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July 14, 15, 18, 21, 28-Aug 4, 11

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Just a small lot lately to hand. Good values. The right thing for the Regatta.

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## AT THE HOUSE.

Lawyers Fenelon, Knight and Blackwood Refuse to Serve on Commission of Enquiry into Alleged Scandals—Daily Mail Strongly Censured by Leader of Opposition and Prime Minister Warren.

Yesterday's session of the Assembly was largely attended by visitors who had previously attended the Memorial Service at St. Thomas' Church. At 4.15 p.m., the Speaker took the Chair when questions were tabled by Messrs. Moore, Sullivan, Walsh, and Sir M. P. Cashin. In reply to a question asked by Mr. Walsh on August 9th, re the Nfld. Publishers Company, the following information. Price for 750 volumes, 500 quarter-bound and 250 half-bound with leather backs \$25,000.00. Payments already made as follows:—  
March 27th, 1923 ..... \$3,000.00  
May 18th, 1923 ..... 2,000.00  
June 19th, 1923 ..... 2,500.00  
\$7,500.00

St. Barbe District has been practically finished and the Printers are going on with St. John's East District. The delay in printing was caused by the extra work in connection with the election, especially in connection with the Voters' Lists. Also caused by a shortage of ruled paper for tabulating the returns.

In answer to another question by Mr. Walsh re the plastering of the Normal School, the following facts were tabled:—

The Contractors are the Horwood Lumber Company and plastering is included in their contract. The Department has no knowledge of the persons or Contractors employed by them as plasterers. The Department is not in possession of a copy of the original contract which is a voluminous document and embraces a number of plans and specifications in addition to the contract itself.

Sir Michael Cashin asked a question as to who received the amount of \$2,500.00 paid the Tariff Commission. The following reply was tabled by the Minister of Finance:—

In reply to Sir M. P. Cashin's question No. 1 on Order Paper, dated August 9th, 1923, asking for statement of amount paid to Tariff Commission, I beg to say that the account is in the name of H. W. LeMessurier, Esq., and accounts kept by him. He is now on a vacation and out of the country. As the Tariff Commission is not now sitting, I presume Mr. LeMessurier overlooked leaving the accounts.

Sir Michael said the answer as given was absurd. The fact that Mr. Cashin had only to touch a bell and the Accountant would get him the information in a very few minutes. It was no use trying to cloak the man who got this money. He was determined to let the public know all about it. His information was that \$2,500.00 had been given the Commission to distribute and \$500.00 each was their share. But one man got \$500.00 and another took the balance of \$2,000.00 and the other Commissioners got nothing at all. A full answer was requested next sitting. He also served notice on the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs that he was determined to get a proper answer to his question relative to the tenders for certain printing done for the Postal Telegraph Department as furnished by Dicks & Co., and the Union Publishing Co. The House then went into an agreement between the Government and H. J. Crowe, which resolutions were deferred for further consideration. The Street Railway franchise passed the Assembly and ordered to be sent to the Legislative Council.

**THE UNEMPLOYED QUESTION.**  
Mr. Sullivan upon the motion to adjourn availed of the opportunity to cite the unemployment situation throughout the country, and offered some admirable suggestions for the Government to consider in coping with the situation. He thought it opportune that men should be given employment making necessary railway and traffic improvements and in order to have a proper distribution of the work he further suggested that a Special Commission would be empowered to see that no discrimination was resorted to.

**OPPOSITION LEADER DENOUNCES DAILY MAIL AND ITS WRITERS.**

Mr. Higgins at this stage of the proceedings brought to the attention of the House the unfair and prejudiced opinions and writings as published in the Daily Mail which he produced and read from yesterday's issue.

**THE FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF MR. HIGGINS' ADDRESS.**

Mr. Speaker: The closing words of my colleague, the member for Placentia and St. Mary's, Mr. Sullivan, in which he asks that his remarks be taken in the spirit in which they are intended prompt me to ask the indulgence of the House for a moment. I had hoped that we should have some into Committee on the Bill, which is the cause of the comment to which I propose to make reference. In view, however, of this order being deferred until our next sitting, I am compelled to avail of the motion for adjournment to say a word. We have for many years, but more especially in recent times, suffered in this country from a pest which has done much to stir up strife and bitterness which otherwise would not be in existence.

**CHARACTERIZED THEM AS LITERARY ASSASSINS.**

Man has been set against man and creed against creed by the activities of four minds, who would not dare speak out in the open or write under their own names. No, like the coward who will not face the sunlight, but in the cover of darkness stabs in the back, these "literary" assassins take advantage of the circulation of a newspaper to spread a propaganda which is intended to have only one result, keeping a country divided on lines that are unnatural, on lines that never can be countenanced by decent and intelligent people, namely the question of the particular altar at which a man chooses to worship his Creator.

Of such a class of vile slander are the contributions which appear in the Daily Mail newspaper of this afternoon. I shall read a few extracts for the benefit of the House:—

"The man question debated in the House of Assembly yesterday afternoon, in which none but members of the Opposition took part, was that of the appointment of a Deputy Head to the department of the Auditor General."

The proposed amendment to the Audit Act, which was permitted to go through second reading, appeared to be a bone of contention, and considerable trouble has been promised the Government when it reaches to Committee stage. That there will be doings in the House may be presaged from the attitude taken by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. W. J. Higgins, who served notice to all and sundry that the party behind him would oppose, tooth and nail, the proposed appointment, not because they deemed it unnecessary—and it might be as well to mark this for future reference—but because of the political predilections of the gentleman who is at present holding the office, precariously, according to the gentleman who sits at the right of the Speaker.

A showdown has come, so it was declared, and therefore from the tenacious expressions used, Government members will find themselves probably between the Scylla, of the Opposition on the one hand and the Charybdis of their party supporters on the other. Either of which is a perilous position, and looks very much like impalement on the sharp horns of a denominational dilemma, the recovery from which may do a great deal toward clearing up reality, truly whole lot of anomalies, which it is high time to wipe clean off the political slate.

What may or may not happen in the above connection is only known to honorable members of the government, but whatever ensues, the Mail understands that the administration do not intend to recede from the position which they have taken, a decision, which, under the circumstances will surely redound to their credit providing they are unanimous in its application to current conditions."

Then in another column we have under the head of "Editorial Comment," the insidious suggestion that we are protesting against the appointment of Mr. H. J. Brownrigg to the Department of Charities the same objections that they make against the appointment of Mr. Mews to the auditor-general's department.

Mr. Dunphy, according to opposition arguments, should have received the appointment that was given to Mr. Brownrigg. The Opposition have raised no such claim and uttered no such threat in the Brownrigg connection. Why?"

And finally the admonition of the Government:—

"Premier Warren can, however, satisfy his own ardent supporters and the country generally by accepting the attitude that the Opposition has thrown down and by showing the irreconcilables that his party having been elected to power by the voters, intends to retain that power and to exercise it, justly and sanely, of course but none the less firmly."

**WHY THIS SECTARIAN APPEAL AT THIS JUNCTURE?**

And by a peculiarly strange coincidence there appears in a column just below under the head of "Departments by Denomination" a statement containing the names of certain departmental heads, followed by letters such as "R.C." "C. of E." and "Meth." which presumably are intended to indicate the particular faith of the gentlemen mentioned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, why all this? Why the starting afresh of a form of campaign which we thought had terminated in this country? Time there was when it was always understood by all that when the tide of battle pressed hard the call for reserves took the form of hoisting the religious flag. In the "last extremity" it was supposed to do the trick. The "Catholic Opposition," the "Sinn Feiners," the "Hanger-on-Downs" were terms quite familiar to our ears and a loyal Protestant Government could be expected to listen to requests from this side of the House. But has that plan of battle proved successful? We remain intact with our sins on our foreheads and our failings of birth well advertised. But, thank God, our ranks have been unbroken. If there has been defection, if there are gaps to-day, these are to be found in the ranks of the Opposition.

And yet we have to stand by and are expected to remain silent when a paper professing to speak in a semi-official position for the Government says that they are likely to be "impaled on the sharp horns of a denominational dilemma," apparently between the Catholic rock referred to as "Scylla" and the Protestant rock "Charybdis." Well if that be the method by which this appointment to the position of Deputy Auditor General is going to be decided, I say here and now "go to it my friends of the Government." If that is to be the call to arms, the running of your own making. We have not started the pace.

**THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND STAFF MUST BE ABOVE SUSPICION.**

We took the position that just because the Auditor General's Department was the one safety-valve of the public it should not at this particular time be prejudiced in the people's mind. Under ordinary circumstances this appointment would not be fair, but it would not be so objectionable. But in these particular times, with the exposures that have been made and the others that doubtless will be made of the scandalous conduct of public departments it is essential that the Auditor General and his staff should be beyond reproach. Not a word was ever mentioned of either the religious feelings or the competency of Mr. Mews, but we consistently maintained that it would tend to shake public confidence if in the absence of the Auditor General during the proposed investigations his place should be filled by one who was until a few days ago actively partisan and I use that remark as applying with equal force if the nominee were a supporter of the Opposition. We have already had painful evidence of the awkward situation that officials in that particular department may find themselves in by being paid extra to audit accounts which have been shown to contain such gross irregularities.

However, Mr. Speaker, I have but to say that the members opposite have ample time between now and Monday to consider the way they desire public affairs are to be discussed. If the article to which I refer is intended to speak their thoughts I shall be sorry, but it will not disturb me. I am quite willing to give a man-sized fight to such a style of combat disappointing as it would be to me coming from the new administration. And remember, finally, in the words of Scripture this little material way of looking at things is not always advisable.

"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world if he lose his own soul." This world is not the east, and whilst we on the side of the House may feel that perhaps our Kingdom is not of this Earth, who knows but that in the world to come when instead of "seats with the Government" we may have the luck to obtain "Seats with the Mighty." You, my friends, may be in the Opposition, and will then realize that the thing that counts is doing what is Right.

**PREMIER WARREN SAID DAILY MAIL BY PUBLISHING SUCH SECTARIAN MATTER HAD PLACED HIS PARTY IN A VERY UNHAPPY POSITION AND DISAGREED WITH THE ARTICLES.**

Hon. Mr. Warren, Prime Minister, in dealing with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition said he did not know whether the "Daily Mail" was supporting his Government or not. He had had no consultation with the Editor of the paper or with the owners thereof since he had formed his Government. All he had to say was that if the Mail was supporting the Government it had succeeded in placing the party in a very unhappy

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White Jersey Vests with Strap Shoulder, full assortment of sizes. Value for 33c.

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position. It should have taken entirely different lines. He said he disagreed entirely with the articles of the Mail under review and wished to disassociate himself absolutely from any words contained therein.

The Prime Minister explained the position of the Government in the matter of unemployment. He said the most embarrassing point was the lack of money to carry on employment in any enlarged way, but there was a sum reserved to deal with pressing cases. However, he and his Government had the matter in hand and all possible would be done.

**REFUSED TO SERVE ON COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION.**

Hon. Mr. Warren then turned to the Commission of Investigation to enquire into the recent happenings which led up to the resignation of the late administration and said three gentlemen Messrs. J. P. Blackwood, H. E. Knight and John Fenelon had been invited to compose such Commission but unfortunately all had refused to act. It was now the duty of the Government to look about and take other steps and the public would be informed in due course.

**THE OLD AGE PENSIONS.**

Mr. Walsh took advantage of a motion to adjourn to inform the House of his research in connection with the new vote of \$15,000.00 for old age pensions. The Districts would benefit as follows:—

St. Barbe	20
Twillingate	42
Fogo	12
Ronaivista	27
Trinity	25
Bay de Verde	8
Carbonear	None
Harbour Grace	1
Port de Grave	None
Harbour Main	2
St. John's West	29
St. John's East	41
Ferryland	6
Placentia & St. Mary's	11
Burns	15
Fortune Bay	18
Burgoe & Lapelle	12
St. George's	32

tigation of the list of those who are waiting, as he hoped to see every aged person receiving a benefit from the fund.

The House adjourned at 5.30 to meet again Monday at the usual hour.

**English School Rugby.**

London, Aug. 8.—At the annual meeting of the English Rugby Union held recently, the Union decided to take into consideration the question of furthering rugby football among the English schools, through the medium of the English Schools Rugby Union. It was pointed out that in Leicester, Coventry, Gloucester, Bristol and Devonport strenuous efforts were being made to encourage the game in the elementary institutions. At Bristol an international match had been played with the Welsh school with great success.

The following dates were set for the trial and international matches: Dec. 1, trial match; Dec. 15, trial match; Jan. 5 (1924), trial match; Jan. 19, England in Wales; Feb. 19, England in Ireland; Feb. 23, England in Scotland; March 15, Scotland in England.

**Personal.**

The marriage of Miss Nina Croble, daughter of Sir John Lady Croble, to Mr. Frank B. eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. net, will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 13th, at Devon Place, Bridge Road.

ASK FOR MINARD'S AND THEN OTHER.

## ODD FELLOWS OUTING

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