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HOUSE of ASSEMBLY

The Wasteful and Stupid Agricultural Policy of Government Scored by Messrs. Clift and Kent.

Mr. Gear in a short but practice speech brought under the notice of the House the desperate condition of the roads in the District of Burin. The mileage of main lines had increased but the grants had decreased and these public conveniences were now a state of ill repair which rendered them impossible. He sincerely hoped the Government would give this matter attention and that the Burin road be put in proper order.

Mr. Clapp drew the attention of the Government to the steamship service on the N. E. Coast. Since the alteration in the service and the employment of the Duchess of Marlborough it had fallen to pieces. The Premier and Colonial Secretary as well as himself have had letters from mariners on the coast asking that something be done to better the service. It was never worse and is a disgrace. I did not bring this matter up for the sake of mere talk, but spoke of a distinct and unbearable grievance, the facts of which were in the possession of the Premier, and he asked again that the matter be given prompt and earnest attention.

The Premier said that his Government had given the district a second steamer and the people express their delight with the change, though while he was there last year he had heard great objections to the Hon. and Solway.

Mr. Clift made a lengthy speech referring to the absence of information on public matters of expenditure which they thought for. When over-drafts were made and over expenditure occurring it was only right before they were asked to vote on such matters that all necessary information should be placed before them. On March 4th he had asked for a detailed statement of the expenditure since June 30th, last, of \$12,040 for agriculture. This would not take long to prepare and he could not understand why the information was denied. He wanted it so that he could criticize the report of the Minister of Agriculture and the agricultural policy generally of the Government. He then severely criticized the agricultural policy of the Government and he regretted that it did not embrace a scientific course and the creation of an experimental station. With the big vote of \$40,000 much should have been done for agriculture but very little had been accomplished. He described the good done in Canada by the experimental farms and the practical education received in them. Something should be done from a scientific standpoint if we were to improve agricultural conditions. The fact that our farmers proceeded to the Truro College in England was a good thing but it could be done here with such an institution and the great necessity there was for it. Last year there was an extra expenditure of \$10,000. The grant and he demanded details of this. He knew that out of the total grant \$4,500 was spent on exhibits, grants to societies amounted to \$7,000 and \$9,500 for amounts for breeding purposes, salaries to members of the Board, secretaries, etc., \$7,000. For this heavy expenditure on "would expect good value but this was not getting nor would we until scientific training of farmers and a scientific agricultural policy was adopted. He referred to the big salary of \$1,025 per year each being paid Messrs. Dorey and Devereaux, but the Report was silent as to the nature of their work and the amount they performed. He then asked the Government upon the matter of the importation of seeds. In the act passed bearing on this matter it was provided to have an inspector of all seeds put on the market for sale so that only good seed might be used. The act made it unlawful for anyone to import seed without first getting a license. Before this was issued an inspector should grant

certificates. As nothing had been done to enforce this provision in the it all who imported seed for sale since March 1912 were acting illegally liable to a penalty. No inspector had been appointed and no license issued under the Sale of Seeds Act, of all importers of seed are violating a law. Why was the law there if was not made to be enforced?

Mr. Earle here referred to the utterly neglected state of the District of Fogo. The breakwater at Barriland, though an allocation had been made for it, had been utterly neglected, and his patience had been exhausted in demanding a telegraphic notice for Carmanville, but he could not get it. It was a place of much importance, and should not be closed off from the outside world. The road from Fox Cove Harbor to Newtown, in a desperate condition and he hoped the representatives of Bonaville would help him out in getting this matter attended to, as they were interested also. He referred to the office in Fogo, which he would dignify by the title of a shack. He complained of the inadequate salary of the postmaster. He would like the Premier to give this appeal his for the rights of his district, a consideration it deserved.

Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Mr. Blandford), made the at of a bad job in trying to bolster up one of the greatest of the Government's many failures—its agricultural policy. Though he arrayed his facts as best he could and tried to infuse life into his subject, he could not do so and even the ever-ready Premier nodded like Jove in his chair. About the most interesting portion of the speech was that the race of Newfoundland pigs had escaped the danger of total extinction, and that they were now in a healthy state.

Mr. Kent, in a short but incisive speech, destroyed the promising picture of agricultural development of the Government, and took the list of imports and exports of produce as a text of the success or failure of their agricultural policy. We had heard a great cry about raising our own food stuffs, but instead we imported more now than ever before. In the report tabled by the late Mr. Seymour, he found that in 1909 we imported \$2,717,000 worth of produce, whereas to-day this had increased to \$3,300,000 or an increase of \$583,000. He held with Mr. Clift that scientific training in agriculture was necessary to success, and observed that it was a great mistake to interfere with the experimental farm inaugurated in 1908. That was the foundation of an agricultural policy which would suit the country and by the means of applying scientific tests in agriculture to every part of the country, they would never have a prosperous and numerous farming class in this country. He criticized the seeds act, showed it to be an expensive abortion and that men who knew nothing of the matter were to test seed imported. He dwelt on the difference in soil between Newfoundland and the Province, how it should be treated, and quoted the reports of Mr. Zavits, Beach, Thomas and other experts as to the best means of encouraging agriculture in the country. After recess, the debate was continued. The Labrador Railway Bill passed in Committee, the Wireless Telegraphy Bill passed its second reading and the Bill to consolidate the election laws was reported to the House, after which the House adjourned. (Continued on 8th page.)

Wedding Bells.

A quiet but pretty wedding ceremony was celebrated at Holyrood on Monday evening. The contracting parties were Mr. Patrick Corbett, of Duff's, and Miss Mary Walsh, "Bill," Holyrood. The groom was supported by Mr. John Walsh and the bride by Miss Hartley, of the city. The wedding guests assembled at the home of the bride, and awaited the arrival of Rev. R. M. Shean, P.P., Mr. Main, who came to officiate at the marriage ceremony, and who at the conclusion of the contract, happily and beautifully addressed the newly-married pair, on the duties and obligations of their new life. A reception and reception followed in which the health of the bride was proposed by Father Shean and responded to by the happy groom. The party then proceeded to the home of the groom, at Duff's, where the wedding supper was served and the festivities kept up till the broad daylight, in dance and song. Congratulations to bride and groom.—Com.

Fire Alarm.

At eleven o'clock last night the Central and East End men were called to Gower Street where a chimney fire was in progress in a house three doors east of Lawrence's Carriage Factory. Parties of fire were blowing in all directions but the firemen quickly mounted the roof, poured salt down the chimney and soon all danger was passed. This is the very same house that caught fire two months ago and which resulted in four families being left homeless.

Music Notes.

PADEREWSKI TO VISIT AMERICA.

It is said that Paderewski has decided to visit Canada and the States in September, remaining, till April 1914. Who is going to try to induce this great pianist to visit St. John's on his way, either coming or going?

DICKENS' LITTLE JOKE.

A very neat little anecdote is told of Dickens in Mr. Lightwood's recent book dealing with the novelist's references to music. One night a gentleman visitor insisted on singing "By the sad sea waves," which he did vilely. Moreover, he wound up by a most unexpected and misplaced embellishment or "turn." Dickens found the whole ordeal very trying, but managed to preserve a decorous silence till this sound fell on his ear, when his neighbor said to him: "Whatever did he mean by that extraneous effort of melody?"

"Oh," replied Dickens, "that's quite in accordance with rule. When things are at their worst, they always take a turn."

SCHWAB HAS THE MONEY!

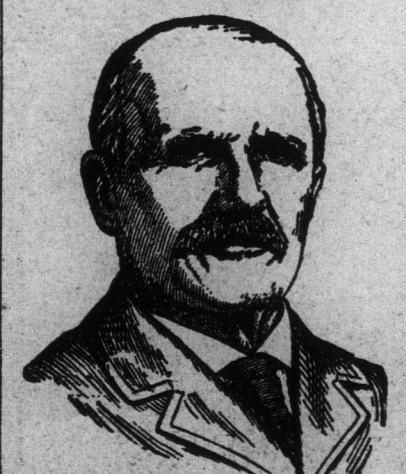
More than two hundred singers of the Bethlehem, Pa. Bach Choir gave a reception in that city on Tuesday evening, February 4th, to Chas. M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel Co., who will again be a large guarantor for the eighth Bach Festival to be held at Lehigh University this coming spring. Several of the choruses from the Mass in B minor were sung by the choir under Dr. J. Fred Wolfe, the conductor. The Bach Festivals, held originally in the historic Moravian Church, have attained a reputation that attracts music lovers from all parts of the country to the annual renditions. This year it will take place in Packer Memorial Church at the University on Friday and Saturday, May 30th and 31st.

LOSSES TO MUSIC.

The year that has come to an end saw the death of many eminent musicians, foremost among them being Jules Massenet and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. Dr. A. L. Peace, the Liverpool organist, H. Trotter and Frances Alltzen, the well-known song writers, Jan Bloek, composer, Hamilton Clarke, composer and conductor, Guido Papini, the Italian violinist, J. T. Field, the famous organist and composer of church music, and Wilhelm Kuhe have all passed away within the last twelve months. Edward Terry, George Grossmith, W. S. Penley, Richard Temple, Florence St. John, and Marion Hood were primarily, of course, of the stage, but through comic opera and burlesque their connection with music was considerable. Grossmith was the composer of the words and music of several most and amusing little songs. His most ambitious effort was the light opera "Haste to the Wedding." Penley, first as a boy and then as a man, was a member of several church choirs. He had a fine bass voice, and was a very fair organist.

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