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The Mail and Advocate

Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 24, 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Another Scene
At the House

WHEN the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply yesterday, Mr. Morine asked the Minister of Finance in a very proper manner if he would supply the House with a rough statement of how he proposed to meet the obligations of the Colony for the ensuing year, intimating that the abnormal financial circumstances which now prevailed was his reason for making the request.

Mr. Cashin replied, refusing the request and asserting that the cry of financial embarrassment was old to him and reverted to Mr. Morine's statement in 1898 re the financial condition of the Colony.

In replying Mr. Morine explained what he had done in 1898. Mr. Cashin interrupted, grew angry, lost control of his temper and bitterly assailed Mr. Morine, using very offensive language, for which there was absolutely no justification.

Mr. Cashin forgot that he was a Minister of the Crown and his responsible duties to the House. The members sat amazed and almost stupefied.

Not a word was said by any member on the Government side. The Premier during the encounter sat silent and disgusted.

The Premier, who is the Leader of the House and as such the keeper of its dignity, cannot permit this incident to pass.

The Country will watch the Premier's action closely, and also that of the Minister respecting this incident.

Messrs. Kent, Cliff, Lloyd and Coaker strongly supported the request of Mr. Morine for a financial statement before proceeding with Supply.

Mr. Coaker asked the Minister whether he wished to keep the House in session for months, instead of weeks, for judging from the language used and the absence of justification for such, it would be apparent to the Government that the opposite side of the House would not tolerate such conduct and would maintain a stiff fight, resulting in greatly prolonging the session.

Mr. Coaker assured the Minister that the granting of the request made by Mr. Morine would greatly facilitate the public dispatch of business and not detain it, for in the absence of such information a stiff fight would have to be put up over such votes as \$20,000 for Agriculture, \$24,000 for the Tuberculosis Campaign, \$15,000 for Dredging, \$20,000 for the Fiona, \$10,000 for Spawny Lobsters, and other grants, and he therefore sincerely hoped the request of Morine's would be granted.

The Committee rose, without passing one item, and will sit on Monday, when it is hoped the Premier will be ready to afford the information sought.

The Lunatic Asylum

THE appalling conditions at the Lunatic Asylum as exposed by The Mail and Advocate must certainly strike home to the heart of all whose sympathy goes out to the poor unfortunate inmates of that unclean, mismanaged pest house.

It is the same old story of political pull which has our Civil Service completely demoralized. Incompetent officials are in charge of this Institution—officials whom God and Nature never intended for such responsible positions. They have been pitch-forked into these jobs by political wire-pulling and underhand methods—the direct reward of their political support for some "Big Chief" who cares not a straw how our public institutions are managed as long as he can hold his seat in the Parliament of his Country and rake in his share of boodle and graft.

It matters not how the inmates of the Asylum are treated—or under what conditions those poor unfortunate human beings spend their unhappy lives as long as the heebers are rewarded and the Country pays the bill.

The Commission in their report tell us that children of tender years are confined in this pest house where vermin and filth, consumption and unsanitary methods hold full sway.

We can learn enough from this report to at least say that the treatment accorded the inmates of our Lunatic Asylum is on a par with the conditions of the Russian prison in Siberia or Kronstadt, where, once a man enters he says farewell to life.

The Government if it were mindful of its duty in the premises should spare no expense to make the lot of those poor helpless inmates as comfortable as possible and not leave them to the tender mercies of inexperienced keepers and careless attendants.

They are confined there—many perhaps will never see home or friends again—through the All-wise decree of the Omnipotent and it is the solemn duty of the Government to see that they are at least given that treatment which should be accorded to all human beings who are compelled to seek its refuge.

We have a part recollection of hearing in 1909 quite an uproar and clamour against the disgraceful condition of our public institutions under the Bond administration and we were led to believe that our whole Civil Service was reeking with corruption, and that the return of the Morris Government to power would be the channel through which the rays of sunshine and happiness would be brought to these institutions.

We were told that the Poor House was the saddest place in Newfoundland, and that even the daily papers were stopped from being sent there for the benefit of the inmates. The cry sent up by the Morris organs almost pierced the very Heavens and our people were told to return Morris—the Modern Moses—who would lead them out of the land of "Bondage."

Morris has been in power now six years and we find instead of sunshine and happiness the Poor House is a sadder place than ever it was and our other institutions—the General Hospital, the Penitentiary and the Lunatic Asylum—were never in a worse condition.

The political history of Newfoundland cannot show a blacker chapter of boodle, graft and corruption in its most heinous form than that which will be written down for Ned Morris and the so-called "People's Party." They have scornfully trampled under foot the most vital interests of the people of Newfoundland.

They have spurned the unanimous verdict of the People in appointing defeated candidates to positions of trust under the Crown, and have filled the Legislative Council with rank partizan supporters for the sole purpose of defeating measures which might be passed in the Lower House, in which Chamber they would stage their game of bluff of supporting some measure beneficial to the Toilers of the Country so as the voters would see they had done their duty, and then lay the blame on the Upper House.

A good illustration of this Tammany method was the Sealing Bill and Loggers' Bill the last session in the House of Assembly and whipped to a jelly in the Upper House. The illiterate cullage of which Cashin takes such pleasure in sneering at is wise to Morris and his bluff methods and Tammany Hall stunts and our local Charlie Murphy is doomed to meet his Waterloo.

Bluff, gall and incompetency is written all over his record and he

will go down to that oblivion from whence he sprang—
 "Unwept, unhonoured and unsung."
 —Com.

The Wilson Deal

IN respect to this much discussed Wilson deal, now before the House, we are sure the Country generally will not relish it the more when it is discovered that the agreement, which the Government proposes that this Country enter into, has been drawn up by the paid Solicitor of the Reids, who are very largely interested in the project.

Morris confesses that it was drafted by Reid's Solicitor, and that a printed copy of it was handed to the Government. What can the Country think of it? What can it think of having Mr. Furlong fill the dual position of legal advisor to the Reid's and acting in the same capacity to the Government?

No man can serve two masters, and Mr. Furlong cannot serve the Country while he is the paid lawyer of a big firm that has large contractual obligations towards the Country.

Citizens of St. John's manifested much interest yesterday in the Wilson Deal and it was the chief topic of conversation. The public should await a full discussion of the details of the agreement before forming an opinion, for it is easily the greatest proposal ever laid before the Country, and if passed will effect the interior development to a greater extent than would the passage of a Confederation Act based on the terms offered in 1895. The more it is considered the larger the concessions appear.

It is now receiving the closest scrutiny at the hands of the Opposition Party, and when it comes before the House next Wednesday it will evoke one of the strongest discussions ever heard in the Peoples' House.

The Premier admitted to Mr. Morine yesterday in reply to question asked, that the agreement was drafted by the Reid Nfld. Co.'s Solicitor—Mr. Furlong—handed to the Premier and Attorney General, who discussed it for two hours with the Company's Solicitor.

That such a far-reaching agreement should have been left to the Company's Solicitor to draft is in the least extremely improper and unfair to the Colony.

The Government should have engaged the best disinterested legal men in the Country, to draft that agreement, in order to safeguard in every particular the public interests. Whether such can be said to have been accomplished, will be demonstrated when it comes up for discussion in the House.

It is a good thing for the Colony that Mr. Morine occupies a seat in the House just now, for with his aid and that of the level-headed and logical Leader of the Opposition, aided by Mr. Cliff who has a thorough knowledge of the Crown Lands Department, and the scrutinizing and analyzing ability of Dr. Lloyd, the Opposition Party will be well qualified for the work which will devolve upon it in connection with this far-reaching proposal.

By publishing the complete agreement yesterday—as tabled in the House on Thursday—our readers were enabled to think it over, but it is drawn so cleverly in the interests of the Company that it would require lengthy discussion by our best legal minds in order to analyze the various concessions it covers.

HOW THE SWEDES PREPARE POTATOES

Seeing so much in the paper in regard to utilizing potatoes I recall the method used in Sweden, as told by a Swedish woman some years ago. The potatoes were cooked and pressed through a colander press, similar to a lard press, then dried. She had several families would own a press and take turns using it, helping each other. By using an evaporator and pressing the potatoes directly on to the trays so they would lie up loosely and allow the circulation through the mass, it should make a very nice product. She said it was usually cooked with milk (goat's milk) and was delicious. It seems to be a good way to have a "ready to use" article easily put up in packages as cereals are. I don't remember that she told how they were prepared for the press, peeled before cooking or after. Peeled before cooking I suppose; there would be more use for the waste than otherwise.

—In Rural New Yorker.

Messrs. Morine, Stone and Targett Address the House

The Hon. Member for Bonavista Exposes the Curious Twists in the Premier's Mental Make-Up—Mr. Stone Criticizes the Speech from the Throne, for What it Does Not Contain Rather Than for What it Contains—Mr. Targett Cannot Reconcile the Boast of Prosperity Coming from the Premier With What are Actual Conditions

MR. MORINE—Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to speak at this stage of the debate, but I cannot sit still and listen without a word to what has been said here this evening, and not refer to some points in which the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister showed a curious contusion of thought.

This is not the time to deal with the question of the responsibility of this Government. When the returns come in I shall be in a better position to do so; then I shall examine the financial state of the country and see whether his optimism is justified.

While the Premier was speaking he referred to the learned Doctor as the prophet of evil of the House. It may be that the Doctor deserves the name, and that he will prove the only true prophet in this House.

The Premier, on the other hand, has a super-abundance of optimism. It is as bad to be too optimistic as it is to be too pessimistic. I consider that the Premier is the father of optimism in Newfoundland, but he has very often been associated with funerals and disasters.

A Curious Twist.

For instance, during the years 1889 to 1894 he sat in the White-wing Government, who were either blind or closed their eyes to the then condition of commercial affairs which led to the crash of the year 1894, and we found it necessary to obtain help from the Mother Country.

Then again in 1897 he had another funeral and the people of this country turned him out of office, and again the country is facing a crisis. If the funeral does not take place, it will be because other doctors have been called in.

There is another curious thing that I noticed in reading the debates of this House when I was out of it. There is a curious twist in the brain of my Rt. Hon. friend, in that he is able to dissociate himself with the actions of the various Governments of which he has been a member. He imagines that he is no sinner; that is what it amounts to when he pleads what the Bond Government did. Because that Government when he was in it, increased the Estimates one million dollars, then he himself must now increase it one million is no reason why another should spend two millions; it may be a reason to the contrary; the expenditure of one million may make the other an extravagance; and yet he thinks he is justified in doing so because he did it before when he was in another Government. It is not a justification, but a condemnation.

Another Curious Thing

There is another curious thing that made me wonder whether he had ever sat down to seriously consider it. Allow me to quote a few figures concerning the revenue of the country:

In 1909 the imports were valued at \$7,400,000; the exports at \$8,300,000.

In 1908 the imports were valued at \$11,000,000; the exports at \$11,000,000.

In 1914 the imports were valued at \$16,000,000; the exports at \$16,000,000.

That means prosperity. But it means something else, namely, that everything that the country earns, it spends. There is not a dollar left in reserve.

If the exports of this Colony were \$8,000,000 in one year, and the imports were only \$7,000,000, that would be money saved and

kept in the country. But when you look at what the exports and imports actually amount to, you find another state of affairs. The result is, there must be depression. The fault is not with the Government any more than with any other Government. There are depressions in the history of every country. We all know it. Then why not provide accordingly? That is the reason for the condition of the country at present.

Now then there is another thing that has not been taken notice of; these figures prove that the expenditure of all the borrowed money in this country, has not created any productiveness in the Colony. The price of codfish had risen, but that is not through any expenditure of money in this country. We are depending solely upon the annual production of this country.

Worse Than Represented.

I find that there are certain features in the financing of this Colony that no one has paid any attention to. Improper expenditures are not confined to any one Government in this country. It is no use to discuss now who does it, but what has been done. What are the fundamental errors? How can they be obviated?

My learned friend talks about the future in a very optimistic vein, but the financial condition of the Colony is worse than it was represented to-day. This is not a time to talk too much about that, but the Premier must not be led away by his great tendency to be optimistic. There will be no such immediate rush of prosperity when the war ends. The depression then will be twenty times worse than it is now.

Look at the millions of men struggling back from the armies into the factories of the world. Every country at war is now expending vast loans, and while this expending goes on prosperity seems to abound. When the war is over, can the world immediately respond after the great loss that has taken place. We have to expect a still worse depression than we have at present.

What did an hon. gentleman say in the Upper House in moving the Address in Reply? That we must look for a decrease in the price of fish. Upon what ground did the hon. gentleman base this view?

We have got to ask the people of this Colony to believe that content the people the truth. What we spend they have got to provide. It seems to me that this is the true patriotic way in which to make too much noise about our difficulties just now; but we should not endeavor to delude the people into an optimism not based on fact.

Colony in Deplorable Condition

Now just a few words in relation to our revenue. We were told last year in September when the extraordinary war session was on that the deficit was \$237,000. But as a matter of fact it was really \$300,000, a difference of \$63,000. This of course is only a "bea bite." But those flea bites are very large when all summed up so large that at the present time the Colony is in a deplorable condition, brought about by the administration of the present Government.

I think I am safe in saying that one of the gentlemen in the Upper House has been convinced that our policy is right and having seen the error of his ways, has decided that the tuberculosis, agricultural policy and the branch railways is absolutely useless and

existence, and it is indeed very gratifying to perceive that in the present conflict the people of Newfoundland took such a patriotic stand.

The intense seriousness of the situation is brought home to us by the fact that already some of our brave lads who went forth to defend the Empire have sacrificed their lives in order that we may still enjoy the liberties which were fought for and won by our forefathers. And it should make us all feel proud of our brave boys. Never before in the annals of history have we had occasion to go to the aid of the Mother Country.

Have Responded Nobly.

I hope, however, that this great European war will soon be over which has been forced upon us by the German Emperor, and that Great Britain will emerge victorious.

A great number of our men have responded nobly to the call, and I feel sure that when called upon they will give a good account of themselves, so that we here in Newfoundland will have cause to be proud of them.

I don't think it is necessary for me to say but a very few words concerning the war because it has already been discussed and dilated upon very fully in this House and all over the Country.

With regard to the Speech from the Throne, I confess that I am altogether disappointed to find there is no provision made for the people of this Colony who are now out of employment, but I am thoroughly in accord with the section in the Speech where provision is made for those who suffer partial or total disablement while engaged on active service, a measure which I feel sure will command public sympathy.

Our Most Important Asset.

On this side of the House we shall be glad to give all the support we possibly can to such a measure. Some financial provision of course should have been made for those who are so willing to defend the Empire upon this particular occasion.

With regard to the sealfishery, I may say that I regard this as one of our most important assets. It is unfortunately very bad this year, and the sealfishery is an industry upon which the Colony largely depends; it would indeed mean a whole lot to the Colony and the people. It would give a great deal of employment as well as putting a large share of money in circulation. I would be delighted to see all the sealers coming home with good trips, especially this year, as it would mean a whole lot to the men and their families at home and in general a great thing for the Country.

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that extravagance has marked the career of the Morris Government and to-day we find the Country in a very bad condition.

Railways Still Tied Up

The branch railways—the Trepassey branch, the Bay de Verde and the Heart's Content branch are still tied up and no trains are running upon any of them with the exception of the Heart's Content branch where of course the people have built wooden trucks in order to get out some wood, but even those trucks are not built for passenger accommodation, and to-day the people of the south side of Trinity Bay are asking what about the train which was supposed to be running in the fall of 1913.

A great deal of poverty and destitution is in our midst in St. John's as well as in some of the outports, and something should be done to ameliorate this condition of affairs.

I do not mean that men should be given relief without working for it. Many of our men are only too willing to work providing the Government would furnish employment. They do not want to be called paupers but they surely want to earn an honest dollar.

Never Materialized.

We are told now that negotiations are in progress for the utilization of some of our natural resources. But we have been hearing this from time to time in almost every Speech from the Throne with which the Legislature has been opened, great promises, but it has never materialized. To my mind it is nothing more than a bag of gas and it only requires a match and it will then explode and go up in smoke.

Therefore, I am quite confident that the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House don't take it seriously at all, as we place very little confidence in promises until we have been afforded evidence of the promises being fulfilled. I hope, however, that the Government will take a leaf from our book and then consider their ways and be wise and in the near future try and do something to relieve the destitution which now prevails all over the Colony.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker, I

would like to say a few words relative to matters now in discussion. I may say that I can thoroughly endorse the sentiments of the previous speakers as to what they have said with regard to the war. I have indeed been very pleased to see that so many of our young men should so promptly come forward to sacrifice, if need be, their lives in such a noble cause.

I cannot comprehend, personally, how it arises in this enlightened age that Europe should be plunged in international warfare. It seems to me that war should never exist nowadays—although I suppose it makes no difference whether I comprehend it or not. We can only hope that the time is not far distant when this war will come to an end, and the British Empire be victorious—for this must be the only end.

I must also say a great deal of credit is due to the ladies of Newfoundland for they have worked loyally throughout the colony to promote the comfort of our soldiers, who have gone forth to fight the battles of the Empire, whilst engaged in their work. They deserve the greatest praise and I am glad to note what has been said in this respect from the Speech from the Throne.

Look After the Country.

As regards the Speech from the Throne, I would say, that we have heard speeches from the Throne before, all promising things like "this from time to time, and yet, as the former speaker has just remarked, they have gone up in smoke, and never yet have they come up to the promises made in the various speeches from the Throne.

We have all got work to do. We must look after the country. It is true we have a responsibility towards our soldiers and sailors, but we have also a duty towards those at home to see that they do not starve. There is a great battle, a battle against starvation going on in this country. This is one of the best countries in the world containing some of the best men as has been often proved.

From what has been already said it would appear that this country is in a deplorable condition. I do not know whether to believe it or not. I was going to say I do not know who to believe. It is almost bewildering to a person without much education who has not spent 30 years in public life to know who or what to believe. It is a job to understand.

A Wonderful State of Things

I would not like to say anything

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