remain as they are now, will be \$680,000 less than what it would have been if the second contract had remained unchanged. The requirements are, I know, to be increased, but from all the prospects it seems that the prospective saving cannot be less than \$500,000. The saving from October 24, 1901, to this date had been \$52,000."

Finale.

Two things remain to be noted: 1. The Government paid no attention to the recommendation of the experts to provide in their "compromise" with Mr. Davis for "readjustment of prices by agreement or arbitration at stated intervals." Of course, as they point out, the right of Government purchase compensates to a considerable extent for the absence of such arrangement.

2. The only public salvation throughout the whole business was that clause about Government purchase. But for that the desperate contract of 1900 could not have been "compromised." Mr. Davis would have been impregnable for 79 years. But—and this is the vital point of the whole—there is apparently absolutely nothing in law or in parliamentary practice or in the power of the Auditor-General, to prevent any foolish or reckless or corrupt Cabinet by mere order-in-Council binding this country to ruinous bargains with contractors or political favorites or anybody for seventy-nine years or seventy-nine million years. There is nothing to require a Cabinet to put in such a saving clause, either, as Mr. Haggart put in.

Finally, but for the Auditor-General, nothing of all this would have come out. For the Conservatives, as well as the Liberals, are in the pickle, although less so.

An Aggravating Cough Cured.

A customer of ours who had been suffering from a severe cough for six months, bought two bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy from us and was entirely cured by one and a half bottles of it. It gives perfect satisfaction with our trade.—Hynes-Parker & Co., Lineville, Ala. For sale by H. Parker.

Let us show you what we can do for you in ready-made clothing and you will be agreeably surprised as others have been. H. H. Mockler's.

TURNIP SEED!

SWEDE—Import of 1904 from one of the leading Seed Houses in Britain.

KANGAROO SWEDE—A bronze top variety, a vigorous grower, rich in quality, hardy and a good keeper.

CARTER'S ELEPHANT SWEDE—An immense cropper and a favorite where ever grown.

LONDON PURPLE TOP SWEDE—A big yielder, very hardy, a good size and a good keeper.

CARTER'S Imperial hardy. Halls Westbury and Hartley's Bronze Top.

YELLOW and White Fleshed Aberdeen green top. Aberdeen purple top and Improved Grey Stone. (Buyers in quantity ask for price.)

RAPE—Carter's Dwarf Essex sowing rape.

PLANTS—Tomato, Cabbage, Cauliflower and Celery.

Seed Corn.—American Growth—Any Variety. Peas and Beans.

INSECTICIDES—Paris Green, Hellebore, Insect Powder, Potato Bug Killer, Blue Vitrol, etc.

Land Plaster in Bags, Windsor Salt, Coarse Salt, 200 lbs in bag. Horse and Cattle Spice, Ground Oil Cake in bags, Linseed, Bibby's Cream Equivalent for calves.

H. PARKER,

DRUGGIST - AND - SEEDSMAN - DURHAM.

Crowds of People Always go Where the Greatest Attractions are to be seen.



Our New Spring Footwear has attracted the attention of more people than ever. This proves we have Nifty Styles, High Qualities and Low Prices. Here are some ideas:

Women's Dongola Strap Slippers for	\$1.00
Women's Light Wearing Laced Boots for	1.00
Women's Commonsense Dongola Gaiters for	1.25
Men's Fine Dongola Laced Boots for	1.50
Men's Good Box Calf Laced Boots for	1.75
Men's Vici Kid Laced or Bluchers, Goodyear Welted, for	2.50
A host of Women's Fine Oxfords, ranging as high as \$2.00 all for	1.00
A host of Misses' Fine Laced and Buttoned Boots ranging as high as \$1.60 all going for	1.00

We want your FOOT MEASURE.

We REPAIR SHOES quick and neat.

PEEL, the Shoeman

Owen Sound and Durham.

STRICTLY CASH SYSTEM.

— SOUTH GREY —

FARMERS' INSTITUTE

The Annual Meeting of South Grey Farmers' Institute will be held in the

TOWN HALL, DURHAM,

on Saturday, June 11th, 1904

AT 1.30 P. M.

The business of the year will be closed, and program mapped out and officers elected for the ensuing year.

Mr. DUNCAN ANDERSON, of Rugby will give an address on "Breeding Heavy Horses." Mr. Anderson will also conduct a class for judging horses, and it is hoped many of the young men will take advantage of this opportunity of getting a lesson in judging horses.

Women's Institute.

A joint meeting with the Women's Institute will be held in the evening when Mr. ANDERSON will give an address upon "Farming as an Occupation." Miss GRAY, "Making Home Attractive," and Miss RIFE, on "The Hygienic Influence of Laughter and Song."

Women's Institute will be held in Holstein on June 9th; Dromore, June 10th; Durham, June 11th and Elmwood, June 13th. The speakers will be Miss Lillian D. Gray, Toronto, and Miss Lizzie Rife, Hespeler.

Everybody is invited to all these meetings whether members of the Institute or not.

W. J. YOUNG, GEO. BINNIE,
2 President. Secretary.

Boar for Service.

IMPROVED LARGE BERKSHIRE, will be kept for service during the summer at the home of the undersigned, Durham, near Camp Creek.

C. W. LANG, Proprietor.

May 18—2 m.—pd.

Shine Your Shoes

No matter how old your shoes are they look better when neatly polished. We have just received a lot of Shoe Dressing and we want you to test it.

Given Away Free.

With every 25c bottle of Glycerine Dressing we give away free, a silver spoon made by the Victoria Silver Co. and with every 15c bottle of Black Cat Dressing we give a Black Cat Scribbler, regular 3c size.

Besides these we have a lot of other dressings in Liquid and Paste.

In Stock.

A large assortment of Boots and Shoes from 25c to \$5.00. Also Trunks, Valises, Club Bags, etc.

Repairing and Custom work done as promptly as possible.

Remember the place—Next to D. Campbell's Implement Warehouse.

TERMS CASH.

J. S. McIlraith

Har

WEDDING
This is the dings, and are well G very suita Presents.

PAINTS.
You can g any price. ply to She it is fixed quality. like the be

FLY OIL.
Do not all cae to s buy Fly O 15c per bo

HAMMOCKS.
Last week sisted of Mowers, Shears, Tur Hoos, Tar Shovels, P

COAL.
We have Coal on t mines, and ing a suppl than plac

Pumps.
I REG LEAVE TOMES and th am prepared to fur

W. B.

Implement

To our Fri and Custom
We are HE like our bus increase it means. W one dollar's dollar. We the best line

DEERING Bind and Harro farmers in G

WILKINSON P ers have no

PALMERSTON crats

SNOWBALL & —easiest ru market.

RAYMOND Sew

McCLARY Sun Stoves for S

DOWSWELL J that will Wringer the not tear.

CHURNS, the b

BINDER TWIN

DILLON HING kind that w ox on their

HEAD STONES of the best v

RUGS that will dry are the k

JOHN (McKinnon) DURHAM.