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HOLLOWNESS OF TORY CLAIM OVER DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS

Hon. George H. Boivin Tells About the "Terrible" Charges of Hon. H. H. Stevens—Move to Crucify Him Unjustified—Liberals Have Little to Fear From the Customs Probe.

With Hon. George H. Boivin, minister of customs in the King Government, telling his story of the department as he told it with compelling sincerity and frankness before the West Middlesex Liberal convention at Stratroy on Thursday night, the Liberal party certainly has little to fear from the customs probe in the next election. Mr. Boivin enumerated several "terrible" charges made by Hon. H. H. Stevens that were proven false by the customs inquiry, and convinced the audience that the move to crucify him over the now-celebrated Moses Axis case was unjustified and showed clearly the hollowness of the Conservative claim to full credit for reorganization of the customs department, the task of which he had begun with determined effort before Mr. Stevens even whispered to the press his intention to move for an inquiry.

"Canada is facing the most serious and far-reaching election since Confederation," said Mr. Boivin in opening his address. There need be no fear, however, that the issue is to be between Byng and King, as Conservative newspapers would like to make it. It will be between Meighan and King, the same as in 1917, 1921 and 1925, and the result will be the same, in Mr. King's favor.

"On that memorable night, fighting like a worthy grandson of a worthy grandeur, Mr. King, on the eve of July the first, pulled down the house of cards on the Meighan shadow government. The acting ministers were obliged to stand up in the House and say that they had not taken any oath and that they had no responsibility for their departments. Who, then, was to be responsible for their acts, where all ministers were acting ministers and no one responsible? (Laughter.) See what a ridiculous position it was. And then members of Parliament heard from bellhops and messenger boys that Parliament had been dissolved and that they had no more business there when they returned to the House for the afternoon session.

"Are Canadians going to stand for this one man, who has been twice Prime Minister of Canada, but never elected to that position by a vote of the people, closing up Parliament when he likes and put a card on the door? (Applause.) We will not have any rebellion, as in 1837, but we will have some plain words in the election as to the rights of Canadian people.

Judge by Records.
 "The Liberal party has no intention of mistaking things done by any member of the Government or of previous Liberal governments, but I ask you to judge, my predecessor (Hon. Jacques Bureau) and myself by the records on Hansard. I ask you to beware of those who go to political picnics and tell fantastic tales, tales of the moral conduct of men that are unfounded on fact, that were never mentioned in the House, directly or indirectly, and stories that are not based on facts. Stories of this type were circulated among the Progressives, which, I am told, turned certain Progressive votes against the Government over the last week-end the House sat, but the stories were absolutely untrue. Mr. Bureau was in ill-health for months; he had, perhaps, too much good fellowship and too much confidence in his under-officials, but when the Conservatives attempt to assume merit or take credit for the rejuvenation of the department they claim credit for something they do not deserve.

Mr. Boivin Did Some Housecleaning.
 "I assumed office the day Mr. King made his dissolution speech at Richmond Hill and I was unable to spend much time in the department until after the election. Immediately I got rid of some deadwood in the person of some preventive officers; I got some new ones that were good, and I got the best criminal investigator in Canada, Walter Duncan, to go to Montreal to investigate customs conditions there. Liberal electors told me of the 'rotten' conditions there during the election and I promised to clean the department up and to make a start in Montreal. Bisillon, who had been trusted by Mr. Bureau, was dismissed for selling automobiles that had been seized. And yet the customs committee spent three weeks' time, and several thousand dollars a day, to prove that I was right in dismissing him.

All in Report.
 "Every item was proven at the inquiry; every jot and tittle of it, was in the Duncan investigation report, that was started before there was any word of an inquiry, and yet the Conservatives are claiming the glory of it all. I was the first minister, after the Minister of Finance, to ask for estimates for my department, I wanted money to reconstruct the preventive service to give the department the protection it needed, but Sir Henry Drayton, acting leader during Mr. Meighen's illness, stood up and declared that the Conservatives would not vote one dollar of supply for such a purpose while the customs committee was sitting.
 "Falling in this, I nevertheless took up with the United States Government officials the smuggling as it affected liquor. While liquor can not be shipped to the United States

for beverage purposes, it can be shipped for medicinal purposes, and the Government, so long as the provinces wanted the distilleries and breweries to continue, did not want to prevent Canadian firms from competing for this legitimate business, which runs into millions of dollars annually. Formerly liquor was shipped by bills of lading from the railway company, upon which weigh bills were based for Japan, Cuba and Honolulu. (Laughter.) We undertook to see that no liquor was shipped in bond to countries that could not be reached by the type of vessel on which the liquor was shipped, and we undertook also to see that only duty-paid liquor was shipped, and that the departure and description of each boat was wired to United States authorities.

Estimates Unquestioned.
 "I would like to point out that no question was ever made of Mr. Bureau's departmental estimates during three different sessions. They always went through without a word of suspicion or inquiry or warning by Conservatives that anything was wrong. And when the Conservatives were asked why they did not bring up the charges concerning the department sooner than they did, they said they did not know. Therefore, I say Mr. King did not know, and was not aware of the conditions, and is not to be blamed for thinking that there was nothing wrong. And Mr. Bureau, in ill-health, faithful to the party for 25 years, concerning whom there was no breath of scandal, was named to the Senate before the customs inquiry; and then Mr. King is blamed for that."

"The picture is not as black as it is painted. The committee proved little things that have gone by, but terrible charges made by Mr. Stevens were not proven at all. He charged that the Liberals had stolen \$350,000 from the treasury for political heeled, and that we had spent only one-tenth of this amount and that on preventive service for the customs. He charged that nine sling cabinets had been removed, with letters, from Mr. Bureau's office, but there was no evidence to prove the truth of that statement. And he charged me with robbing the department of \$500,000 in selling liquor seized off a barge, which was totally untrue. And then there was this Moses Axis case wherein, the second day I was at my desk, on the advice of the Deputy Minister and my secretary, I agreed to the withholding of a warrant, of commitment of a three-months' jail sentence for a man down in the Maritimes. I left the correspondence between myself and the member asking for the withholding of the warrant on file for the committee because I had nothing to hide. And the man's sentence was not cancelled. He is serving his term now.

"I believe that if members of Parliament have representations to make to cabinet ministers those representations should be heard, and if I am cabinet minister again they will be heard."

No Disloyal Issue.
 "There will be no disloyal issue in the Province of Quebec," affirmed Mr. Boivin most emphatically in concluding a wonderful oration. "It was only Hon. E. L. Patenaude, leader of a self-constituted independent Conservative party, who preached in the last election, that never again should Canada participate in any British war without an appeal to the people, and he succeeded only in defeating himself and all his followers. (Laughter.) Since then he has persuaded Mr. Meighan to repeat his declaration at Hamilton and Bagot, and to-day he is the lone French-Canadian star in the Meighan Cabinet."

"Any disloyalty in Quebec will not be preached by the Liberals, and, I am sure, will not be approved by the majority of the electors. We in Quebec know that we enjoy greater prerogatives as to religion, schools and language under the British flag than we would under any other flag in God's world; more than under the United States flag and much more than under any independent flag. We in Quebec love the Union Jack. We love the King of England. We love British traditions and we want them respected. We want those traditions treated here as they are in England, and if that be the case the people of Canada will be satisfied and Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King will be triumphant." (Prolonged applause.)

Installed for 100th Time.
 James H. Walford, Renfrew, one of Ontario's oldest and best-known Oddfellows, has been installed for the one hundredth time as an officer of the Renfrew I.O.O.F. Lodge, a circumstance believed to be unique in Ontario. Twice a year for half a century he has been installed in office. Just fifty years ago he was placed in the office of secretary of the local lodge, and Wednesday night he was installed as chaplain. On this occasion the lodge made him a handsome gift and presented him with an address. Mr. Walford celebrated the eightieth anniversary of his birth in March last.

BARN NEAR NAPANEE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

Vulcanizer in W. A. Ashley's Dental Rooms Blows Up—The Ceiling Damaged.

Napanee, July 19.—Napanee was visited on Saturday evening about ten o'clock by a severe thunder storm. Many people from the surrounding district were in town in their cars, but soon dispersed when they saw the storm coming. The electric lights kept flickering on and off for some time, and candles had to be pressed into service in order to continue business.

About eleven o'clock the barn of Robert Rennie, situated on the Deseronto Road about five miles from Napanee, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The building, which was a large one, was partially covered by insurance. Another barn on the Bellefleur road, belonging to Ryeason Fringie, was also struck by lightning and a large hole torn in the roof, but fortunately no further damage was done.

On Sunday evening about seven o'clock the vulcanizer in W. A. Ashley's dental rooms blew up causing an explosion which blew a hole through the ceiling of the dental room. Dr. Ashley was out of town at the time and Provincial Officers Szley and Thompson, assisted by Chief Barrett, broke open the door in order to find out what caused the explosion. Quite a crowd gathered at the corner and were quite alarmed, until the trouble was explained.

The funeral of the late Mary J. Fuller took place on Saturday afternoon from the old Henry homestead in Clarksville, the oldest portion of Napanee. The services were conducted by Rev. A. J. Wilson, pastor of St. Andrew's Church, assisted by the Rev. J. Fuller, stepson of the deceased. She was the last but one of a family of three sons and four daughters, her surviving sister being Mrs. J. Fugher, Claire, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Knapp and daughter Doris left on Sunday by motor for a trip to Montreal, Watertown and Camden, N.Y.

Mrs. Anderson, and young son, accompanied by her sister Miss Ellen Lucas and her two brothers of Brookline, N.Y., arrived in town on Saturday and are the guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Lucas, Thomas street.

Miss Nina McKim is spending a couple of weeks with friends in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Manson Stevens, accompanied by Miss Williamson, motored to Detroit on Friday.

At the cheese board on Saturday afternoon 175 white and 1780 colored cheese boarded; all sold at 16 1/2 cents.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Graham and little son Charles of Oshawa, are spending two weeks' vacation with their mother, Mrs. C. A. Graham, John street.

Mr. and Mrs. Napolis and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Savage and two children of Kingston are spending two weeks' vacation at Westport.

Miss Robertson, Victorian nurse, left on Saturday for her home in Ottawa where she will spend her vacation.

Mr. Burley of the Royal Bank staff has been transferred this week to Hastings.

GANANOQUE

Gananoque, July 17.—The first fight for the much-coveted President's Shield was concluded Friday, as follows:

Geo. Little defeated Miles Hudspeth.

Edward Taylor defeated W. B. Mudge.

J. S. Hargratt, defeated W. B. Sharp.

Paul Sampson defeated G. G. Hood.

E. S. Byers, defeated W. O. Jones.

Hubert Shortall defeated J. B. Sampson.

L. S. Barr defeated W. T. Sampson.

Ross Richardson, a bye.

The draw for the second flight to be played this week is as follows:

Geo. Little vs. Edward Taylor.

J. S. Hargratt vs. Paul Sampson.

E. S. Byers, vs. Ross Richardson.

Hubert Shortall vs. L. S. Barr.

On Wednesday, the 21st, Gananoque goes to Kingston to play an inter-

La Preferencia CIGAR

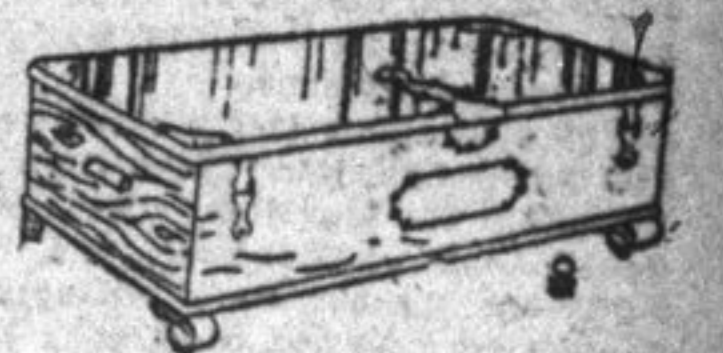
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NAPANEE

club match on the Catarqui Golf and Country club links.

A very pretty house wedding was that of Jessie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Allen, South street, who on Saturday morning last became the bride of John Logan, Brooklyn, N.Y., formerly of Scotland.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. C. E. Kidd. The bride was attended by her sister, Inez Allen, and the groom by the bride's uncle, Robert Allen. They will reside in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Tully, superintendent of the Standard Paving Company, left for Napanee Saturday to look after the work at the above town. If Mr. Tully makes as favorable an impression in Napanee as he did her both with his men and the citizens they will vote him a "jolly good fellow."

Mrs. Darling, Kingston, who has been the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Millicent Scott, has returned home.

Wally Jones spent the week-end in Brookville as the guest of George Fulford.

James McMillan, Ottawa, joined Mrs. McMillan and little son here on Saturday for a little holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Gordon Gibson left on Saturday for a holiday in Hamilton and other western points.

Miss Belle Cummings of Detroit is visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. William Cummings.

An old Midsummer Eve custom in England was for a girl to walk backward into a garden and gather a rose. This had to be kept in a clean sheet of paper and never looked at until Christmas Day. Tradition had it that the rose would then be as fresh as it had been in June.

Practically every variety of farming can be carried on in South Africa with success.

The British museum contains books inscribed on oyster shells, bricks, tiles, bones, ivory, lead, iron, copper, sheepskin, wood and palm leaves.

Devil's Island, a tropical isle on Cayenne, capital of French Guiana, has been a penal settlement since 1855.

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