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Jan 20, s, tu, th

The Daily Mail

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., FEB. 20, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

UNION'S GREATEST ACTION

Last night the House considered the Government's Fishery Resolutions, providing for the appointment of a select committee to consider the matter of cull and standard for fish, close season for sealing, protection of lobsters, supplying bait and the effect of whaling upon the fisheries.

In the afternoon, Mr. Coaker speaking for the F.P.U., stated it had been agreed to support the proposals of the Government, as it was recognized that any political difference would destroy the report of a select committee; but owing to the manner in which Mr. Crosbie had again insulted President Coaker, as he sat in charge of the Committee of the House considering the Sealing Bill on Wednesday afternoon, the F.P.U. members had resolved to place on record before the Country a silent dignified protest against the continuance of rowdiness on the floors of the House of Assembly during debates.

Last night the various F.P.U. members took no part in the debate, but sat in their places silent, allowing the resolutions to pass in silence, and refusing to act as a part of the select committee.

Mr. Crosbie, finding that the Union members were earnest in the announcement made by Mr. Coaker in the afternoon, retired from the House, but as soon as the Union Leader sat down he entered in such a manner as to cause all who observed him to feel the greatest disgust.

Mr. Coaker had intimated to Sir Edward in the afternoon from his place in the House, that the F.P.U. would not support any Government proposal on these matters while Mr. Crosbie was retained as a Cabinet Minister. The announcement came as a bolt from the blue and caused considerable consternation in the Government ranks.

The Premier showed considerable agitation, while Mr. Cashin's countenance expressed anything but pleasure.

The President of the Union made the announcement in such language as to cause all to cry "halt," in the outrages that have been committed against parliamentary decency by a member of the Cabinet.

The Union's silent dignified protest against the unbecoming conduct of a Cabinet Minister of the Morris Government, is perhaps the most important public action the Union has ever taken, for it has decreed that it will not tolerate the conduct that during recent years has turned our Local Assembly into a beer garden, and made it so offensive to the sober-minded of the electorate.

In a very proper and highly dignified manner the whole Colony's attention has been attracted to the decay of parliamentary decency and dignified practice in this Colony. No party but one composed of men such as represent the Union districts in the House could have done such faithful duty on behalf of a higher ideal and standard in our public men, and if the action of the Union members does not cause Sir Edward Morris to demand Mr. Crosbie's resignation of his seat in the Executive Council his failure will make a deep blot on his political reputation.

The F.P.U. aims to cleanse Parliament and restore our Local House to the standard set up by the British Parliament, where a member supporting the Asquith Government was fined by the Courts \$65,000 a few days ago because as a member of Parliament he benefited by a contract made by his business firm with the Government or in other words he was punished for using his position as a member of Parliament in order to forward his financial interests.

In Newfoundland almost every member of the Government Party has used his position to secure considerable personal gain and profit, yet every one of them has done so with impunity, but now the first decisive blow for a clean and pure Govt. has been struck by the F.P.U. and on the floors of the House and every occasion will in future be availed of to set up the same standard of political integrity and patriotism as is followed in the Mother Parliament.

Will Sir Edward show that he can arise above the level of a Tammany leader and restore some of the confidence that has been lost in him? Will he be true to principle that have made English statesmen great or will he confess by inaction that he possesses no higher ideals of statesmanship than those demonstrated by the Hon. J. C. Crosbie? Will Sir Edward take no action and thereby practically confess that Crosbie has some strong hold on him or will he oust him from a public position, that he has shown so clearly he is unfit to occupy?

In dignified silence the poor hitherto despised workmen composing the Union Party in the House of Assembly have placed on record their disapproval of a Cabinet Minister guilty of insulting a member of Parliament without the slightest provocation, without any reason whatever and in such a cowardly manner as to prevent by the rules of the House the assailed from defending himself.

It was not the first time, it was the second. Will the Premier do the many thing or will he shirk his duty and thereby invite destruction of his reputation as a public leader?

That is the question to be decided, and every lover of clean government and British ideals in public life will await the Premier's decision with the greatest interest.

WHO'LL HELP?

Dr. Smith, of Botwood, was recently called to attend a poor logger named Luff, belonging to Campbellton, who had cut his foot with an axe, when logging. The doctor's fee was \$35. It was all that poor Luff, with a large family, possessed in the world.

"I can't help that," said the doctor, and slipped the \$35 into his pocket.

Mr. Jennings and President Coaker referred to the matter in the House a few days ago.

Luff is now in the hospital here, as after paying all he possessed in the world, he was left without treatment and medical attention, which such a serious cut required. We now propose to collect the \$35 paid by poor Luff and hand it to him when he returns home. Who will help?

Subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by **The Mail**. Luff was what was known as a hand logger, and therefore had no connection with any lumber company. Hand logging is a means timber dealers now employ in order to get logs for manufacturing by illegal means, for the hand logger cuts from Crown lands with impunity.

Lumbering concerns with timber limits cannot cut on Crown Lands or the 3-mile limit, nor can any of their men, but hand loggers are utilized by lumbering concerns to do, as hand loggers, what the law prevents mill owners from doing.

Thus the illegal cutting on Crown Lands, in order to enrich lumber mills is going on, in spite of protests filed against such dishonesty by the F.P.U., as long as four years ago, which the Morris Government has ignored up to the present.

"That last laundry I patronized is the worst I've tried yet," remarked Hampson to his next-door neighbour. "I sent 'em six collars, and all I got back was the buttonholes."

It was at the close of the wedding breakfast. One of the guests arose and, glass in hand, said: "I drink to the health of the bridegroom. May he see many days like this." The intention was good, but the bride looked up as if something had displeased her.

MR. GRIMES CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

Have Done But Little For the Country—On the Contrary, the F.P.U. Has Accomplished Much.

Jan. 26, 1914.

I have been listening with much attention to the remarks made by the hon. member for St. John's West, in which he referred to the great things done by the present Government, and I must say I do not altogether agree with some of the remarks of the hon. member on the other side of the House in regard to the railway policy adopted.

I do not think they have produced all the benefits to which they lay claim. Has the hon. member a very thorough acquaintance with the existing conditions of the management of the railroads? Had the hon. member been working on the railroads he would have seen that actual state of affairs is somewhat different to the account given by the members of the Government in this House this session.

Conditions on One Branch.

I myself have been on the Trepassey line and am cognisant with the actual conditions on that particular branch line. The men are paid one dollar and fifty cents a day. This is a very good wage on the face of it. I notice, however, that the members of the Government do not state that the price of food-stuffs on that line is so much higher than the price of food-stuffs in the shops on Water Street that in its practical effect the daily wage of one dollar and fifty cents really amounts to about one dollar.

And again what has the Government really done with regard to the Old Age Pensions? Is it true they made a step forward in this direction but how much they might have added to the little they did. How few of the promises made in this direction did they ever succeed in fully carrying out. They were armed with the largest revenue the Country has yet produced and with this they could easily have provided the old women and wives of the fishermen with a small sum each year. But it is to be said to their disgrace that this one thing they utterly neglected to do. I fear if the truth must be told they did more for the Reid Newfoundland Company than for any fisherman during their five years' tenure of office.

Not True to Facts.

The hon. member who has just sat down referred to the fact that people were so well off nowadays that nearly every fisherman had gold in his pockets. I have no hesitation in saying that this statement is not borne out by facts. How many people were fed here by charitable organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army this winter? Did the number not amount to nearly three thousand people and is this fact alone not a contradiction to the statement that the hon. member made when he stated that nearly every fisherman had gold in his pockets.

Mr. Coaker brought about such a condition of things that he was able to control the local market to such an extent that the fishermen could obtain from thirty to eighty cents more for their products.

The hon. member for Harbor Grace said the other day that the increases in the number of codtraps in Conception Bay had had something to do in increasing the present price of fish and he tried to make it appear that that was the only reason for the present price. I can tell the hon. member that when fish was \$5.50 in Conception Bay the fishermen got \$6.20 and \$6.80 for it by taking the advice of Mr. Coaker.

Fishermen Made Profit.

At that time the fishermen were going to sell it at \$5.50 they were advised by the President of the Union to hold on, the happy result being that they afterwards got \$6.20 to \$6.80 a quintal. The same principle exists with regard to the wheat growers and cotton growers in other countries, they were in the same condition as our fishermen were until the Union was formed, but now those growers have their different Unions with the result that they obtain a good price for their products. And with regard to the increase in the price of fish.

Now whether Coaker had or had not anything to do with this can be judged from the facts as they stand. In spite of the fact that the hon. member for Bay de Verde, Mr. Hickman, made a very able statement endeavoring to prove the price of fish to be resultant upon supply and demand, you will find that Mr. Hickman will stand by Mr. Coaker.

The hon. member's statement is true as far as the foreign markets are concerned, and I believe it was on the subjects of foreign markets that Mr. Hickman was talking. The hon. member, Mr. Moore, said the other day that certain persons had turned the hon. member, Mr. Coaker's picture to the wall. In answer to that I must quote the remark of a friend of mine

to whom I told this story that we will always find a certain section of the electors who cannot look an honest man in the face.

Does Not Extend So Far.

Mr. Woodford also remarked that if it had been in the hon. member, Mr. Coaker's power to raise the price of fish why had he not availed himself of his ability with regard to Labrador. Well, I may say in reply that as yet the Union does not extend to the Labrador coast but there is no doubt that it will in time. There is still a great deal of scope for it in this Island, as Unions are not settled in every district yet.

The hon. member, Mr. Cashin, has asked the question that if the hon. member, Mr. Coaker, had increased the price of fish why had he not put down the price of flour. This is a reasonable question and the answer is that the President of the Union did put down the price of flour and I am prepared to prove to the hon. member that the price of flour has decreased in the outports by the efforts of the Union to the extent of eighty cents a barrel, and not only flour but also molasses has also decreased in price. Every citizen knows that the Union has been the means of reducing the price of coal by eighty cents a ton.

With regard to the much discussed Agricultural Policy. I confess I do not know a great deal about this subject but I have been making enquiries in the district which I represent and could only find a very few who had any thing favorable to say about the matter. Those who had cattle received a few articles free of cost but the benefits of these donations do not amount to much, as they were only advantageous to the few in particular.

Of Little Use.

The Societies gave little or no encouragement to those who tried to gain a livelihood by agriculture. The new interest in agriculture arises more from the benefits attendant on the opening of the Grand Falls paper mill and the working of the mines at Bell Island than from any direct good act of this Agricultural Policy. Some people got a quart or a pint of seed but what does this amount to? And it is the conviction of most of the fishermen of this Island that the whole matter caused useless expenditure and was devoid of any justifiable good.

Election Dodge.

I believe that the agricultural exhibition business was an election dodge. It was wrong to carry on such an exhibition at election time. The reason, was plain: The hon. member, Mr. Deveraux, also made some remarks in reference to what has been said by the Leader of the F.P.U. with regard to the interests of the poorer classes of this Country.

I am surprised at his speaking in such a manner because I did not think the gentleman could be sincere. What do we mean by poor? We mean by poor people those who lack the comforts and necessities of life, and there are thousands of such in this Country to-day. I am not going to say that all these people are lazy, for there are some who are industrious.

TO THE EDITOR.

CRITICIZES GAME BOARD

(Editor The Daily Mail.)

Dear Sir,—It seems to me that the Game Board is not fulfilling its proper function in this Country, and with a view to pointing out how it is not, I ask space in your valuable paper. The whole aim and object of that Board appears to be to afford protection to our fish and other game that we may have sportsmen visit us in season. That, I contend, is altogether wrong on the part of those who have the care of such valuable resources under their control.

Our fish and caribou and other game should be regarded as a food supply for our people, sporting considerations should occupy second place. We have in our inland fish and game a bountiful source of good and wholesome food and to conserve it to that end, should be our first and most earnest consideration.

Unprofitable

"All is not gold that glitters," neither is it all gain to us, the money that visiting sportsmen leave among us. The people who live near the rivers are as a rule the people who engage as guides to those visitors, and they, for the most part are the men who occupy the best farming land. Now the sportsmen come here at just that time, when the farmers should be attending to their growing crops.

The ready money in sight and a chance of escape from the drudgery of the farm is too strong an inducement to be resisted. The farmer quits his farm and becomes a guide or cook or some sort of camp servant. The farm is neglected, with the result that a shortage of the crops ensues, and what was gained on the one end is more than lost on the other. When calculating the profit it is to the Coun-

try to have those visitors come here, those who like to compile figures, would do well to keep that before their minds.

But Can He?

Mr. Downey, member for St. George's, and one of our Agricultural Commissioners, drawing a big salary from the Government, should be able to estimate the value of both sides of this question.

There is another aspect of this game question as it affects certain classes of fishermen, particularly about Bay St. George—Mr. Downey's district. In what is known as Main River, many fishermen have for generations been netting salmon, till a cruel regulation by the Game Board prevented them making their living by that means.

Now Main River (where those nets used to be set) is not a river at all, it being really, a kind of lagoon, lake or estuary, in which the waters are salt and in which herring, codfish, and even lobsters may be caught. Those men have been most wrongfully treated, just because the Game Board has more consideration for sportsmen.

An injustice has been done those who fish outside also. Those men were compelled to set their nets outside a fifty yard limit, from the shore at low water.

Causes Loss

Along the South Side of Bay St. George, the water is shallow, with a low shore. Putting the nets off to fifty yards from low water mark, means a long way to sea at high water. Consequently the salmon escape the nets, by schooling along shore, to the great deprivation of the fisherman. But the Game Board sees only the increased number of salmon in the rivers, for the visitors to catch. That is like "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Some of the Pauls are more interested in the number of sportsmen coming, than they are in the welfare of the Country, and some of them I could name.

I have the Report of the Game Board for 1912, and certainly it is a most barren report at that. The Report for 1913 has not yet been published. Why it has not yet appeared is very hard to say, if it is to be no better than the one for 1912, there is no excuse. It should not take more than an hour or two to prepare it.

The 1912 Report has 9 small pages devoted to an insipid review of what had been done during the year, the other pages 37 in all are devoted to a tabulation of salmon caught, and a list of guides.

If they could issue a report, whose **roulement**, would make them up a bit it might do some good.

—ARTHUR ENGLISH.
St. John's, Feb. 16, '14.

CONGRATULATIONS.

(Editor The Daily Mail.)

Dear Sir,—I wish to extend through the columns of your popular paper my heartfelt congratulations to the hockeyists from Bell Island upon their sturdy fight and excellent exhibition in the match with the City team on Friday night.

Although they did not win, yet in the broadest meaning of the word and all things considered they must be looked upon as the victors. Considering the comparatively small population of Bell Island and the short while they have had a rink there, it must be a hard matter to get a really good team from there. The putting them against the puck of St. John's appeals to my mind as being unsportsmanlike, besides it will not tend to foster hockey or other sports between the Outports and St. John's.

It seems to me to be a pity that a series of matches were not arranged between the League teams and Bell Island, or could not conclusions be drawn between them and the League champions be tried?

—OUTPORT MAN.
Feb. 16, '14.

JUST A SMILE OR TWO.

"To-day," said the minister, "I think you'd better take up the collection before I preach my sermon."
"Why so?" asked the vestryman.
"I'm going to preach on 'Economy!'"

"I don't believe bachelors have any hearts," she said.
"Why, we're just the men who did have them," he replied.
"Why is that?" she asked.
"Because we haven't lost them."

An author wrote to his publisher: "Can I hope for any royalties from my book this year?"
The publisher replied: "Yes, you can hope. There's nothing in the world to hinder you."

"I'm trying to get back to me poor old mother," whined the tramp. "She ain't seen me face for ten long years."
"I believe you're speaking the truth," muttered the old gentleman.
"Why don't you give it a wash?"

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Jan 31, tu, th, sat, f

Seal Fishery. Spring 1914.

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Will Sign Crew on Tuesday, 3rd March, and Wednesday, 4th March, and sail on the following day to Westville.

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