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(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

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AT THE HOUSE

YESTERDAY the whole sitting of the House was taken up by a debate on the clause in the Sealing Bill relative to the prohibition of steel ships over 450 tons. The debate was the warmest for the session and brought out the old fighting qualities of the Opposition members, particularly that of Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Coaker.

Mr. Devereaux very unwisely introduced Kean's name and claimed the clause penalized the most successful master the country has produced which brought forth a splendid reply from Dr. Lloyd, who stated that had there been no Kean in the Stephano in 1914 or no West Kean in the Newfoundland, that there would not have been any need of the Bill before the House.

Mr. Coaker resented some remarks of Mr. Devereaux's and showed why Kean had been such a success and stated that there were 150 masters North that would have done as well as Kean had they been given command of the best ships in the fleet. He showed how Kean barely missed the patch this year and had asked Capt. Geo. Barbour where the main patch was and entered the patch four days after the Neptune and Eagle. He also reaffirmed the intention of the F.P.U. to place Kean on trial for his negligence in connection with the Newfoundland disaster.

Mr. Devereaux must have felt small over his indiscretion in bringing in Kean's great ability as a seal killer and lauding him to the skies as a superior make up which excelled all other sealing captains in the Colony, for he received a dressing down at the hands of Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Coaker that went soon be forgotten by the House or that gentleman.

Mr. Coaker's speech on Monday was fair, clean, to the point and gave no grounds for the acrimonious nonsense indulged in by Messrs. Devereaux and Cashin. We will publish Mr. Coaker's remarks on the Bill made on Monday in to-morrow's issue.

Mr. Cashin again created a scene by indulging in language towards Dr. Lloyd that was uncalled for and disgraceful to a Minister.

Dr. Lloyd replied very effectively, and in scathing language, such as he seldom has occasion to use, he lashed the Minister of Finance, ending by styling his attack as blackguardly and unworthy of any member of the House. The Minister had no reply to make and the House got a glimpse of the great ability of Dr. Lloyd as a debater.

who administered square blows one after another but did not strike below the belt. Any member who unjustly attacks Dr. Lloyd will in future know what is in store for him.

The Ministers of Fisheries and Public Works again repeated their assurances to stand by the clause as it stands, which they intimated they would do when debating his matter on Monday.

Mr. Cashin was one of the Select Committee who signed the report to the House, confirming the Bill as submitted to the House, but he went back on his report yesterday and stated he had altered his mind.

The speeches of Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Coaker will be published when our readers will be able to form their own opinions of the conduct of Messrs. Cashin and Devereaux.

This Bill is a Government measure, introduced by the Premier, submitted to a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses by the Premier, and if the Premier is too cowardly to stand by the clause it will end all further efforts to consider legislation through Select Committees, so far as the Opposition members are concerned.

Probably the most ignominious conduct of any member of the House known to the present generation is that of Mr. Cashin in relation to the Committee's Report on this Bill, for both were signed by him, yet yesterday he repudiated both, so far as standing by his own recommendation to the House. It places the duties and usefulness of Select Committees in a position that will call forth public ridicule and destroy all confidence in such parliamentary procedure.

To the lasting credit of Mr. Piccott be it said he remained true to the Committee's recommendation and refused to budge, even though the Premier spoke strongly in favour of permitting the Florizel to engage in the seal fishery. Mr. Woodford also showed his metal and after the Premier spoke reiterated his determination to stand by his guns and vote as he intimated he would do the previous day.

Mr. Piccott also explained that Mr. Crosbie had withdrawn his support as seconder of Mr. Devereaux's amendment, as he could not support it after learning its full meaning. Mr. Devereaux's amendment provided for the re-entering of all steel ships hitherto engaged in sealing in the Colony, which practically means a reversion to conditions of the past few years when wooden ships were considered as only so much old plank and timber and unable to secure crews to man them for the sealing voyage.

The matter will be further debated in the House to-day and the fire kindled yesterday by the indiscreet and acrimonious attack by some Government members will be taken up.

BAY STEAM SERVICE.

THE Reid Nfld. Co. is placing the Clyde and Ethie on the Green Bay route the coming season. The new ports of call added last spring will be taken up this season and regular calls made. This will be welcome news to the district, especially to Boyd's Cove, Farmer's Arm, Comfort Cove, Point Leamington and Burying Place.

The Petrel will likely replace the Ethie on Trinity Bay Bay. Owing to the railway connection in Bay-de-Verde District the Trinity Bay steamer will not connect with Carbonear as formerly; the steamer will not connect with any ports South of Brownsdale. Several new ports of call in Trinity Bay will be added this season, and the re-arrangement of the route will enable several of the smaller settlements in the district to participate in the benefits of direct connection with St. John's.

Messrs. Stone and Targett have been persistent in their efforts to have the service readjusted and we are pleased to find they have succeeded. It is hoped that in arranging the Fogota's ports of call, the Government will not overlook the claim of Island Harbor.

The Reid Nfld. Co. are anxious to make the best possible arrangement in connection with the Bay Steam Service and have endeavored to meet every possible wish of the representatives of the Northern districts, hence the rearrangement of the services of the Northern Bays.

THE NORTHERN COASTAL SERVICE

WE understand the S.S. Susu will leave here on Saturday to take up the Fogo Coastal Service. The Fogota will leave on Monday and take up the Northern Coastal Service to Griquet. The Prospero

INTERESTING

THE gentry on the Government benches who sneer so persistently at democratic members on the Opposition side of the House would do well to read the following character sketch of one of the great leaders in the British Empire at the present time—Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, who recently visited London. Mr. Hughes, like the redoubtable Lloyd George, is a Welshman who began life as a schoolmaster in the homeland; but in early years emigrated to Australia, where he had to engage in the first days of his life in the Antipodes in the most menial occupations. He has never yet told the whole story of his life, but when he does tell it, it will be found that he had to descend to the very abyss of poverty, to try his frail and unskilled hands on all kinds of jobs.

But amid it all he was a born agitator. He got into touch with labor organizations, with a natural power of command, he became a leader amongst the toilers, and in the end became a Member of Parliament, and is now Prime Minister.

He has already become a popular and powerful figure in Great Britain; he is over-run with invitations to go here and there; has attended a Cabinet Council; was made a Privy Councillor almost on landing, and undoubtedly will have a good deal to say on the question of Imperial re-organization, which is one of the most certain and desirable results of the war.

In some respects, Mr. Hughes resembles his illustrious fellow-countryman, Lloyd George. He is a man with a fiery soul, a resolute purpose, and a remarkable gift of speech. T. P. O'Connor says this of the Australian Premier's recent appearance at a luncheon in London at which the other prominent speaker was Mr. Balfour:—

"A few minutes after Mr. Hughes took the floor he was master of them all; and the other speakers listened, astounded and spell-bound. I was particularly struck with the beauty and distinction of language; it was evidently the language of a well read man. But the most astonishing thing was that this frail, pale-faced anxious little man appeared to be a soul on fire. There was an inflexible resolution, fiery oratory in every word, and especially when he got on the now popular topic of the unscrupulousness and relentlessness, as well as almost diabolical skill, with which the Germans had spread their tentacles over the world."

He seems to me to belong to the school which exists in Labor ranks alone in Australia, the one which would set up a whole tariff system in the British Empire against all German goods.

It was the first time I had seen Mr. Hughes; but I have been hearing all about him lately. His is one of the most remarkable careers in the British Empire."

In view of recent occurrences in the House of Assembly this makes interesting reading. It proves incontestably that the great leaders are not brought-up on Government pap, and that the democratic element provides the greatest leaders. Some people in this country seem to imagine that the road to successful leadership lies in the direction of pomposity and puff; but a little reflection should make it clear that from the ranks of the people all great leaders come. The "silver spoon" is by no means a requisite in a successful career; for this is a democratic age—the age when initiative and integrity are the greatest factors.

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

APRIL 19

ROBERT H. PROWSE born at Port-de-Grave, 1828. Lord Byron died, 1824. Tiltman's fire, Cochrane Street; homes burnt, 1871. Battle of Lexington, 1775. Ford's Advertiser first published, 1875.

Peter Higgins, messenger of the House of Assembly, died, 1875. Steamship Newfoundland took 13 days from Halifax to St. John's, 1876.

Lord Beaconsfield died (Primrose Day), 1881. James T. Southcott, architect, died, 1898.

Don J. M. Perez appointed Vice-Consul for Spain, 1896.

will not be ready to take up the service for two or three weeks, as she is to be docked for considerable repairs.

YESTERDAY AT THE HOUSE.

House met at 3.30 p.m. Petitions were presented as follows: By the Minister of Marine and Fisheries from Bay Roberts for a telephone; by Mr. Clift from St. Julien's for \$200 to complete a wharf at the settlement; also one from Campbellton asking for \$1,000 for the purpose of constructing a road. Mr. Clift strongly supported the petitions; by Mr. Stone from Norman's Cove and other settlements asking for a light house on Tickle Pt. Point. This petition was ably supported by Messrs Stone and Targett. Mr. Halfyard also presented petitions from Seldom Come Bay asking for a fog alarm.

The Premier and Finance Minister gave notice of the introduction of certain bills. The House then went into Committee on Ways and Means, and the Minister of Finance and Customs read to the House what is known as the Budget speech, a document containing quite an array of figures relating to our imports, exports, total trade, revenues, extravagant expenditures and public debt which is shown to greatly exceed thirty millions of dollars. This budget has been as usual prepared by the President of the Legislative Council, Mr. McGrath, at a cost of it is understood of \$500, and the Minister of Finance and Customs is to be congratulated upon the fact of only making one or two slight breaks while reading this five hundred dollar epistle, and this, no doubt, was the fact that a great lot of the matter contained therein is quite inexplicable to the Minister, and perhaps the typed copy may be a little blurred. No one would suspect a blur upon the Minister's brain after reading eight consecutive typewritten budgets, which have only varied to the extent of the increasing public debt and taxation during the last eight years. The debate on this question was deferred until next Tuesday when criticism may not be so severe as it would be yesterday.

The Retiring Allowance Bill received its third reading and the House went into Committee on the Sealing Bill. The amendment to Section 13 as moved by Mr. Devereaux, the object of which was to confer a special privilege upon the firm of Bowring Bros. by permitting the Florizel to prosecute the seal fishery. This ridiculous back-down from the decision arrived at by the Select Committee was somewhat covered up by inserting a limitation clause to the amendment, providing that no more than 35,000 seals be brought in by the Florizel.

Mr. Devereaux took the floor and in a long, windy and empty speech tried to excuse his amendment, his main line of argument that the prohibition of the Florizel meant confiscation of capital, and the penalizing of Capt. Kean, who he lauded as one of the greatest heroes the country ever produced, and he (Kean) had distinguished himself as few men had. (This of course will be admitted by many.) Mr. Devereaux claimed that we should do nothing that would in any way interfere with the firm of Bowring and the celebrated captain. He could not conceive how any person could fail to admire such a man.

The Premier in his usual guarded shifty style, full conscious of the surrender which this amendment involved, began by trying to reconcile the more firm members of his party as well as the Opposition by talking around the issue and praising the general principle of the bill, and then explained that their intention was to play a game of bluff by introducing the amendment which would only reconcile and please Bowring Bros., but which would render their sealing venture per the S. S. Florizel a very unprofitable one. This, the Premier thought, would appease the wrath of those great men (and of course would be in line with Sir Edward's style of practice).

The Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Lloyd, then arose and first stated he was surprised at the attitude of the Premier and especially in view of the intimation that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries would approve of the amendment, and by the look of things on the Government seats there was something doing. He would like to know if the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Woodford had also departed from the stand he had taken last evening.

Mr. Woodford replied to say, NO, he intend to stand to his guns. Well done, said Dr. Lloyd. The Leader of the Government had made an abject surrender. The Premier tried to defend his position but could not deliver the goods, and the Leader of the Opposition continued. The principles laid down by the Select Committee was unanimously agreed. The report of that

Committee was signed by some of the men that now propose to abandon their principle. As far as the Opposition was concerned they intend to stand by the bill in response to the wishes of ten thousand fishermen and not to the petition of one Water Street firm.

Mr. Piccott stated that he had a great interest in the Sealing Bill as any member in the House. (Here the Premier applauded Mr. Piccott in the hope that he too would make a similar summersault) but was made to look up when the Minister finished by asserting his intention to stand firmly by the bill. The Premier seeing a clash inevitable and fearing a defeat again brought his slippery tactics to bear by stating that this bill was not a party measure.

Mr. Cashin then tried to excuse his conduct on the grounds that the last meeting of the Select Committee was an formal one, and intimated that the decision may be reversed if such and such had happened on Friday night. It was only now however, that he had realized the great claim which Bowring Bros. had over any other firm because they did not sell their ships.

Dr. Lloyd told the Minister that something important was done on Friday night and pointed to the fact that all had unanimously agreed to stand by the bill in its entirety and had sealed that agreement with their signatures. There was, said the Leader of the Opposition, an absolute assent, and you, as one of that Committee, assented to what was done and signed the report to this House.

Mr. Coaker said he was sorry to hear so much debate and difference of opinion upon a matter on which all had agreed to a few nights previous. Was this change the affect produced by a visit from Mr. Munn. He was surprised to see the changed attitude of the Finance Minister and he thought that the Minister would be obliged for Honour's sake to support the prohibition of 500 ton vessels, if not the 450 ton clause, as the Minister claims not being present when the slight change was made.

Mr. Coaker then explained why the Committee had reduced the tonnage to 450, etc., and stated that this Bill which was introduced from the Opposition last year was framed in compliance with the advice of thousands of experienced sealers, who claim that if the Florizel was permitted to prosecute the seal fishery all Captain Kean's sons would also command vessels and an unfair advantage would be given them over other vessels by their father commanding a powerful ship. He could kill enough to load them and lead them in to the patch, owing to the superior power of his ship. This advantage would be decidedly against the other owners' vessels and would be a discouragement, not only to the crews of other vessels, but to the owners. Why favour one individual at the expense of the many, and allow those ships to go again and you ruin the entire wooden fleet owned by other firms and give a monopoly to one.

He hoped the Committee would be men enough to stand together for what they so unanimously agreed upon last Friday night. Mr. Woodford stood to say that he agreed with Mr. Coaker and the Leader of the Opposition and would support the bill. He thought that if the Florizel was limited to 35,000 seals and she struck a patch containing 100,000 he would be a fool if he did not fill her up and pay the fine. He had listened to all the Premier had said but he had failed to convince him, and a visit from his friend Mr. Munn would have had the same affect. He could see that Capt. Kean would,

while in command of the Florizel have a decided opportunity of favouring his sons to the detriment of others.

Mr. Devereaux again jaded the House with another long tirade, the tenor of which was a fullsome flattery of Capt. Kean. He incidentally agreed that Mr. Coaker had accomplished a great deal for his country, but this did not give him the right to support any measure which would affect Capt. Kean and his sons, who he believed were made of the same stuff as their father. He expressed another spasmodic feeling of affection for the fishermen and sealers, which they endure in the wooden ships at the ice. He was especially interested in the fishermen of the North and was now fighting their battles. He admitted that neither himself or his District was interested in the seal fishery, because of the many good things the Bowring Bros. had done, they should above all get special consideration.

Dr. Lloyd said Mr. Devereaux's speech would no doubt interest the firm of Bowring Bros. but was certainly not of much interest to the people of the north. It is not even logical. He says a lot about the confiscation of capital, and would not think of confiscating the capital invested in the Florizel, but he was not hesitating in confiscating the capital invested in the Stephano and other ships. The member by his own amendment is confiscating capital.

Mr. Devereaux tried to interrupt, but the Leader of the Opposition assured him that he would get all the argument from his side of the House that was coming to him. He speaks about penalizing Capt. Kean, but said Dr. Lloyd, what is in this bill to penalize Capt. Kean? What have we to do with Capt. Kean that he should be continually referring to him. A good story could be told about Capt. Kean, and I am well conversant with that story. The awful disaster on the S. S. Newfoundland would never have occurred if the same man Kean was not on the Stephano. That message around which so much revolved would not have been sent to West Kean.

Now it's a well known fact that the sending of this message was arranged before leaving St. John's. It is all a Capt Kean business with you. A Captain Kean close season with you to-day.

Mr. Coaker wanted to know why Capt. Kean has been brought into the discussion by Government members, as he has been to-day. He had made a plain statement in regard to Kean's sons getting ships, etc. if the Florizel sailed to the seal fishery, and you have started in to talk of Kean being penalized and of all the seals he brought in, but would he not be worse than a fool if he did not get seals considering that he always has commanded the very best ship going out. Now don't talk to us anymore about this man Kean. We have already had good reasons to wish he had never commanded a vessel at the ice. If it was not for him we would not have to mourn to-day for over 80 of our countrymen, who are in their graves, while eleven more are left with us maimed for life, as living witnesses of that man's error.

I hope he will live a few more years so that justice will be done, and if I live he will stand at the bar of justice to give an account for the part he played in that awful disaster. Whether he will go to jail or not, believe me justice will be done. Now don't bring this man's name up here again or you will get more than you bargained for.

In reference to the principles contained in this bill we have discussed all these matters at our various conventions, discussed them with men who knew what they talking about and did not depend upon what they would pick up at random from some persons on the streets. Some members on the Government side who want to alter the bill knew very little of what they are talking about.

Mr. Downey also spoke in favour of the amendment. Then the House was treated to an exhibition of rowdiness by the Minister of Finance and Customs, who made an uncalled for and abusive attack upon the Leader of the Opposition. He first started in to toady to Capt. Kean, who he evidently thought was present, judging by the glances he occasionally cast in the direction of the visitors' seats. As he warmed up he developed more saucy and abusive and exclaimed that Dr. Lloyd knew nothing about the fisheries of Newfoundland, and tried to jeer that gentleman because he was once a school teacher. In a boisterous manner and with his countenance contorted with that familiar grim the Minister referred to the Doctor in very uncomplimentary and unparliamentary language, and said that Dr. Lloyd had condemned Captain Kean to-day while he had sat on a commission which had vindicated him. The Minister used such ridiculous language as to the Leader of the Opposition know a caplin from a sculpin or a tom-cod from a whale.

(Continued on Page 6.)

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