

The Mail and Advocate.

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1915, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

The New Reid Deal

SINCE Wednesday the public have been enabled to realize the tremendous extent of the concessions which the Government had determined to grant the Reids under the name of the Newfoundland Products Company. The speeches delivered on Wednesday by Messrs. Kent and Morine broke the silence which prevailed the previous week and to-day the whole country is of the opinion expressed by Mr. Morine in the House when he stated that the Agreement was the most iniquitous ever presented to a legislature.

The whole interior of the country from Bay of Islands to White Bay, East to Gander Bay and South to Fortune Bay was to be handed over to a shareless company, with all the water powers, timber and mineral, contained in about 18,000 square miles. The very prime and most valuable portion of the island of Newfoundland, with all its valuable water powers, worth at least \$50,000,000, was to be given to the Company, for which the Colony received a promise of an expenditure of \$5,000,000 in five years. All the property of the Company was to be exempt from ever from municipal taxation. Its raw material was to be imported free of duty for ever.

No matter what the future had in store for Newfoundland the people would secure about the same returns as Bell Island gives. Existing on the area demanded is enough pulp wood areas to supply four such industries as is now operated at Grand Falls; sufficient water power to operate such concerns exist on those areas, and great mineral deposits are known to exist over those areas. The timber value of the Gander area is worth at least \$50,000,000. It was not enough that the new concern should control the Humber—everything of value in the Colony was also demanded.

What the Reid Nfd. Co. did not secure under former contracts this continuance would grip and would include every timber and mineral license and water power in that vast area held at present by owners who would perhaps be opposed to selling out at a figure to please this concern. It is the greatest attempt to compel private interests to forego their rights granted under the great seal of the Colony that was ever attempted by any interests in any civilized country on the face of the globe.

No sane man will ever again trust Sir Ed. Morris. It will prove a blow to the confidence in the Newfoundland Government that will not be lived down for a score of years of model governments. The name of Morris will never again be respected for every reasonable man who has studied this agreement will be satisfied that from beginning to end the agreement is as infamous as the most desperate of highwaymen could contemplate in a country possessing responsible government.

The rights of the A.N.D. Co. and the Albert Reid Co. of Bishop's Falls were so outrageously assailed as to compel those two English concerns to petition the House against the passage of the agreement and this was only done when every effort had failed to convince the Premier, the Minister of Justice and the Governor to exempt those concerns from the operation of the agreement. The British investors in those concerns, of which there are about 50,000, will never recover that confidence in our institutions, that this bold act of attempted legalized robbery, has destroyed. Only desperate men intent on assassinating every recognized right inherited under British institutions would have attempted such an infamous transaction, and there is little wonder that this daring piece of rascality has aroused the people to the highest pitch of indignation.

If Reids wanted to establish an industrial concern on the Humber, why did they not proceed in the usual way, and if any special concessions compatible with a square deal were required from the Colony, to ask for them as in the case of others without attempting to take from the people everything of value now remaining? If they succeeded in making a success of the Humber concern, and wanted to duplicate their operations on the East Coast, then the country could have been approached properly, but to give all those concessions away and with them the greatest water power on the American Continent now available for commercial uses, worth \$50,000,000, would, if achieved, be regarded as the greatest piece of legal robbery ever committed by a free people and would brand every Newfoundland in future as no better than a fool or a knave.

This attempt of Morris to rob the Colony of its assets, and to steal from the people the remaining portion of their heritage, ought to forever brand Morris and those who support his action as traitors of the lowest type.

Reids' lands and other property under former contracts are open to taxation. If this concern was established the Reids could transfer their holdings to the new concern and escape taxation. The Reids have held their property for 20 years and it is now as undeveloped as it was when they received it. Why have they not done something to develop their great interests? Were they waiting for the return of a government that would hand over the whole assets of the Colony to them under a new deal that would make them lords of creation and permit them to sell out to various concerns at tremendous profits?

They did all they could to return Morris in 1908-1909 and 1913. These elections cost Reid hundreds of thousands of dollars. They received railway contracts worth \$10,000,000. They got more mail contracts and coastal contracts and operated the system as they saw fit, regardless of their obligations to the Colony. They should to-day be fully operating three branch railways that are not operated but which they would have had to operate a year ago if any Premier but Morris was in charge of public affairs.

The Reids got all there was to get in the way of contracts, and they see the end of Morris very near, and Morris knowing he will never be trusted with governing power again, avail of the present opportunity—the bad times—the war—the desperate financial position of the Colony—to bring forward his crowning grab for Reids, and don't care two straws what the future will be for the Colony if he can but get his docile supporters to back him in passing his last and greatest act of infamy into law.

Will the Morris supporters of the House dare support him? Let us warn them all of the consequences for the man that votes for such a iniquitous transaction, dare not again face a free electorate for support. Every Morris supporter in the House who will vote for this Deal will but be signing his political death warrant.

North, South, East and West will never forgive the insult—the brazen impudence of the men who dared to bring such a glaring piece of robbery before the Legislature. Where was the common sense of the Party to permit such an outrage to go so far?

It must not pass—it will never be permitted to pass by the Opposition. Let the Opposition prepare immediately to convene public mass meetings to oppose it all over the Colony. This great crime against the people must be prevented.

Surely those men on the Government side who are known to possess fair reputations will not be guilty of robbing the people of every penny's worth of their heritage. Surely some will prove patriots in this great hour of need.

The debate to-day on this matter will reveal something, but if Morris intends to force this thing upon the Colony, the people must prepare at once for the biggest fight they ever yet put up on behalf of poor down trodden Terra Nova.

When the debate is resumed this evening it is likely the Premier will reply to the objections raised by Messrs. Kent Morine, and Lloyd, and an announcement made with regard to the Government's intentions concerning the agreement. It is rumored that at a Party meeting held on Friday night it was decided to cut out the East Coast portion of the agreement, if so that obstacle will be removed, but if the Premier imagines that the country will be appeased by such a move and be intimidated thereby into not agreeing to the Humber and Hamilton River concessions provided in the agreement, he will find himself mistaken.

Petition Respecting the Appointment of Mr. Somerton to the Magistracy of Trinity

Presented by Mr. Stone, and Endorsed by Mr. Coaker

House of Assembly, Tuesday, April 13th, '15

MR. STONE—Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions here signed by the residents of a number of towns around Trinity in relation to the appointment of Mr. Somerton as magistrate at Trinity. These petitions show the sentiment of these people. At a convention of the F. P. U. they passed resolutions in connection with the same matter.

The petitions are to the effect that the people do not wish to have Mr. Somerton as Magistrate over them as he was recently a political partizan; and they desire to have him transferred to some other district. The petitions are from Catalina, Clarendville, Elliston, English Hr., Foster's Point, Shoal Hr., British Hr., Burgoyne's Cove, St. Jones, within Pope's Hr., New Bonaventure, Port Rexton, Trouty.

I trust, Mr. Speaker, that these petitions will have the full attention of the Department to which they will be referred. The people of Trinity, knowing that Mr. Somerton was going to be appointed magistrate, appealed to me, and I sent a letter to the Prime Minister a copy of which I ask leave to read to this House.

St. John's, Sept. 7th. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, St. John's.

Dear Sir.—We desire to call your attention to the feeling which prevails on the north side of Trinity against the appointment of Mr. Somerton as Stipendiary Magistrate in place of Mr. Litty, who is said to be retiring. This feeling is particularly strong at Catalina. The people there object to Mr. Somerton being appointed Magistrate with jurisdiction over them. They raise no objection to the Government giving Mr. Somerton an appointment elsewhere. We are,

Yours truly, J. G. STONE, ARCH. TARGETT.

And this is a copy of the reply received by me:— Prime Minister's Office, St. John's, Nfld., 12, Sept.

Dear Sir.—I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 7th of September in relation to the appointment of Mr. Somerton.

The subject matter of your communication with respect to the retiring and pensioning of Magistrate Litty and the appointments of a successor has not yet come before the Government in any shape or form up to the present time. When it does, however, I shall be glad to see that every consideration is given your representations.

Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) E. P. MORRIS, J. G. Stone, Esq., M.H.A. City.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we cannot expect any consideration from the Executive. Trinity has no representative on that Council. It is true, Sir that Mr. Squires is there, but he does not represent Trinity. I certainly hope

that the Government will harken to the prayers of these petitions and act accordingly. Personally I have not the slightest objection to Mr. Somerton, but it is my duty to carry out the wishes of those I represent.

MR. TARGETT—I wish Mr. Speaker to support the petitions presented by my friend and colleague, Mr. Stone, and would heartily support the same.

MR. COAKER—I would like, Mr. Speaker to endorse the petitions presented to Mr. Stone. I think, Sir, that it was unfair on the part of the Government to act as they did in spite of the strong protest of the people through their representative, Mr. Stone.

We know that Trinity has no representative on the Executive Council, for we do not call Mr. Squires a representative or recognize him as such, but we did expect fair play from the Prime Minister, and thought that he would cater to the wishes of the people. But Sir, no notice was taken of the people's wishes, and the appointment was made directly contrary to the wishes of the people. Moreover the Premier said that the Government did not know of any such appointment, and that he would let Mr. Stone know.

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—Neither of these statements is in my letter.

MR. COAKER—(Re-read letter to the House): "The subject matter with respect to the retiring and pensioning of Magistrate Litty and the appointment of a successor to him has not yet come before the Government in any shape or form."

RT. HON PRIME MINISTER—Up to that time the applicant had not come up before the Government in any shape or form. The question came up subsequently and was decided not at one meeting, but only after two or three. What is the charge against Mr. Somerton? Is it that he was a supporter of our Party?

MR. COAKER—Mr. Somerton was in the employ of Dr. McKay, but while in that capacity he so grossly offended the people that they prevailed upon Dr. McKay, so that for the good of the business, Dr. McKay asked Mr. Somerton for his resignation. Now that man, the man whom the people so objected to, is their Magistrate—the man to interpret their laws. It is a wonder Sir, that there is no revolt. The people have had absolutely no say at all, the whole matter being in the hands of Mr. Squires.

I say Sir, that the Government has treated Trinity Bay disgracefully. They have had no regard for the people, absolutely none. Do they want the Court House or a few other buildings torn down by the infuriated electors? The way the Northern people have been treated, Sir, is disgraceful. It appears that the policy of the Government is to make the North angry and aggressive, and then to send the volunteers with their quick-firing machine guns to shoot down the offenders.

Petition Respecting the Keeping of Dogs in Twillingate District

House of Assembly, Tuesday, April 13th, '15

MR. JENNINGS—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the people of Twillingate asking that the law regulating the keeping of dogs be amended. At present a dog owner has to pay a certain tax, and that tax is supposed to be used to pay any person who has lost any animals from dogs. They are paid the value of the animals lost from this sum of money.

They want the law changed so that every man shall chain up his dog at night, and if he is found at large he may be shot on sight. If any cattle are injured, the owner of the dog that is responsible will pay the value.

Every dog not chained up should be responsible for the damage done. This petition is signed by 1,500 people, and there are many different opinions on this subject. In any case they cannot get along in Twillingate without dogs, and I have no doubt that it will be easy to amend the law and I trust the Government will take the request of the petitioners into their consideration.

MR. COAKER—Mr. Speaker, I beg to support the prayer of the petition just presented. I do not know anything of the people so much as this question of dogs. We have had quite a lot of trouble for the last two years in connection with these taxes. The law is that a man keeping dogs pays to the magistrate his proportion

PROHIBITION

Powerful Address Delivered by Rev. W.H. Thomas at Congregational Church

Resolutions Unanimously Adopted

LAST evening's service at the Congregational Church was well attended and proved to be most interesting to the entire congregation. Taking as the basis of his remarks the words of the great apostle as contained in 1st. Corinthians 8-13 "Wherefore if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend," the Revd. W. H. Thomas said:

There are questions which from time to time come before the legislature of a country, concerning which the church of Christ as such cannot remain silent without running the risk of being disloyal to the interests of her Lord's Kingdom. Indeed it may be argued that every political question involves moral and spiritual considerations. For you cannot divide us into a number of exclusive compartments and say, "Let the State consult the interests of his body and property; the school look after the development of his intellect; the church pay attention to the guidance of his spiritual nature."

Man is much more of a unity than of a diversity and the welfare of his body and property are best secured when due regard is had to the claims of his mind and spirit, as the interests of his spirit are best preserved and furthered when attention is paid to the concurrent needs of his mind and body. For example, you would not consider the arrangements for the worship of God in the Sanctuary, effective, which would neglect the order of the service and the accommodation, ventilation and heating of the building any more than you would look with favor on a piece of legislation which ignored moral considerations.

In the old country, whenever the Houses of Parliament are about to discuss questions pertaining to public education or the regulation of the Drank Traffic, the churches are immediately alert and alive.

For they realize the tremendous influence of these two questions on their own spiritual interests. We in this country have an education question, though it differs from that which obtains on the other side. The drunk traffic, however, casts the same kind of obstacles in the path of the Christian Churches in all lands, and is admittedly one of the greatest enemies of our Lord's Kingdom.

The greatest evils are as modern as they are ancient. Solomon, a thousand years before Christ, said:—"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." The other day the British Chancellor of the Exchequer characterized drink as a greater enemy of Great Britain than either Austria or Germany. The atrocities perpetrated by our external enemies are as nothing compared with those which have been and are being committed by this household of ours. Prussian militarism is bad but British alcoholism is worse. The cruellest German or Turk can but temporarily outrage the bodies and stay the lives of his victims. He cannot deprive them of their manhood and womanhood, nor cut them off from everlasting bliss. But alcohol ruthlessly murders the God-like in man and the angelic in woman, dooming them to eternal destruction.

of the damage done. In Twillingate these taxes have been paid to the magistrate, but the magistrate will not give any explanation of what he has done with the money. I have written to him and he has refused to give any information in regard to his expenditure. This has caused considerable friction amongst the people.

I was hoping that if we had such a thing as municipal boards, this matter might be left to them. It seems a trifling matter to be bringing before the House of Assembly, and if had properly constituted boards, they could keep dogs or shoot dogs, or pay taxes as they pleased. You can not get the people of Twillingate to give up their dogs. At Change Islets, the dog question is also a live one. They are allowed to keep shepherd dogs, and people are getting these collies for no other purpose than for herding. I would like to see when we get this Road Board matter in Committee that we should get the question settled.

The Empire's brave parents and braver sons are prepared to sustain loss at the hands of the enemy without our borders, but, Sirs, it is an unthinkable abomination if their happiness and their life should be put in jeopardy by the insufficiency of the ammunition supply resulting from the drink-sodden condition of their own fellow Brits. The rivers of tears that have issued out of this terrible European conflict are neither as numerous nor as deep as those to which the drink traffic has given rise. He spoke truly who said:—"The worst about strong drink has never been told. It cannot be told—it escapes the limitations of language."

When, therefore, an occurrence or a person in our House of Assembly, gives rise to a discussion of the Drink Traffic, our gratitude and interest should be immediately aroused. We, as a church, and I as a minister, do not want our work and our influence to be of none effect, and the drink traffic threatens more than any one other agency to render them null and void. The church and the saloon are contradictories. The day will dawn when Tueton and Saxon will sheath the sword and return the rite to its rack; when the lion and the eagle shall lie down together.—God hasten the day!—but the aeons of eternity will never witness a cessation of hostilities between the church and the saloon.—God quicken our perception of the fact; Self-preservation is the first law of nature and the church will therefore destroy rather than be destroyed by the drink. You cannot preserve the church and the saloon, any more than you can serve God and mammon.

Shall the representatives of the Colony, then, in Parliament assembled, boldly utter their faith in regard to this strongly-entrenched enemy of the Christian church, and we the members and adherents of a Christian church sit at stolid ease in line with folded hands and silent tongue? God forbid. Here is our opportunity. We dare not let it pass unimproved.

When, therefore, I suggested the duty of our taking some action as a church in the matter, to my deacons last Sunday evening, they all with one consent approved. It was decided that a resolution should be prepared, and submitted to the church and congregation to-day. The task of drawing up the resolution was entrusted to the hands of your minister. I deemed it wise to submit the resolution to your suffrage at the close of this evening's service, after first of all speaking on the general situation and explaining and expanding the particular terms of the motion, and then giving an opportunity to any who are not prepared to vote either way of quietly withdrawing. The notice which appeared in last evening's city papers was meant to acquaint Congregationalists of our intention.

The newspaper accounts of the Debates in the House of Assembly last Wednesday week, provided most interesting and illuminating reading. Amidst the diversity of opinion and view-point expressed, there was unanimity in regard to the evils of the Drink Traffic. The resolutions did not pass, but these responsible for their introduction deserve our gratitude. Personally, I was delighted to note the high moral tone of most of the speeches. It is well to subject the Drink Traffic to public criticism and to drag into the light the terrible evils to which it gives rise.

The history of the genesis of the promise made on behalf of the government, and the assessment of its real value may provide for some a very interesting study. I prefer to accept it at its face value and to consider the advance in legislation which it is capable of being regarded as heralding. Think of it, when the promise is fulfilled, an opportunity will, for the first time, be given to the voters of this island as a whole to elect, not a person, but a principle. Shall the Drink Traffic which is responsible for so many real evils, and no real benefits, continue or not? Generally an election tests the candidate, but a plebiscite on Prohibition will test the voter. It will find out whether he is at heart selfish and self-centred or a lover and benefactor of his kind. In the one case he

will see no reason why his personal liberty should be curtailed, and he will be deprived of the opportunity of getting the temperate glass to which he has always been addicted. Whatever effects alcohol may have on his brother, or on the other hand he will welcome an opportunity of undergoing self-denial in order to do untold good to thousands of his fellow-men. That is to say he will ally himself with Cain and ask "Am I my brother's keeper?" or with Paul and affirm, "Wherefore if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, best I make my brother to offend."

But if the people are to have an opportunity of saying what their will is, then provision should be made to render that decision operative without unreasonable delay and certainly without the need of further legislation. That is why we urge the introduction of a full prohibition bill. This demand is reasonable, and does not involve any new legislative departure. We have an excellent precedent for it in the Temperance Act. According to it, once a petition is presented to the nearest stipendiary magistrate from one-fifth of the electors of a district, town, harbor or settlement in the island, machinery is set in motion which need not stop until the sale of all intoxicating liquors and the issue of all licenses within such a district, town or hamlet shall be actually prohibited. That is the kind of machinery which we urge the Government to include in its bill.

As to the majority necessary to carry Prohibition, there may be considerable differences of opinion. To say that it shall consist of more than half the number of duly qualified voters in the island is preposterous and I do not think that any member of the House of Assembly will ask for it. Why, out of the 36 members on the House, only eight of them sit there at the will of more than half of the electors of their respective districts. Should a majority of the votes polled be sufficient, whatever be their number? I do not think so. In my estimation, a majority sufficient to carry prohibition should bear a fair proportion to the whole electorate. I have ventured to put that proportion at not less than 1-3. There are three considerations that led me to introduce this proviso—(1) Our requests must be reasonable and a bare majority alone would seem to me unjustifiable. (2) The population of the island is so scattered, and scattered for the most part along the sea coast, where of course opportunities of breaking the prohibition law would be so numerous, that such a law could not be effective unless it were passed by a fair majority. (3) To secure a poll of a 1-3 of the votes in favour of Prohibition would compel those of us, who are prohibitionists, to vigorous activity. Nothing is worth getting than can be got without hard work. And if we are not prepared to fight and fight hard and persistently, we do not deserve to succeed. At the close of the address the annexed resolution was read and unanimously adopted, the entire congregation standing in response, after which Benediction and the National Anthem brought a memorial service at Queen's Road Church to an end.

Resolution We, the members of the Church and Congregation worshipping at the Congregational Church, Queen's Road, St. John's, hereby (1) Express our gratification at the action of members of the House of Assembly in initiating discussion with a view to dealing more effectively with the evils arising out of the Drink Traffic, and our appreciation of the promise made, on behalf of the government, that a Bill will be introduced during this session to provide machinery for ascertaining the wishes of the electors of the whole island relative to the prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of all alcoholic liquors into and within its borders. (2) Respectfully urge, that such legislation should take the form of a full Prohibition Bill, which shall automatically bring Prohibition into operation, provided a majority of the votes polled at plebiscite prove to be in its favor, such vote to be not less than one-third of the duly qualified electors of the island.

Anybody Here Seen Tucker

St. John, N.B., April 13—in connection with the estate of the late Col. J. J. Tucker, it was intimated to-day that the Provincial Government has a chance of benefitting to the extent of a quarter million dollars, royalties for Miss Caroline Tucker, of England, who was to receive a neat share of the estate, failed to discover her. If she does not claim within a year the next of kin are known of, except vague reports of relatives in Australia. Failing their discovery, Miss Tucker's share will go to the Crown.