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Chewing Tobacco.  
**PARK DRIVE**  
Smoking Tobacco.  
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Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



(To Every Man His Own.)

**The Mail and Advocate**

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., AUGUST 27, 1915.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

**A Lost Art**

PERSONAL thrift seems to have entirely disappeared from the present generation. Money is earned and spent nowadays by our people, young and old, with a facility that would have astounded our forefathers who were, for the most part, a careful, saving people.

They had a degree of self-control in the spending of money which is rare with us to-day. They rarely sought amusements outside their own homes; and they had a capacity for the enjoyment of simple pleasures. We are not content without such simple living; but we are "going the pace" with a recklessness which must have but one inevitable result.

Love of home and a habit of thrift are two of the best possessions that any man can wish for. The habit of saving a little every week is one of the great steps to prosperity and self-respect. The way to save is to reduce expenditure in amusement and needless luxury. The last directions in which retrenchment should be made are charity and the cause of God.

We know from daily observation that numbers of our people are living "from hand to mouth," and though they may be earning fairly decent wages, the end of each year finds them financially as poor as at the beginning.

Thrift is a necessity in every walk of life. The married man, for example, is in duty bound to save money for his wife and children. To leave a family penniless is unworthy of an honest man and is often due to gross carelessness to provide for the future. Young men should save in order to fit themselves for the future. They, in ordinary course, hope some day to be home-makers. In these strenuous days, a beginning for such a possibility should be made just as soon as they begin to earn. They should not try to "live at a wine rate on a beer income." But if one may judge from the large place which sport occupies in our social economy at the present time, many of our young men are quite Epicurean in their view of life. "Eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die" seems to be their motto.

We do not seem to realize that hard times are before us; and that we are face to face with a situation that must reduce our income and make life harder. Our cycle of prosperity is at an end; and whilst we are not pessimistic in our views, we warn all and sundry to prepare for the inevitable.

**Attention! City Fathers**

THE numerous cases of diphtheria now cropping up in the city should awaken the city Civic Commission to the necessity of giving immediate attention to certain sections of the city (many of which we have already alluded to) and see that the piles of garbage which have been allowed to accumulate are removed at once.

They should awaken to the fact this city has highways and by-ways (many such alas!) which demand vigilant supervision other than those on which huge sums of money are now being expended. We ask them to send their inspector to certain streets between Carter's Hill and Springdale Street—one of the most congested areas in the city and have a "clean-up" at once. A large population of most deserving people reside in the area under consideration; and they should receive, at least, ordinary sanitary attention.

If some of our kid-glove Commissioners would just visit some of the streets and by-ways in this section of the city they would understand the meaning of the phrase used some days ago by a tourist party that blew in here on the "Stephano": "St. John's is a very interesting burg, but it is about the dirtiest little hole we have ever seen!" They must not have visited Rennie's Mill Road, or other fashionable sections!

Wake up gentlemen of the Commission, or we shall have such an outbreak of disease one of these days that it will decimate our working population.

Of course you cannot use the steam-roller in these by-ways; but you can, at least use a few brooms and give the section a good flushing.

**Marine Inspection**

RECENT happenings in marine matters cause us to suggest to the Department under whose jurisdiction such things come the advisability, not immediate necessity, of more vigilance on the part of the officials of the Department regarding the sea-worthiness of some ships sailing to and from this port.

Accidents are becoming frequent; and there never seems to be any such thing as regular and efficient inquiry as to their cause, or are there any means taken, as far as we can judge, to prevent their recurrence.

Just a few days ago we noted that sailors had quit service on a ship owing presumably to the unseaworthiness of the vessel. This is a matter of grave importance; and the lives of our sailors should be a subject of the deepest concern to all concerned.

Looking over the list of officials, we are forced to state that there seems to be a total disregard for such an essential thing as "qualification" in the Department of Marine and Fisheries. We are of necessity a maritime people; and the Government displays great lack of foresight in making appointments to positions where practical seamen, not relatives of rearsy-leeches, are a crying necessity.

Men in positions such as those we have in mind should at least be able to distinguish the "after run" from the "fore-peak" of a vessel; and should be able to give practical evidence of competency when occasion requires.

We shall take up this matter again; and we may have something pertinent to offer, unless people who are being paid handsome salaries "get on to their job," and do the work for which they have been appointed.

**WATCH FOR THE SWATTING**  
The reading public is to be heartily congratulated upon the fact that the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World have adopted the slogan, "Swat the Lie." One practical result of this action—if the advertising men live up to their pronouncements—will be the early disappearance from our newspaper columns of certain brewery ads.

**Water Powers**

THE report that certain gentlemen are contemplating the erection and operation of electric furnaces for the smelting of copper ores brings to mind the question of water powers.

These great natural sources of electric energy that for ages have been exerting force enough if harnessed to run all our machinery, light our homes and streets, our stores, offices and factories, as well as to smelt our ores, are only within recent times coming to be appreciated at their value.

Indeed it is difficult even now, unless one were gifted with prophetic sight, to estimate the importance of our water powers, for almost every day sees some new application of this wonderful energy.

In respect to water powers the Morris Government has sinned most enormously. They have permitted greedy speculators to acquire those invaluable natural assets, just in the same manner as they have allowed the same class to put their avaricious paws upon our timber and mineral wealth.

The Government in a very silly manner made a special boast of how they had increased the revenue through the Crown Lands Office, ignoring the fact that for the paltry few dollars derived from the raid upon the public domain, the country had bartered away millions.

Look round and note the wealth that has come to certain individuals through traffic in public property, and ask yourselves the question, why should this wealth go into the pockets of individuals who have done nothing to create it. They have obtained their hundreds of thousands by selling what belongs to you and to me. No man has any natural right to the land, to the timber upon it or to the mineral wealth beneath the surface or to water powers. He has done nothing to create them. They have been put there by God, and are the natural heritage of every man, not as an individual but as a member of the body politic, society or state.

No party or government should have the power to barter these away, but should aim to preserve the public right to them, and the power to receive rental for them. These assets are our bank account, and should be so regarded. We think lightly of handing over to some greedy, grasping and gripping individual whatever of those natural assets he has cheek enough to ask and political pull enough to obtain, but we would raise a prodigious row, if the same individual were to put his paw on our specie, stupidly failing to realize that the difference between the two exists only in form.

The Morris Government has been prodigal in handing out money to supporters, but they furnish some sort of excuse for their conduct in this respect. They are forced to account in some way for the spending of money, but strange to say they give away our natural wealth without any pretext. They furnish no account, give no excuse, and people do not demand it.

How much or how little of our natural wealth remains to us, nobody knows or seems to care. We go on giving away without a thought as to how we are bankrupting ourselves. We do not know what water powers we hold, and we have made no attempt to find out. The same state of affairs exists with regard to our timber areas, our peat bogs and our mineral lands.

It is high time that we set about making a survey of these natural resources with a view to putting some value upon them. It is recommended as a sort of national stock taking, also as a preliminary to further investigation. It is our duty to discover if possible how we can best put our resources to some use for the benefit of the country. A great deal could be done, we are of opinion, in the

way of utilizing our great peat bogs, and turning of those now waste areas into some value. We have abundant water powers which if not already given away could be utilized by the Government to operate a series of peat plants. Peat can be distilled just as coal is distilled and a number of valuable products obtained therefrom, including nitrogen, which is a valuable fertilizing agent.

We are doing nothing that an intelligent people should be doing to develop the resources of their country.

We are content to let things drift along, and to wait for the coming of some capitalists to take up what we ourselves should be developing. How can we expect ever to get out of poverty if we do not make proper use of the wealth which providence has given us for our benefit.

In the present deplorable state of our finances, it may not be possible to do what is here recommended, but that does not hinder us from pointing out what should have been done long ago, and what we hope will be done when a more prosperous time comes to visit us.

This waiting for somebody to come in and do for us what we should be doing for ourselves is too childish a policy for a serious people, and the sooner we discard it, and depend upon our own initiative the better it will be for us, and the sooner we will gain the respect of the world.

We have a long time been bragging of our great natural resources, but we are not doing anything to point them out, or to put them to some economical use. We do not know where those resources are or what is their value, and we are not trying to find out.

We have no geological survey at present, and have not had for many years, for as long as our memory can recall, our geological survey has been confined to a fruitless and wasteful investigation of our so called coal areas, about which also great ado has been.

Professor Dunstan was sent here last year to investigate (2) these coal areas, since when nothing has been heard of the wonderful coal seams, except the vague words contained in the brief report by Mr. Dunstan.

We were told by Morris that he was going to have the question as to the value of our coal seams settled once for all. It looks as if he has fulfilled the promise in one respect, and that is that nothing more will ever be heard of it.

**Port-de-Grave Notes**

Port de Grave, Aug. 23.—We are having some beautiful summer weather here the past few days and several Union fishermen have taken advantage of it and brought along several quintals of fish, which they caught earlier in the season.

The fish store has been closed up and otherwise made ready to store different kinds of fish in.

Squid is rather scarce here, consequently very little fish is caught with hook-and-line. The traps are all taken in for the season, some did well, others very poor.

The C. of E. Sunday Schols had a very enjoyable picnic on Wednesday. The children marched up through the settlement with banner and flags flying to the breeze. Returning to the school-house, the company engaged in games and tea in the field, and was kept up in the school house after twilight hour. The Rev. Mr. Severn, with the aid of the teachers, saw to it, that every one was treated properly.

Capt. Jos. Morgan, who was fishing at Petty Harbor, the early part of the season, arrived home last week, and got ready and sailed again for the Labrador. We wish him all success. Butler Brothers, here, who had their schooner wrecked last fall in a breeze and have been repairing her during the summer, are just about ready to start at the coasting trade for the rest of the season.

**BAY-DE-VERDE NOTES**

Squid plentiful and a good sign of fish.  
A picnic and dance was in St. Joseph's Hall on Aug. 18th.  
Schr. Annie H. left for St. John's, also schr. Ellie Blanche for Trinity Bay.

**Proceedings of the House of Assembly**

**MR. KENT**—Mr. Chairman: I would like to say one or two words about the matter now under discussion in relation to the Governor's salary. My recollection of the reasons for changing the vote last year is that the salary of the Governor was increased because, first, his salary had been reduced some years previously and it was the intention to replace it, and second, that the expenses at Government House by reason of entertainment and such like necessitated the Governor's asking for the increase.

Then there was a separate vote—that now under discussion of \$2500, which, I think, was an increase of \$1500 on the amount previously voted, for travelling expenses. That was expressly what it was voted for. I don't think there was any suggestion from any quarter of the House that this vote was intended to cover anything else than travelling expenses; and on that understanding and with that impression every member of the House voted. I quite agree with what has been said by the Hon. members for Trinity and Bonavista with regard to this vote having been illegally used during the past year. I see a justification of the way in which the vote has been dealt with in the practice that has prevailed here for a number of years. Probably the payment of the amount in monthly instalments, at the same time as the salary, is due to the fact that the question of the legality of these payments has never been raised before. Now, Sir, that the illegality of the proceeding has been pointed out to the House, while we are still in Committee considering the Estimates, I think that the Government ought, if they intend to carry out that practice and pay that amount in monthly instalments, make it what they intend to carry out that practice and pay that amount in monthly instalments, make it what they intend to be; or else leave it as it is and make it payable in the manner in which all other travelling expenses provided for travelling expenses, it is paid upon vouchers furnished by the persons spending the money.

I remember, Sir, that when I was in the Justice Department, all moneys which were spent in connection with travelling expenses in that department, and which were voted by this House for that purpose, were paid on vouchers, properly furnished and certified. Now, if this vote is to remain as travelling expenses, I don't think either the Governor or the Government ought to be put in position of continuing this illegal practice. As to whether this vote should be paid irrespective of travelling expenses or not, is a question which the House cannot discuss at the present time, because it has not got the necessary information before it. It is necessary to change the vote and make it an addition to the Governor's salary, then I think that some justification for that change ought to be given. You have men throughout the whole civil service to-day, good, competent officials, who are unable to support their positions upon the salaries that are paid and every argument that applies to the Government House applies also to them. I referred the other day to several departments of the civil service in which the earnings were limited, and every justification that applies to the Governor applies throughout the whole service. The question of increasing salaries is a very big undertaking, I know, and this is certainly not the time when it can be properly undertaken. But, Sir, whatever the intention is in this connection, I think the vote should be so dealt with that there will be no suggestion of illegality in the payment of it.

**MR. MORINE**—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Sibley's Cove, asking that a change be made in that settlement in relation to the Post Office. It seems that the one in charge of the office now cannot do the work satisfactorily and must apply more or less to the school children to get them to read the addresses on the letters. The petition is signed by James Sparkes and several other residents, and I ask that the Government give it consideration.

**MR. MORINE**—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from Bonavista Bay, asking for a special grant of \$200 for a road, to be extended by the Road Board of that place. I ask that the petition be referred to the Department of Public Works.

**MR. MORINE**—With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance and Customs to a question that

I asked on April 27th, asking for a return of expenditures on Executive Responsibility.

**MR. STONE**—Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that a question which I asked on April 20th, has not been answered.

**MR. CLIFT**—Mr. Speaker, I wish leave to present a petition from Joseph P. Newman and other residents of Boyd's Cove in the Electoral District of Twillingate asking for telegraph communication between that place and the central stations. I have very much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition and I ask that it be referred to the Colonial Secretary's Department.

**HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS**—I beg to table the answer to that question asked by Mr. Morine.

**MR. MORINE**—I asked the Premier the other day for a copy of the assignment of the Critz Patents.

**RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—I have no such assignments.

**MR. MORINE**—Then I asked a question as to arrangements re water powers on Labrador.

**RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—There has been no arrangement.

**MR. GRIMES** asked the Minister of Public Works what grants were sent out Chapel's Cove (District of Hr. Main) for local, main line, and other purposes for 1914; to whom sent, and a copy of the returns.

**MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS**—I shall have this prepared during the week.

**MR. CLAPP** asked the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, the amount of seed potatoes, number of pigs, sheep and bulls which have been sent to the District of St. Barbe in 1914-15 and the names of persons to whom sent, and if seed potatoes are being doled out for the present season.

**RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—I expect this here also at any minute.

**MR. ABBOTT** asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the table of the House (1) A statement showing the names and ages of all persons in Bonavista District who have received the Old Age Pension since March, 1914, to date; (2) A statement showing the names and ages of those in said District who have made application for the Old Age Pension, but are not receiving it.

**HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS**—This is in course of preparation.

**MR. WINSOR** asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the table of the House copies of returns for the propagation of Lobsters in Bonavista (a) showing number of traps; (b) Date of each trap; (c) Names of places called at in each trap; (d) And returns showing what was done on each trap.

**MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES** begged leave to table required information.

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain Resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Civil Government	\$215,443.33
Administration of Justice	179,277.34
Public Charities	424,354.00
Agriculture and Mines	19,200.00
Marine and Fisheries	111,040.00
Postal and Telegraph Dept.	705,729.20
Contingencies	10,000.00

The said Resolutions being read a second time it was moved that the House concur with the Committee therein, and the said Resolutions were agreed to.

On motion that the Order of the Day be deferred, Mr. Morine moved in amendment, and Mr. Kent seconded the following address to His Excellency the Governor:—

"May it please Your Excellency: The House of Assembly desire to draw to your attention the practice of expending large sums of public money upon what is called Executive Responsibility, for purposes not provided for by the Legislature and not coming within the provisions of Sec. 33 of the Audit Act."

"The House respectfully protests that these expenditures are in violation of the spirit and letter of the Statute Law of the Colony, and subversive of the constitutional right of this House to institute all aids and supplies to Your Excellency, and that it leads to wastefulness in public expenditure, wherefore Your Excellency is respectfully but urgently requested to withhold your assent hereafter to all expenditure not authorized by the Legislature, except such as fairly and properly fall within Sec. 33 of the Audit Act."

**MR. MORINE**—Mr. Speaker, I beg to move a resolution which I intend moving the other day in Commit-

tee of Supply, in reference to moneys spent on Executive Responsibility and unauthorized by this Legislature. This matter has already been discussed in Supply and I do intend further dwelling upon it this afternoon, but merely desire that our sentiments may be formally expressed and a vote taken. The Audit Act contemplates that all moneys paid into the Revenue go towards making up Consolidated Revenue Fund, out of which money can only be taken in the following cases, that is to say—firstly, by vote of the Legislature and secondly under section 33 of the Audit Act which prescribes certain formalities and which limits its privileges to certain cases, through which money can be taken for what are known as emergencies. Any expenditure not foreseen by the Legislature, but which is urgently and immediately required, would come under this Act, if the spending were necessary for the public good. Section 33 provides that when any sum of money has been granted by the Legislature, the Governor may under his sign manual, counter-signed by members of the Treasury Board authorize expenditures of that money. The Governor here is distinct from the Governor-in-Council, because it is the intention of the Act to place all possible guards on this privilege. I remember that when this Act was being discussed even Sec. 33 was resented and strongly fought against by that watchdog of the Treasury Governor Murray, who said that there ought to be no way by which moneys would be spent except upon objects for which they were voted by the Legislature. But it was argued that in new countries, such as our own, unforeseen contingencies might arise that would require immediate attention, such as would not arise in older centres of civilization, and Sec. 33 was copied from the Canadian Audit Act, which provided a way by which money could be obtained in cases where the Legislature did not provide for the expenditure. Now I have the returns brought down, which show astonishing figures. In the first place it shows that since the Audit Act was passed there has been spent the sum of \$1,512,000.00 under section 33, and upon what is called Executive Responsibility, for services not previously provided for by the Legislature or an average spending of one hundred and forty thousand dollars a year. This has afterwards been indemnified by Parliament under the principle that it is useless to lock the stable door after the horse has been taken out. Of that large sum \$391,000 has been spent under Sec. 33 of the Audit Act, following out the provisions therein, and so far as my remarks this afternoon are concerned largely coming under the meaning of that Act. I am sure that these items were put under this heading because the Government did not know where else to put them. But even assuming that the \$391,000 were urgently and immediately required for the public good, I still find that since 1898 \$726,000 has been spent upon matters which were neither urgently nor immediately needed. For if they had been thus urgently and immediately required the Government would have had these put under Sec. 33. This money which amounts to nearly three-quarters of a million has been spent without lawful authority under cover of this section of the Act. It is an expenditure for which the government can personally be held liable, from the Governor down to the smallest official who paid out the money. The Governor and Ministers were violating the spirit and letter of the Act, likewise any official who was in any way involved in the payment of that sum, in addition to the above the sum of \$366,000 was spent out of money borrowed for which there was no authority under any Act, but which was afterwards covered by a loan Act. The grand total which I have already quoted has been spent illegally and in violation of the privileges of this House, and of the rules and constitutions which were the very salvation of our economic system. The statement which I hold in my hand shows that the greatest expenditures which took place under Sec. 33 and upon Executive Responsibility were made during election years. In 1904 \$46,000 were spent under Section 33 and \$95,000 under so-called Executive Responsibility, while only \$27,000 were spent the previous year. In 1908 \$15,000 were spent under Section 33, but \$86,000 were expended under Executive Responsibility. The expenditures were neither urgent nor necessary and did not come under the Act. In 1913 \$54,000 were spent under Section 33 of the Act and \$127,000 under Executive Responsibility. These facts prove that during election years larger amounts were spent than during any other year, and the system has been so abused that each election year showed us a large expenditure than the preceding election year. One has only to look at the Auditor General's report to see the manner in which those large sums of money have been illegally expended without warrant or authority since 1898 when

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