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**J. J. ROSSITER,**

WALDEGRAVE STREET  
may 7, 3m

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



(To Every Man His Own.)

**The Mail and Advocate**

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MAY 18, 1914.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW.**

**THAT PORTIA BUNGLE.**

What action do the Government intend to take respecting the cutting down of a motor boat in Burn Bay a few days ago by the S.S. Portia? The public demand an investigation and want severe punishment administered if negligence on the part of the ship's officers is proven. There seems to be no excuse for the accident and but for the presence of mind shown by Mr. Sainthill who was the only occupant of the boat, there would have been another fatality to add to the already amazing list of 1914.

No time should be lost in having this matter investigated. There has been too many such accidents by bowing's coastal boats. The narrow escape of two men at the hands of Ab. Kean at Fleur de Lys is fresh in the minds of the public. Abram on that occasion had a certificate of character and bravery presented him by a few American tourists and a purse of gold accompanied the certificate, that was the investigation held in reference to that accident.

We will see that this present narrow escape of Mr. Sainthill is not so easily turned down.

A row between two or three nurses at the Hospital resulted in the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the same at a cost of probably \$2500.

The public will now see whether the Crown will permit what looks like a serious act of negligence on the part of the officers of the Portia when steaming in Burn Bay, which resulted in the cutting down and sinking of a disabled motor boat, to pass with impunity.

**ANXIOUSLY AWAITED REPORT**

When will Judge Knight's report on the Newfoundland Disaster Enquiry be ready? The whole Country awaits that report with intense interest. The Judge is a very busy man but we trust he will be able to let the Crown have his report without further delay. It is of so much importance to the people that any further delay will cause considerable unrest and agitation.

**WHERE IS SQUIRES?**

Where is the so-called Minister of Justice? Only two months at work, when he must take a picnic for six weeks—but he won't forget to draw his salary.

The Premier, the so-called Minister of Justice and the Minister of Fisheries are at present out of the Country and will be for another month. All enjoying picnics.

If there is any season of the year when every public man should be at his post it is the spring season, but the outport men who want to transact public business during their annual spring visit to the capital will find empty Departments, and will have to go further like fools or give up transacting their business.

Probably no Head of a Department ever acted so mean and contemptible as Squires, the robber of the Department of Justice, for he had no right whatever to the position he occupies, and if he was allowed to rob the vacant position of Justice by the so-called Governor, he ought to be ashamed of himself to force an appointment to the Executive Council, for he is despised by the working people of the Colony.

He is without any experience. He is an absolute ignoramus as regards the requirements of the Toilers of the Country. He was turned down like a black by the people he represented four years in the Legislature and now after having robbed the position that the people declared he was unworthy to fill, he works two months and then takes a picnic touring America which will occupy six weeks.

When he left the Colony a criminal trial was about to open in the Supreme Court and instead of taking his place and looking after the case which the public paid him to do, he runs away and hands the case over to Mr. Higgins.

Squires should have prosecuted on behalf of the Crown in the Tait case, but he wanted a picnic and his proper duties could go to Hong Kong and the public be compelled to find \$500 to pay Mr. Higgins for what Squires was already paid to do.

Squires and Blandford are both names that will forever be associated with all that is mean and contemptible in public life for their despicable action in robbing from the Country two positions that the people had resolved they should not have.

Squires and Blandford had been turned down ignominiously, while Gibbs could not find a district that would return him and had been beaten at the polls no less than five times, and Bishop had never had the courage to stand for a district and could not be returned for any district; while another—Crosbie—has secured a seat by 10 votes and was faced with a petition to unseat him; while Emerson, another member of the Executive, was a lawyer and could have taken the position robbed by Squires but refused as he knew he could not retain the confidence of his constituents.

Therefore, only three out of the nine were really entitled to positions as members of the Crown or seats in the Executive Council.

Governor Davidson should not have consented to being a party to insulting and outraging the people of the North who had squarely and in no uncertain voice proclaimed that they did not want Squires or Blandford.

If Governor Davidson had power to place Squires and Blandford where they are, he has power to run the Country without a Constitutional Government, and if he can place two defeated candidates into positions of place and pay as Ministers of the Crown and members of the Executive Council, he can place nine there and run a government indefinitely by appointing the nominees of a supposed leader to seats in the Legislative Council, or Dumping Chamber, and defying the electorate.

Morris is not to blame,—for he is well known and the public believe things to hold on to power and place,—but Governor Davidson represents the Throne and all look to him to uphold the expressed will of the electorate and to prevent any political undesirables and office grabbers from robbing from the Country positions and power the electorate had resolved should not be theirs.

Governor Davidson has failed to perform his duties satisfactorily to the wishes of the people and according to the meaning of the Constitution of the Country and if he does not retire from the Government of the Colony before the end of the year, hundreds of petitions signed by thousands of the electorate will be forwarded to the Home Government demanding his recall and mass meetings will be held wherever the F.P.U. is organized backing up those demands.

Nine members of the House of Assembly will refuse to show him any further respect. He has forfeited the confidence of the people and undermined the trust reposed in him by consenting to the request of Sir E. P. Morris of robbing from the Country

two positions as Ministers of the Crown and members of the Executive Government and giving them to two men that had been defeated four and a half months previously at the polls, one by 1000 majority and another by an 1800 majority.

No men who were not grabbers for place and pay would have so defied the public will and insulted such a body of electors, as Squires and Blandford have done. Every Union man in the Country has been insulted by the action of Governor Davidson, Premier Morris, Squires and Blandford. The 220 harbors now enrolled in the Union and their 22,000 members must bestir themselves and resent the insulting, barefaced outrage, and if no redress is forthcoming then the North must make up its mind to no longer recognize E. P. Morris as Premier or Governor Davidson as Governor.

The Northern people will not pay taxes to maintain a Government that is so devoid of honor and so regardless of the will of the electors. Never before was a people so deeply insulted and their wishes so outraged, and unless Governor Davidson demands the resignation of the two men guilty of robbing from the Country the position of Justice and Agriculture, and make amends to the people the outcome will be a serious one for the Colony, for the North will not calmly submit to such despicable, mean, dishonorable and barefaced treatment.

Governor Davidson left the Colony immediately after he allowed Morris to outrage the Constitution of the Colony, as Governor Williams did when he whitewashed Morrison, but Governor Williams soon resigned.

Governor Davidson is now returning to Newfoundland and he will have to face the position his conduct has prepared for him. The F.P.U. and this paper will not spare him or retire from the position here set down until amends are made satisfactorily to the people of the North.

That day is passed in Newfoundland when Premiers or Governors can insult and outrage the public will with impunity.

**GOVERNOR WAS ALSO TO BLAME.**

Governor Davidson's name will also go down into history as being a pilable political instrument who allowed the expressed public wish of the highest court in the Colony to be abused and outraged by consenting to the wish of a dead government—which was utterly discredited and despised—whereby two defeated candidates at the polls were appointed to positions as Heads of Departments and Executive Councilors, which action the public will thereby scorn and treat with contempt.

Governor Davidson's usefulness as a Governor is now a thing of the past. He knew the wishes of the people, for an election had taken place. He knew the Government were a minority government, for he could ascertain the number of votes cast for and against them. He knew the people were disgusted with his advisors, for he heard and read of their unpopularity and of their financial muddle—and of \$750,000 increased taxation, and of the wonderful feeling of enthusiasm manifested for the Opposition at the greatest mass meeting ever held in the Colony which took place in the C.L.B. Armoury on March 12th.

He knew that a dead government and a despised leader was using him as a means to defy the expressed wishes of the people. He knew that no free people would tolerate conditions in public matters that permitted a minority government to hold on to power and pay by forming an Executive Council which was composed of nine men, four of whom had not the approval of the people.

**AGAIN WE PROTEST.**

We have from time to time protested against the scandalous manner in which Union members' speeches have been reported and published in the Morris papers. We again ask the public not to place any confidence in the published reports as far as Union members' speeches go, for one half of the remarks are left out and what are published are bungled and in many instances sentences that were never spoken are inserted.

Turn to The News of this morning and read that portion of Mr. Coaker's speech on the Anti-Combine Bill and the following sentence will be seen: "J. & W. Owen's business sprung from this failure, and when Mr. Owen died ten or twelve years ago it was worth a quarter of a million dollars. Earles in Fogó have a large business, which also sprung from Duder's business. Thirty or forty years ago Ryan of Twillingate were doing a small business and today they must be worth a million dollars."

Now any man who knows the North will immediately observe that the statements are untrue and they know fully well that Mr. Coaker knows Twillingate too well to state that the business of J. W. Owen, Twillingate, and J. Earle, Fogó, sprung out of Duder's failure, or that Ryan's operated their business from Twillingate.

Needless to state that no such statements were made. They are false. What Mr. Coaker stated was, that from the failure of Duder in Green Bay three firms had arisen which were worth to-day a half million of dollars. He then proceeded to show that all supplying merchants were not losing money and mentioned that Mr. Owen who did a business side by side with Duder's at Twillingate, died worth \$250,000. That Earle's business a couple of years ago was worth that Ryan's of Bonavista, who only 40 years ago started in a small way, were worth to-day well nigh a million dollars, and all those largely supplied for the fisheries.

Again we state that the speeches of Union members are all reported disgracefully and what is published is not to be depended upon, while all the speeches from Liberal and Morris members are fully and correctly reported.

Union members asked the Supervisor of Debates—Mr. Dunfield, a graball defeated candidate and legal partner of Sir E. P. Morris—to send their speeches to the respective speakers and have them revised, but Mr. Dunfield has forgotten to do so. Mr. Coaker has only revised one speech out of all he delivered, and that was his speech on the Governor's opening speech, which was handed to him in a condition that would not be recognized by any one who heard the speech delivered.

Some of the Assembly paid reporters are absolutely unfit to perform such duties and as reporters they bungled the Union members' speeches, not thinking their bungling would be noted. They thought the Union members were too green to know what they said were too indifferent as to how their remarks appeared.

We warn the public against those tricks and Union members refuse to be responsible for what is appearing in the Morris papers as their speeches delivered in the House of Assembly.

**WHAT SHALL THE END BE!**

"These proposals (Morris programme of 1908) were met by our opponents by the repeated declaration that this programme could result only in bankrupting the Colony and bringing about Confederation."

This statement is taken from the Manifesto issued to the electors last fall by Sir Edward Morris, present Premier of this Country, and recent events constitute a significant commentary thereon.

When his opponents in the campaign contended that the ambitious and ill-balanced Morris proposals were extremely likely to produce such dire results, Sir Edward stigmatised their utterances as mere electioneering talk—an attempt to stampede the electors against our party.

Well, what has happened? Sir Edward Morris has been given a chance to put his theories into practice and every man who has the least claim to be characterised unbiased must at once admit that the present Premier has made a sad muddle of affairs during the last six years.

That branch railroad policy that was to bestow blessings innumerable upon our people has simply hung a monstrous millstone of debt about the neck of the Country. It embarked us on a venture that, Sir Edward solemnly assured us, would entail the expenditure of only four million dollars. It has already swallowed up the sum of six million dollars, raised on loan at a tremendous loss, and the Premier is now in England trying with little success to negotiate another loan of two million dollars.

This Country stands to lose upwards of three quarters of a million dollars in connection with the floating of these loans. And we must go on paying interest on the sum so lost, although we do not handle one cent of it, and when the bonds are redeemable we have to hand over that amount to those who hold these bonds.

And now we are informed that Sir Edward Morris finds it impossible to koat the third loan of two million dollars and that he will shortly return home with a temporary loan of one million dollars, floated at a much higher rate of interest than the Legislature authorized him to offer for the permanent loan.

It is generally understood that the whole of this amount will be needed to pay the contractors for work already performed on branches now under construction. We need therefore, expect no further new undertakings of this kind and the people of Bonne Bay and Fortune Bay will have to possess their souls in patience for an indefinite period of time.

Now the contract expressly stipulates that the contractors shall construct at least fifty miles of railroad during every year of the period during which this contract shall continue.

It undertakes, further, that payments are to be made by the Government to the contractor upon the completion of each continuous and consecutive section of five miles or

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**GEO. KNOWLING.**  
may 18, 51, 11w

"a fraction of a section at the end of the work, at the rate of \$15,000 per mile."

And, in his speech on the contract in the House, Sir Edward told the members "the five branches will take five years to complete . . . The whole of the branches will then be completed . . . in 1915."

But what is our position to-day? It is perilously near that predicted by "the opponents" of Sir Edward Morris when he outlined his branch railroad proposals to the Country.

We are within one year of the time when, if the contractor keeps to his agreement with the Government the branches will be practically completed, and yet, with two branches untouched, the Government is without funds and can discover no avenue of raising any.

But the contractor has the right of continuing construction work; also he has the right to insist on payment therefore.

The Government has bound him to build at least fifty miles per year; it has agreed to pay him for each five mile section as it is completed.

Will the contractor do this work on credit?

Will he agree to discontinue construction until the Government is in a position to pay him therefore?

In either case it is plain that the Country would be saved the embarrassment of falling in its obligations, not through the exercise of marked statesmanship or financial ability on the part of the Government of Sir Edward Morris, but by grace of the contractor.

Rather a "dignified" position for a self-governing Dominion of the British Empire isn't it?

And the whole Country feels the disgrace of our present position keenly.

On all sides one hears our unpromising financial condition discussed. And the general opinion expressed on the street, in the clubs and among the people of our many fishing settlements is that Newfoundland totters on the verge of bankruptcy and is in a fair way to lose her independence of government.

Confederation is discussed more in this city than it has been for generations. And, mark you, this is not election year, nor are the men who express the opinion that we are willingly, heading straight for union with Canada those who usually lose their heads over an election campaign. They are sane, sober men of business who know that all the signs of the times indicate such a possibility.

So that, when Sir Edward Morris's "opponents" pressed bankruptcy and forced Confederation with Canada as a result of the ill-balanced and extravagant policy proposed by his party, they, as recent events prove, came near qualifying fully as political prophets.

But the end is not yet.

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