



"IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE"

Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, Proprietor; C. T. JAMES, Editor

Tuesday, April 5, 1921.

The Railway Commission.

Supporters of the Government no less than the Government itself and its press are fond of quoting the condition of Canadian Railways to excuse and condone the frightful mess into which the Newfoundland Railway Commission has involved this country and the country's revenue. In fact for everything that goes wrong because of blundering, mismanagement and incompetent operation there is not the slightest hesitation in using Canadian examples in extenuation. "The same thing happened, and is happening in Canada," is a stereotyped phrase from the lips of Government defenders, as though Newfoundland should take a lead from everything done in the neighboring dominion. When the railway situation in Newfoundland—not forgetting the coastal situation as well—is disclosed in the House of Assembly during the present session, the full tale will be staggering, and will not redound in any way to the credit of the fatuous Railway Commission appointed by an equally fatuous Executive. In order that readers may derive an idea of the "Railway Horror" of Canada, and compare the state of affairs in that country with those existing in Newfoundland, we reprint to-day a leading article from the Morning Chronicle, of Halifax, and after its perusal no sane person will affirm that a repetition of the Canadian Railway policy is desirable for Newfoundland, and the excuses and subterfuges of the Government Ministers and Commissioners will be set at their true valuation. The Public Accounts of this Colony will show that huge sums have already been expended on Railways and steamboats, without in any way enhancing their services or rendering them equal to the performance of the same. The Newfoundland dish will be equally as dainty as the Canadian when it is set before the people by Ministers of the Crown, and equally as well served.

Government because its expenditures kept pace with the progress and needs of the country.

In 1911, when the Laurier Government retired from office it left a well-filled treasury, an increasingly prosperous country, reduced debt, and an annual, ordinary expenditure not much in excess of the deficit on railway account alone, now admitted for last year. There is little doubt that the admitted deficit is far below the actual shortage on railway account. There is no reasonable prospect of its being materially decreased under existing conditions. The simple truth is that the Dominion is in every way likely to be out at least one hundred millions each year on railway account.

It is extravagance of statement to describe this as appalling? Do the people, do their representatives, realize what it really signifies? One hundred millions is a sum so vast that it cannot be grasped by the ordinary mind. Even one million is vaguely comprehended by most. Perhaps the probable railway deficit will be better comprehended if apportioned among the people. It means a tax of \$12.50 a head, yearly on every man, woman and child in the Dominion. And this in addition to all the other burdens which they have to bear!

It means that our railways are to cost us as much annually as the interest on our whole huge war debt of over two billion dollars. It means that we shall have to raise two hundred million dollars a year by taxation for these two items of expense alone, hereafter, whereas we were contributing only forty million dollars a year for all purposes in the early years of the Laurier Administration. In addition to this, we shall have to assess for the ordinary expenses of Government and development, for pensions and costs of soldiers' re-establishment and other necessary purposes which will bring our annual budgets up to well over ten times what they were at the beginning of this century, although the population has not nearly doubled since then. How do the people like the prospect?

But there is no good in moaning over the situation. We must face it like men and Canadians. By means of increased rates the Government railways brought in twenty million dollars more in 1920 than in 1919. Was the difference saved by those who have been so strenuously recommending "thrift" to others? Not at all. Very much the opposite. They spent nearly thirty-seven million dollars more in 1920 than in 1919. Next year will probably tell a similar or worse tale. In fact, it is officially hinted that it will. What is the end to be?

There is only one hopeful means of escape, and that is prompt right-about-face complete reversal of the policy which has been and is still being pursued. We must at all hazards, cut down railway expenses and increase earnings. All the people must be considered and not the few with "vested interests." The railways are now being maintained by the country, with huge annual bonuses thrown in, for the exclusive benefit of those, high and low, who are operating them. The Minister has frankly admitted as much. Seventy-five per cent. of their earnings goes in salaries and wages; twenty per cent. for heat, and only five per cent. is left over for maintenance, a sum so inadequate that it has to be supplemented to the tune of seventy million dollars a year out of taxes paid into the public treasury. This is truly "a dainty dish to set before the King." Demos by name.

Interesting Lecture.

The lecture delivered in the basement of Wesley Church, last night on the "Awakening of China," by Mr. A. W. Mews, C.M.G., was a most interesting and instructive one. The lecturer illustrated his address with some very fine colored lantern slides. In the course of his lecture he referred to the Ancient History of China and said that when 4000 years ago our forebears in Britain were dressed in skins and pelts, the Chinese aristocracy was clad in silk. He pointed out that the Chinese lack of initiative and leadership has greatly retarded their progress but they give proof of their remarkable ability when they become educated and get in touch with western civilization. At the close of the lecture the large and appreciative audience accorded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Mews, Mr. Davis, who presided over the magic lantern, and Rev. Dr. Bond who lent the slides.

Accordeons slightly damaged, \$5.50 to \$8.50. Regular price \$12.00 and \$18.00. Only a few left.

THE WEST END BAZAAR, 51 Water St. West.

Police Court.

A young boy was charged with entering a house and stealing several articles including a stimpence and a pair of shoes. He was allowed to go on bail when called upon.

A woman was charged with the larceny of a quilt, the property of a Mrs. George. The accused pleaded not guilty. Mr. G. W. B. Ayre appeared for the defendant. After hearing the evidence on both sides His Honor dismissed the case.

Bridesmaids! See how the Professional Bridesmaids do it in "Ruddimore."

Half-Million Dollars Taken From Treasury To Purchase Labrador Fish -- German Salt Imported.

Sensational in the extreme was the information contained in the Auditor General's Report which was tabled in the House of Assembly yesterday. At last light has been shed on a matter which everybody suspected to have happened but the true extent of which no one ever dreamed. Facts—most surprising facts—have become available to the public which now find that Half a million dollars of its money was appropriated in connection with the much talked of Labrador fish deal. And this huge sum was appropriated for this purpose under special warrant issued under authority of a Minute of Council dated 19th November, 1920. This Minute of Council which provided for the purchase of 50,000 qts. of Labrador fish at prices not exceeding \$8.00 for choice and \$7.00 for prime, plus expenses, reads as follows:

Copy of Minute of the Honorable Executive Council approved by His Excellency the Governor on the 19th of November, 1920:

"Committee of Council having had under consideration the report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Marketing of the present year's catch of Labrador codfish is proceeding very slowly, and that there is an urgent and immediate necessity in the interest of the trade, commerce and general welfare of the Colony and for the public good, to expedite the sale of the present year's catch of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) is required for such purposes."

"And whereas the Minister of Finance and Customs reports that no Legislative provision has been made for such expenditure.

"It is ordered that under the provisions of Section 33 (b) of Chapter 23 of the Consolidated Statutes (3rd series) entitled "of the Auditing of Public Accounts" that a special warrant be prepared to be signed by His Excellency the Governor for the issue of \$500,000.00, which sum shall be placed to a special account in the Bank of Nova Scotia or in some other Bank in the city against which cheques may be drawn signed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and his Deputy or in the absence of either the Deputy Colonial Secretary from time to time as they are required for the purpose of purchasing 50,000 qts. of Labrador codfish of the present season's catch at prices not exceeding \$8.00 for choice and \$7.00 for prime Labrador fish, plus expenses."

"Of the \$500,000.00 appropriated the sum of \$239,690.76 has been spent. Commenting upon the expenditure the Auditor General says in his report:

"With regard to the expenditure from the current revenue of the Colony of the sum of \$239,690.76 for the purchase of Labrador codfish, I desire to say that if the emergency referred to in the Order-in-Council quoted as was such as is therein stated, then, legally, the Government were justified in their action. The provisions of the 33rd section (b) of the Audit Act read as follows:

"If, when the Legislature is not in session, any accident happens to any public work or public building which requires an immediate outlay for the repair thereof, or any other occasion arise when an expenditure not foreseen and provided for by the Legislature is urgently and immediately required for the public good, then upon the report of the Minister of Finance and the Minister in charge of the service that the necessity is urgent, the Governor-in-Council may order a special warrant to be prepared by the Governor for the amount estimated to be required."

"I am not sufficiently acquainted with the facts relating to the emergency nor if I were, am I called upon to decide upon their bona fides. I can only say that in my opinion the establishment of such a precedent is undesirable from a financial point of view."

The Government entirely exceeded its authority by appropriating this huge sum without Legislative sanction, not for the public good but merely to save its political face. The action of the Audit Act quoted above gives them no authority to appropriate money for such purposes. If the "public good" enforced the appropriation of this money for the purchase of fish, why did it apply to Labrador fish only? Surely it was just as important that Shore fish should be speedily marketed. Scores of people are on the verge of starvation to-day because they could obtain no remunerative prices for their Shore fish. The reason this fish was not taken is because the men who had Labrador fish to sell were mostly constituents of Coaker, and whom it was desired to placate. The public knows that when the fishermen from the North came to town and were unable to market their fish, they called a public meeting, where they appointed a deputation to wait on Mr. Coaker and demand the price he had pledged them. Mr. Coaker's meeting on the following evening proved to him that his political power and influence over the men was at stake because they were most outspoken in their antagonism, and in order to save his skin, he resorted to the desperate measure of using the funds of the Colony to purchase 50,000 qts. of Labrador fish—a measure that perchance sent his constituents home satisfied, but that will mean a loss to the country of at least three hundred thousand dollars.

By this action Mr. Coaker may have saved his political scalp, but he has proved himself as one utterly heedless of the country's general welfare and absolutely unfit to have any control of public affairs. By this unwarranted act the Government has established a dangerous precedent, and of other class in the country would be within its rights in demanding similar protection. If such an emergency should arise, the Government has but itself to blame. There is still another side to this question. Where is the fish which was purchased, and who purchased it? None of those empowered in the Minute of Council to issue cheques in payment for the fish, pursued direct for the Government. It is obvious that they must have paid the money over to some firms or individuals to do the buying on behalf of the Government. If so, who were the firms. Was the money distributed generally among the fish-buying firms, or was it divided among a particular few of Mr. Coaker's dearest friends? Who were any commission for handling fish? What are the "expenses" they amount to?

The Auditor General also intimates in his report, that the Government last year purchased salt at a cost of \$77,767.02 and then sold it to some firms at a loss of \$18,184.00, and adds the significant comment that "the balance will, I understand, be repaid by the firm to which it was sold." From this it is apparent that some concern still owes the Government for salt imported in the early part of last year, the enormous sum of \$61,583.02. Who is the firm and where is the salt? There is a story also of some German salt imported here last year, which will make interesting reading, but we give the Government an opportunity to supply the information before any further comment is made. No one along the street had the slightest knowledge of this deal. The Auditor General affirms that the Government has already lost \$16,184.00 on the deal, but how much greater a sum it stands to lose remains to be seen. These and other questions it will be necessary for the members of the Opposition to ask, so that it will be possible to get to the bottom of these iniquitous and unprecedented transactions. The country wants the whole truth and must have it.

McMurdo's Store News.

For a lingering winter April 5th weather like this could be very apt to "linger." We suggest you obtain a bottle of Gualdi's Cod Liver Oil compound, and take it according to directions. You will probably be no less surprised than delighted at the prompt manner in which the cough will be cleared up. Pleasant to take, and stimulating to the appetite. Large bottle price \$1.

To make last season's straw hat look like new? Quite simple and easy, only get a bottle of Colorite, 40 cents.

Evangeline High Cut Boots, Low Shoes and Dainty Pumps at 25 PER CENT REDUCTION AT SMALLWOOD'S Ladies' Dept. mar28,t

From Cape Race.

Special to Evening Telegram. Wind Northwest heavy, strong, weather fine; the steamer Rosalind passed in at 7:40 p.m. yesterday; schr. Rosalind Belliveau in at 6:20; steamers Clyde at 8:30 and Lady of Gaspe at 8:50 a.m. to-day; Bar. 29.98; Ther. 30.

Now is the time to fill Spring needs for Men's Suits, Raglans and Hats while the present one week sale is on at BISHOP'S. It is not wise to wait longer, prices are away below present valuations and offer splendid chances to save not a few but many dollars.

MINARD'S LINIMENT RELIEVES DISTEMPERS.

Things Political.

I was greatly amused at the expressions visible on the faces of the Government members yesterday when Sir Michael Cashin sprang his surprise basket resolution. The Minister of Justice seemed quite hurt when Sir Michael informed him that he was quibbling. The Premier, too, seemed greatly offended when he was told he was part proprietor of the Daily Star. It was evidently the first time he had heard it.

During question time, I noticed that the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Posts and the Hon. Mr. T. G. McEvoy, who were present, were by an excellent joke. Even the Minister of Education went sufficiently to permit of a slight smile breaking out on his usually stern features.

A great deal of interest is being manifested in the probable results of the Resolution which the Leader of the Opposition gave notice of yesterday. It is expected that when the Resolution is discussed this afternoon there will be some sensational happenings.

People are beginning to wonder what happened to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He is presumed to have reached New York last week with Sir J. C. Crosbie but as the seals were some distance from the coast he was not seen until Friday next whilst no one seems to know when the Honourable Minister is coming, or even where he is.

Judging by the formidable array of questions which the Opposition members are asking, there seems to be little doubt that any questionable acts of the Government being left untried, I noticed that the heads of the various departments were beginning to put on their hats and to get ready to go through and the stenographers in their offices are likely to be kept pretty busy.—C.A.T.O.

Commencing to-day BISHOP'S are selling all their Rubber Footwear at a discount of 10%. See that your 10% is deducted from your bill at the time purchase is made. This includes all Rubbers for Men and Boys, Women and Girls and comes at a most opportune time, for this is the season when good Rubbers are absolutely necessary.

Old Comrades' Dance.

WILL BE HELD TO-MORROW NIGHT. The dance of the C.L.B. Cadets Old Comrades, which everybody is looking forward with the greatest anticipation, will be held in the Mechanics Hall to-morrow night. No efforts have been spared by the promoters of the dance in trying to make this one of the most successful affairs of its kind that has taken place during the present season. The music will be furnished by the Band of the C.L.B. Cadets under the very capable management of Capt. A. Morris, and all the latest dances will be played in a manner which will leave nothing to be desired. An enjoyable time is in store for all who decide to attend this dance.

In any serious decline of prices, the thing is always overdue, with the result that the rebound of prices is as sudden and unexpected as the decline was drastic and extreme. People who do not take advantage of sale prices now offered at BISHOP'S will find when these goods are replaced that they have let opportunities slip through their fingers. Present stocks cannot be replaced to sell for such low prices as we now offer.

S. S. Rosalind Arrives.

S.S. Rosalind, Capt. Mitchell, arrived in port from New York via Halifax at 1:30 a.m. to-day, having been delayed several hours by the towing of schooner Gladys M. Hollett into Burin, as reported in Telegram yesterday. The Rosalind brought a large freight and the following passengers:—W. Powell, Mrs. M. Chesire, Miss Marjorie Chesire, F. W. and Mrs. Hayward, Miss M. Dunphy, F. M. Frederick, D. M. Fraser, A. Pike, G. James, H. C. Opie, C. M. Rogers, Capt. H. Ledger, J. Kirby, A. and Mrs. Manning, C. McDonald, Mme. Polequin, Francois Polequin, Andrew Polequin, Mrs. J. Nardeau, Miss M. Conaghan, C. C. and Mrs. Pratt, B. H. Bishop, Mrs. A. McNamara, Mrs. (Hon.) F. McNamara, J. Nardeau, P. and Mrs. Wylan, J. Fenton, J. T. Mcnevey, P. Tobin, J. and Mrs. Nangle, Capt. D. Robertson, Miss May Slick, Jas. Gray, A. Gibb, Miss Irene Forbes, Miss Kathleen Forbes, Clyde Forbes, Miss Edna War, C. C. and Mrs. Bellin, Miss M. Bellin, and 31 in company.

Supreme Court.

(Before Justice Johnson.)

IN CHAMBERS. W. J. Ellis, plaintiff, vs. The St. John's Daily Star, defendant. Mr. Fox for respondent, opposes application. Mr. Barron for appellant, is heard in reply. Mr. Fox is heard in reply. C.A.V.

Just opened, a nice assortment of Ladies' Ready-to-wear Hats. Newest styles. Prices very reasonable.

THE WEST END BAZAAR, 51 Water St. West.

CLOUDS PREVENT FLIGHT.—A message received from Etoway yesterday evening says that owing to low lying clouds, the sealing airplane did not make any flight. If conditions favorable it is probable a flight will be made to-day.

Men's Shop Aprons made from best grade White Indian Head are now to be had from BISHOP'S for only one dollar and twenty-six cents each. A real opportunity for Grocers to get the best wearing Apron made in America at small cost.

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR SANDFLIES EVERYWHERE.

Diana First Arrival.

FROM SEAL FISHERY. At 4 p.m. yesterday the S.S. Diana, Capt. J. Parsons arrived from the seal fishery halting for 6,000 young harps. The Diana was forced to abandon the voyage owing to losing two of her bow-plates as well as some sheathing. Captain Parsons reports that the sea was the worst in his experience, and the weather being extremely stormy and the ice very heavy, making it difficult for the ships to get through. For two weeks after leaving port with the rest of the northern fleet, the Diana was continually engaged butting her way in the direction of the whitecoats, the ocean being covered with heavy sheet ice. The ships were on the track of the seals on March 17, but did not reach them till Sunday evening, March 27, when in company with the Terra Nova, Seal, Ranger and Sagona the Diana struck the patch. The Ranger was some distance astern, and the Eagle, Thetis and Neptune could be seen out to the N.W. The seals were very thick and Capt. Parsons estimates that the patch contained about 100,000 seals. In company with the Terra Nova, Seal, Ranger and Sagona the Diana struck the patch. The Ranger was some distance astern, and the Eagle, Thetis and Neptune could be seen out to the N.W. The seals were very thick and Capt. Parsons estimates that the patch contained about 100,000 seals. In company with the Terra Nova, Seal, Ranger and Sagona the Diana struck the patch. The Ranger was some distance astern, and the Eagle, Thetis and Neptune could be seen out to the N.W. The seals were very thick and Capt. Parsons estimates that the patch contained about 100,000 seals. In company with the Terra Nova, Seal, Ranger and Sagona the Diana struck the patch. The Ranger was some distance astern, and the Eagle, Thetis and Neptune could be seen out to the N.W. The seals were very thick and Capt. Parsons estimates that the patch contained about 100,000 seals. 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