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McGrath's Bluff Called.

A Scathing Indictment of the Morris Gov't and the Herald's Hypocrisy Regarding the "Crown Lands" Act. Best Part of Our Timber Areas Gobbled Up by Land Sharks and Supporters of Morris. McGrath Was Silent Although He Knew of the Rotten Conditions Prevailing.

IN the "Evening Herald" of 16th Inst. we find the editor suggesting to the Government that it is time for them to enforce the Crown Land's Act and to see that the law relating to timber limits be carried out.

This is surprising, in so far as it is an admission on the part of the Government organ that the Government has not been carrying out the law up to the present.

This is not news to the public of this country. The people have been aware for years that the law was being evaded, and that the evasion of it was being connived at by the Government.

It was more than being connived at. It was knowingly permitted and encouraged so that the friends and hangers-on of the People's Party would reap a rich harvest from the public domain.

The records of the Agriculture and Mines Office, if published, would be a revelation in shady transaction unsurpassed in this or any other Colony under the British flag.

The lemon must now be sucked dry or P. T. McGrath would not advocate the strict enforcement of the law. Has he no relations with their finger in the timber limits undisposed of? Has he no interests unrealized in the limits held by his associates for years without compliance with the law?

The editor of the "Herald" says: "A party interested in timber areas with whom we discussed this matter says that the only place where people can now cut pit wood is on the three-mile limit, because every other scrap of wooded country in the Island is held by somebody, although utterly disregarding the law in regard to

such holdings." Is it so? Really those who do not know the Hon. P. T. McGrath as he was, as he is, and undoubtedly as he will be to the end of his tether, would be led to believe that he was speaking from the innocence of a guileless heart and not from the rancour of a venomous one, and that till this hour he was not aware that every bit of wooded country is held by someone in utter disregard of the law in such cases.

He did not need any person interested in timber limits to inform him of that fact. He knows more about it than any other in this city because he has been closely associated with the principal grabbers of public franchises for the past ten or fifteen years and knows every inch of the ground. If he did not possess this valuable information he could ascertain for himself by referring to the latest Agriculture and Mines map and measure up the areas which are not colored ping, yellow and gray.

But Hon. P. T. McGrath knows all about it. He knows the men who have gobbled it up. He has been closely associated with most of them and a partner with some of them. He is also aware of the manipulations of the law by which some of these friends and relations have come into the possession of timber limits, and how many thousands it has brought them during the past ten years.

He is aware that the Colony has been systematically robbed of thousands of dollars in rentals which should have been paid into the Treasury by the holders of these limits, and he has been well aware for all these years that the Crown Land's Department was turned into a timber and mineral gambling den with the

leeches of the People's Party composing the inner ring. He has been aware all these years that the spoils of the public franchises obtained in contravention of the Crown Land's Act, and with the knowledge and approbation of those whose duty it was to safeguard the public interest. He has known that the Executive Council has been held up time and again and practically forced to approve and give official sanction to deals of doubtful honesty in connection with timber limits in which Mr. McGrath's friends and associates have been interested.

He has been for years aware of the shameful disregard of the law in the Department of Agriculture and Mines, and that only those who had the influence of members of the Government and the co-operation of men high up in the council of the Party he supported had any hope of successfully competing for timber limits or mineral claims.

All this and a very great deal more, which will come later, has been known to the editor of the "Herald" for years but not a whisper was heard from that public-spirited journalist in protest. All this has been known to him for years and not a suggestion was thrown out that the Government should protect the public franchises from grabbers and speculators in the patrimony of the people of the country. A warning of the nature which he now utters may have been of some use and result in some benefit to the country then, because there was still some little portion of the wooded country left ungrabbed by the camp-followers of the People's Party. But instead of that Mr. McGrath and others of high standing in the Government were interested in seeing the timber limits fall under the controls of their friends, and, instead of registering a protest, they were writing certificates of character to franchise speculators who were hawking millions of acres of Newfoundland and Labrador timber limits in the American, British and Canadian markets to the serious detriment of legitimate and genuine investors in Newfoundland timber limits.

And when all is gobbled up, when every available asset, when there is nothing else, left worth fighting over, we find the chief Government organ

hypocritically pretending concern for the people's interest in the matter of timber limits, and advising the Government to throw open great areas of wooded country to the people by the cancellation of titles held in contravention of the Crown Land's Act.

Was there ever, in the history of party politics in this or any other self-governed country under the British Crown, such an arraignment of a Government by its own organ as is contained in this admission of the "Herald" that the People's Party are conniving at the violation of the Crown Land's Act in order that their friends and supporters may unlawfully hold large areas of the public domain.

We did not intend turning the search-light on the Crown Land's Department so soon (but we could not allow such arrant hypocrisy as this of McGrath's to pass unkickd. The rascalities that have disgraced that Department shall be laid bare in our columns without fear or favor. The public must know something of the inner rottenness of the Crown Land's Office.—"Spectator," Oct. 23, 1915.

Arnold's Cove Falls in Line

(Editor, Mail and Advocate)
DEAR SIR,—Please allow me space in your much read paper for a few remarks concerning that all important question "Prohibition."

No doubt it is the most vital question that was ever put before the electorate of this Colony. I believe, so far as this settlement is concerned, it will go strongly in favour of Prohibition.

There was a Prohibition meeting held here on Thursday, Oct. 21st, with Mr. J. Guy as Chairman.

The Rev. A. Shorter delivered a very forceful and interesting lecture on the evils of intemperance and that those that could control their appetites in alcoholic liquors should remember their weaker brother that was not so strong to resist the demon of drink. He said many had gone to an early grave through intoxicating liquor.

The meeting was then opened for discussion on Prohibition. There was several spoke in favour of it but not one had a plea to offer against it. After which resolutions were passed asking each voter to vote the 4th of November. It was practically unanimously carried.

The meeting was brought to a close by singing the National Anthem.

Yours for success.
—A. ADAMS.

Arnold's Cove,
October 22nd, 1915.

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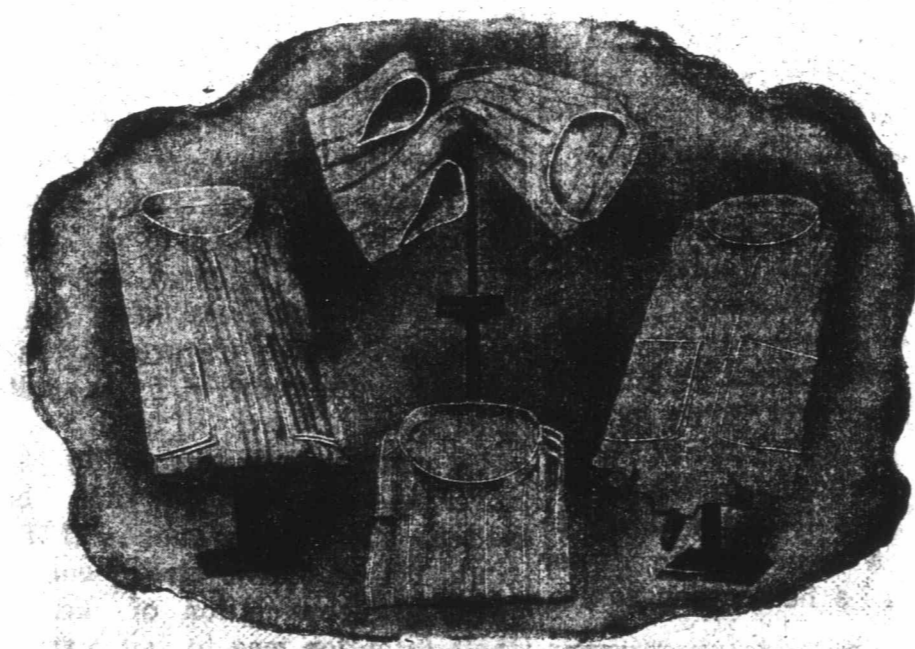
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