

TRIAL STARTS. AN IMAGINATIVE INTERVIEW.

The Charges Brought Against Army Officers and Civilians

"CANTEEN SCANDAL."

People who are Involved in the Charges of Alleged Bribery.

London, May 14.—England's "canteen scandal" had another airing in court to-day, when the Attorney General delivered the opening speech in the trial of nine army officers and eight civilians, charged with conspiracy to offer or accept bribes. The trial is expected to last for two weeks.

The military defendants are Lieutenant Colonel Whitaker, of the Second Yorkshire regiment; the Hon. Captain and Quartermaster G. E. Mitchell, Third Devon regiment; the Hon. Captain and Quartermaster C. Quarrell, Suffolk regiment; the Hon. Lieutenant and Quartermaster W. J. Armstrong, First Norfolk regiment; the Hon. Lieutenant and Quartermaster J. Burns, Eighth Hussars; the Hon. Lieutenant and Quartermaster T. H. Johnson, Second Royal Lancashire regiment; the Hon. Lieutenant and Quartermaster Kelly, Leinster regiment; Sergeant Major G. P. Bennett, Fourth West Riding regiment; and Staff Sergeant T. Millward, Army Service Corps, pensioned.

The civilian defendants, all employees of Liptons, Limited, are: John Cansfield, general manager and director; Archibald Minto, formerly head of the military department; James C. Craig, formerly manager of the military department in Dublin; Daniel Lynch, manager canteen department, Ireland; Andrew Lang, military manager, Aldershot; Frederick William Owen, inspector, Salisbury; Edward Arthur Pegley, formerly inspector, Colchester, and Alfred Sween, military department, London.

The charges against the accused men set forth that Liptons carried on an extensive system of bribery in connection with army canteen contracts.

PRINCIPAL WITNESS will be E. E. Sawyer, once an employee of Liptons, who now is employed by the Canteen and Mess Society, Limited, a co-operative society contracting for army canteen supplies, but not working for a profit.

Mr. Sawyer alleges that when Liptons engaged him Mr. Minto instructed him that it was necessary to pay money to the quartermasters and sergeant majors who supervised the canteens. He declares that Mr. Minto told him Liptons had a large business with military men, and that "class of people all wanted money."

The ostensible object of the bribery was said to be to prevent military men from making frivolous complaints and so preventing renewals of contracts. He charges that Mr. Minto told him further that Liptons had tried to carry on the business without resorting to the bribery system, and in consequence had lost heavily to other contractors. Mr. Minto is alleged to have added that Liptons did not recognize the payments, and indicated that Mr. Sawyer would be responsible therefor. Cansfield is accused of having made out the lists for payments, which grew larger as time went on.

The prosecution says the payments amounted to thousands of pounds annually.

NAVAL NEWS.

News has been received here from England that Captain H. M. Doughty from the light cruiser Hermione now attached to the Fourth Cruiser Squadron, has been appointed to succeed Captain the Hon. A. D. E. H. Bogle in command of the Devonport Gunners School.

Capt Doughty has many friends in Jamaica.

On Saturday last Capt Lewis Clinton-Baker completed three years in command of the cruiser "Berwick," now in Mexican waters.

How the Director of Agriculture Received The Pressman.

THE PANAMA DISEASE.

No One Must Mention High Ether Rums to Hon. H.H. Cousins

BY HERBERT G. DELISSER.

"Good morning, Mr. Cousins," I said.

"Good morning," said Mr. Cousins, "how is your chemical composition?"

"My what?" I asked.

"Your chemical composition. Judging from the looks of you, I should be inclined to say that the phosphorus in the brain is running low, and that therefore you are suffering from mental disability. You come from the backwoods of Kingston, and your presence here to-day is simply to worry and annoy. For your actions you are not responsible; they are to be attributed to lack of phosphorus in the brain. I advise your retirement from work, for, say, the rest of your lifetime. And I strongly advise your retirement from these premises immediately."

"I keep dogs here. There are any number of able-bodied labourers round about. I can dissolve you into your original elements; and I can make such a speech at you, that all your arguments will appear as nothing by the time I have got through. You have heard me in the Legislative Council, and so are no doubt aware of what I can do when fully aroused. I am not a peaceable man, and when I say decamp, I mean decamp."

"Now look here, Mr. Cousins," said I, "if you are going to treat me like this I will at once commence to talk about high ether rums."

"Sit down," said Mr. Cousins. "Make yourself perfectly at home among that heap of broken bottles in the corner; you will find some of the edges sharp. Speak of what you like, but on no account mention rum. Rum ruins, and it is a most unwholesome beverage; I have nothing to do with it. Let us discuss water instead, pure water that falleth from the heavens above upon the place beneath. It blesseth him that gives and him that takes; 'tis mightiest in the mightiest, it becomes the throned monarch better than his rum. Old rum doth show the force of temporal power, wherein doth sit the dread and fear of the inebriated; but water is above his depraved taste. It is composed of hydrogen and oxygen and is best taken with ice. Some people use it only for washing. Some use it not at all; you rather look like one of those. But I strongly recommend it now, for rums I hold to be deleterious, especially in interviews."

"Now that we are speaking of rums," Mr. Cousins, I said, as I carefully took a seat on a keg of nitroglycerine, those experiments of yours—"

"We will pursue the subject no farther," said Mr. Cousins firmly. "I have said upon it all that I intend to say."

"Well, will you speak about Panama disease?" I asked. "Will you tell me frankly, and in strict confidence, if there was ever any Panama disease in this country?"

"Since you appeal to me in those terms," he answered, "I will treat you as a rational human being, capable of comprehending about one-half of what is said to you. Yes; there was Panama disease in Jamaica. I tried to doubt it as long as I could—in public. In private, I nearly killed myself trying to eradicate it. I defied Panama disease in the Council. I exterminated it in the banana fields. Thus, on the one hand, I retained my reputation for scientific infallibility, and, on the other, I drove the disease before me like a good general."

"But I could have done nothing without the aid of Sir Sydney Olivier. That statesman was most invaluable when it came to making a bad case look good. His method was very simple. When my department was attacked he at once rose to his feet and addressed the House or the meeting as the case might be, giving no other person the chance of edging in a word. He always reminded his hearers that he was a socialist, and that the first principle of socialism was to defend all Government departments against all critics, especially those who happened to be right. Then he would quote Bernard Shaw on the necessity of loving one another, he would refer to an early Fabian Tract of his on the superiority of the chemical intelligence to all others, he would point out to my opponents the beautiful situation of Hope Gardens, and ask them if they could possibly desire to destroy that institution, for whose ex-

istence he and I were solely responsible. He would want to know whether or not the Government was trusted. He asked loudly if they doubted his interest in the banana? This was a clincher, for every one who heard him immediately doubted that they would never think of hitting him before his face, and at once he would sit down amidst great applause. After that, no one need say a word about the Agricultural Department. Nobody would listen, and after the House had adjourned or the meeting broken up, he would send for me and tell me that the situation was a very serious one and that we must do our best to meet it, which of course we did. But we never admitted anything. And that is why the public always thought our critics in the wrong—which of course, strictly speaking, they were.

"What do you mean by strictly speaking, I r. Cousins?"

"Strictly speaking means speaking not strictly. Another definition is this: people who are not connected with the Agricultural Department have no right to criticise the Agricultural Department. They should leave that to us; we would never do so, of course; but who more fitted than we to do so? We know more about it, surely, than anyone else! Why, a couple of years ago I read in one of the papers that one of our best cows had died. The man who wrote that didn't know what he was writing; he was not speaking the truth; I simply laughed at his statement. I would not take the trouble to contradict it. I let it pass unchallenged."

"You should have noticed it," I said, "if no cow died."

"Oh, I didn't say that no cow died. I said that one cow did not die; it was two, you see, but the newspaper man had not got his facts right. There is where we score."

"We always score. When I am in the Council, and a man is making a speech with which I do not agree, but which the Government might not like me to answer, I know how to deal with that man; I simply laugh. My laugh has a most demoralising effect upon my opponents. It has more than once caused Mr. Corniaidi to pause in his speech—which is a great triumph. I never laugh in exactly the same manner outside the House; my Council laugh is something by itself, it admits of no rejoinder; it is in itself a conclusive argument."

"You would rather like to argue, though, wouldn't you, Mr. Cousins?"

"Nothing would please me better. If I were Colonial Secretary I should always be on my feet. There would be a perpetual discussion in the House and no business would be done. Fate has decreed otherwise. Agriculture is a peaceful pursuit, and I am doomed to advance it in this country. Chemistry requires elaborate patience, and I must renounce polemics for chemistry."

"Still, you have plenty of opportunity for controversy," I said.

"A little," replied Mr. Cousins; "just enough to make me feel that life is worth living. I have said that agriculture is a peaceful pursuit. But agriculturists are not peaceful people. The agriculturist differs from everyone else on the subject of planting, and differs with Providence on the subject of the weather. Naturally, he differs with the Agricultural Chemist on the subject of agricultural chemistry, and that I cannot allow to pass unnoticed. So I sometimes have a lively time of it; quite a lively time. But, by the way, don't let me keep you from your work."

"Oh, you are not keeping me from my work," I said. "I am glad of any excuse to be kept from work; they will tell you that at the office."

"Is that so? Well, are you fond of cows?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Oh, nothing. But I have got some very fine bulls just now; rather fierce at times, but quite tractable to the human eye. I should like to take you among them, and show them to you."

"I shouldn't mind going," I said. "If there happens to be a tall and convenient tree in the park I will make it a rule to observe cows from a tree; you see them better that way, you appreciate them much better."

"There are no trees," said Mr. Cousins, "and I could not conveniently talk to anyone elevated so far above me. You don't like danger, it would seem?"

"I know no intelligent man who does," I said. "I have read of such, and have even written of such. But in real life I have never met the article."

"Well, you know, it is written that fools rush where angels fear to tread."

"What has that to do with me?" I asked.

"Nothing, of course. But do you happen to observe what you are sitting on?"

"Yes," I replied; "a keg of nitroglycerine. Glycerine is very good for throat trouble and all that sort of thing. What is the nitro good for?"

"It is not true, then, that journalists know everything?"

"I won't commit myself to a definite answer; that would not be journalistic."

"I am not suggesting that you don't know everything," said Mr. Cousins; "I believe you do. It is merely, therefore, for the sake of saying something that I remark, in a casual manner, that nitroglycerine is the chief ingredient of dynamite."

"I did not say good-bye," the Pessimist continued. "I wanted to take no farewells. I feel that I have been treated most cruelly, and that my trusting, confiding nature has been taken an advantage of. What is the world's record for springing?"

"I am sure I don't know," I said. "Well, whatever it is, I broke it yesterday," said the Pessimist.

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Germany and France Would Take Customs And Collect Debts

U. S. REJECTS THE PLAN

German Office Denies Offer, but Affirms Joint Proposal.

The following appeared in the "New York Herald" of the 15th inst.: "To the Editor of the Herald:—The last three or four issues of your newspaper you announce with positiveness that the Haytian Government, in return for a loan of \$2,000,000 which Germany consented to make, has granted that country not only the control of several custom houses but also the right to establish a calling station at Mole St. Nicholas. I do not know from what source you get your news, but at least you do not conceal the end which you have in mind."

"If you consult the files of the Herald you will see that your newspaper has already on several occasions published the same sort of news—for example, in August, 1909, with great bitterness toward my country. Just as my predecessors have had to do, I want to inform you that these rumors are absolutely false. Never, neither now nor in the future, will any administration in my country consent to subscribe to demands which it considers humiliating for it."

"As to the cession of the port Mole St. Nicholas to any foreign government, that is the one impossible thing, because it is specifically forbidden by our constitution."

"The Republic of Hayti may at present find itself grappling with serious financial embarrassments, but it has plenty of resources, and already the Haytians have begun to make the necessary sacrifices to remedy this condition."

"In asking you to publish this statement in your next issue, I express to you again, Editor, the assurance of my highest consideration."

ULRICH DUUVIER, Haytian Minister.

Washington, D.C., May 14, 1914.

DENIAL OF REPORTS.

Berlin, May 13.—The "New York Times" is authorized by the German Government to deny in the most positive manner reports published in the United States to the effect that a German financial syndicate, with the backing of the Kaiser's Government, has offered to finance the Haytian Government in exchange for a coaling station and other concessions.

The German Foreign Office adds, however, that when the United States some time ago proposed to reorganize the finances of Hayti this Government joined with other European Governments in representing to Washington that the interests of European countries in Hayti were so large that no scheme of "re-organization" or control would be regarded as acceptable unless it were undertaken under international auspices.

HAYTIAN SITUATION ACUTE.

Washington, May 13.—The possibility that Germany and France have determined to take charge of Haytian Custom Houses, with the purpose of holding them until sufficient revenues have been collected to satisfy the claims of German and French holders of Haytian bonds, places a serious problem before the United States Government. In some quarters the situation is regarded as being almost as grave as the Mexican crisis and even more pressing, but in others the idea that Germany and France would try to carry out any such undertaking is rejected as impossible.

While the United States has not determined what it will do to avert possible European control of Hayti's fiscal affairs, with all the dangers involved in such a situation, the chances are that the matter will be adjusted by an arrangement between the Governments of the United States and Hayti for the collection and distribution of Haytian revenues by Americans.

Information obtained here to-day from officials familiar with the whole question was in accord with the statement of the German Foreign Office, cabled by the Berlin correspondent of the "New York Times," that Germany and France had joined with many other European Governments in representing to Washington that the interests of European countries in Hayti were so large that no scheme of re-organization or control of Haytian affairs would be acceptable unless taken under international auspices.

PROPOSAL MAY BE MODIFIED.

But while this Government understands that the creditor nations of Europe are inclined to be insistent on such proposed joint control of Hayti's revenues, there is some reason to believe that the proposal will be modified so as to leave the United States free to follow in Hayti the course it has pursued so successfully in Santo Domingo.

Such confusion even in the minds of officials over the present status of Haytian affairs with reference to the heavy debts of that

country to European bondholders. One group of officials is positive in the assertion that the French and German Governments propose that there be joint German, French and American control of Haytian revenues. Others understand, however, that the proposal is not positive in that direction. But whatever the actual character of the foreign proposal no doubt remains that American officials believe that Germany and France contemplate taking control of Haytian Custom Houses and collecting the revenues to satisfy the claims of their nationals.

As explained to-day, the latest phase of the extremely delicate international situation was initiated in an actual proposal by Germany and France that a joint control arrangement with respect to Haytian revenues should be effected under a stipulation that the representation of each of the three Governments in the personnel of the proposed customs administration be in proportion to the amount of the claims held by the nationals of each Government.

This was entirely unsatisfactory to the United States for the reason that only about 5 per cent. of the amount to be collected was due to citizens of the United States, and American participation therefore would be infinitesimal. For this reason, according to what was said to-day, the suggestion was rejected.

WARSHIPS COLLECT INTEREST.

The present acute phase of the Haytian trouble goes back several months to the time when a French warship trained her guns on two Haytian gunboats and coupled that action with a demand for the immediate payment of interest due to French holders of Haytian bonds. The crews of the gunboats promptly dived overboard and swam ashore. The payment demanded not being forthcoming within the time fixed, the French vessel took the two Haytian gunboats in tow and started with them for St. Thomas, Danish West Indies.

Before the French ships and their tow had gone very far a launch was sent after them with the amount of the interest on board. This money was paid over to the French Commander and the gunboats were released.

A few weeks ago a German warship limited the example of the French vessel in demanding payment of interest due to German bondholders. The money was produced without delay. Since then the British Government has followed the same tactics and with the same success, a payment of \$62,000 in interest being made on demand.

The Haytian Government then appealed to the United States and diplomatic negotiations followed.

William Anderson and Hezekiah McCarty were arrested on Tuesday afternoon last charged with larceny of a bag of flour, the property of Mr. D. C. Vaz.

McCarty is a drayman and he was employed to remove some flour to Mr. Vaz's bakery, and it is alleged that between himself and Anderson arranged to deprive Mr. Vaz of one of the bags of flour. The police soon got wind of the matter, and the men were apprehended. They will be arraigned before the Petty Sessions Court to-day.

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Inspector H. T. Thomas, of the Saint Elizabeth division, has obtained 3 months' leave of absence, and will leave the island in a week's time by one of the Atlantic Fruit Co.'s boats sailing from Port Antonio. During Inspector Thomas' absence his duties in St. Elizabeth will be performed by Inspector T. Alexander of Manchester. Inspector Thomas has been in ill health for some time past, and his present trip abroad, is for the purpose of regaining his strength. It is hoped that he will return to Black River at the end of his furlough, strong and fit again, for his arduous duties.

THE CONSTABULARY.

Our Black River correspondent under date 19th May writes: "Inspector H. T. Thomas, of the Saint Elizabeth division, has obtained 3 months' leave of absence, and will leave the island in a week's time by one of the Atlantic Fruit Co.'s boats sailing from Port Antonio. During Inspector Thomas' absence his duties in St. Elizabeth will be performed by Inspector T. Alexander of Manchester. Inspector Thomas has been in ill health for some time past, and his present trip abroad, is for the purpose of regaining his strength. It is hoped that he will return to Black River at the end of his furlough, strong and fit again, for his arduous duties."

THE ROYAL MAIL

Company's Position Well Maintained Despite Competition.

PROFITS ARE REDUCED

Prospects of the New Canadian-West Indian Service.

Subject to audit of the Accounts the Court of Directors of the Royal Mail Coy. recommend the payment for the six months ended 31st December, 1913, of the usual dividend on the Preference Stock, and a dividend of 3 1/2 per cent., less income tax, on the Ordinary Stock, making together with the interim dividend paid on 1st November last, a total of 6 per cent. for the year 1913. The dividend on the Ordinary Stock issued in May last will be calculated from the dates of payment of the instalments.

In their report the Directors state that in spite of the increased competition of foreign lines the Company's position has been well maintained. The profits, however, show a reduction from £489,450 in 1912 to £437,700 for 1913. Interest charges rose from £155,300 to £187,000, but new issue expenses which amounted in 1912 to £15,900, were not a charge against the profits last year. £37,000 is again applied to the insurance fund, but the appropriation to reserve is reduced from £130,000 to £100,000. Regarding the new Canadian-West Indian service, the directors express the view that the new line will prove a useful addition to the company's operations. The company's own fleet has now a tonnage of 342,667 tons, as against 301,935 tons a year ago, while that of the fleets of associated companies is 1,404,041 tons, as against 1,136,000 tons. The present grand total of the tonnage controlled is, therefore, 1,746,708 tons.

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ACCUSED BOUND OVER.

Before His Honour Mr. A. V. Kingdon in the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday Albert Robinson was indicted on a charge of larceny of a set of harness valued £10, the property of Mr. H. Burrows.

Mr. P. Stern, K.C., appeared for the defence.

The allegations were that sometime during last month, the plaintiff's coachman locked up the harness in the coach house. Sometime after, it was missing and Robinson was subsequently arrested with the harness in his possession.

The accused pleaded guilty and his counsel made a powerful appeal on his client's behalf.

The Magistrate ordered that Robinson be bound over to keep the peace for 2 years.

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