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Our Motto: "Suum Cuique." ("To Every Man His Own.") The Mail and Advocate Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Company Limited, Proprietors.

AT THE HOUSE

YESTERDAY'S session was occupied in discussing the Government's Agricultural Policy and resulted in a warm debate. Mr. Coaker opened the debate by disputing the Minister of Agriculture and Mines statement to the Governor, contained in his annual report, wherein he claimed the policy was a great success and warranted the restoration of the full grant of \$40,000, which had been cut down by last year's attempt to retrench.

The Minister's report also informed the Governor that the value of agricultural produce had now reached the sum of \$5,150,000. Mr. Coaker asked how it was possible to even compute the value, much less definitely state that such was the value. He would feel like congratulating the Colony if he was convinced that the figures were correct.

Mr. Devereaux, the Agriculture Commissioner, replied in a heated but laboured effort of half an hour and accused Mr. Coaker of being unfair and insincere, because he referred to so many societies reports that were discouraging and overlooked the few that were encouraging.

Mr. Devereaux's speech aroused the Opposition to the policy which for three sessions has been so strongly condemned and Messrs. Jennings, Halfyard and Dwyer got after Mr. Devereaux's statements. The Premier attempted to claim that the land was flowing with milk and money and tried to show that the Minister's figures as to the value of agricultural produce were justified.

The Premier then shirked and said he did not mean Trinity Bay, but the fight of the Opposition throughout the country in general. He succeeded in arousing an old time row, proved nothing, his speech felt flat and the hour of adjournment (6.30) had arrived, which ended the debate for yesterday.

It was the first storm of the session. The Premier failed to exercise his usual tact and discretion. There was no occasion for his reply. The matter was but a trivial one and Mr. Devereaux, the Agricultural Expert, put up a very fair fight on behalf of the Government's policy.

The Minister of Finance and Customs was delighted to find that others could create storms as well as himself and he enjoyed being a spectator on this occasion, for usually such storms are created by him. Mr. Cashin has conducted himself well during the debate on the estimates, his only flurry being that on Friday with Mr. Coaker over loaning officials from the Customs Department to Mr. Crosbie and the Reid Nfld. Co.

THE PRICE OF SEALS

THE price paid for seals at H.R. Brown by Baine, Johnston & Co. is \$6 per cwt. The Erik's crew has been offered \$6 for their seals by Mr. Coaker. The sealers in port should therefore refuse to take less than \$6 per cwt. for young fat, as \$6 is now the price. Any ship's crew ready to sell to Mr. Coaker can secure \$6 per cwt. for young fat.

HOME DEFENCE

THE reply of the Finance Department to Mr. Coaker's question of Friday re the cost of the Fogota and Petrel was tabled yesterday. The Fogota was paid \$300 per day and \$1000 for war insurance; one dollar per day was paid for the boarding of the men on board. All the fittings made were paid for by the Colony.

ITALY'S POSITION

THE position which Italy occupies in the War Theatre has been a subject of wonderment to many. The first authoritative explanation now comes to us from Canadian sources, in the form of an address recently delivered by Dr. Roselli of Adelphi College, New York, before the members of the Canadian Club in Ottawa some days ago. Briefly, this pronouncement is authoritative, as Dr. Roselli plainly stated that his visit to Canada was inspired by the Italian Embassy in Washington, at the indirect request of the British Ambassador.

He pointed out that Italy had not been lured into the war by mercenary objects; and that practically all the territorial concessions she wanted had been offered to her by deed of gift by the Central Powers as a "peace offering,"—or rather as "the price of her neutrality."

with a relative (who occupies a high place in the Italian navy) immediately before the war. The latter discussing the situation, said: "It would be perfectly useless to fight England. My men would refuse to fire upon a British warship, even if I ordered them to do so."

Dr. Roselli threw a curious sidelight of conditions in Italy when the Triple Alliance was renewed for the last time—as a military necessity. The pact was hurriedly signed some months before the old treaty expired. Why was this done? Because, if the Italian people knew in advance, it would have caused a revolution in Italy! It was a most unpopular measure, yet it had to be done—Italy was the weakest power, and couldn't stand war at the time.

The Triple Alliance, in its initial years, the early eighties, the speaker frankly admitted, had done some good. But the attitude of Germany had changed since then, and Italy was gradually being reduced to the status of a German protectorate. The hand first extended in friendship was being transformed, slowly but unmistakably, into the mailed fist. No better illustration of this could be given than a description of the German exhibit at the Turin Exhibition of 1911. The exhibit was simple; but it told its story,—it consisted of a platform, one each corner of which was a huge Krupp gun, while in the centre, dominating all, was militarism in guise of an effigy of the Kaiser.

Italy is determined to be mistress of the Adriatic. She does not want, and will not accept Albania, with the exception of the port of Avlona, and its immediate hinterland. This port—the Gibraltar of the Adriatic, a short forty miles from the Italian coast—she is determined to possess. Apart from that, she will push northwards from another point towards Trieste, and then wait until the Allies decide what is to be done with the Balkans. The Balkans are a hard nut to crack; and can only be penetrated when each ally knows what step the others are taking. The Italian people would certainly not send troops into the hinterland of the Albanian coast until some plan of action had been decided upon; for, said the speaker, "strange to say, Central Albania to-day is less known and worse mapped than Central Africa."

Just why Italy was not at war with Germany was made clear by Dr. Roselli. From a strategic point of view, half a million men could force a drive down from Gorda to the Adriatic, cutting off the Italian Isonzo army. Austria has not half a million men to spare, but with Germany in the fight, it is accomplished with comparative ease.

From a diplomatic standpoint, Italy is at peace with Germany, because her frontier against the republic north of her—Switzerland—is absolutely unfortified, and the Italian commercial capital—Milan—is a bare thirty-five miles from it. Switzerland, owing to the war, is beginning to feel her racial ties very keenly; and SEVENTY PER CENT of the Swiss are of German descent. Hence, if Germany were to address a note to Switzerland similar to that which she did to Belgium during the early stages of the war, what would her answer be? The northern frontier of Italy is absolutely defenceless.

There is also a psychological reason. While there is not one Italian in a hundred thousand who does not hate Austria, an entirely different situation exists as regards Germany. Italy has been in close touch with Berlin of recent years; and the Italians have a real regard for German science and business. In addition, one hundred thousand Italians, many army officers, have intermarried with Germans; consequently, a war with Germany would, to say the least of it, be considerably less popular than a war with Austria.

In conclusion, Dr. Roselli referred to the work of the Italian army. The Austro-Italian boundary, he pointed out, lay at the junction of the low-lands and the Alps; and the Austrians were in the Alps. Nevertheless, the Italians were gradually forcing them back. "It is interesting to note," he observed, that the Austrian official statements always speak of our troops as having been repulsed; but the repulse is always at a different point, so, as we have been fighting in Austrian territory all the time, it's fairly evident, that we are really pushing forward. And please do not forget, that Italy to-day is fighting not one, but two enemies—Austria and the Alps."

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

YESTERDAY AT THE HOUSE.

MONDAY, April 3rd.

The House met at 3 p.m. yesterday. The session was almost entirely taken up by the Government in trying to defend their agricultural policy. Mr. Coaker, Dr. Lloyd, Mr. Halfyard and Mr. Jennings revealed the rottenness of this farce. Towards the close the Premier gets riled and becomes personal in his remarks towards Mr. Dwyer.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

In answer to Mr. Abbott's question on Order Paper, dated March 30th, (No. 7) the Minister of Marine and Fisheries tabled the following statement: Marine Works, Bonavista 1912-13: Bishop Sons & Co., Greenspond \$ 3.00 Mrs. C. Penney, Keels 25.00 L. Templeman, Rolling Cove 56.25 Jno. Roberts, Valleyfield 26.82 Fred Brown, Bishop's Harbour 15.00 J. Winsor, Wesleyville 400.00 N. Rodgers, Bragg's Is. 2.00 John Lane, Salvage Bay 6.00 Arthur Lane, Happy Adventure 6.00 John Lane, Salvage Bay 8.30 Bishop Sons & Co., Greenspond 8.30 L. Carew, Broad Cove 650.00 Job's Stores Ltd., Gooseberry Island 2.69 Chairman Road Board, Greenspond 200.00 Chairman Road Board, Salvage Peter House, Pool's Is. 11.43 James Tiller, Wesleyville 10.00 Adam Abbott, Pool's Island 50.00 Hy. W. Rogers, Fair Island 50.00 Albert Elliott, Newman's Cove 50.00 M. Tracey, Plate Cove 25.00 Peter House, Pool's Island 10.00 Jacob Stokes, Cape Freels 100.00 Chairman Road Board, Greenspond 100.00 Japhet Winsor, Wesleyville 100.00 Chairman Road Board, Salvage James Wells, Gooseberry Isld 3.57 Arch Noseworthy, Wesleyville 65.00 Ab. Stratton, Valleyfield 50.00 Hy. Bartlett, Lower Amherst Cove 200.00 John Tite, Deer Island 200.00 James Ricketts, Valleyfield 46.70 Nathan Rogers, Bragg's Isld. 50.00 Job Bros. & Co., Wesleyville 133.75 Elijah Mullett, Middle Swain's Island 80.00 Alex. Young, Greenspond 150.00 Peter Carter, Newell's Is. 150.00 H. H. Patten, Northern Is. Flat Isld. 100.00 Chairman Road Board, Safe Hr. 300.00 Noal Raips, Coward's Island 350.00 Job Stores Ltd, Pinchard's Is. 51.50 M. A. Devine, Pay Sheets 7.50 Wm. J. Clouston, Lamps 8.40

NOTICE OF QUESTION

MR. COAKER—I give notice that on to-morrow I will ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of grants sent out by his department to the Districts of Twillingate, and Bay de Verde, during the years 1913, 1914 and 1915.

MR. COAKER—I give notice that on to-morrow, I will ask the Hon. the Premier if Hon. D. Morison has any claim against the Colony on account of fees for the Hague Arbitration, if so, for what amount, and if paid.

MR. ABBOTT—I give notice that on to-morrow I will ask the Hon. Col. Secretary to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the amount of able-bodied poor relief given out by Relieving Officers or others at each settlement in the District of Bonavista, from January 1st, 1915 to date.

MR. ABBOTT—I give notice that I will on to-morrow ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House, (a) copies of all correspondence asking for changes of telegraph operators in the district of Bonavista, 1915 to date; (b) how many applications were received; (c) names of applicants; (d) how many new appointments were made; (e) who recommended the appointments; (f) and names of places where changes were made.

House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply. MR. COAKER questioned the Finance Minister as to the salary of the Inspector of logging camps. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS replied that the Inspector received a salary of \$60.00 per month and expenses for the period of six months.

MR. COAKER asked for an explanation of why a number of persons received compensation for sheep, hens, chicken and ducks destroyed. THE PREMIER in reply stated this was done by the Licensing Board. MR. COAKER then took up the Agricultural report for 1915 and challenged the statement contained in the Minister's report.

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over the remarks made by Mr. Coaker, but nothing Mr. Devereaux had said had convinced him that the agricultural policy of the present Government was anything but a farce. Imagine, said Mr. Halfyard, the Government paying out \$7,000 in salaries in order to distribute \$13,000 which could be efficiently done by one man with a salary of \$1,000.

The Premier stated that the people get an education on farming from the societies, but Mr. H. thought if Sir Edward had given that money to school teachers who have to work hard for a paltry pittance some good may come out of it. It was quite evident that Mr. Halfyard had knocked the Commissioner's comedy oration to pieces.

MR. JENNINGS in his usual sincere style told of the experience of the people in Twillingate District. There was no improvement there and in fact many cases had come under his observation where people who have been taking advantage of the Agricultural Policy were obliged to go to other sections where no societies were operating in order to buy hay, vegetables and other farm products, and this did not appear favourable for the policy. Mr. Jennings could not support such a policy which gave no returns commensurate with the amount of money expended.

MR. COAKER on rising, said, he did not think he had said much to warrant the Commissioner's lengthy reply. He had merely shown the Government that their own reports from the various societies had condemned the policy. He did not say one-fifth of what he could say in condemnation of their so-called Agricultural Policy, and he was prepared to tell them again what he thought of the expenditure, and the results obtained. Mr. Coaker told of some personal knowledge he had of some of these societies, including Lewisporte branch. He wanted to see the country improve agriculturally and that was why he criticized the Government so strongly.

The Commissioner, said Mr. C., tells us that the Board has exterminated the canker, and the Minister tells us that the frost has exterminated it, this was conflicting. He (Mr. Coaker) then told the Commissioner that the seeds and potatoes which they distributed were not suited for the country, especially the Northern sections, they were wet and soapy and in most places the people were going back to the old potatoes which they used before now. He, however, thought that Mr. Devereaux's five or six years experience had made a better man out of him and if he was worth fifteen hundred dollars a year when he knew nothing he must now be worth twenty-five hundred, and he supposed the Commissioner would be looking for that amount if the grant was augmented again.

MR. DEVEREAUX then arose and in a long tirade tried to expound the hidden virtues which this great policy possessed, and also blamed the local butchers for the decrease in cattle (but failed to state where the inducement would be to raise cattle at all if those butchers were not offering such prices for beef). Mr. D. told the committee in glowing language of the strong healthy race, which the Morris Government were building up by feeding them largely on vegetables, Spoke of the great boost bestowed upon the codfish by the introduction of seeds and the extermination of canker, and told of the hard work which himself and his brother commissioner had done to earn his salary of fifteen hundred dollars per year. He expressed great admiration for Mr. Coaker, but was sorry he did not help him to boom the excuse for his salary.

MR. HALFYARD followed and referred to Mr. Devereaux's claim of hard work in connection with his job, told the commissioner that the hardest time he worked since last year was in delivering that speech. The Dwyer said the Premier was trying to compare the present with the time the

country was on the verge of insolvency, the Premier became very personal and claimed he had assisted the member of St. John's East in becoming a member of the House. MR. DWYER refuted this statement and assured the Premier that the House and the Country would accept his word before Sir Edward's. The Premier had often made kindly remarks about him but had never practised what he preached.

Rather lively passages occurred between Dr. Lloyd and the Premier over the methods employed to win the last election. The Leader of the Opposition told Sir Edward that he was beaten at the polls in 1913 by over 5,000 votes in spite of the nature of their campaign.

In the course of his remarks the Premier said it is an easy matter to whip a dead lion. When Dr. Lloyd retorted I have whipped you, and will whip you again, which brought forth applause. The Premier rashly stated that the Union Campaign in Trinity could not bear the light of day. Dr. Lloyd told the Premier he started a falsehood and asked him to retract his words. Mr. Coaker challenged the Premier to bring the slightest proof to substantiate his assertion. Sir Edward tried to back down by saying he did not mean Trinity in particular.

The Premier tried again and again to draw the red herring across the rail when cornered, but his defence was very inglorious and undignified, and only served to show how desperate some men will become in order to prop up a tottering and unwise policy. The Premier was on his feet at 6.30 when the motion for adjournment was made which no doubt was very welcome to him. The House then adjourned until this evening.

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

APRIL 4 OLIVER GOLDSMITH died, 1774. Hon. James Furlong died, 1856. Five of the crew of the brig Emily, Capt. John Power, last at sea fishery, 1859. Robert Cooke, H.M.C., died, aged 43 years, 1859. First steamer in, Nimrod, Capt. Joy, 8,109 seals, 1882. Mrs. E. Rawlins died, 1882. First steamer in, Greenland, Capt. C. Dawe, 24,866 seals, 1875. First steamer in, Newfoundland, Capt. Farquhar, 9,855 seals, 1893. First steamer in, Panther, Capt. W. Bartlett, 7,562 seals, 1894. Father Murphy (gold cure) died, 1897. Avalanche in Chilcoat Pass, 150 killed, 1898. Cloney's and four houses burnt at Pokeham Path, 1853. Barney O'Toole and son drifted off on ice, out all night; rescued next day; but the son, only a lad, died from the effects of the exposure shortly after, 1880. Walter B. Grieve married, 1880. John Waddell, telegraph operator, died, aged 58, 1889.

Penguin Arm, F.P.U. Expect Visit from Mr. Coaker

(Eldor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir,—Please allow me space in your esteemed paper to make a few remarks regarding Union affairs. On Saturday, March 11th, we held our annual meeting and elected the following officers for ensuing year: Chairman—W. J. Jesseau, re-elected. Deputy Chairman—Alex. Wells, etc. Secretary—Wm. Wells, re-elected. Treasurer—Simeon Jenx, elected. D. Guard—Reuben Clark, re-elected. Trusting we will be favoured with a visit from our esteemed President during the coming summer, we remain yours, F. P. U. COUNCIL. Penguin's Arm, Mar. 11, 1916. Bay of Islands.

CHRISTIAN'S BORAX SOAP

GUARANTEED PURE Save the Wrappers, they are valuable. \$10.00 will be given the person saving the most for 1916. M. A. DUFFY, SOLE AGENT. Agents Wanted.

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