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J. J. Rossiter

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("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate

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The Fishery

It now appears certain that the catch of 1916 will be far below that of last year and about equal to the catch of 1914; consequently the price of fish must advance in the foreign as well as local markets. Labrador off the shore is worth \$5 per qtl. if good, and any fisherman who will sell at less than \$5 for soft Labrador will regret it. Let all demand \$5 on the shore. The Labrador catch is even shorter than the catch of 1914. The F.P.U. is sending men to purchase Labrador fish on the shore at \$5 per qtl. During the past 20 days no fish has been taken north. Fish is very scarce and bait is even scarcer. Shore fish must advance local and foreign, and the sooner the better for all concerned.

Two of a Kind

THERE are two personages now in England who are much in the public eye and they are especially noted for their weakness for associating with people who entertain and patronize visitors from overseas. These two personages are politicians—both remarkable for their oral pronouncements and other things. Our readers have no difficulty in locating the personages in question; they are none other than the Canadian Minister of Militia, familiarly known as "Colonel Sam"; the other is our own hard-worked (?) Premier, known to the political heeler as "E.P." Both have very much in common; and both are now self-appointed advisers to the British Government, but in different capacities.

The Colonel (we forget, he is a Major General!) This doughty son of Mars is overseas to "advise the British Military Authorities regarding the conduct of the war!" Sir Sam is really a soldier; he went to South Africa to get things—but he didn't get a chance. Lord Roberts and Sir John French were able to adjust matters satisfactorily. Our Knight is there to "advise" the Chancellor of the Exchequer how to finance things, for E.P. is mighty strong on raising loans—and he is Javish in spending them. The Canadian Minister "guarantees" the raising of two or three more Divisions for the Army; but he must have forgotten that previous to his departure from Canada, he had to disband some partially raised regiments. His arrogant methods of dealing with possible recruits made him an impossible organizer. The riots at Camp Borden (Barrie) taught him a rude lesson. Our Premier is "guaranteeing" any number of soldiers to the Army Staff; but since his last ukase addressed to his friend, the Colonial Secretary we have not recruited a corporal's guard! Both Sam and E.P. are simply splendid—when viewed at long distance.

There are still many other points of resemblance between

these Colonial Knights. Both began their careers as school-teachers. Then the political avenue offered a very promising career. Sam Hughes entered parliament as the accredited leader of a faction in Ontario, and used it as a fulcrum to position. E.P. entered the House of Assembly also as a representative of a faction which wished to "teach a certain agency that it should not interfere in politics." Both have grown slick and fat and prominent—some say even wealthy—since they entered public life. Neither brooks contradiction or interference with cut and dry plans; neither takes advice from maturer minds. One nearly sundered a party by his insolent behavior; the other betrayed his party for the proverbial mess of pottage.

The Canadian Minister very gravely informed the representatives of the Canadian press recently that he "had advised Lord Kitchener to abandon the Ypres Salient" (Where the Canadians have been fighting for some time); but it appears that both the French Commander-in-Chief, General Joffre, and the English Commander, Sir Douglas Haig, insist that "it must be held at all hazards." Our Premier is advising President Poincare and M. Briand about the Verdun situation possibly; but we feel assured that the French will not abandon Verdun.

Another striking point of resemblance in the careers of the personages under review is that both are strong on patronage. The Canadian Minister's brother, who is just thirty-three years of age, without any previous military experience, is a Brigadier-General; and it is asserted that commissions in the Canadian army have been given to anything that the Minister lists. It is now known that some dozens of the Canadian officers were discarded on arriving at the other side, and that such was their inefficiency that they were glad to enlist as privates in the Imperial Army. Our Knight has had, fortunately, little to do with military appointments, though there is a rumor to the effect that he opposed the appointment of a gentleman who has recently gone over seas. His strong point is exercising the patronage in civil life. That this has been done to the limit is now very evident. Even some of his party are literally dependent upon the crumbs given to them for a living. They have no visible occupation; though our Statutes state that a certain qualification is required to make one eligible for a seat in the Assembly.

The great apostles of bluffdom have other features in common: these we may review later.

THE GRAVE

THEY dug his grave by lantern light.
A nameless German boy,
A remnant from that hurried flight,
Lost, wounded, left in hapless plight,
For carion to destroy.
They thought him dead at first until
They felt the heart's slow beat;
So calm he lay, serene and still
It seemed a butchery to kill
An innocent so sweet.
A movement of his lips, maybe
To call his mother there;
A tear, a smile of victory—
Then easeful death proclaimed him free,
Free from a tyrant's care,
Somewhere a mother droops and sighs,
For tidings longed delayed;
Somewhere a sister mourns and cries
For him who in that cold grave lies.
Dug by the foeman's spade.
WILFRID J. HALLIDAY,
Private, C. Company, Thirteenth Battalion, West Yorks.

HAD TO BE REMOVED

London, August 5.—The German administration of Belgium has imposed fines amounting to 2,000 marks on the Belgian committee in charge of the recent municipal art exhibition, according to a Rotterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. At the request of the German administration, says the despatch, the bust of the Emperor was exhibited among other sculptures. It caused such a hostile demonstration on the part of the visitors to the exhibition that it had to be removed.

The difference between a sweetheart and a wife is merely the difference between a possibility and a liability.

REVEILLE
BY CALCAR

By their fruits you shall know them" without irreverence we use these words from Sacred Writ as a text for this essay. As the tree is known by its fruit and the good tree bears good fruit and the evil tree evil fruit so by its fruit shall we be able to judge the Morris Administration. Of the evil effects of government by that body of incapables we have many painful reminders and remembrances that are likely to outcast the encumbrance of office by them. The whole Administration has been a medley of corruption and the most astounding exhibitions of crass stupidity coupled with a most reprehensible attempt to fool the people.

Outside the bitter and evil fruit of a heaped up public debt and mal-administration all round, perhaps the most remarkable fruit of eight years of Morris rule and the most prodigious burden on the evil tree is the result of ink spilling. We have already adverted to some extent this peculiarity of the Morris Government, and have shown some of its follies. We have shown how the effort to advertise the attractions this country has to offer the speculator, has resulted in making us ridiculous and exposing the incapacity of the writer.

"By their fruits you shall know them" and the Morris Government has given us in those writings the most exact gauge of their fitness for office. The absurdity of those publications shows either that the parties guilty of the perpetration are the greatest aggregation of dunder heads ever got together or people who have nothing but contempt for the intelligence of others. It may be and likely is a combination of both these qualities, but the preponderating influence behind the writing is ignorance allied with overmastering conceit.

It is conceit of the most astonishing kind only that could prompt an ass to try the song of the nightingale and only the most foolish and most flattering notion of his own ability that could prompt a man ignorant of all technical knowledge to attempt to write seriously of our mines and mineral resources as did the ass who wrote the booklet "The Mineral Wealth of Newfoundland."

To the casual reader these idiosyncrasies may seem like things too trivial to take serious heed of, but a little reflection will show that they are pregnant with deep meaning to us. It should be borne in mind that all pronouncements by a government have a gravity and meaning proportionate to the status of the people for whom the government speaks. All papers, reports, statistics, memoirs, etc., officially uttered are supposed to be published in all seriousness and meant to afford reliable information. They bear an index sure and certain to the character of the people for whom and in whose name they speak.

Had the Morris Government any sense of responsibility or of due proportion in things when they gave utterance to papers such as we have in review. They could not have had or they never would have been printed. This is why we regard the matter of these publications so seriously. They show most plainly, more plainly indeed than all the mad policies of the government how unfit for office are the present group of incompetents. What wonder that our country has made so little progress when we have men in charge of affairs who display so small proportion of average intelligence.

Is it any wonder that our country is more or less regarded as a goose to be plucked, and that acting on this regard we are being daily plucked to the enrichment of the greedy and the impoverishment of the land.

Morris has by his voluminous advertising of the wealth of this country, in timber, minerals (metallic and otherwise), etc., attracted, not the bona fide investor by the shabby and dishonest class known as promoters. These men make it their business to spy out metal prospects (discovered by others) timber areas, peat beds, oil shale areas, etc. The method then is to obtain a license to mine, cut timber, work peat beds or whatever it may be at the same time having neither the ability, capital or intention of operating. Having secured the claim they next look around for a purchaser, who is often as not a victim also.

THE HARVEST OF THE SEA

INTERESTING AND USEFUL TO THE FISHERMEN OF THE COLONY

By Our Own Correspondent

COMMISSION ON FISHERY MATTERS

MORE than twelve months ago a "Commission on Fishery Matters" was appointed by the Governor-in-Council to prepare a report on several items regarding our fisheries. The Report was issued on May 1, 1915, and we would like to know just what it effected. It deplored the deterioration in the cure of fish—one of the most serious factors in the commercial life of the Colony, and stated that its effect upon the production and value of the Labrador fishery is lamentable in the extreme. What has been done about it? Nothing that we know of. It also stated that the main cause of deterioration in cure "lies with the Talqual system which has become almost universal"; and it tells us that the fish buyers and exporters are responsible for this.

Has anything been done to remedy this? Something; but it has not emanated from the Government or the large fish exporters. The only thing in evidence is the advice given to fishermen by Mr. Coaker in *The Mail and Advocate* and personally during his tour of the northern bays. His advice will probably have a good

moting business that it disgusts us to mention it here and only our outraged sense of injury inflicted by the class and the party responsible for them, upon our unfortunate country prompts us to name them here. They are the maggots that feast upon the rottenness that brought them into life, and like maggots they will eventually disappear with the foulness they thrive upon. There is an adjustment in nature that preserves an even balance so that all evils by their very excesses cure themselves.

So it must be in the ethical world the same principle holds sway. What is foul and rotten in social and political affairs is sure to bring about its own cure. Morris' silly writings and dishonest boomerang of resources whose existence he has but the most shadowy notion of attracted the cupidty of the hungry promoters and these by all the known laws of nature are meant to destroy the foulness created. The people will not tolerate either them or their corruption to fester long upon the body politic.

effect; as fishermen have lost confidence in the "ginger-bread" promises of the big exporters. There was a suggestion in the Report (the writer suggested them twenty years ago) that the Government grant a bonus to the curers of strictly prime merchantable fish. Has anything been done to effect this. Again, there must be a negative answer.

It is a fact that fishermen especially on the coast of Labrador are not encouraged to make their fish as it should be made. One price is "made" by a ring of exporters, and fishermen seem to have no interest beyond getting the fish. When the great gamble comes, as it does nearly every year, we find agents of different concerns striving to induce planters supplied by various merchants to let them have their fish in order to secure a cargo. We know fishermen on the coast who once washed their fish from the knife, made it as good as any ordinary shore fish, and when settling-up time came, they did not receive one cent more per quintal than the man who had the worst kind of "stop".

We have now reached a stage in the fishery business when immediate steps are necessary both to protect the honest fishermen and to conserve our trade. The gambling process must be eliminated; and men must be protected. Honest value must be given for their produce. Were this done, we should need no legislation. There is little dishonesty among the fishermen. Let them be accorded proper treatment and they will respond nobly as they always do. The bluffing policy is a thing of the past; it has been worked to

death, and the fishermen know it. Whatever useful legislation is now found on our Statute Book is not the result of Commissions, but it is due to the existence of the organization whose sole object is the amelioration of the fishermen's condition. Every effort has been made to thwart it by men who have amassed colossal fortunes out of our fisheries; but it grows in strength and efficiency as the years go by.

The Union came into being through the agency of one of the greatest labor leaders we have ever had in this Colony. The fishermen were at the mercy of combines and cliques whose assumptions were tantamount to law. The Union was organized for the protection of the toilers of the sea and for redressing their grievances.

"Unions of the present day" says a writer on economics, "tend to economic sovereignty, viz., the regulation of prices and a 'square deal for the toiler.'" To form a sane judgment of Unions one must place oneself above all unfortunate incidents and transient tendencies. It is claimed that Unions affect individual liberty; but fortunately they have other motives for their existence than the oppression of individuals. They are called into existence rather to prevent the oppression of individuals. They tend to the betterment of the toiler and consequently are beneficial to the race.

"Unions are not necessarily antagonistic to capital; the intelligent toiler does not object to wealth, but to its misuse. As social democracies Unions have held the level of ideal citizenship

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

AUGUST 10

HON. SAMUEL BLANDFORD born at Greenspond, 1840. Public ball in Colonial Building in honor of laying Atlantic cable; Cyrus Field was present, 1858. Rev. John Conway ordained by Bishop Mullock, 1862. Nuns first arrived in St. Mary's, 1859. Nicholas Lundregan died, 1869. C. of E. Church, Tilt Cove, consecrated, 1873. Very heavy thunderstorm this day, 1878. Steamer Grassbrook docked, 1885. Rev. Thomas Boone died, 1879. Ville Marie Bank, Montreal, went into liquidation, 1899. Edward Wall killed by falling over Exploits bridge, 1897.

from the debasing influences of the influx of those whose habits of life and thought are as low as the wages which they offer those who slave for them. Thus they have developed a better type of operative by power of association. The influence of the F.P.U. has radiated to every hamlet in this Colony; and in the years to come its results will be more appreciated than they are even to-day.

One of the great drawbacks is that we never know it is too late until it is too late.

Did you ever notice that the chronic kicker is proud of the title?

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South Coast Service.

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will sail from Placentia on Friday, August 11th, after arrival of 8.45 a.m. train from St. John's, for the usual ports of call between Placentia and Port-aux-Basques.

Passengers leaving by to-morrow's morning's train will connect.

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