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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MAY 20, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The Corrupt Scheme

An attempt is being made to barter away the greater part of Newfoundland which our sons can yet call their own, and the wonder is that the people are taking the matter so calmly. What fatalism is it that renders us at this moment so slow to apprehend the crime that is being attempted against us? What is that which causes us to sit with eyes shut while the thief is stretching forth his grasping claws to sneak from us our heritage? Opportunists perhaps never yet grasped an occasion with greater cunning than have the designing clique who are at present manipulating the strings which control the puppets of the House of Assembly. It even appears to us that they made the occasion, prepared the ground and planted the seed of their ambition. Patriotism has been talked to us ad nauseam for many months. "United we stand, divided we fall," etc., and we were called upon to sink all differences and to stand shoulder to shoulder in this hour of national trial, no as not to give encouragement to the foe. Who were those who talked most of patriotism and undivided ranks, and other bunk and rant and cant? These are the very ones who had most to gain by an undivided front and absence of dispute. Their cunning game has been well played so far. The unsophisticated many have been so imposed upon as to be made gentle dupes of the corrupt and have been made to help the designing ones in their game of getting away with goods. We were told that not to help the Government were unpatriotic and disloyal to the Empire. We offered our humble protest in the beginning, but found our puny voice drowned in a mighty shout of fie, for shame! you disloyal one, down, you unpatriotic cur, cease your seditious utterances! The very vehemence of the cry against us was silence-impelling and we subsided. But we knew our vindication was counting some day, and we smiled the smile of him who is sure of the ground on which he stands. We knew right well what this undivided front amounted to, and knew that soon the maskers would reveal themselves, and the simulated undivided front would be found very much the contrary. Only the most holy of causes, and the most unselfish interests and disinterested motives in the hearts and minds of uncorrupted men can ever maintain a solid and unbroken phalanx. It is quite easy to tell the genuine from the spurious. Nothing can be easier to the man who from a disinterested point of view can watch the game that is being played. A nation at war has been used as a cloak for the most corrupt game ever played by corrupt men. We have been aware of the motives, selfish and greedy that have been actuating men in this big opportunist time, but have left it to time to make the exposure. Now that the "cat is out of the bag" no charge of disloyalty can be laid at our door, if we make mention of it. What now is the state in England? Corruption is running rampant, and statesmen and politicians alike grow, ing weary of the game, pretense, have

thrown off the mask. Army contractors are grafting, dealers in the necessities of life are grinding the poor, and the poor are kicking. The cost of living has been pushed up, but wages remain as they were. Coal operators and contractors are asking enormously increased prices for coal and the miners are striking. Street car employees are hanging up traffic because they refuse to work for starvation wages, and operatives in factories where munitions of war are being made, are kicking and delaying the output. The worst and dissatisfaction that is showing itself among the workers extends to the offices of the highest. Even the Cabinet is feeling the disrupting influence of the plague. Fisher and Churchill are fighting, not the enemy, but one another. If all this is displaying an undivided front to the enemy, what is disunion? Sedition is everywhere and discontent is showing itself in every quarter. It is only what should be expected when the poor and the hard-working mechanic and laborer finds himself being loaded with increasing debt, and the rich becoming wealthier as a result of the war. In Canada corruption is neck-high, and coming down to our own little Island, affairs are no better. We made bold to state many months ago, that for the Opposition Press to close its eyes and bind its tongue were almost a crime against our native land, in view of the well recognized fact that our country's affairs are in the hands of a gang of freebooters. The cry of loyalty to the Empire was raised as an excuse for silence and even of imposing on all the duty of sitting pat whilst affairs took their course. We objected, but did not push the matter, well knowing that to stem the tide of stampeding public sentiment were worse than useless. We did what we considered our duty in the matter, warned the people and then relapsed into silence, to await the hour which we knew was coming. The hour has come. The cat is out of the bag. Simulation is at an end, and men are standing in their true colors. We have more respect for them now. In our sight the most revolting of all sins against mankind is the sin of hypocrisy, the sin of sham, for it leaves the victim in a deplorable state. When the poisoned mask is off, one knows how to attack and when, and where. Here in this country we have the example of men urging the need of co-operation of all, and the sinking of all Party differences, that we might show a good example to the enemy, while at the same time those same men are planning and scheming ways whereby they may enrich themselves at the expense of the country. We were advised to trust the Government and keep our eyes and our minds on the Imperial situation, and let all our words and actions tend solely to helping the Empire. When they believed that the placebo had worked its full soothing effects, and when the people were thought to be lulled to all sense of danger at home, lo, comes the most fitamous proposition ever brought before a people's parliament. Thanks to the vigilance of the Opposition the first attempt to fasten the ugly monster on the necks of the people has been thwarted. But it will come back again, and by sheer weight of number and brute force, the Government has the power to pass the scandalous resolutions into law. Let the people arouse themselves at once to the danger. It is time that something be done to prevent the unholy scheme being passed in spite of us. Public meetings should be held, where the people, whose vital interests are at stake, may have an opportunity of voicing their sentiments in the matter. All who take a pride in calling Terra Nova their home should arouse themselves, if they want to hand down to their children a record of manly worth. Remember it is not alone our own that we are tampering with and temporizing with, but the natural heritage of our children. Nature has given us our water powers so that Terra Nova may enjoy the wealth which these are sure to bring in the years to come. They are worth untold millions. Let us not permit a corrupt Government to barter them away.

Roosevelt Insults German People

Berlin, via London, May 15.—The attention of Baron Mumm von Schwarzenstein, of the German Foreign Office, has been called to the words attributed to ex-President Roosevelt that the sinking of the Lusitania was the greatest act of piracy in history. The Baron authorized the following statement: "If Mr. Roosevelt used these words then he hurled an insult at the whole German people, which we bitterly resent, even at a time when we have to submit to the hatred and falsity of enemies and former friends."

Prohibition Resolutions

THE Prohibition resolutions came up for consideration yesterday. The Premier explained the measure and reviewed temperance progress in recent years. Mr. Morine replied to the Premier, intimating that the 40 per cent. provision was unfair and un-British and calculated to injure the chances of carrying the measure, as it would compel 25,000 electors to turn up to vote for the measure in order to save it from destruction, while the opponents need not worry, but could remain at home and take it easy. Mr. Morine also objected to permitting doctors and druggists to import liquor for medicinal purposes. Mr. Morine suggested that 25 per cent. should be the limit or it should be left to a majority vote. Mr. Coaker said that Prohibition was already dead-born, that the Government had planned to bluff the temperance people and had arranged to insert the 40 per cent. clause, knowing full well that it would be impossible to secure that proportion of votes in its favor. It would never be carried, as the death blow had been administered before the resolutions had been brought into the House, by a Party Caucus Meeting, where the Anti-Prohibitionists had gained the upper hand and the so called temperance men had tamely submitted in order to save the boodle they were receiving from the chest. Mr. Coaker thought that a vote of 30 per cent. of the electorate ought to satisfy all concerned. He was ready to meet the Government half way to save the measure and even 35 per cent. he would accept, but he absolutely refused to agree to a 40 per cent. limit. Mr. Coaker agreed with Mr. Morine's suggestion for a central distribution depot, whose head would import all liquor required for medicinal purposes. Messrs. Targett, Abbott, Winsor, Grimes and Hickman also spoke in favor of the resolutions, while Messrs. Bennett and Emerson spoke against prohibition on principle. Messrs. Kennedy of St. John's West and Higgins spoke in favor of the measure and against any reduction of the 40 per cent. limit. The Premier's speech was sootless and meaningless, as every one could see he was but playing a game of bluff. The Premier consented to the establishment of a central distributing and importing depot, to be operated by a controller, who would keep an account of every pint of liquor imported and its distributions and trace all sales to doctors and druggists. The clergy and controller are permitted to import wine for religious purposes. The resolutions were adopted after a debate of five hours. Mr. Morine moved an amendment to cut out the provision for a 40 per cent. vote of the electorate in favor of the measure, which amendment, if carried, would have meant a majority of the votes cast would carry the measure, but the Government Party cast a solid vote against it. Mr. Coaker moved that the words 40 per cent. be struck out and 33 1-3 be inserted, which would mean that one-third of the electorate should vote in favor of the measure to make it law, but this very fair and reasonable amendment was voted down by a strict Party vote. Men like Curry, LeFevre, Parsons, Moulton, Goodison, Downey, who pose as temperance advocates voting against an amendment that was fair to both sides and absolutely necessary if the friends of prohibition were to receive a fair show. What will Carbonar think of Mr. Goodison's actions? What will Bay de Verde think of Cros-

MORRIS PERMITS THE DUMPING Chamber to Infringe Rights of the Peoples' House--Dumping Chamber Places Tax 2c. per brl. on Flour, by Amending Customs' Act--Outrage Opposed by Messrs. Kent, Cliff and Coaker, but was Carried by Party Vote, Meaning Extra Taxation of \$30,000 to \$40,000, Which Will Go Into the Pockets of Messrs. Harvey, Shea and the Furness-Withy Company.

THE House of Commons or the People's House for 1000 years in Old England has absolutely controlled the levying of taxes. It has fallen to the lot of Sir E. P. Morris and a Graball Government to reverse that grand principle of taxation and to trample upon the rights possessed by the people of free countries for 1000 years. Last night at 10.30 o'clock Minister Cashin moved the amendment of the Dumping Chamber to the Customs Act amendments which was sent up this session to the Upper House from the People's House. The Dumping Chamber's amendment provided that two cents per barrel be levied on all flour, beef, pork, sugar, and a proportional tax be imposed on all goods packages passing over the wharves of Harvey & Co., Shea & Co. and the Furness-Withy. This amendment means a further taxation of \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year upon the trade of the Colony at the bequest of Mr. Harvey and his clique in the Upper House, in defiance of the rights and privileges of the people over taxation. Mr. Coaker begged the Premier last night to reject the amendment, and not be a party to a further taxation of 2 cents per barrel on flour and permitting the Upper House to initiate taxes of any description. The Premier was convinced that the amendment was improper but he had not the courage to offend

deliberately insulted the House of Assembly and defied the rights of the people to fix taxation as had been the people's rights for 1000 years, and in the face of Mr. Coaker's appeal and his warning of the evil consequences that such action would entail the Premier's refused to budge and the Government Party sat like sheep and did as their master indicated. Messrs. Kent and Cliff, who were present, objected to the amendment, but in vain. By the stroke of the pen Sir E. P. Morris struck a blow last night against the rights and privileges of the People's House that will for ever be written down against him and to his everlasting discredit and shame. Public affairs have come to a pretty pass in this Colony under the leadership of Sir E. P. Morris when John Harvey in the Dumping Chamber can father an amendment inflicting a tax of \$30,000 or over upon the people, a large proportion of which was to flow into his own pocket as the head of Harvey & Co.'s firm, who would receive the 2 cents per barrel tax as wharfage. It is high time for the dead-alive public to arouse itself and show that it do retain a few sparks of the principles and pluck that founded and maintained the grand and noble Empire which is the heritage of the British people. Anyone who love their Country, who have closely watched the proceedings of the Legislature dur-

ing the present session, must be convinced that a period of demoralization and degeneracy has set in for this Country, such as no other Country under heaven witnessed during the last half century. Men are lost to all sense of reason of the value of propriety and decency and are rushing on madly towards a doom that must destroy People and Country unless speedily arrested. The members of the F.P.U. Party in the House are convinced that if the people in general knew the exact condition of moral principles which now constitute the sole guide for the duties of public men that this Country would be in a state of revolution within 48 hours. Contempt and disgust caused by the action of public men must find a large place in the heart of every man who loves his Country, and realizes the depths to which the public morals have degenerated. The Union members of the House who have closely sized up the Government's conduct during the last two years are absolutely convinced that conditions are as rotten in this Colony's public affairs as is possible to have them anywhere in a free country. The truth revealed would paralyze any honest man. The truth revealed would ruin many a man in public life if justice was meted out in proportion to their crimes. The curse of God is upon our land and will remain until the

festering rottenness of the conduct which guide our public men is cut out by a sharp surgical instrument and the patient is given a half chance of her life and placed on the road of recovery. On Tuesday additional votes of \$90,000 were passed, bringing the estimates for 1915-16 up to \$4,050,000 for the first time in the history of the Colony. Loans are being raised at a 5 per cent. rate, or \$50,000 per \$1,000,000—an awful cost to pay for money—but that fact had no more effect upon the gang of spendthrifts who misrule the Colony, than would have been caused had the rate been 2 1/2 per cent. It is one huge rush to speedy destruction, and while the present gang of country assassins are enabled to misrule poor Terra Nova—the people can't expect anything else but the curse of damnation upon their labor, business and country. The whole thing is rotten to the core, and no just people can permit such scandalous conduct to prevail with impunity and not inflict severe punishment upon them selves and their native land. We have done our duty fearlessly, honestly, as a lover of right and a defender of the people's rights. We can do no more. The people must awaken and do the rest, or abide by the consequences—which can have no other outcome than a complete triumph for the Devil, if such conduct is persisted in many more months.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Expenditure by the Board of Agriculture from July 1st, 1914, to May 3rd, 1915

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes entries like 'Reply to Question of Mr. Kent of Date May 6th, 1915', 'Expenditure by the Board of Agriculture from July 1st, 1914 to May 3rd 1915', 'T. L. Crews, Soc. Bonavista 10.00', 'Anglo A. Tel. Co. Telephone 20.00', etc.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes entries like 'James Ryan, do 40.00', 'G. S. Torry, expenses 40.00', 'Star Pub. Co., subscription 1.00', 'Martin Hardware Co., amt. acct. 8.85', etc.

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