

MANIFESTO OF RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR ROBERT BOND---Continued.

of the Legislature, just as the curtain was being rung down upon the greatest burlesque of Responsible Government that the world has ever seen, we found Sir Edward Morris doing precisely that which in the previous session he declared could not be done without reducing the Education Vote, doing away with Old Age Pensions, telegraph extension, the relief of the poor, and other extensions in the public service for which the money is now being spent."

With the mere stroke of a pen; without any readjustment of the tariff; without the reduction of any of the above services; with an increased estimate of expenditure for the current year of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS over and above the enormous expenditure of last year; with the certainty facing the Colony of having to go to the London money market for still another loan to pay the Messrs. Reids, in the light of all this THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS OF INCOME HAS BEEN DONE AWAY WITH. Let the intelligent Elector consider what this means.

First, it means that the Treasury Department has been converted into a political machine to be manipulated for Election purposes at the expense of the Trade whose business has been disarranged, and at the expense of the credit of the Colony which must depend upon a surplus of revenue over expenditure in order to obtain a further loan to meet the present Government's obligations to the Messrs. Reid.

Secondly, it means another attempt, and a silly one at that, to deceive the public on the eve of a General Election. In order to enable them to go to the Country with the plea that they carried out their pledge as regards "Reduction of Taxation," the Government has not hesitated, at the last moment of their political existence, to disorganize trade, to deplete the Treasury, and to risk even the credit of the Colony abroad and its actual solvency. Knowing full well, as the paragraph I have quoted from Sir Edward Morris's speech in the House of Assembly proves, that if again returned to power they would have to restore this revenue, or do away with "Old Age Pensions, poor relief, telegraph extension, and reduce the Vote for Education."

There is a grim old Greek proverb that is worth remembering. "Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad."

AGRICULTURE.

The promotion of Agriculture by the payment of a bounty for the clearing of land so as "to induce a greater number of our people to turn their attention to the cultivation of the soil" was a pledge given by the Government and emphasized in the opening speech of the first session of the late Parliament. No bounty was given. The Votes of the Legislature that should have gone as a bounty were doled out in salaries to Government members, and in sops to political supporters throughout the Country. Nearly TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS were practically wasted in this way, an amount that would have placed ten thousand additional acres of land under cultivation, and would have granted a bonus of twenty dollars per acre to every man who cleared one. Upon the recommendation of those members of the Government party who were drawing yearly salaries from this Vote the Model Farm and Experimental Station established by my Government in 1907, for the benefit of the youths of this Country who desired to learn farming, was recklessly destroyed and the property and equipment practically given away. While the children of the people of this Country were thus despoiled of the advantages that are elsewhere afforded by the State, the present Government actually entered into an Agreement with parties in England to send out pauper boys to be educated here in Agriculture at the expense of the already overburdened taxpayers of this Colony. Fortunately for this Colony the Dominions of the Empire refused to be parties to the scheme and it fell through. A more glaring wrong was never inflicted upon any community than that which the self designated "People's Party" have carried out, in defiance of every

protest, in the guise of a "New Agricultural Policy."

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The Government claim that they have carried out their promise in this connection. Have they? Their scheme of Old Age Pensions would be an absurdity if it was not something worse. It is the most unjust and inadequate measure ever put forward as an Old Age Pension provision. The Bill brought down to the House of Assembly for adoption provided fifty dollars per year for four hundred destitute old men over seventy-five years of age, and left four thousand six hundred and thirty-eight pensionable persons without any provision whatever. IT PROVIDES NOTHING FOR THE POOR WOMEN OUT OLD WOMEN, and the sum allotted if divided among all who are entitled to consideration would mean less than EIGHT CENTS PER WEEK, and ONE CENT PER DAY. No such absurd and unjust scheme was ever conceived before. The discrimination between old men and old women, and the culling by the Government of four hundred old men from the ranks of thousands equally deserving of a pension was, as I expressed at the time of its proposal, "a piece of absurdity and cruelty combined." The only practical scheme of Old Age Pensions is the "Universal Scheme," adopted in all other countries, that have taken the matter up, under which all old men and all old women over a certain age equally participate. This is the system that I have advocated, and hope to see adopted.

COLD STORAGE FOR FISHERY EXPORTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF BAIT FREEZERS.

The establishment of Cold Storage for fishery exports, and establishment of Bait Freezers were among the pledges given. These pledges also remain unfulfilled. The only attempt that was made in this direction was the notorious agreement entered into between the Government and two American citizens—Messrs. Trefethen and Lord. It will be remembered that after I exposed in the House of Assembly that the true inwardness of that scheme was to give the control of our bait supplies to these Americans the bubble vanished into thin air.

THE CHEAPENING OF COAL AND WORKING OF PEAT AREAS.

The people were told by Sir Edward Morris that "the serious situation created by the present price of coal is so far-reaching that it has become a national grievance," and they were promised by him that "a means would be found for effecting a reduction in the price of coal." This "serious situation" not only still exists but it has been intensified by the higher price now demanded for coal. Our coal areas remain undeveloped, and our peat bogs provide no substitute for coal, and no means have been found for effecting a reduction in the price of coal. The deluded people of this Country will doubtless be "staggered" when they learn that the Colony's most valuable coal area, so far as known, situate in Bay St. George and formerly held in possession by the late Captain Cleary, which in the month of March became forfeit to the Government on default of payment of rental, has been handed over by the Government to the Messrs. Reid. I have received this information from what I must regard as a perfect reliable source, namely Mr. John Cleary, who entered a protest with the Government against the transfer without compensation to the late Captain Cleary's Estate. Assuming then this to be correct, the Colony has been stripped of probably its most valuable asset, and, to a greater extent than was ever dreamed of, the present Government have made the Messrs. Reid the arbiters of our Country's destiny.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE AT HOME.

The development of the natural resources of the Country, and employment of our people at home, was still another pledge which is as far from fulfillment to-day as on the day five years ago when it was made. There

has been no new development of the natural resources of this Country under the present Government. There has been no new employment enterprise to keep our people at home. I challenge the Government to point to one single development of "our natural resources," or to one important labour giving industry that has come into existence during their whole term of office. The truth is that "the natural resources of the country" have been exploited by members of the Government and their friends in the attempt to "get rich quick," and while some of them have amassed large sums of money in their gambling transactions the Country has been impoverished both in reputation and resources. I might go on enumerating the broken pledges of the Government but it would occupy too much space herein. I assume in dealing with the most important of them I have portrayed sufficient to convince the public of the hollow sham that has been masquerading as a paternal and "People's Government."

FACING THE FUTURE.

THE WORK TO BE DONE.

In facing the future I am encouraged by the knowledge that the great body of producers in this Country—THE FISHERMEN—will give me their moral and material support. They have given me a special call to their service, and have pledged me their support at the polls, and in carrying out the policy I shall presently summarize. For the first time in the history of Newfoundland we have felt the touch of one of the "irresistible tendencies of the modern State," namely, the disposition among its citizens themselves to form "groups" for the advancement or defence of particular interests. In the world around us these "groups" have realized that as groups they have no direct representative voice in the legislation by which their interests are controlled; in other words, that the Government does not represent them. The formation of the Labor Party in England is to be interpreted in that way, as must also be the formation of the FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION in Newfoundland. The fishermen perceived that though their voting power outnumbered that of any other single class, yet fishermen such were unrepresented in the making of the laws. The principle runs back through the centuries to the Edict of King Edward I, which enjoined the Constituencies to send to Parliament not anybody who could win their suffrages, but members of the classes legislation was most likely to affect. I am not called upon here and now to discuss the "principle," but to deal with the fact that the largest "group" of Electors in the Island demand a representative voice in the legislation by which their interests are controlled. They have united with thousands of others outside the Union in calling me to their service. They have asked me to give them direct representation in the ranks of my Party. I have had great pleasure in acceding to their request, and I feel sure that this action on my part will be accepted by Fishermen generally, throughout the Country, as a guarantee that their interests will be most carefully advanced and protected.

The policy that will immediately engage my attention will embrace:—

- 1.—A thorough Expert Examination into the financial condition of the Colony, with a view to establishing its finances upon a sound basis.
- 2.—A revision of the whole Civil Service with a view to dispensing with the services of unnecessary and unsuitable officials, and secure greater efficiency and economy in the conduct of the several departments of the Government.
- 3.—The re-establishment of the credit of the Colony both at home and abroad by a sane and judicious expenditure of the Colony's revenues.
- 4.—The revision of the Tariff, so that it may bear more equitably upon the fishermen and laboring classes generally.
- 5.—The enactment of a law to prevent Combinations in trade, for the purpose of enhancing the price of goods to consumers.

6.—The appointment of Consular Agents with intent to open new markets to our fishery products, and to keep the Government acquainted with the condition of markets abroad.

7.—A complete re-organization of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. To-day the Norwegians and Germans are formidable competitors of ours in the markets of the Mediterranean. These countries have developed their fisheries on scientific lines, and have brought them to present proportions by applying the best thought of the best minds to practical effort. Their Fishery Departments are storehouses of knowledge where the fishermen may obtain reliable information on all matters bearing upon the cure and marketing of fishery produce, and their legislators may receive authoritative direction as to the form legislation should take for the conservation and development of the fisheries. We have a Fishery Department in this Colony which has become but a name for a dispensary of public patronage, and a channel for the waste of public money. I propose to attach to the Department of Fisheries the best scientific talent obtainable, and to make it what it ought to be, a Bureau of Information for all who are interested in the fisheries, and who are responsible for their protection and development.

8.—The adoption of a measure to deal with the cull and standardization of fish, and the proper inspection of all fishery produce.

9.—An inquiry into the whale fishery. The fishermen through their Union have pressed upon my attention the matter of prohibiting it for a time. Many practical fishermen are of opinion that the prosecution of the whale fishery and destruction of large numbers of whales has seriously affected the supplies of bait fishes. I shall have the question carefully investigated, and take such action as the inquiry shall demonstrate to be for the public welfare.

10.—The Erection of Bait Depots to meet the needs of the Fishermen.

11.—The Amendment of the Laws relating to the conduct of the seal fishery.

12.—The Erection of Lighthouses and Fog Alarms where most required.

13.—The Establishment of a Telephone System to link up fishing centres.

14.—Harbor improvements, embracing the deepening of water ways, erection of public wharves and landings, and establishment of a Harbor of Refuge on the Straight Shore. The latter work commenced by my Government some years ago at Musgrave Harbor was partially destroyed by a storm. This shall be restored and the work completed so as to make the Harbor what it was intended to be, or, if considered desirable, another harbor substituted therefor.

15.—The Establishment of County Councils throughout the Island. My Government tested this scheme of administration of local affairs in the District of Burin, and it has worked with entire satisfaction to the people.

16.—An Amendment of the Crown Lands Act, having special reference to the future disposition of timber areas.

17.—The re-establishment of a Model Farm and Experimental Station where the young men of this Country may obtain a scientific and practical training in Agriculture, and those already engaged in that important industry may receive the advantage of scientific advice and direction.

18.—The renewal of a bounty for the clearing of land.

19.—A thorough Geological Survey of such lands as remain the property of the Crown.

20.—The Establishment of Dispensaries and Cottage Hospitals in the Outports.

21.—The Construction of Main Line Roads.

22.—The rigid enforcement of the Bait Act as heretofore carried out by my Government.

23.—Legislation to regulate the working hours of Railway Employees.

24.—A Commission to deal with transport and freight rates.

25.—An insistence upon the due and proper performance of contractual obligations by all companies under agreement with the Government.

26.—The Establishment of Postal Savings Banks so as to encourage the people in self-help; assist them to build on the foundations of thrift and self-reliance, and furnish a secure investment for their savings. The present institution has been exploited by unscrupulous politicians for party purposes to the detriment of the institution and anxiety of depositors, and it shall therefore be placed under different management, and legislation adopted to make such base party tactics as we have recently witnessed a penal offence punishable with imprisonment.

27.—The re-organization of the Postal Department. This most important branch of the public service which, under my administration a few years ago, was brought to a state of efficiency by the aid of expert advice, has again lapsed into a condition that demands immediate attention and remedy. The efficiency of this Department, and public confidence therein, has been shattered by the pernicious practice followed of late in connection with all departments of the public service, namely, the appointment thereof to party supporters without regard to their qualification. Further, without reflecting in any way upon the gentleman who presides over that department, I am of opinion that greater efficiency and more public satisfaction will be obtained if the head of the Postal Department is immediately responsible to the people, and I propose therefore to change the present method of administration by making the head of that department a Minister of the Crown subject to public approval and dismissal. In England, Canada, and other Dominions under the Crown this has been deemed the best and proper method of administration, and I have no doubt but it will prove most advantageous here.

EDUCATION.

The subject of Education is, I am pleased to observe, one of the matters that the Fishermen through their Union have taken up and expressed their opinion on. In what has been published as the "Bonavista platform" we find the following suggestions, namely:—

- 1.—The establishment of a Night School System in the Outports during winter months.
- 2.—Schools for every settlement containing 20 schoolable children from the age of 7 to 14.
- 3.—Free and compulsory education seven months of each year.

They go no further, and I have neither read of nor had suggested to me verbally by any person that they desire any change whatsoever in the present educational system of the Colony other than that above quoted.

This suggestion is sane, moderate, entirely commendable, and I shall consult with the Superintendents of Education with a view to meeting the Fishermen's desire. In dealing with the question of Education in my Manifesto of 1908, I said:—

"When, in the year, 1887, I introduced the Ballot Act, which conferred upon every man of twenty-one years of age and upwards the right to vote, and thus perform one of the highest privileges of citizenship, I was not unmindful of the fact that, in order to enable our people to reach the true standard of citizenship, education would have to be liberally encouraged. As soon, therefore, as I was placed by you in a position from which I could direct the policy of the Government, I proceeded without delay to construct this broad avenue of all progress. During my term of office four hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and seventy-three dollars, or nearly a half a million of dollars, have been expended in this direction: nor shall I rest satisfied until there is an up-to-date school in every settlement in Newfoundland."

That statement holds good to-day. Now, I have placed on record in the House of Assembly my views in relation to TECHNICAL EDUCATION—an education in trade and industries. The secret of success in trade and industry depends upon Education. Not upon education of the common, or high school, or library, but upon the education of the laboratory, the workshop and modern lecture room. It seems to me high time to consider whether in these days, when the essence of prosperity is commerce, and the essence of commerce is rivalry, it is not our immediate duty to grant the young men of our Country this special Education, without which certain natural abilities inherent in the Newfoundlanders may easily run to waste. The best positions in connection with manufactures, mining and other industries in this Colony are filled by men from other countries because of the want of technical knowledge on the part of our young men. This should not be the case, and I shall endeavour to remedy the matter.

Until the Colony's liabilities to the Messrs. Reid arising out of the present Government's railway policy has been ascertained and discharged it would be impolitic, if not impossible, to undertake the work of settling the lands along the cross-country line which was contemplated by those who were responsible for that development scheme. But, this cannot be much longer deferred, for our public lands are remaining useless, and our burden of taxation waits to be shared by others.

IN CONCLUSION.

It has given me very great pleasure to be able to outline in this Manifesto so many of the reforms desired by the Fishermen's Protective Union, and my only regret is that the serious financial embarrassment brought about by the waste and extravagance of the present Government renders it impossible for the finances of the Colony to respond to further demands at this time.

I shall not deceive those who have called me to their service by raising any expectations except what I know can be fulfilled.

I have made this communication full and comprehensive because I cannot possibly reach the majority of the Electors from the public platform. I ask them to consider carefully, thoughtfully, conscientiously, all that I have herein set forth, remembering that the future of this Country and the fairest hopes of the well-being and happiness of its people depend upon the decision they shall register at the polls on the 30th inst.

I appeal to all who can regard politics without being influenced by mere temporary party prejudices to pause before they endorse the policy and actions of those who have been in charge of the Government during the past four years. I appeal to them to assist me, by such a pronouncement of popular confidence and approval as shall enable me to feel, in taking up the burden I have been called upon to bear, that there are around and beneath me the strong arms of an independent, loyal, and patriotic people.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. BOND.

October 3rd, 1913.



Rally Round Bond, the Honest and Able Statesman, who stands by the Fishermen.

G.,

reach of resolute

moment you are fact that the inter- have been sacri- subordinate to per- and that the Govern- a mere machine for of patronage. The now in your hands. ment is clinging to they had a legal

Many thousands tion to the House ht for opportunity twelve months ago, treated by the Gov- tempt. The oppor- tors sought to ob- Instead of remain- hoping that others which is crying aloud all gird our loins, responsibilities, and with such will con- that the results ons shall be OMNI-

PLEDGES.

ed the salient acts t during their four will deal with the votes. Have they let us see. First, he most important of Taxation." The red "that the bur- borne by the fisher- classes of the Col- and calls for such ill lean more equit- at present feel most ased cost of living in Sir Edward Morris to the Electors in tion of taxation so equitably on the an be best accom- on the free list- sugar, pork, and ssaries, on which w imposed." I re- ed to observe that a cruel piece of de- only to catch the hermen and other and this I shall pro- om the Official re- of Assembly. Dur- of the House of As- as done. In the last y way of testing the ernment in this con- the following Reso-

g regard to the ac- injury resulting to and working class- by reason of the xation, and to the they feel most seri- eated cost of living ry, it is the duty of ent to immediately tariff, so as to place rk, and other prime n which taxes, are on the free list."

on was voted down Morris and all of his en moving this Re- out that "this would enue by the sum of Thousand Dollars, w of the obligations the Colony had been bur- puzzle wiser heads the Government to de- of the tariff under amount of taxation topped." My Resolu- ans of forcing from an admission of the y statements, as the t which I quote from ort of Debates will ard Morris said "if ace taxation three or ousand dollars then to reduce the Educa- ould have no Old Age

ension of telegraphs, the Marconi system, poor, you could have ensions in the public h this money is now Here was an admis- ute truth of my state- promise of this reduc- by Sir Edward Mor- Election was a cruel ion intended only to ar vote.

RST PHASE OF THE ATTER.

not the worst phase or at the last session