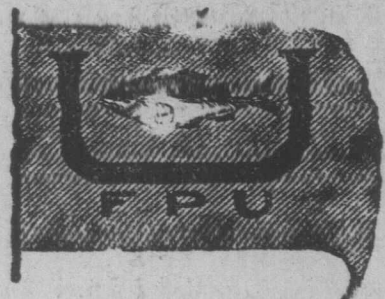


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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 13, 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The Oldest, Yet Most Behind

NEWFOUNDLAND Britain's oldest colonial position occupies a unique position in the world—geographical and economical.

Her geographical position is unique in that she extends far into the Atlantic Ocean, giving her the sobriquet the stepping stone, between the old and the new worlds, she is unique in her economy, in that she is almost entirely devoted to fishery pursuits. And she is in a singular position in regard to her backward condition in the scale of development.

Physically she has been likened to a stepping stone between two worlds, she may also be regarded as a stepping stone in a metaphysical sense, for she has been used as a stepping stone to fortune by many who have sojourned stepped on—for a while on our shores, and with accumulated wealth betaken themselves in time to the banks of the Clyde or Mersey.

Adventurers have come here, sucked the life blood from our sons leaving them after a life time of toil and danger in poverty, whilst they went to the enjoyment of that ease and comfort with which wealth waits upon the fortunate possessor.

In this manner has Newfoundland been robbed of the results of her toiling people's sacrifice. The wealth that should have been spent in the country was taken away to enrich other lands; whilst the rich cream was being skimmed away the watery parts only have been left to us.

A cruel policy of suppression has been exercised towards Newfoundland from the beginning, whilst other countries' development was being fostered.

It is not long ago, in a comparative sense, since our fathers were forbidden to build a chimney in a house even in St. John's.

Settlement except in a transient way, for summer fishing was forbidden on our shores long after other colonies were being encouraged to grow.

The British Government looked upon Newfoundland as a breeding place for sailors only, a kind of training ship moored near the great fishing banks, and it was considered wise to discourage any permanent settlement upon the land. Our country was given a black eye that not even the centuries have quite healed.

Our great natural land resources were decied, and our climate also was given a bad name, that survives to a great extent to-day.

Even after settlement was permitted, and it was no longer criminal to build a chimney, the old policy of discouragement was kept up by a selfish race of fish merchants, who sought by every means to retard our progress.

Newfoundland is unique in this respect too, that while in other countries everything was done to advance those new lands, in Terra Nova, everything that a blind and stupid selfishness could suggest, was being done to suppress de-

velopment along other lines than fishing, and even in this, the great staple industry great stupidity was shown as regards the proper management of the business, and the same stupidity very little modified exists to this very day.

Education of our children was neglected, nay, not neglected, but deliberately hindered. It was thought that an educated youth would make but a very indifferent fisherman, and what was more to the point a harder fisherman to cheat.

With the youth educated it was thought that attention might be turned towards other modes of employment where some show of independence might exert itself, an independence that might eventually spread to the fishermen themselves. Because of those cruel measures Newfoundland has been kept back in the scale of nations. Even as a fishing country we are the most backward where we should be in the van.

New Zealand that was in the night of cannibalism long enough after we had become an old settlement is away ahead of us in intellectual development of her fisheries. New Zealand has adopted the most modern and scientific management of her industries, whilst we, the great, boasted fishing country retain the methods of a barbarous time.

This backwardness shows itself in every phase of our economical development. Our mineral and agricultural and forest operations are governed by the crudest laws, and the ethical side of our development is almost a reflex of our material side, and both are the result of that cruel and deliberate check which merciless and selfish men put upon our natural development along material and intellectual lines.

Those of us who reside in the city are assailed on every side with evidence of our but half emergence from an unregenerate time when we look around and see so many signs of unreform in our streets and buildings. What we behold in the town is an evidence of our backwardness and a testimony in disorder to the brutal treatment this country has received from the hands of those who should have fostered our upward growth.

The Guardian And the F.P.U.

THE F.P.U. members at Bay Roberts are to be congratulated upon their enterprise and industry, for since President Coaker visited Bay Roberts in January the F.P.U. Council has erected a splendid Hall which was opened on the 5th instant. All the labor was given free.

When fishermen are willing under circumstances now existing to subscribe money and give free labor to erect Halls for their conveniences, it is indeed a remarkable sign of the awakening effect of the F.P.U. movement amongst the masses of the Colony.

At Bay Roberts the Union was strongly opposed by the political machine and it became impossible for the Union men to hire a suitable place to hold meetings, the result of such action has enabled us to chronicle the fact that one of the largest Halls in Bay Roberts is now owned by the F.P.U. and has been erected by its members in defiance of opposition and the product of free labor.

Coercion cannot but stimulate a movement of the nature of the F.P.U. and the Bay Roberts example ought to be a lesson for all our opponents and demonstrate what effect their labors have upon such a grand uplifting work as the F.P.U. is engaged in.

We congratulate Bay Roberts Council, its Building Committee and its Chairman—Stephen Mercer—upon the grand work accomplished since January and trust every endeavour will be put forth to finish the interior as speedily as possible, and that they will be able to invite Conception Bay District Convention to hold its next meeting there.

The Guardian, which once opposed the F.P.U., appears to have grasped the meaning of its good effective endeavours to uplift People and Country, and in reference to the new Union Hall he has published the following:—

"The new F.P.U. hall is nearly completed, and we learn that the first meeting will be held there on Monday night. It is quite an attractive looking building and reflects great credit on the enterprise and enthusiasm of the members of the F.P.U. here. It is an evidence that the time has arrived when the fishermen of this country will do a great deal of thinking for themselves and assist in the solution of a number of local problems.—Guardian."

Here's Something New in The Picture Line--At The NICKEL
"OUR MUTUAL GIRL SERIES"

No. 18, commencing the latest series—ONE REEL EACH WEEK—A CONTINUED STORY—To be exact the Mutual Girl series is to be a fashion subject and Miss Norma Phillips is to have the great pleasure of wearing "SOME CLOTHES." Miss Phillips is the Girl from the Country who comes to New York to visit her rich Aunt and play at the society game. No girl ever had a greater variety of experience than OUR MUTUAL GIRL.

KLAW AND ERLANGER PRESENT THE WELL KNOWN IN PICTURES

THE FATAL WEDDING,

By Theodore Kremer, produced in three parts—almost interesting, exciting and thrilling social drama—Beautiful Settings—All Star Cast.

ARTHUR PRIESTMAN CAMERON
(In Excellent comedy songs)

Coming—Harry C. Stanley—Impersonator of Ragtime Songs.
DON'T MISS TO-DAY'S SHOW.

THOSE WERE THE HAPPY DAYS
(A Keystone with Fatty Arbuckle)

Proceedings at the House of Assembly

First item an order of the day yesterday afternoon was the second reading of the "Bill to regulate the employment of the men engaged in logging," which was introduced by Mr. Coaker. In moving the second reading of this Bill, Mr. Coaker said he didn't intend to take up very much time. The Bill was practically the same as when last presented to the Legislature, with some slight amendments which he hoped would be found worthy of every consideration from the Government, and that Legislation such as requested in the Bill would be enacted.

He, Mr. Coaker, had learned some very interesting facts during his recent visit to the Logging Camps. He instanced particularly the discovery of mattresses having been left in the camps for too long a period and that some of them were successively used by three men in turn, a matter that was not at all conducive to good results—morally or physically. Provision had been made in the Bill for a proper inspection of the berths and mattresses. Arrangements had also been made with the A.N.D. Co. for the providing of canvas bottoms for the berths which could be moved and cleaned at intervals. Section 4 of the Bill had been altered so as to give the Co. or Inspector 10 days notice before action would be taken after the complaint had been made.

The history of the past had revealed many grievances existing between the men and employers that were being fast redressed, as Mr. Coaker found during his recent trip that the existing conditions of life in the camps were vastly improved during the last 12 months, and that better food results had been obtained as well as a better accommodation.

He also mentioned that a much better state of feeling existed between master and man, and that on placing a few grievances he had discovered, before the chief officers at Grand Falls, had their assurance that the matter would be remedied. Mr. Coaker consenting, the Bill was deferred till the morning in order to have printed copies laid before the members.

The second reading of the Bill relating to the sale of codfish on the Labrador coast was deferred till the morning.

Second reading of Bill to further amend "The Customs Act 1898" was also deferred till the morning.

The naturalization of Aliens Bill then came on for its second reading and in introducing this bill to the House the Prime Minister said that it was really a copy of an Imperial Act on the same subject and a happy blending of local and Imperial Legislation that must be beneficial.

Mr. Edward, then in his usual style of labored oratory, described the various sections of the Bill, the passing of which would mean the repeal of Sections 3, Victoria Sess. 2, Cap. 7 and the Act, Edward 7, of the Consolidated Statutes referring to Aliens.

Mr. Kent, leader of the Opposition said that some years ago he had brought into this House a measure which practically meant the same thing, and he felt that bill of this nature was very desirable. He therefore complimented the Government on bringing it into the House, and stated that he, as well as other members on both sides would have something to say in connection. The bill was read a second time and goes into the Committee Stage on the morning.

A Bill to amend "the act relating to the administration of local affairs" then came on for its second reading. The Rt. Hon. the Premier in introducing this Bill providing for local

Boards being elective grew very statistical and enlarged very much on the various districts of the Colony. He instanced the facts of there being 8 boards of this description in Twillingate, 3 in Pogo, 60 in Bonavista, 27 in Trinity, 10 in Port de Grave, 1 in Burin, 30 in St. Georges, 1 at Bell Island in St. John's East and 1 in Fortune Bay. He also stated that he had statements prepared for the consideration of Hon. Members showing that in 1500 settlements in the Colony, 950 of them had populations of less than 100 voters and that in Fortune Bay there were only 4 settlements with 300 of a population each, or say about 60 voters. He also spoke of some of the districts that were so scattered that it was difficult to get the voters together for a meeting, which was the chief difficulty in connection with the measure, and finished up by stating that the intention was to send the Bill to a special committee.

Mr. Kent expressed himself as very much disappointed at the manner in which the Bill was put before the House, referring to the administration of local affairs. He, Mr. Kent, thought that he bill which was a very important one, should be deferred until the information which the Premier had been furnished.

The Prime Minister in reply had no objections to deferring the matter, but took exception to the remarks of the Hon. Member, Mr. Kent, in alluding to the light manner in which the Bill was introduced, claiming that the Government were treating the matter in a most serious manner. The Bill was deferred till the morning.

The second reading of the Bill respecting the "Seal Fishery" was also deferred, Mr. Morine suggesting that 24 hour's notice should be given after the printing of the bills in all cases in future before the second reading.

The Bill respecting Patents and Trade Marks passed its second reading and goes into Committee Stage to-morrow.

The address in reply to Speech from the Throne was then in order, Mr. Abbott being the first speaker.

In pursuing the address from the Throne said Mr. Abbott, one would think that this little Colony was getting along in a most flourishing manner, but was it really so. He didn't pretend to know just what the speech should consist of, but to his mind it should mention something that the Government ought to do, and didn't do for the Colony. Mr. Abbott severely criticized the Government as being the most wasteful and extravagant administration ever since the days of our getting Responsible Government. He failed to see anything at all the Government had done. When they assumed power we were promised new markets for our produce, peat for fuel, branch railways and all sorts of good things and what were the results. No new markets had been located, the peat question was a myth and the branch railroads that were to cost four million dollars, would cost the Colony ten million.

The first part of the speech contained reference to the war, the great war now raging, and in speaking on this question, Mr. Abbott grew eloquently patriotic referring to the justice of Britain's cause in the fight our Empire is now engaged in. He paid a glowing tribute to the British Navy which controlled the waves and thus secured for us good prices for our products that would not be feasible if the enemy had control. He mentioned England had been fighting our battles and we had been doing nothing. Now, the scene is changed, a message comes across the waves and

a noble response had been made by all the overseas dominions. We in Newfoundland, had done our part and he cited particularly the noble response of Bonavista, that had contributed its full share of men for the Army and Navy, a fact of which he was justly proud.

Mr. Abbott's speech was eminently patriotic as well as practical. Mr. Winsor succeeded his colleague and made a capital speech. Referring to the great war now on, he was as one with the Government in any measures they might adopt for the assistance of our Great Empire. He severely stated the curious remarks that had been made about the young men of the outports with regard to their not coming forward in response to the call, and as an outport man himself, he wished to assure the House that they were all as brave and loyal as any in the city, and only wanted to have matters properly placed before them. Turning from the war he censured the Government for their laxity in doing nothing for the fisheries of the Colony.

There was a paucity of reference to the fisheries in the Speech from the Throne and he, Mr. W., referring to the stereotyped nature of these speeches likened the Government to a gramophone with only one record. Before the war the position of the Colony was not at all reassuring and yet the Government told in the Speech from the Throne that the Colony was in a most flourishing condition.

The Hon. Member, Mr. Downey, had painted a very glowing picture of the Eldorado that Newfoundland was to be in the near future, yet here we are face to face with a large deficit and bankruptcy staring us in the face. Mr. Winsor concluded a forcible and practical address by assuring those on the other side of the House of their united support in all measures for the welfare of the Colony, and he also emphasized the fact that the Union Party possessed a gramophone with quite a lot of records.

Mr. Kent, leader of the Opposition, was the next speaker and in his opening remarks referred to the Premier's action of a few days ago in treating Dr. Lloyd's criticism of the Government's policy. If we consider the actions of the present Government, said Mr. Kent, ever since it assumed power, we must conclude that it had been one of the most wasteful and extravagant governments that ever existed in any country. Newfoundland was in itself a sound country with vast resources, but had governments had brought us to our present position.

The present administration had not pursued an industrial policy, but instead had by wilful extravagance, increased taxation and the absorbing of the Reserve Fund—a relic of the Bond Administration—brought us to the verge of bankruptcy.

In the early stage of the present government's career they had the advantage of the unfinished policy of their predecessors, but to-day there is a marked change in the aspect of the Colony's affairs.

Mr. Kent then made allusion to the ruinous policy of building branch railroads, briefly referring to the paying of the contractors in gold, also the Loan Bills that had been floated in spite of the protests of the Opposition. He also alluded to the famous reduction of duties previous to the general election that had to be again raised last year, including the infamous surtax.

As regards the general development of our resources, Mr. Kent criticized the actions of the government

The Retort
Corteous

Mr. Morine Rings it in on Sir Edward Morris in Language Cutting as Polite

MR. MORINE.—Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be ungracious of me to allow pass without any comment on my part, the very courteous personal remarks that have been uttered by the Prime Minister. I am sure that the House will understand that it is a very great pleasure for me to find myself sitting here again for Bonavista, an honour due in the first place to the kindness of the hon. member who sits on my right, Mr. Coaker, in making room for me, and secondly to the support of my old constituents in the district. It is quite true, as the Premier has said, that he and I are in one sense the two oldest members of the House, that is in the sense that we have been here for a longer period than any other member. He is now the father of the House, and I must say that he has behind him a very large and promising family. As I sat here this afternoon listening to him speaking, I could close my eyes and almost imagine that twenty years had not passed away. He was singing the same old song that he sang then, almost in the same old words, and

possibly with the same old effect. He called to mind the fact that there were certain dissimilarities in our careers. One of those is that he has always stuck to the Government, whereas I have always stuck to the Opposition. There is, however, this difference also. It is evident that I have become broader in my views, because I find myself to-day, if not a Liberal, at least sitting behind the leader of the Liberals. And I find my learned friend is the leader of the Tories, and as I look back into the past, I cannot help congratulating him for leading the most Conservative party of Tories that I have ever seen, certainly to his own profit if not to the profit of the country. One thing we will at least admit and that is that in the past, 20 I hope in the future, my criticism of any measure in this House was never criticised except in a constructive way, to build up for the good of Newfoundland, a country which I love no less than those who have been born in it.

as null and void, for they had done nothing but produced wild cat schemes, that nobody could understand. In this connection, Mr. Kent read a wonderful prospective document which dealt with the utilization of our great water forces for scientific purposes, and also quoted from an extract in a Canadian newspaper, a statement that was supposed to emanate from this city to the effect that arrangements had been made with a company for utilizing the waters of Grand Falls and Labrador to manufacture nitrogen from the air. This latter statement drew from the Premier the reply that they knew nothing about it, a fact which Mr. Kent was glad to learn.

The Leader of the Opposition then referred to the pit prop question, and he trusted that the government would not be carried away by overtures from any concern or concerns but would on the contrary conserve our forest wealth.

In closing an eloquent speech, Mr. Kent severely slated the Government in not having two Ministers of the Crown, viz.:—The Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Justice, occupying seats in this House. Had they not members just as competent as the Hons. R. A. Squires and S. D. Blandford in the ranks of the government. It seemed to Mr. Kent that it was an insult to the other members of the party, and he lacerated the Govt for placing 2 former members of the party who had been so ignominiously defeated in Trinity and Bonavista Bays in the Legislative Council, and for giving them the portfolios of justice and agriculture, thus making the Legislative Council a Partizan Chamber.

The needs of our present position call for prompt retrenchment and reform, and the Leader of the Opposition promised the government severe clusive in the near future.

Mr. Devereaux was the closing speaker, and the only one on the Government side for the afternoon.

The Hon Member for Placentia and St. Mary's was intensely patriotic in his remarks and waxed eloquent on the war question, which he said was the real cause of our present depressed circumstances. At the present time, said Mr. Devereaux, when the whole Empire is overshadowed and

brought face to face with the most momentous crisis in its history, there was no room for flippancy.

In alluding to the big deficit in our revenue, Mr. Devereaux said, it was the same in all other countries, the real cause of it all being the real war. The Hon. Member was very optimistic in his allusion to our present financial position and spoke in glowing language of the great fish news from the Bankers and South West Coast fishery generally. He wound up his speech, which was mainly patriotic by referring to our taxation as a something to be proud of, and one could almost imagine the people all over the Colony, as being anxiously waiting for fresh impositions in order to show their true patriotism, according to Mr. Devereaux's ideas.

Various notices of questions were tabled and an adjournment was made at 6.45 p.m. till the morning at 3 p.m.

Petitions
Previous to the "order of the day" being called yesterday in the Assembly the following petitions were presented, viz.:—

By Mr. Downey from Codroy, for Beacon Light; from Flat Bay, for Waiting and Freight Sheds. By Mr. Clift, from Lush's Blight, for Telephone; from Friday's Bay, for roads; from Port Winsor, to be made a port of call, and from Twillingate, South, for a road. By Mr. Jennings, from Herring Neck and Boat Harbor, for wharves, and by Mr. Targett, from New Melbourne, for a road.

QUESTIONS.
MR. COAKER—I beg leave to give notice that on to-morrow I shall ask the Rt. Hon. Premier, when the Heart's Content and Grate's Cove Branch Railways will be completely operated.

MR. COAKER—I beg leave to give notice that on to-morrow I will ask the Rt. Hon. Premier whether the Government intends to place a coastal steamer on the route between St. John and Cook's Harbour in the District of St. Barbe, during the coming season.