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About Men and Things

And Public Men in Particular.

(By SCRUTATOR).

"Come, I'll tell you what I'm thinking is our duty in this line: They'd have done it quick as winking in the days of eighty-nine."

THE FIRST POLITICIAN ON RECORD.

Somebody has said that "modern politicians, on the whole, are a 'bad lot'." Perhaps they are, but it is questionable whether they are any worse than were those of the patriarchal days. The first professional politician on record I conceive to have been that individual who is mentioned in the Book of Job as "going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it." Although "the father of lies," perhaps he was not much worse than are some of those who recently gave evidence before the Commission of Enquiry here. I say, "perhaps." We'll give them the benefit of the doubt, any way! It has always been, and will continue to be, the case that when an unprincipled political leader gets high up in office, obtains free and easy access to the public treasury, and becomes to run about the country and elsewhere at the expense of his fellow-citizens, he will find not only Apostles, but Chief Priests and Scribes and Pharisees to ride with him.

"In short, he will wholly upset with his ravages. All that keeps us above the brute creatures and savages, and pitch into all kinds of broils and confusions. The whole of our civilized, free institutions."

HARD TO UNDERSTAND THEIR MENTALITY.

However, after a careful review of the political situation, I have come to the conclusion that it is not a constitutional form of government some of those in control of public affairs here want to see in operation. It is hard to understand their mentality at all! Right-minded people are almost driven to despair by it. The prospect of getting rid of the present state of shame and disgrace by ordinary means is so slight that a Messianic Spirit has seized a certain section of the community, including, of course, the optimists and dreamers. By the way, the Jewish nation, in its time of distress, waited for the Savior, who would come again on the clouds of heaven. Thus certain scientific poets now tell us tales of "the great technical wizard" who, by means of inventions and by unknown electrical waves, will deliver his people. Needless to say, when he appears he will demand and find blind obedience. But he has not yet revealed himself. Good men and women seek with religious fervor this new dictator; but they are simply exploited by wily politicians and adventur-

very different one to install them in the positions of leaders, or allow them to dictate policy. But it is to this danger that Liberals have been exposed during the last four or five years, and, in my judgment, it has been the chief cause of the calamity by which we have now been overtaken.

NEED OF A NEW LIBERAL PARTY ALTOGETHER.

We must form up a new Liberal Party altogether, and take care that it embraces a majority of men like those of 1889 and 1893. In brief, we must develop a scientific party, with a reasonable body of principles and proposals. It must win the workers, who appreciate sincerity, by a sincere attitude towards all the anomalies of our constitution, as well as by an intelligent attitude towards the vast and vital problem of industrial disease. It must be visibly democratic and intelligently informed with respect to the great staple industry of the country—the fishery. It must leave the management of our harvest of the sea to those who know all about it and who will be influenced by the fundamental principles of supply and demand. It need not attack all the anomalies at once; but it must evoke and develop the Colonial temper which deals with anomalies as such. On the other hand, its social policy must be economic, constructive, sociological, not merely sentimental, morally repressive and Sabatarian; and its leaders must all round be decently consistent in their theory and practice. Finally, they must have the courage to count on the common sense of the mass of the workers, and refuse to have their course marked out for them by the presumptuous and unenlightened political demagogue.

A LESSON TO FANATICS AND FADDISTS.

For the moment the masses have lost their faith in Liberalism. Fanatics and faddists of all sorts and descriptions have received a lesson by which they themselves are not able to profit, but which will not be lost upon the politicians of the future. The broad, plain common-sense of Newfoundlanders has, not for the first time in our island history, vindicated its supremacy. If any special proof were needed of the truth of this assertion, it would be found in the electoral condition of the metropolis. The gang of noisy socialists who considered themselves entrusted with a mission to St. John's in accordance with progressive principles, have received their quietus, and St. John's—the heart and brain of the island—has shown that its ideas, aims, and aspirations are not those of the clique of pestilent busybodies and boodlers who have made away with the revenues of the colony and rendered the administration of affairs here a mere travesty on Responsible Government. Obviously, then, if there is to be a renaissance of Liberalism, it must be in the form of a party with an economic science and an industrial policy. It is utterly idle to suppose that an industrial civilization can be governed in the name of democracy by a party with neither a social ideal nor a social scheme.

ONE STATESMAN OF UNSULLIED REPUTATION LEFT.

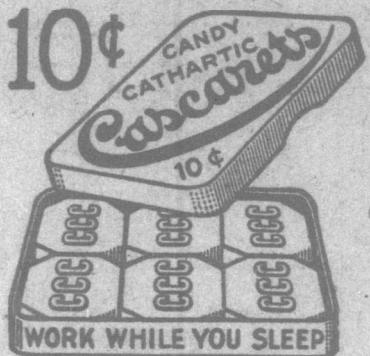
There is still at least one statesman of unsullied reputation in the colony—although not now in active public life—who to whom every Newfoundlanders can point with pride. Needless to say, I refer to Sir Robert Bond. What a relief and satisfaction it would be to his fellow-countrymen, at this extremely critical juncture in our affairs, if he could be induced to return to the political arena, and, like Cincinnatus of old, become "a second time the saviour of his country!" Throughout his life Sir Robert Bond has been entirely clean-handed. Not only has he never taken anything for himself from the public purse, but he has never, when not in office, eked out his income by means unworthy of a gentleman and a man of true honesty. Consequently his name is never found among those who "put" on the Stock Exchange; no limited liability company ever got him to be a director, nor could a single financier ever confound him with his prestige because of any selfish interest he might have in view. Sir Robert's very purity of mind and conduct in this and other respects was doubtless a source of weakness to him in practical affairs, and for one thing marks him throughout his career a bad judge of men. It is visible not only in his own life, but in the way he has abstained from quarrelling his family and friends upon the country. Newfoundland has never seen his like before; will it ever see his like as Prime Minister again?

"THE HANDSOMEST PRIME MINISTER."

It has recently been stated by one of the London newspapers that "Mr. Ramsey MacDonald is the handsomest Prime Minister since Lord Beaconsfield's time." This is a large assertion, demanding to be backed by more experience than most people will acknowledge. Nor is it one that will pass without challenge. Gladstone, especially in his later years, was a magnificent figure of power and dignity; and Rosebury might well have posed for an ideal picture of the British statesman. That was, of course, in Queen Victoria's day, and fashions change in political physiognomy as

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well as in political creeds. The present British Premier varies the tradition with a suggestion of the romance—and if one may use the term without offence—more nearly approaches the type of the film hero. Perhaps that is what the newspaper referred to meant. Mr. MacDonald says "they"—meaning his predecessors in the Prime Minister's office—"have failed. We are going to succeed."

"WAIT AND SEE"

Mr. Warren, so far as I can learn, has not yet made a pronouncement with respect to his future policy and prospects! Meanwhile the Government must not only be carried on. It must be carried on with credit and efficiency in the public interest and in view of the awkwardness of the situation resulting from the scandalous condition of things revealed before the Commission of Enquiry. When the romance is as abnormal and grave as now, the most considerate facilities for the execution of that task must be given by any wise and patriotic Opposition. In emergency Mr. Warren and his colleagues became the Government of the country. Though embracing too many Radical ministers, this in effect is not in the least a Radical Ministry. It has shown so far considerable moderation and tact, as well as an optimism and satisfaction with itself, which are probably excessive. What will happen when the Legislature meets next month? "Wait and see!"

Topics in Brief

It does sound a bit odd, though, to accuse of Uncle Andrew of wanting to let the rich ones off from a tax they haven't been paying.—Dallas News.

In Budapest a dance was stopped by a bomb. Over here, everybody would have thought that a part of the jazz orchestra.—Detroit News.

If we annex the North Pole, will that make Santa 100 per cent. American?—Dallas News.

You cannot expect a living wage if you are a dead one.—Dayton News.



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Gerald S. Doyle
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MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR RHEUMATISM.

Road Board Elections

AT HOLYROOD AND NORTH ARM.

A public meeting was held in the Star Hall Holyrood on February 25th for the purpose of electing a new Road Board. There was a large assembly of voters present to hear the doings of the expiring board debated, and to exercise the franchise. The meeting was orderly and well conducted. Mr. R. Dwyer, J.P., was Chairman and Mr. J. A. Hannon, Secretary. It was agreed that five members constitute the new Board. Twelve candidates were nominated, namely, Messrs. L. Barron, J. J. Carroll, M. C. Dunphy, John Harding, Daniel Hennessy, Edward Kirby, Aaron Lewis, Daniel Lewis, J. J. Maloney, Andrew Nash, W. P. Walsh, John Walsh. When the poll was taken and the 112 votes counted, it was found that Edward Kirby, J. J. Carroll, John Walsh, M. C. Dunphy and Laurence Barron were duly elected and declared to be the new Board for Holyrood. The new members adjourned to the Reading Room, held a meeting, and elected Mr. M. C. Dunphy, Chairman; and Mr. J. J. Carroll, Deputy Chairman of the Board; and these are the chosen trustees to manage the public affairs for the new term. The election was well balanced and well contested and a change of two votes only would have elected the defeated Chairman and his Board again.

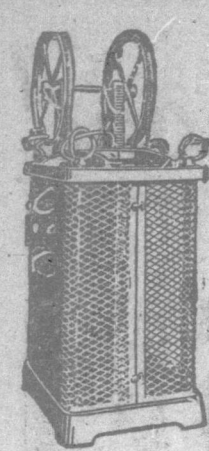
Meeting at North Arm.

A public meeting was held in the North Arm school room on March 1st for the purpose of electing a Road Board for North Arm, Holyrood. This is a new era having only recently come under the provisions of the Local Affairs Act, Rev. Fr. Finn, P.P., to whose activities in a great measure is due the granting of this privilege to North Arm, was present and opened the meeting with a short and instructive address on the duties of members of the Board and the workmen employed by them. He gave sound, practical advice to both and aimed to produce better results all around. His attitude then was to help them out to the best of his ability, and he trusted North Arm Board would be an object lesson for other places. This, he concluded, was a matter in which he was much interested as he journeyed much on foot on his mission work, over those roads of the North Arm area. He would like to stay to vote, but the N. A. River forbade him. He wished the Board which they were to elect a full measure of success, and that it would justify its institution in the prosperous settlement, and then left the meeting on a business call. Considerable interest in this new institution was evident and every voter home but three voted. It was agreed that the Board was to consist of five members. Seven were nominated, namely: Messrs. William Corbett, John Dwyer, Edward Joy, Patrick M. Healey, Joseph Penney, Mark Penney, James Quinlan. The result of the poll was that Patrick Healey, James Quinlan, John Dwyer, Mark Penney and William Corbett were duly elected and declared the first Board for the North Arm of Holyrood. The members elected retired to the ante-room, held a meeting and elected Mr. James Quinlan, Chairman; and Mr. John Dwyer, Deputy Chairman of the new Board. The Board Chairman and Deputy were repeatedly cheered and made promising and thankful speeches to the meeting. There were some speeches from the meeting, too, and in particular a very sound and forcible one from Mr. Jeremiah Penney. Considerable stress was given to the point that as the "Country Path" Road and "Station" Road were used to a great extent as main roads by people outside the area, a special grant should be allocated for the upkeep of these roads. The Chairman thanked the meeting for their attendance and good order and wished the new Board a prosperous term. The meeting then closed.

R. DWYER, J.P., Chairman.
HUBERT PENNEY, Secretary.

Jewels Necessary Articles for Dress

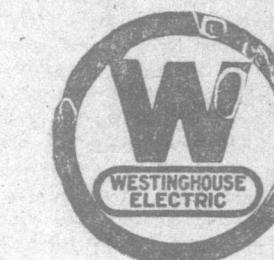
Jewellery and precious stones are recognized as part of the articles of personal use necessary for the society woman in Germany by a decision of the Criminal Court in Osnabrück, in a recent trial for alleged smuggling. In 1920 a rich land owner named Zakrevski, and his family left home for a long visit in Uruguay, taking with them all their jewels. But on the Dutch border they were searched by Customs Officers, the jewels found, and the couple accused of attempting to export valuables in violation of German law. The seized articles were held, and upon Zakrevski's return from South America, he and his wife were brought to trial. When their attorney drew attention to a paragraph in the law of April, 1921, providing that a traveller may take everything necessary for personal use upon a journey abroad and insisted that Frau Zakrevski's jewels certainly came under that classification, he won his case. His clients were acquitted and the jewellery was restored to them.



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