

Mr. Morine Defines His Position.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—Thursday last, editorially, under the name "Revising the Tariff," you made certain incorrect references to the 1898 tariff revision under me. I desire to set you right. You say: "In 1898 Mr. A. B. Morine, then acting Minister of Customs, completed an entirely different tariff from what formerly in use, basing it on the Canadian Tariff in form and Assembly of Heads and Items. It was a tariff of confusion. There was no index, and though the various departments were supposed to be arranged alphabetically, the sequence or regularity was not maintained. . . . If an importer wanted to find the rate of duty on 'Tarred Paper,' he had to 'look for it under the head of 'Stationery' It might be good 'mental exercise to engage in a game of 'Chase the Item' through 'the tortuous chaos of arrangement or disarrangement.' Your remarks constitute a comedy of errors. Let me explain: In 1898 I was not 'acting,' but the actual Receiver General, Head of the Customs Department. The Revised Tariff was not based on the Canadian Tariff, but on the United Kingdom Trade Returns, supplied by the British Government, and in use throughout the British Empire for statistical purposes. There was no confusion. It was, in fact, the first classified tariff in the Colony's history; there has been none so good since 1901. It was published with a complete index, copies of which you can get to this day. 'Tarred Paper' happens to be classed with other paper products because they were all put under the head of 'manufactured goods.' It finds itself in exactly the same place in the British Trade Returns. There was no difficulty about it, because it was specifically mentioned in the Customs Index, so that 'the that runs may read.' In 1901, under the late E. M. Jackson, at the request of certain Water St. merchants, the arrangement and classification of articles was changed, with the result that the utmost difficulty in preparing statistical returns has ever since been met with by the Customs authorities.

A COMMISSION OF ONE.

The general election of 1897 took place on the 25th day of October. The Whiteway Government was defeated, and the Winter Administration took office. The by-elections of office holders under the new Administration took place on the 6th day of December. About the 15th of December, I, then being Receiver General, was appointed sole Commissioner to prepare and report upon revision of the tariff. I was assisted by H. W. LeMessurier, present Assistant Collector of Customs. I took evidence from all persons who wished to make representations, and completed my work early in February, 1898. The Legislature met on the 27th of January, and prorogued on the 30th of March, being sixty-two days in session. The Tariff, as revised, passed without amendment. To prepare it had been a work of great difficulty, because of the non-existence of any previous classification, and an almost absolute absence of statistics, which could be of any use. There had been a deficit in the finances of the Colony in 1897, which had to be made up, and as trade was very dull that year, to make adequate provision for the future, and at the same time properly arrange tariff schedules, was a work of extreme difficulty. The results were better than I had dared to hope, because in 1901, soon after the Bond Government came into office, it was able to announce, as the result of my work, the first substantial surplus for many years. As to revising the tariff, I want to say here, Sir, that, in my opinion, the method of appointing a large commission is a mistake. The work was done quickly in 1898, because I, the responsible head of the Customs Department, centralized it entirely in myself, with the able assistance of Mr. LeMessurier. The Minister of Customs of the day, whoever he may be, ought to receive the evidence and make the revision on his own responsibility; otherwise signal instances will be offered of the old saying, "that too many cooks spoil the broth." The first object of tariff making is Revenue. The second object is, incidental protection to manufacture. I aimed, beside, to give as near as possible a free breakfast table; reducing tariff duty on such articles as tea and sugar. I provided for the importation at a reduced rate of raw materials

Progress in 1921

THE results achieved by the North American Life Assurance Company during 1921 continue to establish beyond question the strength and security of the Company. The following outstanding figures will be very gratifying to all interested in the welfare of the Company:—

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District Manager,
St. John's, Nfld.

Takes Exception.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—I notice in your issue of yesterday a letter signed J. Gardiner, Chairman of the Unemployed Committee, in which the writer says every man volunteered to pay 20 cents per week, but unfortunately we have in our ranks "pikers" whom we do not class with the men. We are not come to a pretty pass when a foreigner can come to this city and call us out of our name. I wonder what the other five Committee men think of this gentleman. I think if he were home on his own bricks he would find out where he could pick the best. As one of the Unemployed Committee, I worked just as hard as Mr. Gardiner, and I dare him to call me out of my name. The less slang of this nature we hear the better for all concerned. Yours truly,
JOHN DEMPSEY.

Feb. 18, 1922.
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"Billeted."

THE FINAL PERFORMANCE.

After a successful run of four days to crowded houses, the curtain rang down for the last time on "Billeted" last night. There is no great depth to the play, and the audience is not kept guessing concerning the final denouement, but none the less, it is a pleasing little comedy, and one which cannot fail to amuse. The story is laid in an English village during the early days of the war and while it is simple, yet it provides scope for good acting. As "Penelope Moon," Miss K. Fraser scored a tremendous success, and the play will be remembered, if only because it served to introduce this talented young lady to the local amateur stage. Miss Fraser's diction was clear, and her stage appearance and expression distinctly good. Her gestures alone were eloquent and she well deserved the loud applause which frequently greeted her performance. During the evening Miss Fraser was presented with a beautiful bouquet. Miss Mary Ryan gave a charming portrayal of the role of "Betty Taradale," especially in the reconciliation scene in the third act. Mrs. Outerbridge gave an excellent character study, depicting the prim Vicar's sister to the life. Mr. F. J. King played a part that suited him in a manner that suited it. He was perfectly natural and at ease, and the many aphorisms which fell to his lot to say, were uttered in a way which gave full effort to them. One of his best was "Hope springs eternal in the bankrupt's breast." Mr. H. J. Dewling was most amusing as the old colonel who was still capable of feeling Cupid's dart. His misinterpreted Shakespeare "Men must weep and women must work" brought down the house. Mr. Karl Trappnell has recently shown himself to be a character artist of no mean ability, and he scores another triumph in his portrayal of the country vicar. The specialties at last night's performance were very good indeed. The dancing of the Mt. Cashel Boys was very pleasing, while Miss Krentlin showed herself to be possessed of a charming voice of which local music lovers will have to hear more. The Wallace-Jardine-Hickey trio were their old inimitable selves. Mrs. Baxter deserves great credit for the manner in which she staged the performance. She was not only the manager but the organizer also, and her efforts have succeeded in raising a very creditable sum in aid of Mount Cashel.

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By Gene Byrnes