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## G. KNOWLING.

### The Daily Mail

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The publication of any letter does not signify that the Editor thereby shows his agreement with the opinions therein expressed.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JAN. 26, 1914.

#### OUR POINT OF VIEW.

##### "HOLD THE RECORD."

Even in the worst days of its political history this Colony was never governed by a party who showed such an absolute disregard of all the principles of administrative sanity and economy as the Morris Party. It is a matter of common knowledge that practically every Department of the Civil Service has been overlooked with the political adherents of the party in power. The result has been that instead of more work and better work being done by these Departments the whole service has become notoriously inefficient. The pay roll for the Departments has become greater than ever it was; salaries have been increased; officials have been pensioned unnecessarily, and as a result the Civil Service at the expiration of the last term of the Morris Government had cost us almost \$700,000.00 more than under the administration of any previous political party. For heedless extravagant expenditure therefore the present Government hold the record. Unfortunately the Colony has to "play the piper."

##### THE RAILWAY POLICY.

Some of the Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council have recently been expressing enthusiastic admiration for the Railway Policy of the Morris Party. In a speech, to which the Government organs of Saturday last devoted three pages of space, one Councillor is represented as avowing his conversion from an attitude of opposition to one of active support.

Every progressive Newfoundlander believes in a policy of railroad extension—it is one thing that is bound to make ultimately for progress and profit. On the other hand there are few far-seeing men in this country who anticipate anything but financial loss from that ill-timed, ill-planned bungle known as the Railroad Policy of the Morris Government.

For between a safe, sane and well-

proportioned scheme of railroad extension and the abortive, disproportionate undertaking fathered by Sir Edward Morris lies all the difference that distinguishes the conduct of the man who builds a dwelling to suit his means, enlarging it as his finances permit, and that of him who first builds a mansion and then sits down to count the cost.

Newfoundland needed railroad extension—that fact there cannot, reasonably, be any contradiction.

The country could, doubtless, afford to spend two, three or four million dollars in providing for a couple of branches, as a beginning.

This was the safe and sane way to inaugurate the branch Railroad policy and a moment or two of consideration will show the excellent reasons that inspire our contention.

In the first place, the Government having—very foolishly—agreed to pay the Contractor in gold, had to enter the money market to sell enough bonds to raise the necessary cash. Starting railroad extension on a moderate scale they would not be forced to unload enough bonds to flood the market and prices would not have taken such a slump as was caused by the efforts of the Morris Party to raise two loans of Four Million Dollars and Two Million Dollars respectively within less than three years of each other.

Again, the money market is now extremely depressed and it is difficult to obtain good prices even for securities that are regarded as "gilt edged." The cautious railroad policy would have permitted the Government to play a waiting game with regard to the flotation of loans and they could have entered the market when conditions promised a more ready and a more profitable sale of our bonds.

As it is we have to pay for the unfortunate lack of foresight displayed by the Premier and his associates. We have lost practically ten per cent. on the Six Million Dollars borrowed so far.

Despite the professed optimism of old warriors of the Morris Party and the robust declarations of Faith made by recent converts to its cult, we are of opinion that this generation will long have passed away before the net profits on these six branch railroads equal the Six Hundred Thousand Dollars lost to us by the bungling shortsightedness of the Morris Government.

##### A TANTALISING POLICY.

According to claims made on behalf of the present Government the condition of our people generally has been materially improved during the five years that the Morris Party has held office.

In support of this contention it is pointed out that the Government has reduced taxation on certain articles of food to the extent of almost \$400,000.00 and has at the same time made an increase of \$100,000.00 in the grants for education.

In a paragraph of the Governor's speech at the opening of the House of Assembly it was stated that the revenue for the current fiscal year will be below the estimate and it is possible that the shortage will be close on \$400,000.00. To meet this shortage we are told that the Government intend to readjust the tariff.

By readjustment we presume is meant a further taxing of what are termed the luxuries of ordinary life.

Now it is difficult to understand just where the advantage comes to our people from all this tinkering with the tariff.

Granted for the sake of argument that our people are in a better condition from a wage-earning standpoint we yet fail to see how they are better off comparatively now than they were say ten years ago. For of what benefit is it to a man to raise his wages if at the same time you increase the cost of certain articles he is likely to buy on account of his increased earnings?

Then with the better education made possible by increased grants from the Government are bound to come desires for a higher and a better standard of living that would be much more expensive than the old standard even under ordinary tariff conditions. And if our people want to gratify these desires they must do it through the luxuries.

What sense is there therefore in the following of a Government bragging about a "free breakfast" when they increase the cost of the improved dinner by much more than they have taken off the price of the breakfast?

As far as the so called luxuries are concerned they are already taxed in a most disproportionate, one might almost say exorbitant, manner. But the Government has to find some means of overcoming the big deficit in revenue and if they have decided, as they intimate, not to replace the duties on articles recently placed on the free list, then they must further tax these luxuries and so make them so costly that only the very rich can afford to buy them.

It is plain, therefore, that relatively speaking the ordinary man in this country is no better off than he was

when Sir Edward Morris became Premier, notwithstanding all this talk about increased wage earning and free breakfasts.

For the whole situation reminds us of the story of one Tantalus of old who, legend avers, committed some sin and as a punishment was sentenced by the Gods to stand to his neck in water. But whenever he bent his head to take a drink the water receded and he was thus kept in perpetual thirst.

#### OBSERVATIONS.

Morris's star is now under a cloud of opposition witnesses.

Mr. Woodford's estimates Mr. Coaker as a "bluff." The defeated Morris candidates in Bonavista District made the same fatal mistake.

As for Mr. Devereaux's attempt to justify and defend the Morris Agricultural Policy, it was merely another case of Love's Labor Lost.

And now the Minister of Finance is realising the truth of the old saw hat people pay little or no attention to the man who talks too much and seasons his talk with more shouting than common-sense.

And so the members of the Government profess to believe that Sir Edward Morris will go down in history as a benefactor of his country. Oh, well, lots of other people have mistaken notoriety for fame.

The speeches made by the Morris members of the House of Assembly in reply to the criticisms of the Opposition are mostly made up of explanations which do not explain and excuses which fail to excuse.

Figures are not supposed to lie. How then are ordinary folk to interpret the fact that Sir Edward Morris declares this country to be exceedingly prosperous when we are facing a deficit of \$380,000 in revenue?

The King of Serbia, says a cable message, has refused to accept the resignation of his Cabinet. But as regards the Morris Party in this country nothing would ever induce them to presume so far on the popular choice.

No, the Morris M.H.A.'s are not unhelpfully handicapped by any sentiments of false modesty. They spend a great deal of their time in the House singing party praises and providing encomiums as numerous as they are unalled for.

The Colonial Secretary stated in the House that "it is an insult to teachers to expect to be able to buy their votes with the \$20,000 paid them for acting as secretaries of the Agricultural Societies." Well, who set his figure, anyway?

So the member for Harbor Main found the Agricultural Policy "work effectively" in his District. Mr. Woodford should really explain himself more fully as some critics may be unkind enough to say that his presence in the House is evidence enough on that point.

And after listening to a speech from the member for Ferryland Friday someone was unkind enough to remark that some men who can't make a noise in the world any other way usually do it by giving imitations of a well-primed gramophone.

So Mr. Moore, of Ferryland, thinks it was very wicked of Dr. Lloyd to go to the country at an election "with a promise of a Departmental office, in his pocket." But what of the men who fought the campaign as Departmental heads? We hope they carried nothing else in their pockets.

The member for Harbor Grace does not believe that Mr. Coaker put up the price of fish and "argues" as "reason" for his scepticism that if the Leader of the Union Party had done so he could have put it higher. Mr. Parsons is a decided gain to the debating powers of the House.

The Minister of Finance declared that all the Union voters are "cul-lage." Such lack of discernment on the part of Mr. Cashin in his self-appointed office as culler is another strong argument in favor of the Union contention that there should be "a standardisation of cull."

In Ferryland District the people, alleged Mr. Moore, in the House of Assembly, turned Mr. Coaker's picture to the wall. It is very nice of Mr. Moore to acknowledge that the Union has made great headway in his District. The voters of Ferryland, too, showed much consideration for the feelings of the Morris candidates. For Mr. Moore is not the only Government man who could not "face" Mr. Coaker in a campaign.

#### TO THE EDITOR.

##### NEEDS ATTENTION.

(Editor The Daily Mail.)

Dear Sir,—Communications published recently dealing with the "Fox Farming" business are interesting. Personally I may say that I am not financially connected with it, and before the publication of these letters knew nothing about it excepting the fact that some persons were endeavoring to breed this animal in captivity.

The letter signed "Fair Play and British Justice" has aroused my curiosity, and if the assertions made by this writer are facts, I feel it a duty to give a word of praise to him for his endeavor to arouse an interest in the community which will result in effecting a close scrutiny into the conduct of this industry with a view of remedying defective, or as asserted unfair laws.

##### Should be Rectified.

If the regulations are one sided, every fairminded citizen should use what influence he may possess to rectify them.

Without definitely committing myself, I beg to say that I am strongly impressed with the letter signed "Fair Play and British Justice," and the recommendation that the animals captured be wholly and solely the property of the capturer, (with exceptions where State ownership obtains)—Instance the Buffalo in America, Moose in Newfoundland—to be disposed of as he may decide, embodies a principal of British Justice, which, if not recognized and upheld may lead to a most serious position of affairs, affecting lines of business other than that now under question.

##### Class Laws.

Apparently the laws regulating this business, whatever may have been the good intentions of the framers, have evolved into Class Laws the pre-judicial existence of which admits of no argument.

I believe it would be pleasing to all readers of our papers throughout the Country if the press would take up this question in a spirit devoid of Party feeling and with the sole desire of putting things right.

—VERITAS.

Jan. 23, '14.

#### MUNICIPAL REFORM

(Editor Daily Mail)

Sir—I have been watching with interest the efforts being made by Mr. Gosling and his supporters to bring about municipal reform in our city. There is much that is commendable in what they have already done and have set forth in the press, but there is one feature which they have not yet clearly shown and that is the method by which they are going to get the active and intelligent co-operation of all the citizens.

##### Good Beginning

The inclusion of representatives of the well-to-do citizens of the community and the leaders of the labor organizations is good in so far as it goes, but is not sufficient in itself.

The history of municipal reform elsewhere has shown that all efforts in that direction have proved fruitless until the whole of the citizens had a share in the responsibility for the weal or woe of his city. But to get them to do so required on the part of those directing the Reform movement the use of channels that would surely bring home to every one the beneficial results of any proposed changes.

##### Channels Used

Some of the channels used were the churches, the fraternal and labor organizations public meeting, and an abundant supply of literature dealing with the moral, social and economic aspects of the question. Failing this, the most that can be hoped for is but a temporary success.

Unless there is a determined effort made to educate the people as to their duties and responsibilities reaction is sure to follow. As the time is getting short before the Municipal Elections, there should be immediate steps taken to provide against any such disastrous results.

Get out the information asked for. Circulate the literature; in short begin the educational campaign.

—CITIZEN.

#### MONEY IN FLOUR JAR.

Twelve Thousand Dollars of Stolen Money Found.

More than \$12,000 of the \$13,000 stolen by Ralph Wiant, a clerk of the United States Express Company at Connelville, Pa., U.S.A., last week, was found in a flour cask in the home of Frederick B. Wiant, a brother.

Detectives learned from Miss Margaret Dunnington, of Morgantown, W. Va., that Ralph Wiant informed her he had left most of the money in Connelville. Frederick Wiant's home was searched from top to bottom. Three tons of coal was examined. Wiant is believed to have gone West.

#### C. L. B.

##### "AT HOME"

WED., JAN. 28th,  
BRITISH HALL.

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GENT'S \$1.00.

F. G. REID, Chairman,  
W. R. MOTT, Secretary.

Jan 23, 24, 26, 27

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