



(To Every Man His Own)

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 16, 1915.

That \$1000 Grab By the Judges of The Supreme Court

THE late Sir J. S. Winter, when a Judge, dismissed an election petition for want of prosecution. After he ceased to be a Judge, he petitioned the Supreme Court for the \$1000 which the Election Act, 1889, allowed to the presiding Judge upon the "trial" of an election petition. The late Chief Justice Little gave judgment in favour of the claimant.

The five petitions growing out of the General Election of 1913 were withdrawn a few days ago, and the Judges claimed and received \$1000 each for each petition, or \$1000 in all—of which \$400 went to the Chief Justice, and \$300 each to Judges Emerson and Johnson.

The Minister of Justice reported to the Executive Council in favour of the claim of the Judges for this \$1000, and based his decision on the judgment of Judge Little, and inasmuch as \$100 was paid for each trial when only one Judge presided, he reported in favour of paying \$200 for each trial, or \$100 to each Judge, although the Election Act, 1913 says "for the trial of an election petition Judges shall be paid one hundred dollars."

It is remarkable that Squires imitated Judge Little in one respect but he gave no reason for deciding that no trial is a trial or how a case withdrawn could be held to be a trial. If a case is not prosecuted how could there be a trial or how could Squires decide that the Judges were right in claiming such fees?

Sir Wm. Whiteway refused to pay Sir Jas. Winter although the case was before the Court, and an argument afterwards came up about costs.

What Sir Wm. Whiteway did was wrong, but what Squires did is right, according to ideals practiced since Galaballism governed this Colony.

The Minister was working for an excuse for paying moneys already appropriated by the Premier and his Executive. This is a game of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

No reputable lawyer, free from bias, will support the contention that any real trial of any election petition has recently taken place or that the Judges were entitled to one cent of the thousand dollars they have been given from the Public Chest.

Hunger is stalking through our land, the Country is on her beam ends and Judges who draw annually four and five thousand dollars from the taxes of the people must get a grab of \$1000 which, if such was paid to a poor labourer on such a pretext, would leave him open to the strongest condemnation of the Country.

This matter must be fought out in the House and the Country will then discover which of the Government supporters in the House are honest and manly enough to condemn this outrageous transaction which aroused the Country from end to end.

The Opposition will demand the return of the money. It would serve the Government and Judges right if they moved for the impeachment of all concerned.

As there is no better than he ought to be, as all who read can judge from this transaction.

The Strike On The Wooden Sealers

THE crew of the Terra Nova wired Mr. Coaker yesterday for advice. He wired for full particulars of the trouble and received the subjoined reply, which he read in the House last evening when he asked the Premier to endeavour to secure return passages for the men and end the trouble.

The men are determined not to leave the ship unless passages are provided to their homes.

The captain did wrong by allowing some to go ashore at Sydney and he cannot refuse the same concession to the balance of the crew.

This trouble is the outcome of the Upper House's rejection of the clause in the Coaker Sealing Bill which adjusted those troubles.

Hon. W. C. Job strongly supported the clause, as he knew the conditions prevailing, but Bowring Bros. and Jinker Kean opposed the clause, and now Kowings' are getting a dose of their own medicine.

The rejected clause will have to be reintroduced if this striking trouble is to be eradicated.

The Messages

Port and Basques, April 15.

W. F. Coaker, F.P.U., St. John's. For some reasons we didn't care to stay out. We passed through hoods early in May and 'oul' have loaded. Steamed through young for hours off Cape North, disregarded them, losing time seeking Bonaventure's fat and informing her of whereabouts. Captain gave several men permission to go ashore and seek employment in Sydney. He abused us continually about eating beans, and damned the men, etc. Caused general dissatisfaction. All hands in favor of giving up, including some master watchmen. Ship too light to do anything in ice.

THE NICKEL THEATRE—SHOWING THE CREAM OF THE MOTION PICTURE WORLD

YOU ARE ALWAYS SURE OF A GOOD SHOW AT THE NICKEL DRAMAS! TRAVELOGUES! INDUSTRIALS! EDUCATIONALS! COMEDIES! The Week-End Feature will be

"Through The Flames"

Believing his wife, Marion, to have perished in a burning building, Donald Hall marries again. Marion's return a year later brings about a situation of tremendous strength. A Kalem two-part production.

ARTHUR PRIESTMAN CAMERON in his farewell Song

4—OTHER FEATURE REELS—4

DON'T LET THE CHILDREN MISS THE BIG BUMPER MATINEE SATURDAY

Coming—HARRY C. STANLEY, Impersonator of rag-time songs.

MONDAY, "OUR MUTUAL GIRL" AND ANOTHER BIG FEATURE

The CRESCENT PICTURE PALACE

ALL FEATURE WEEK-END BILL

"THE SEEDS OF CHAOS"

An Essay film in two Reels

"Sandy and Shorty Steals Something"

A Comedy film featuring Ford Sterling

"Charmed Arrow"

An Indian Romantic Drama by the Selig Company

The usual extra pictures at the Saturday Matinee—Send along the Children the Crescent will look after them

Proceedings at the House of Assembly

Mr. Morine Introduces the Labrador Fisheries Bill

The Measure Receives the Undivided Support of The House

When the House opened yesterday petitions were again in order:—

MR. GRIMES presented a petition from the people of South River, in his district, asking for a sum of money for the purpose of enlarging the wharf. In presenting the petition Mr. Grimes instanced the needs of the case, pointing out the fact that the expenditure asked for would relieve a large section that were dependant on the Government for poor relief otherwise.

MR. MORINE presented a petition from J. Moss and others of St. Chads, asking for the sum of \$300 for a road there.

MR. CLAPP presented a petition from the Grey Islands, district of St. Barbe, asking that this place be made a port of call for the "Prospero."

The Member for St. Barbe spoke of the hardships undergone by the people of the Grey Islands in having to go to Conche in open boats to get all their supplies and mentioned that the approaches to the Islands were just as easy as to Greenspond. This was the second time he had presented a similar petition, which he hoped would be the last and that the Government would take steps to have the matter arranged.

MR. COAKER heartily supported this petition, mentioning that overtures had been made to the contractors for at least one or two trips there, but objection had been raised by Capt. Kean and nothing had been done. He hoped that the matter would have the attention of the Government.

MR. F. MORRIS presented a largely signed petition from residents of John's Pond, North Harbor, Colinet, and other places in the Districts of Pictou and St. Mary's and Trinity, asking the Government to investigate the case of the fishermen of these districts, who were being treated as second-class citizens, and to take such a service, and incidentally refer to the fact of Sir Robert Bond's name being on the list of subscribers to the petition.

The prayer of the petition was supported by the colleagues of Mr. Morris as well as by all the Members for Trinity District.

MR. WINSOR presented a petition for a new port of call for the S.S. Dundee.

MR. COAKER presented petitions from various districts in favour of the Bill relating to the sale of Labrador fish.

Questions and answers were then forthcoming and HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY tabled a reply to a question of Mr. Hallyard.

MINISTER OF FISHERIES tabled answers to enquiries from Messrs. Grimes and Abbott.

Other questions and the replies thereto will be found elsewhere in this paper.

Order of the Day followed, the first item being the "Act relating to the sale of Codfish on the Labrador coast."

MR. MORINE, who introduced the measure and moved for its second reading, in the course of his remarks strongly condemned the practice in force so long, that of buying and selling fish at no fixed price, the general basis of marketing on the Coast being what was called "current prices" and receipts given the seller on that basis.

Well, he had in the course of his investigations, discovered quite a variety of so-called "current prices"—"\$3.00 and the rise," "as much as anybody else," etc. and he had not come across one case where the price had been fixed.

Baird ordered the captain to continue the voyage. Food: hard bread, beef; next to starvation.

Do your best in respect to the trouble. Advise.

THOS. H. HYNES, JOSEPH MURPHY.

S. SQUIRES, per Strikers.

S.S. Erik, Cape Ray, April 15.

W. F. Coaker, St. John's.

We demanded to be landed.

price. While he could foresee difficulties attached to the Bill, he considered it a move in the right direction.

MR. COAKER complimented the introducer of the Bill for the able manner in which he had presented the case. He also congratulated the Prime Minister on seeing eye to eye with the party now on the opposite side of the House, observing that it would be better for all concerned that such should occur often.

The principal sufferers on account of past "current prices" for Labrador fish had been the fishermen of Conception Bay. He spoke of the Fish Ring in St. John's fixing these "current prices" in the manner and at the time they did it, entirely ignoring the fishermen in the matter, and pointed out the fact that the fishermen as a body were a most contented class if only treated right. The Legislature must do something soon, or else the Labrador fishery would become a thing of the past.

Besides getting some security for a fair price policy was wanted. Motor boats would have to be furnished. Bait depots established. Bait found and so the fishery would be protected up till November and the catch doubled. He scored the Government for their useless "extravagant railway building" instead of helping out the fishermen of the country in connection with the fisheries.

"This measure, if adopted," said Mr. Coaker, "would inspire confidence between the buyer and seller, for when the men got the fixed price from the recognized Board, they would know they were getting the true honest value for their fish, and when in committee he would have something more to say on the matter."

MR. KENT (Leader of the Opposition) spoke of the Bill as one providing a remedy for a state of things that should not exist.

The fishery was the most important of all our economic industries, and very little had been done in the past to reduce business matters to a system. The fishermen of the Labrador Coast had in the past to depend entirely on the purchases down there, and only after the purchaser had reaped on his purchase had the price been fixed.

The remedy to be applied by the provisions of the Bill before them was to fix the price at the start of the season, the principle being that of a "standard price" so that the fishermen would know how to approach the buyer, the price being of course fixed by this impartial Board. Of course, there were difficulties in the way, and as time goes on there would be occasions for amendments, but as a beginning, the measure was one that should commend itself to everybody concerned.

MR. GRIMES, in a concise manner, supported the Bill before the Chair. Representing, as he did, a District very much affected by results of the Labrador fishery, he thought the measure one of the right sort to be put in operation. He spoke of the fact that the fishermen had been treated in the past by the Government as second-class citizens, and that they were being treated as such at present.

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MR. COAKER read some messages he had received referring to the sealer's strike in connection with the Gulf fishery to which the Prime Minister replied.

A number of Notices of Questions were then tabled and the House adjourned till the morrow at 3 p.m.

Notice of Question.

MR. KENT—To ask the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a copy of all correspondence between the Bell Island Local Council or any officer or member thereof, and the Government or the Department of the Colonial Secretary, from January, 1912, to date.

MR. ABBOTT—To ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the table of the House a copy of returns, showing the amount of \$5000 that was allocated to a Mr. Long, of Tickle Cove, Bonavista District, for a mooring chain, and also who requested that the allocation be granted.

MR. JENNINGS—To ask the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing who are receiving Old Age Pensions at the present time in the District of Twillingate.

MR. JENNINGS—To ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary for a statement giving the names of the couriers employed during the past winter and summer in the District of Twillingate.

MR. JENNINGS—To ask the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House a statement (a) showing why Walter Brown, mail carrier for King's Cove, was dismissed without notice; (b) if he received a month's wage after dismissal; (c) if so, why did he receive it?

MR. WOODFORD supported the Bill. He did not know so much about the fishery himself, but he represented a District that was peculiarly interested in the question, and he hoped the Bill would become law.

MR. DOWEY expressed his approval of the Bill in all its phases. He hoped and felt sure that a better condition of things would be brought about by its adoption.

MR. HICKMAN supported the principle of the Bill. He knew there were difficulties in the way of fixing price, etc., but it was the beginning of stepping in the right direction.

The Bill was read a second time and comes up in Committee of the whole to-morrow.

MR. COAKER'S Logging Bill, that provides for much better conditions for the men in the lumber camps than those of the past was read a second time and goes to Committee stage to-morrow.

MR. JENNINGS' amended Act relating to Saw Mills was also read for the second time. Committee of the whole to-morrow.

House then went into Committee of the whole on the "Act respecting the Naturalization of Aliens." All the sections were passed and the Bill will be read for a third time on the morrow.

This finished the Order of the Day, and MR. MORINE took the opportunity of referring to a misleading criticism of his statements the previous evening in the House, referring to the Parliamentary as contained in the

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"Daily News" of that morning. He took the opportunity of re-emphasizing his statements of the evening before and mentioned that a letter of explanation appeared in the Mail and Advocate that he had sent in order to justify himself as to the veracity of his statements.

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