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Jan 6, 8, 10

Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - - Proprietor
H. A. WINTER, B.A., - - Editor

TUESDAY, Jan. 8th, 1918.

A FACILE VINDICATION.

We cannot help admiring the ease with which the editors of the Advocate (pro tem.) and Herald accept as convincing the "evidence" which Mr. Crosbie submitted to their columns yesterday, and expect their readers to do the same. It is not even necessary that it should be relevant. We can imagine either of these gentlemen delivering judgment from the Magistrate's bench. "The prisoner is accused of stealing a ham. For a defence he has handed in a statement showing that twice two is four. Counsel for the Crown has failed to prove to my satisfaction that twice two is not four. The fact is uncontrovertible. The prisoner is discharged." For the proposition that twice two is four substitute the little array of figures audited and found correct (as they could not help being found) by the Auditor General, and you have the present case. We have added and subtracted them ourselves, and also find Mr. Crosbie a faultless mathematician.

Let us notice briefly the points in this defence. Who can take seriously the letters from the late Governor? Considering the notorious fact that his one constant purpose was to keep on the last thing he wanted to have brought to his notice was any irregularity of this sort and that it was certainly the last thing he would have permitted to appear in any official record, the publication of his letters is a little amusing. They merely constitute a little of the matter-of-fact enigmistic padding that the public is accustomed to find in annual reports and the like. They do not bear in any way upon the real points at issue and in judicial proceedings would never be admitted in evidence.

And what does Sir William Howard's letter prove? It simply acknowledges, formally and perfunctorily, the receipt of minutes of the Tonnage Committee. Apart from the fact that matters were then getting a little awkward and Messrs. Coaker and Crosbie were beginning to see the wisdom of giving a daily account of their proceedings, we should be glad to have some proof, not of the submitting of certain minutes, but of the extent to which the number of the said minutes corresponded with the number of the meetings. Moreover, our statement that practically no minutes were kept prior to the departure of the Governor, in the most important period, that is, still remains undisputed. Mr. Coaker and Mr. Crosbie were the whole Committee. They have not been exactly strangers to one another of late. The "meetings" were held at Mr. Crosbie's office, where Mr. Coaker was a not infrequent visitor. Verba sap.

As to the accounts of the "Maid of Harlech" and "Herbert Warren," we will not dispute them: we never did. Even so, they prove conclusively the one material fact that we have alleged—that Mr. Crosbie bought these ships himself, that a balance of some \$25,000 is apparently still due to him on the purchase price, and that they have been and still are in his name. Naturally, the public not only objects to this scandalous state of affairs but is pardonably suspicious as to the purpose that could have been behind it.

There is, however, one matter disclosed by these accounts which far transcends all the rest in importance. It is plain that the Tonnage Committee of the Executive Council insured both the cargoes of these vessels for a total of \$415,000.00. What right had the Council to issue an insurance at all? Had it any authority whatever, legislative or otherwise? What right had it to pledge the money of the country to this enormous amount? But that is not all. This particular insurance represents merely and entirely the risk which neither Lloyd's nor any other insurance company

would accept. If those cargoes had been lost, the taxpayers of the country would have had to make the loss good to the owners, a few merchants. Ponder that, gentlemen of Newfoundland. Ponder that, ye \$3,000 free and independent members of the noble brotherhood of the F. P. U. Mr. Coaker has been very vehement about your rights and in your behalf. Here he is now, not only countenancing but primarily negotiating an arrangement by which cargoes in which you have no interest are protected by the pledging of your money—risking your money to the tune of nearly half a million dollars! We give you this instance merely as a slight proof of the sincerity of his professions where your interests, and where his own, are concerned.

The Case of Mr. Morine.

The Herald's answer to us on the subject of the propriety of certain classes of people holding Executive positions is what we would have expected. It is in a sense personal and it makes the attempt to justify one wrong by another—two forms of argument in which the Herald excels. In this instance it has chosen a most unfortunate authority. It cites the case of Mr. A. B. Morine being in the Executive of Sir James Winter's Government, while he was the Reid Company's solicitor, and wholly misrepresents the case at the same time. We know from personal recollection, and members of that Government have assured us to the same effect, that the fact of Mr. Morine being such solicitor was altogether unknown to Sir James Winter at the time the Reid contract was drafted, and that no-one was more astounded than Sir James himself when he learned of it. The Herald will, of course, deny that the truth of it is so obvious on the ground of reason that no-one else will dispute it. It is possible that any Premier, endeavouring to conclude so important a contract, would have run the risk of having his object altogether defeated by such a comparatively trivial thing as this—trivial, that is, beside the purpose in view, but fundamentally important touching the legislative principle involved. The Premier, endeavouring to conclude so important a contract, would have run the risk of having his object altogether defeated by such a comparatively trivial thing as this—trivial, that is, beside the purpose in view, but fundamentally important touching the legislative principle involved. The Premier, endeavouring to conclude so important a contract, would have run the risk of having his object altogether defeated by such a comparatively trivial thing as this—trivial, that is, beside the purpose in view, but fundamentally important touching the legislative principle involved.

The Prohibition Cases.

An Explanation.
In reporting the hearing of the two prohibition cases in the Magistrate's Court yesterday, we commented unfavourably upon the conduct of the police in both matters. We did so under an impression of the facts which we learn was incorrect. It is not true, as stated by us, that the Court criticised in any way the detective concerned. They acted as they did owing to the difficulty of obtaining convictions in any other way, and knowing that certain foreign vessels have been carrying on a regular trade in violation of the prohibition law. With regard to the other case, we learn that no assurance whatever, written or verbal, was given to the accused that he would not be prosecuted, but that he tendered the information voluntarily. We are glad to make this explanation in justice to the officers concerned and in the interest of the law, which it is most desirable should be enforced with the utmost strictness.

Good News.

Mr. W. J. Martin received a cable this morning from his son, Corporal Ronald Martin, which reads as follows: "Albert wounded, prisoner; doing fine; well treated; am forwarding his letter."

(Sgd.) RON.
Private Albert Martin, with 43 others of "Ours," was reported as missing December 3rd, the day on which the Germans claimed to have captured a large number of prisoners, and the fact that he has been heard from so soon, together with the tenor of the message, leads us to hope that a goodly number of the missing will yet be heard from. It is also evident that their captors are treating them better now than formerly, which is a distinctly hopeful sign.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.

The Reid-Morris Coaker Plot.

PLANNED TO BRING ABOUT CON-FEDERATION.

We take the following interesting article from the Montreal Star of January 3rd. We have not time for comment to-day, but shall have something to say on the subject at the first opportunity:
NEWFOUNDLAND PREMIER RESIGNS—SENSATIONS DUE.

Retirement Alleged Due to Arrangements Made Previously.

(Special to the Star.)

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 3.—Sir E. P. Morris, in an address to his constituency, St. John's West, announced his resignation of the premiership and his retirement from public life. For thirty-two years he has represented the constituency, and has never been defeated. He has been Premier for the past eight years.

His resignation creates a unique situation in local politics. The present Assembly is composed of sixteen supporters of Premier Morris, eight of the Fishermen's Union and two Liberals, leaving ten vacancies caused by deaths and appointments to permanent positions.

Last session Premier Morris negotiated a coalition with the Opposition, prolonging the life of parliament, the Coalition Cabinet being evenly balanced. In October he left for London where he has been since, Mr. Lloyd acting as Premier in the meantime.

It transpires now that Sir E. P. Morris and Messrs. Lloyd and Coaker it is alleged, concluded a compact at coalition that Morris would abstain from himself and resign at the end of the year, leaving the reversion of the premiership to Mr. Lloyd.

Premier Morris's followers with the exception of Hon. J. R. Bennett, deny knowledge of the compact and say Sir E. P. Morris had no intention of resigning, but that on the contrary, he had pledged himself to a party meeting, and to executive colleagues, that he was not taking the premiership in a coalition with the object of retiring under circumstances which have now arisen.

Mr. Lloyd's attempt to form a Cabinet has failed. The Morrisists are unwilling to support Mr. Lloyd as Premier. The majority of private members, led by Hon. M. P. Gibbs, are nominating Hon. R. A. Squires for Premier, while Hon. M. P. Cashin, Minister of Finance in the Morris Ministry, with three Morris followers, is backing Mr. Lloyd. Last night no definite decision was arrived at, but strong influences were working on both sides to promote a compromise.

More Complications.
A still more complicating situation is that Sir William Reid, former president of the Reid Company, in a written but yet unpublished statement, says to members of the Morris executive:

"I financed three general elections, established the Chronicle to advocate the overthrow of the Bond Government and provided the funds for purchase, from Liberal controllers, the Evening Herald."

He also alleges he worked in conjunction with Sir Thomas Shaughnessy to promote the union of Newfoundland and Canada during the past four years, and brought about the retirement of A. B. Morine from politics to smooth the way for the coalition of the Morris Government and Coaker and Lloyd of the Opposition, and arranged for Coaker, President of the Fishermen's Union, to tour through the United States and Canada last year for the same object.

This merely outlines the disclosures promised which, he said, will implicate leading public men on both sides of politics, in a public scandal of great magnitude. Sir William Reid's action in the aftermath of the contest between himself, his brother and Sir T. Shaughnessy, for the presidency of the Reid Company, which Harry Reid won at the annual meeting here last week.

Big Snow Fall.

The closing hours of the old year witnessed one of the biggest downfalls of snow we have had in this part of the country for years. For over forty hours the snow fell thick and fast. Fortunately, however, there was little or no wind and the snow fell level. The storm commenced Saturday night and continued until Monday night, during which time nearly four feet of snow fell, in some places covering the top of the fences. Trains were blocked, a freight train from east got stuck at the Lime Quarry, on the Humber, about four miles east of St. John's, on Monday, and did not get clear till this morning; and Monday's express train was held up at South Brook, Deer Lake, and did not get into St. John's until about noon to-day.—Western Star, Jan. 2.

When you want Minceed Collops, try ELLIS'.



His Excellency the Governor and Miss Armored Harris will be glad to receive callers on Thursday, January 17th, and thereafter on First and Third Thursdays, from 4 to 5.30 p.m., until the end of April. Jan 8, 12

The Menace of the Country.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Sir,—The Editor says, "the Daily News objects to the Premiership of Dr. Lloyd because it will mean that the Government will pass under the control of a Corporate business concern. His resignation as its Solicitor does not in any way relieve the situation, he will still be at the disposal of the President of the Union Trading Company because he will have to rely on him to find a seat in the House of Assembly. That is sound; it is absolutely true. Dr. Lloyd could not get returned in any district in Newfoundland except as a candidate approved and supported by the Government, under which Mr. Coaker presides. Dr. Lloyd will not deny the truth of this assertion, or volunteer to seek election in any district where the influence of the F. P. Union is not paramount. He is then a mere creature of President Coaker's creation. I do not use the word "creature" offensively, but to give force and point to the fact that his whole political life is at the disposal of President Coaker. If you will send up a few back files of the Advocate, the official organ of the Union, you will discover verification of what I allege.

1st. That Dr. Lloyd is regarded by the Union as their pawn, to be moved at their will on the political chess-board.

2nd. That he has been already moved, to meet the exigencies of the forthcoming General Election. Here is an extract from the Report of proceedings at the Catalina Convention held November 13, 1917, published in the Evening Advocate, November 14th:

"Trinity District will accept a proposal of Bonavista District Council to allow Dr. Lloyd to be placed in nomination for Bonavista, and will select friend John Guppy of Port Rexton to succeed Dr. Lloyd as candidate for Trinity. This will give Bonavista a Departmental head, and seat in the Executive, and Trinity will be led by Mr. Stone, Minister of Fisheries."

In another issue of the official organ of the Union, upon which I cannot place my hand at this moment, it is announced that the candidates selected by the District Councils of the Union shall take an oath of allegiance to the Councils that have selected them, and a further oath that they will resign their seats if called upon to do so by their majority. The candidates then of the Union are the mere creatures of the Union, bound by an oath to do its bidding, and by an oath to resign their seats if they decline to perform the will of the Union. I fail to see how the representative of the Crown can be such a man as an adviser of the Crown. A man before he becomes a Minister must take an oath of allegiance to the Crown, but in the case of that man having been a Union nominee he will have first taken an oath of allegiance to the Union Council. The two obligations may not clash, but they may.

The system of binding candidates by oath is bringing us back to the thrown off fetters of tyranny. It impairs free parliamentary procedure. It reverts to the days of our forefathers, ere they were to the death; it destroys the very spirit of the Ballot Act, and if the Representative and Ballot Acts do not render the return of such candidates null and void, then they should be amended to do so; for this country requires a parliament of men free to form their own opinion, free to consider all classes of the community; men who are not pawns, leaders who are not the slaves and tools of corporate bodies.

Yours truly,
VIGILANCE.

January 7th, 1918.

A Pertinent Text.

Editor Evening Telegram.
Dear Sir,—I take the liberty of quoting a portion of Archbishop Roche's letter which was read at the churches on Sunday last: "Let us people therefore take warning and beware lest the well-meaning sacrifices made by citizens of every class and every party in the public interest be exploited for their own ends by those who will be always found ready to use even the gravest national emergencies for their own personal advantage." What a text for a sermon! and how applicable and true those words are driven home to the hearts of every Newfoundlanders to-day, even from what little we know that has occurred on the surface, and has been conveyed from one to another on the streets and in the clubs.

But, Mr. Editor, the greatest and basest acts have yet to be brought to the surface, when some of these, I may say, diabolical plots of these so-called politicians who occupy some of our departmental offices as their official heads are known. Well may we say with the good Archbishop that they have used "the gravest national emergencies for their own personal advantage."

And from the text, Mr. Editor, can we not go a step higher, and ask ourselves does it not apply even to the person of Lord Morris, who has been recently thus honoured by his King and Country?

Yes, Mr. Reader, ask yourself why he was thus honoured? In it see the

COATINGS!

We have a good selection in stock, several pieces having just come to hand.

In PLAIN BLANKET CLOTHS we have
Brown, Cardinal, Khaki, Saxe, Green
and Black.

CHECK BLANKET CLOTHS: In Grey
and Black, Crimson and Black, Navy
and Black, Purple and Black, Olive
and Grey and Light Fancy Checks.

GREY & NAVY NAP: Navy, Cardinal
and Khaki Curl Cloth.

CREAM CHINCHILLA: \$2.00 yard.

STEER Brothers.**NEW FURNITURE.**

We have just received another shipment of New Furniture,
Bought at Last Year's Prices, which we will
offer at Old Prices to clear,

as prices will positively be much higher. Those intending to buy
Furniture within the next three months, will do well to see same.
It consists of:—

Sideboards, Extension Tables,
Bureaus & Stands, Chairs, Rockers

in various sizes and prices, Also, a small shipment of

BEDS,

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part Newfoundland has played in this great war that he received this great honor? Is it for the part that he has played himself as a politician in this country for the past 30 years?

It cannot be the latter, if the powers that be knew how he betrayed the party and his supporters in the closing days of his political career, and the placed in power a class of men who do not represent the people of this country as individuals but as corporations and large business interests.

It cannot be for his political activities, as he is a man who always tried to evade great issues and place the responsibility on other than his own shoulders; a man who practically shirked all responsibility as to the results of the great war have come upon us; and were it not for our several patriotic committees we would not have such a showing in men and money as we can boast of to-day.

But what did Sir Edward Morris do towards it?

Is he thus honored for the part Newfoundland has played in this great war, and in his honor intended to

be an act of appreciation by the Empire, and a living monument of thanks and remembrance to the mothers and fathers of the sons who have lost their all on the fields of France?

Nothing that has occurred in the politics of this country since Responsible Government has eclipsed the several phases of the past week of what we know, and particularly of what we think we know; and if our politicians continue to use "the gravest national emergencies for their own personal advantage," they are using the greatest and best weapon at their command against voluntary or conscriptive service that Lord Morris intends we should have.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

When you want something in a hurry for tea, go to ELLIS—Head Cheese, Ox Tongue, Boiled Ham, Cooker Corned Beef, Bologna Sausage.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURE FOR COLDS, ETC.

Herring Fishery.

AT BAY OF ISLANDS.

The past few days there has been little or no herring news from the arms. Latest reports stated that there was good fishing in Middle Arm. Six vessels arrived at Woods Bay on Friday seeking herring grounds. They are now in the Arms, if the ice keep away they all hope to load.

The Margaret was the only vessel to load herring in the Humber.

AT BONNE BAY.

The herring slackened off at Bonne Bay over a week ago, and the vessel is now over at that place for this season. There is a quantity of herring there yet to be shipped. Fortis and the Seal will likely clean up the lot. The fishery at Bonne Bay this season was better than that of 1916, but not anything near what was the fall of 1915.—Western Star, Jan. 2nd.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURE FOR COLDS, ETC.

To-Day's Cables.

10.00 A.M.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS AROUSED.

AMSTERDAM, To-Day.

The Vorwaerts publishes speeches by Philipp Scheidemann, leader of the majority Socialist party in the Reichstag, and Hugo Haas, minority Socialist leader, condemning what they term the annexationist projects of the German Government as disclosed at Brest Litovsk. The speeches were delivered before the Reichstag main committee. Herr Scheidemann said there was no doubt that the Reichstag majority adhered to its declaration last summer against forced annexations and contributions, and that the Socialists and other large circles in Germany saw a contradiction between the statements of the German negotiator at Brest Litovsk on Dec. 25th, declaring for peace without annexations and indemnities, and on Dec. 29th, when the German proposals regarding the occupied Russian territory were made. He asserted the position of the Chancellor would be untenable if he departed from the standpoint of right and self-determination of the peoples. Herr Scheidemann declared the Socialists stand for unrestricted self-determination of peoples, adding, "Just as we oppose the annexationist politicians of the Entente, we combat the annexationist politicians of our own country." Herr Haas said the German proposal of Dec. 23rd constituted a veiled claim to annexations.

A DECORATION EARNED.

AMSTERDAM, To-Day.

Emperor William has conferred the order Pour le Merite on submarine commander Kophamel on his return from a cruise to Cape Verde Islands. During the cruise Kophamel asserts he sank an American destroyer and fourteen merchantmen, most of them bound from the United States for Italy or France. He is said to have brought back twenty-two tons of copper as booty. It is about 5,000 miles from the Belgian Coast to Cape Verde Islands and return.

THE PAN'S AROUSED.

AMSTERDAM, To-Day.

Admiral Von Tirpitz, voicing the demands of the Fatherland party and the Pan-Germans regarding the negotiations with Russia, has telegraphed to the Chancellor towards the Russian demands. In the position taken by Russia, says the Admiral, is seen the fruit of ten days' work of the Entente. He claims the transfer of negotiations to Stockholm would constitute a decisive step on the path to a general peace which would have no regard for Germany's vital needs. The Rheinische Westfaelische Zeitung violently attacks those responsible, it says, for the intention of General Von Ludendorff, the right hand man of Field Marshal Hindenburg, to resign, and an official Berlin despatch last night denied the report published in several German newspapers that General Ludendorff had tendered his resignation.

READING REPLACES NORTH-CLIFFE.

LONDON, To-Day.

Earl Reading, Lord Chief Justice, has been appointed British High Commissioner in the United States. Besides taking over the work of the British Embassy in Washington, he will have charge of the work of the British War Mission and its establishments in New York and Washington. Secretary Baker announced today that, in addition to his duties as Acting Quartermaster General, Major General Goethals has been appointed Director of Transportation and Storage of War Department.

CLEMENCEAU CONGRATULATES LLOYD GEORGE.

WASHINGTON, To-Day.

Premier Clemenceau, a despatch from France to-day says, has sent this message to Premier Lloyd George: With my most hearty congratulations I hasten to send you those of the French nation, both those at the front and in the interior, for the admirable speech in which you so happily stated the truth that one must never become weary of opposing the Germans.

ITALIAN REPORT.

ROME, To-Day.

The text of to-day's communications follows: There have been reciprocal bursts of fire between Prato and Cimase in the Giudicaria Valley and more intense activity on the part of medium calibre enemy guns. In the Zugna region on the Asiago our batteries made effective shots against enemy transports and troops on the march. North of Costanza, Austrian parties were driven back and followed by a few made prisoners. Violent concentrations of fire by our batteries against enemy positions between Frangola Valley and Brenta valley have been answered by persistent shelling of our lines. Enemy positions and rear areas have been repeatedly shelled by French and British batteries. At some points British patrols have forced the enemy and caused alarm in the enemy lines. On the Plain there has been moderate artillery activity. In the area of the Dora River the large enemy detachment which at dawn of today attacked our Albanian battalions was driven back by our regular