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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JAN. 22, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

BAD GUESSEES.

The Morris party never did more than guess at administration affairs—and they made very bad guesses at that. The Premier "guessed" that the railroads would be built for \$4,000,000 and it turns out that \$6,000,000 have been spent with only "preliminary" work done on the Bonne Bay and Fortune Bay Branches. He now "guesses" that another \$2,000,000 will have to be raised on loan to complete the work. Possibly when he "guesses" an additional \$2,000,000 next year, and makes the total cost \$10,000,000, instead of \$4,000,000, as originally estimated his numerous "guesses" will approximate to the facts of the case.

And now it seems that the "guess" of the Minister of Finance regarding the Revenue was entirely wrong. Instead of the surplus he "guessed" at, we have to face a deficit that in all probability will mount up to \$400,000.

THE DIFFERENCE.

"Messrs. Coaker, et al." says an evening contemporary, sometimes suspected of harboring sympathy with the Morris Party, "are finding the atmosphere of the Assembly rather frosty and not adapted to the sort of talk that apparently passes current in their outport meetings." Oh, ask us to explain something easier. The outport meetings addressed by the Leader of the Opposition are usually composed of "men"—men of intelligence, of independence, of public spirit; men anxious for the reform of our administration and the progress of our country. On the other hand, in the House of Assembly he addresses a score of government "creatures"; prophets of a party leader; lacking in that discernment and far-sightedness that is essential to successful statecraft and including in the motley band "the buck that sold the spars" and the man that "smelt a rat."

So there is a "frost" in the Government seats when the Leader of the Union Party addresses the House; the

occupants don't appreciate his enthusiastic, practical efforts on behalf of the people in general. They lack that desirable capacity entirely.

OBSERVATIONS.

Favorite slang expression of a defeated departmental minister under the Morris regime—"Forget it!"

A saying much affected by his colleague who is also on the outside—"Oh, beat it!"

We understand, on excellent authority, that the favorite tune of the Executive is "The Vacant Chairs."

"My Capture of the Speakership from a Legion of Aspirants,"—title of a thrilling tale by a Conception Bay member of the Morris party.

"Oh, no, thank you: I wouldn't care to accept the position"—the usual chorus at Morris party meetings, whenever the appointments to the two vacant departments are discussed.

After deploping what he apparently regards as the low ideals of statesmanship set up by the Opposition, the Premier hastens to set up "the buck that sold the spars" as his idea and ideal of a desirable public character.

Judging from the fact that the shoes of the two defeated Ministers have not yet been filled, the eligible members of the Government are suffering from big feet, as well as from swelled heads.

After all, there seems to be something in the contention of an opposition member at Tuesday's session of the House that with the Agricultural Commissioners it is a case of "Love me—Love my job."

"How I Won the Bayley's Cove Dash"—is the suggested title of a work on political athletics on which a Minister defeated in a Northern district might occupy his abundant spare time now that he without portfolio.

It is reported that a substantial reward will be given any person or persons reporting to the Government the discovery of any streams having two inches of water over the bottom gravel at flood time. There is a big batch of aspirants to river wardenships to be placed next summer.

"Will Ye No Come Back Again,"—pathetic selection by the Premier at the first Executive concert held after the late general elections.

An unofficial report says that it was rendered with such feeling that the "Forgetful-one" was moved to tears.

Rumor has it that the serious-minded editor of our morning contemporary has been much shocked by the "language" used by some of his shipmates in the Morris party boat. No wonder, when it is understood that the favorite cuss-word used by one of them is "Oh, rats!"

The day of miracles is not yet by any means past. If we are to credit the rumor that one of the agricultural commissioners hailing from the far west, is now so well posted on his business that at the third attempt he can tell a "var" bough from a cabbage leaf.

No, we don't expect the Speaker to suppress gallery applause when it is given the Premier and his colleagues. We would not for one moment saddle Mr. Speaker with such active ingratitude towards the man who submitted to his own elevation to a place of dignity in the House.

Scene, the court of Broken Promises: case the Country vs. the Government. Exhibit A, Premier who understood to give the country his services and take no salary in payment thereof. Exhibit B, cheque for \$7,000 to the Premier, on account of services rendered Newfoundland.

So the two defeated Ministers held on to their departments until Jan. 2nd, and then, perforce, resigned. Takes some people a long time to acknowledge a beating and—oh, no, Horatio, there was nothing like a close vote in Bonavista between the Government candidates and the representatives of the Union.

Question for the times,—also for the taxpayers of this Colony: If the Morris financiers when they could claim to show a surplus of \$400,000 per cent. lost \$10,000 on every \$100,000 they raised on loan, how much will they lose for us now that the revenue bids fair to show a deficit of \$400,000.

Having determined to put extra taxation on luxuries, it is said that the Government were about to pay some attention in this way to baled hay, when they were called off by an

indignant deputation of an allied family of the "hee-haw," long-haired species. So hard is it to do right without touching the interest of some relative or other.

A Government paper complains that the Unionists have not "torn things up" at the House of Assembly to any noticeable extent. And yet on the same page of the same issue of the very same paper appears an article occupying a column and a half of space and devoted almost entirely to the sayings and doings of the Union Party in our Legislative Halls.

Is there any truth in the rumor that the Minister of Fisheries is bringing one of his enthusiastic campaigners into the city to act as Inspector of Sewer Outlets. If we are to judge from word and act, the "Independent" elector in question is eminently qualified for the job, but what about our most prominent journalist? Doubtless he'll expect and demand this addition to his other "high" appointments.

Judging by an article published by a Government organ the members of the present administration are congratulating themselves on having answered so many of the question submitted by the Opposition. But they haven't yet had more than a taste of the insatiable curiosity of His Majesty's Opposition regarding the administration of public affairs and the expenditure of public moneys.

Of the Leader of the Union Party it can truly be said "The common people heard him gladly" and appreciated him the more that he practiced his preachings. But the hangings-on of a spendthrift administration frown on his actions and utterances as "not adapted" to the House of Assembly whence, theoretically, emanates legislation conducive to our general well-being.

'Tis said that the Agricultural Commissioners intend taking a special trip, as soon as the House votes their salaries for the current year, with intent to taking up the challenge of the member for Fogo that they were unable to point to one acre of land cleared through encouragement given by the agricultural policy. They'll probably not have finished their quest in time to be present at the opening of next year's session of the Assembly.

It may be true that, according to the generally accepted dictum "clothes make the man." Still an ass in a lion's skin is nothing but an ass, for all his poor disguise. Evidence enough of this truism is to be obtained by a visit to the House during any of the sessions. Contemplate the Premier and his roarings and—but we won't carry the parallel further, even though we may by this present charity wink at some very obvious shortcomings of the Leader of the Government.

Referring to the proceedings at Tuesday's session of the House of Assembly, an evening contemporary and beneficiary of the Morris Government says: "The Coakerite members read off notices of question, the answering of which would occupy all the departments of the Government for months, if not for years." At any rate the preparation of the replies will supply some of the superfluous departmental officials with a little work—something which they are usually entirely unfamiliar.

"You know nothing about it!" was the retort of the Minister of Finance to some criticisms of the Leader of the Union Party on the bungling of the Branch Railway Policy.

"I am going to know, and this I purpose to do before the Legislature closes," came the reply of the Opposition member.

And now the Government press are complaining because "this resolution to post himself on public affairs has led the Leader of the Union Party and his following to lay a sheet of notices of questions on the table of the House."

Ah, well, the gentlemen on the Government side of the House never deal much in conscience or consistency.

AS OTHERS SEE IT.

A HABIT

Montreal Herald—New Hampshire courts were asked to decide whether or not Thaw was a menace. Seems to us he is now more of a habit than anything else.

THE UNEMPLOYED

Montreal Mail—Toronto has voted \$25,000 to begin works so as to help the unemployed of the city. Reports say Montreal has a great many out of work also, and some action might well be taken. Better that a city should get a little of the less desirable

advertising than that many men and their families should suffer, especially in the severe weather.

INEVITABLE

Sydney Record—Bonar Law and the other opponents of Home Rule know that the measure as part of the Asquith policy has already been submitted to and passed upon by the people. Of course, the Unionist leaders want to keep submitting it to the people while there is any chance of defeating the Government.

LOWERING THE COST

Chicago Journal—The town of Independence, Mo., has twenty grocery stores which formerly maintained thirty-seven wagons for delivering goods to customers. A co-operative plan was adopted, and now nine wagons do the work that formerly required nearly forty. A number of other Western towns have adopted a similar plan of co-operative delivery.

OVEREATING

Pittsburg Despatch—Undoubtedly many eat too much and would be better with two meals than three. But it is a question of individual adjustment, not by appetite but by need. The muscle worker needs more than the brain worker, man than woman. Different constitution requires different food. Two meals a day may be enough for any man, depending upon the meal, but the attempt to change abruptly the habits of a lifetime may be disastrous. The wiser course would be to reduce the quantity now consumed at each meal and see how it affects you.

A MODERN FABLE

New York Herald—There was once a railroad official who averted from a ten thousand dollar salary the sum of \$5,000,000, at a cost to nobody but the shareholders. Then the road ceased to pay dividends, and the chief thinkers of the nation began to brood over the strange problem.

Now, this official was a man of many activities and interests. He held shares in a car wheel company, a bridge-building concern and a seat-cushion factory, and was a silent partner in a firm of contractors. Every one of these industries ran over time filling the orders of the railway company. The philosophers who had the matter in hand accounted in various ways for the wealth of the official and the bankruptcy of the company that employed him. But it was not until a checker player in a lodging house declared that the Interlocking Directorate was the cause of the evil that any real illumination was gained. The phrase sounded well and inspired general confidence.

Then a wise legislator introduced a bill making it a penal offence for a director in a corporation to contract with himself, and Interlocking Graft straightway lost its vogue.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

The Legislative of the State of New York has passed a Workmen's Compensation Bill which has been approved by the governor. It provides for the establishment of a commission composed of five members appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the state senate, for the term of five years—the chairman to receive an annual salary of \$10,000, and the other members salaries of \$7,010 each. The commission has been given very considerable power. It can order investigations, conduct hearings, compel the attendance of witnesses and appoint committees to pass on disputed questions. It may also modify its own awards, which, as finally issued, are made subject to review by the appellate division of the supreme court of the State of New York.

Various Occupations.

Forty-two groups of industrial occupations are classed as hazardous and are subject to the act. They practically comprise about nine-tenths of all the industrial employees in the state, but, differing from the British system, farm laborers and domestic servants are not included. Employers affected by the law are required to pay or provide compensation for the death and disablement of their employees, resulting from personal injuries sustained in the course of employment and irrespective of fault, except where the injuries are inflicted through the wilful intention of the employee to occasion injury to himself or others, or result wholly from the intoxication of the injured employee while on duty. All the old common law defences, based on the doctrines of assumption of risk, contributory negligence, and the negligence of fellow-servants, are abro-

gated in cases where actions are brought by employees through the failure of employers to comply with the provisions of the new law.

Compensation.

Compensation is not given for the first fourteen days of disability, but employers are obliged to provide promptly for injured employees, "such medical, surgical or other attendance or treatment, nurse and hospital service, medicines, crutches and apparatus as may be required or be requested by" the employees during the sixty days after sustenance of the injuries. In computing the amount of compensation or death benefits, the average weekly wage of an injured employee at the time of the accident is taken as the basis. If there is permanent total disability, two-thirds of the average weekly wages are to be paid the employee during the continuance of such disability. Provision at varying rates is also made for cases of temporary total disability and for permanent and temporary partial disability. Previous injury and the receipt of compensation therefore will not preclude an employee from compensation for later disability or death resulting therefrom.

Mortality Benefits.

Where death ensues, the compensation includes, besides funeral expenses, not to exceed \$100, payment of 30 per cent. of the average wages of the deceased to the widow during widowhood, with two years' allowance in one sum upon re-marriage and 10 per cent. in addition for each surviving child under the age of eighteen, but the total amount payable must not exceed two-thirds of the average wages. Where no widow survives each child will receive 15 per cent. subject to similar limitation. Should the amount payable be less than two-thirds of the average wages, the difference is to be paid for the support of other dependent relatives. A dependent widower is under the law entitled to compensation to the same extent as a widow.

Employers Liable

Employers must secure compensation to their employees either by insuring and keeping insured with an authorized stock corporation or mutual association transacting that class of insurance; by contribution to the state fund created by the act or by proving to the commission that he is financially able to pay the compensation himself. In the last case the commission, at its discretion, may require the deposit of securities, of the kind specified in the act, to any determined amounts. Failure to comply with these provisions entails a penalty of \$1 a day for each employee during its continuance and insurance policies must contain a provision that notice to the employer of any injury sustained by an employee will be notice to the insurer. The commission will determine the hazards of the various groups of employments and will fix the rates of premiums. Affreements waiving right to compensation are made invalid and attempts to evade the law are made misdemeanors.

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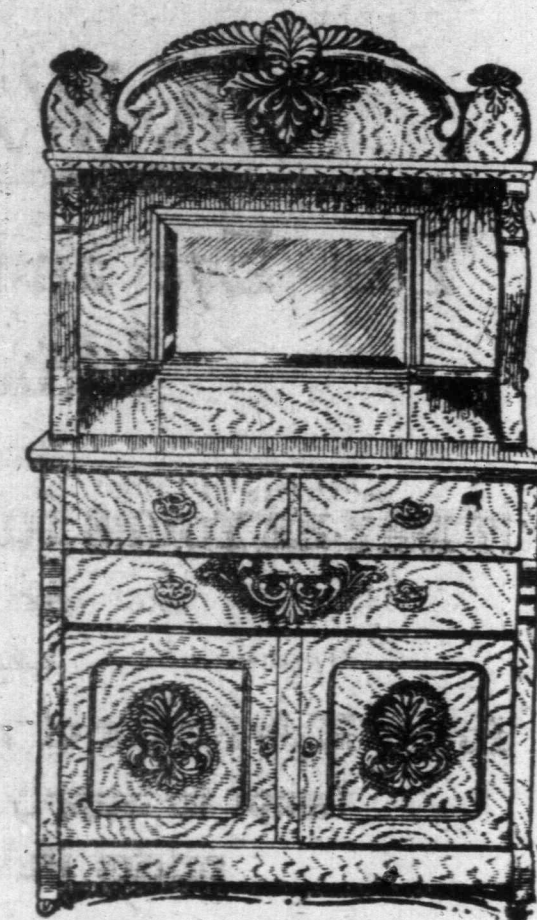
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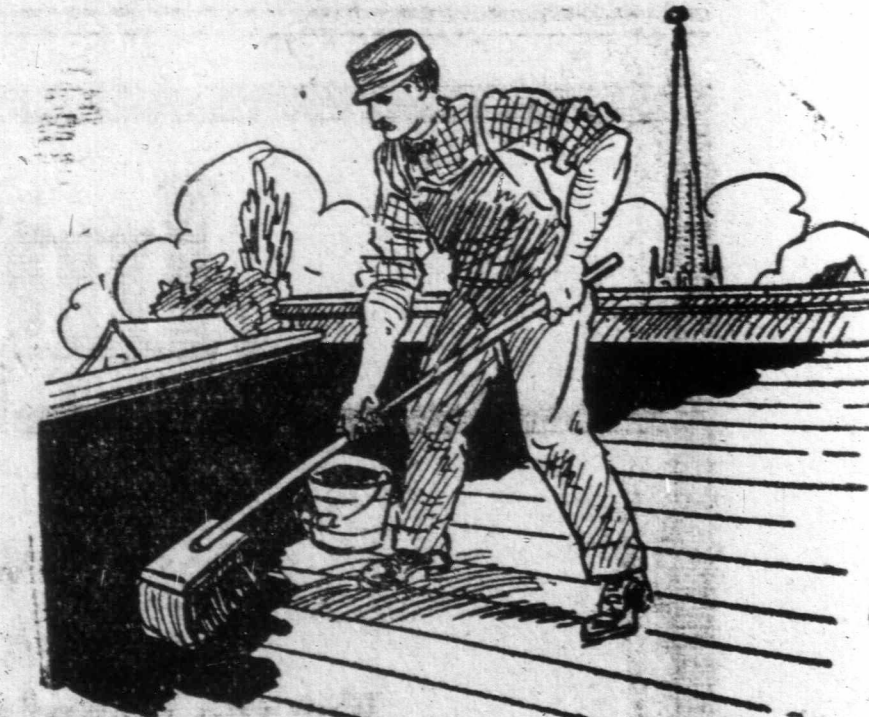
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