

## A Manly and Straightforward Review of the Morris Government's Financial Policy.

(Continued from page 2)  
 Gasoline, before this tax was put on, cost the fishermen 27c; to-day, selling at wholesale rates, it is 48c. And yet an attempt has been made to even reduce the tax of 6½c on this article, or to even take a part of it off. You are going to cripple the fishing industry; you are going to compel many a man who owns a motor boat to keep it tied up instead of using it, because he is not able to purchase the necessary fuel to operate it. Another thing that is very remarkable is this. We have had no suggestion at all that the Government intends to seriously consider the suggestion so often made here of sending men abroad—agents—with a view to the developing of the fish markets. I know that an effort was made a year or two ago to send Mr. Moulton away to see if anything could be done with regard to extending the markets in South America. Mr. Moulton, I understand, got as far as New York, and then he had to end his journey and return home. The reasons for this action on his part has never been explained, and personally I have no idea as to what was at the bottom of the trouble that caused him to return instead of proceeding, after he had left here with instructions and with authority to go on to South America in order to secure for us information in regard to the markets there.

Nothing Is Done To Secure New Markets For Our Staple Product.  
 This is a very serious matter. It has been brought up here time after time, and has been advocated by both sides of the House, and yet the Government is not making any effort whatever in this direction—they have not even expressed a desire to do such a thing if we had the means. It seems that nothing whatever is done to assist the people and the country. It is only a question of raising the revenue and spending it. No constructive ability has been shown with regard to the management of affairs in such a way as to help the fishing industry—to assist the people to catch more fish and to sell it, to keep up the price, or to do anything that will in any way benefit the fishermen of the country. One of the things that might have been done at very little expense would have been the despatch of two or three men to the markets in South America or even in Europe to study conditions and see whether there was any possibility of extending the sales of fish. We remember that in 1908, the Premier, in his Manifesto, claimed that there were so many millions of people in Central and South America that did not get the chance to eat a fish, and he promised that as soon as he came into power he would have men despatched to those countries in order to open

up markets there; but nothing has been done, except the attempt to send Mr. Moulton away. And by the way, I should like to have an explanation of why Mr. Moulton did not complete his mission—why he ended his journey at New York instead of going on to South America as he was intended to do.  
 Matter Of Providing Night Schools One Of Most Pressing Importance.  
 Another matter that was urged by the Premier, and that I am sorry nothing has been said about, is that of Night Schools. Now, this matter is one of such serious importance that we ought to have some definite statement as to what the Government intends to do with regard to it. Does the Government intend to leave everything until 1917, and then open their wings again and fly away with suggestions of the wonderful things that they are going to do during the next four years? I wonder whether they are going to adopt that plan again. I hope not, because I might inform them that the people are not to be caught by that sort of thing any longer. It might have succeeded in the past, but it is not going to do so any longer. It looks as if that was what the Government intends to do, however. They will probably come in here next year with a vote for \$25,000 for Night Schools and say: "This is one of the things that we promised when we came into power, and now we are going to carry out our promise; we are sorry that the war intervened and made it impossible for us to do anything before, but now the land is flowing with milk and honey again and we hasten to perform our promises. In 1909 the F.P.U. approached the

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WEDNESDAY—THE EXPLOITS OF ELAINE.

Government in this matter, and here is what they said:  
**Stand Taken By The F. P. U. On This Matter In 1909.**  
 "This Union is of the opinion that a mistake was made when the Government at the last session of the legislature passed an additional grant of \$20,000 as a bonus for teachers. Under existing circumstances, we do not oppose the increase in this grant for education, we appreciate the increased vote, but we object to having \$20,000 added to the bonus paid to teachers for daily services as we are of the opinion that the bonus previously paid and the salaries, many of them received, well compensated them for the time they gave to teaching. They work but 210 days out of 365 and then for only about 5 hours each day, if the payments for such services were inadequate, then any lively teacher should have been enabled to supplement his income by opening a night school three hours for five nights each week for six months of the year, and this \$20,000 vote allocated to pay a decent bonus to such teachers. One school in each settlement would be sufficient and all the teachers in a settlement who wished to receive the government bonus should instruct in the one school. The higher or oldest teacher taking charge and the school purely undenominational. An extra bonus should be paid teachers who give instructions in navigation. The schools should open 1st November and close 1st May. There is a general demand now-a-days for night schools all over the country, young men who left school with very little education, and more who never had the privilege of attending a school now realize what the want of education means, and would never forget a government who placed night schools at their disposal. This \$20,000 grant should not be expended for day teacher bonuses but should at the next session of the Legislature be withdrawn and given for night teachers' bonus, and if necessary increased to \$25,000.

**Government Is Blind To Interests Of Country In Not Acceding To Request.**  
 Now, that was contained in a Memorial that was sent the Government in 1909, and it is with great regret that I have to say that 1916 is now with us and as yet no effort has been made to meet the needs of the people in this direction in the outports—because in St. John's a man has plenty of facilities for educating himself. There are men here who have volunteered to teach Night Schools and they are doing splendid work; but in the outports the old order has been allowed to run on and no attempt has been made to help the young man who was compelled to leave school while he was still very young in order to help his father to make a living.  
**Some Fees And Salaries In The Customs Department Which Appear Strange.**  
 I notice in looking over the Estimates that the salary voted T. R. McGrath in the Customs was increased from \$800 to \$1,100—the additional \$300 being intended to cover amounts that were formerly received in the way of fees. Now, I am given to understand that there are lots of fees in connection with that Department that do not find their way into the Treasury. I would like to know whether any rule has been made in this connection and whether officials can now hold or claim the fees that formerly were held by them? Was there not some rule or order made here under which these fees were supposed to be paid into the Treasury? I would like to have some information with regard to that. Also, it is stated that Mr. H. W. LeMessurier receives quite a lot of fees for clearing vessels after hours. I would like to know whether that is justifiable, and if these fees are due to the Treasury let us get them. If not, let all understand large fees go to Mr. LeMessurier and Mr. McGrath in the Customs House, but to whom should they go? The Minister should inform us as to whether the fees should be held by the persons receiving them. The Minister seems very glad, when he advertised the fact that \$1,000,000 had been added to the earnings of the people during the past year. He seemed to think that because one million was added to the earnings of the people, that great credit was due to the Government. That this is the case just because the present Government is in power. I would ask now whether the Government had any part in raising this amount by one million dollars. I know they didn't. It is alright to make a statement, but why claim the credit? They contributed nothing towards it, and still come here claiming all the credit.  
**Government Not Entitled To Any Credit For Increase In Revenue**  
 A great deal has been said, too, about the increase in the revenue, and even credit has been claimed by the Government in that respect. The Government claims itself the cause of this increase, and it is spread abroad to prove the splendid manner in which the public affairs of this country have been carried on by the present Government. Of course the Minister did confess that some of the increase was due to the increase in the price of foods. Of course the increase is largely due to this increase. It means that taxes are getting higher day by day, and it all shows what a rotten system this ad valorem tax is. We have to pay in England \$2 for what could be got there for \$1 before the war, and so the Government gets the duty on the extra dollar. If all comes in in the shape of Customs returns, and so the Minister claims it. What he ought to do is to give us cheaper goods, or try to, instead of blowing over this increase in price. All goods received now cost from 30 to 50 per cent. more than they did before the war, and for this reason I think the merchants here will have to be very careful, because after the war they will find themselves compelled to mark down their prices some forty or fifty per cent. to compete with the low prices. I think our merchants are watching out for this, and accordingly are getting only those things which are necessary. They

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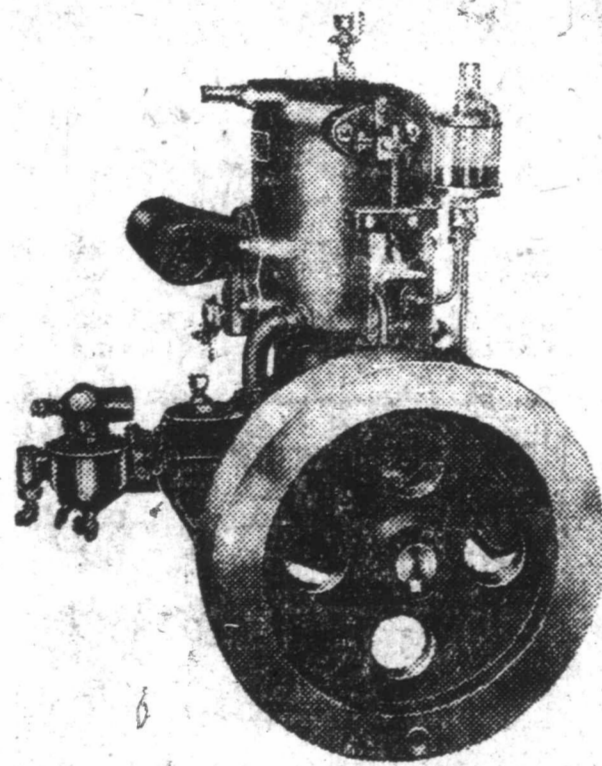
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### Urge The Co-Operation Of All Denominations In Smaller Settlements.

"The Grant for small places is still much too small. We would rejoice to find the government increase this vote by another \$10,000. It is the smaller places that should be attended to now, for if the larger places lack education, it is the fault of the people and not the grants. The smaller places must not be permitted to remain in ignorance, while their fellow fishermen at the larger settlements are provided with a fair education. The one black mark in education will be removed just as soon as the grant for smaller places is increased sufficient to place a teacher twelve months at places containing 20 schoolable children. Some system should be adopted by the Legislature to permit the co-operation of all denominations in the smaller places, or at least where a permanent school cannot be maintained unless by uniting grants. The fees should also be abolished. While fees are collected many a child will suffer for want of education. We strongly urge the Government to give us free schools, and with free schools we pray that compulsory attendance will be coupled. Schools should be open wherever 20 children reside. They should be free from the payment of any fee, and children over 7 years should be forced by law to attend schools until they pass the 5th Standard, or reach the age of 14 years. Compulsory attendance will be supported and aided by this Union with all its strength. No safer steps could be introduced for the fishermen's welfare. The attendance should cover at least 7 months out of the 12. All children should attend school from 1st November till 1st May, the remaining months should be optional with parents. The time is ripe for the introduction of this system, almost every civilized country has adopted it, if it benefits the people of those countries it will also benefit ours. We pray that compulsory education be introduced at the next session of the Legislature, and we predict a ready welcome of the system by the fishermen."

### Ventilate A Serious Breach Of The Ship Building Bounty Laws

Now I wish to draw the attention of the Minister and the committee to a very serious matter in connection with the payment of bounties on vessels last year. A few months ago, in 1908, a law was passed to provide aid for the encouragement of building schooners, and certain rules were laid down as well as amounts to be paid. Every vessel had to fulfil certain conditions. I am very sorry I have to call the attention of the Minister to the fact that a vessel that he had registered in his name has been surveyed by the surveyor, and that a bounty of \$8 per ton was authorized. All the gear on that vessel was not new, as provided by the Act. Now I do not blame the Minister for having anything to do with this matter, so far as getting this money is concerned, because I find that the surveyor has given a certificate that the ship should get \$8 per ton, and that this money has been paid over. What I do say is that this ship did not come within the section that provides a bonus of \$8. She received a bounty of \$8 instead of \$5 per ton. I call this to the attention of the House in Committee and trust some explanation will be given me.

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