

UNION MEMBERS THROW SEARCHLIGHT OF REASON ON OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Mr. Halfyard (continued).—
If the amount went to the people as a whole, it would be all right, and I contend that every cent should go to the boards. These private grants are nearly all made for political reasons to some men with some Government pull. The Government should have the courage of their convictions and not give them private grants. If they will give grants only to the Boards they will find that they will have the support of the people in their action.
Many of these men who are supposed to have influence have very little, for the fishermen are not influenced by half a dozen people as they used to be. Men in the punts have the most influence now, for the fishermen rightly look upon the suggestions of those above them with suspicion, and feel that they are looking for their support in order that they may obtain something for themselves.

Money Thrown Away.
In the majority of cases where money has gone as a sop to get the votes of certain people, it is money thrown away, for the fishermen have their eyes open. That it where great wrong is done, for thousands of dollars are wasted by grants for individuals and not for the good of the community.
The public utilities are not improved in any way by such grants as these, some of which are merely to give a man money to dig a well in his own backyard. Hundreds of instances of this kind can be quoted, and the result is that whereas in former days men did this work for themselves, they now wait for a grant from the Government.
You cannot blame the people, but you must blame the bad politics.
If a man wanted anything else he would not mind the inconvenience of getting it done, but when he sees others getting grants for private wells and such improvements he naturally looks for the same himself.
This state of things has been get-

ting worse and worse, and is a direct result of the bad system of politics that has prevailed in the Colony.

If the Government will take a firm stand in this matter there will not be as many demands for grants of this kind, and soon all the grants that will be sought for will be those that are for the general good of the community.

Fogo is a district that is not getting its share of public moneys, when you take into consideration its situation and the fact that it has no railway connection. I have brought to the notice of the Government the fact that the people desire some improvements that are urgently needed, and I trust the demands of the people will be acceded to.

I do not state this merely for the sake of talk, for it is a fact that the District has been neglected, and I trust the Government will make up for the lack of attention given the District in the past by giving a large grant to the District for ferries, main lines, and local roads.

Mr. Jennings.—Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks on the Estimates before the Chair and particularly in relation to the expenditure in the District which I have the honor to represent.

When the Hon. Minister of Finance spoke of main lines, I took a mental survey of the main lines in our District, and I have no hesitation in saying that the need for new roads in the District of Twillingate is very great.

One of the chief reasons for this is the fact that people very often leave their old settlements and locate in the extreme parts of the Bay, where they settle down, because of the fact that it is easier to obtain wood and engage in agriculture there.

Need Improvement.
It is needless to say that they feel the need of communicating with the more populated parts of the Bay, and they are always crying out for new

roads, which are very necessary to them, as it is almost impossible for them to get along without communication with their neighbors. Particularly in this case in the mails and freight, both of which they find it very hard to obtain.

I have examined the Estimates as a fisherman, and from the standpoint of a fisherman, and the first thing that impresses me is the fact that the Government requires \$100,000 more for the Public Service for the coming year, than it did last year.

I come from a class who have been taught to look before they leap, and when I buy my winter's supplies, I look at what cash I have to buy them with. In other words, I have to cut my garment according to my cloth.

Improvident.
In face of the deficit in the revenue it appears to me that the Government is cutting a garment which is larger than it cloth. It may be that I have not the experience to look at this matter in the proper way, but that is certainly how it appears to me.

We are told of some increases in the salaries of public officials, but when I consider how poorly some of the outpost postmasters and post-mistresses are paid, I do not see how I can vote for an increase of salary to those who already have a comfortable living.

The question that comes to my mind is whether it is justifiable for the Government to make these increases when they take the other matters into consideration.

Eleven Dollars Per Head.
For instance, I take the interest on the Public Debt from the Estimates, and I find that the civil service costs us \$2,717,428 a year, and this amount has to be paid by 240,000 people. This means that every man, woman and child in the Colony will have to pay eleven dollars towards the cost of carrying on the public service of the Colony, not including the interest on the public debt.

This to a man with a family of eight or nine means a considerable lot if he makes only about five hundred dollars. When the matter is looked at in this way it will be seen that those who receive very small salaries are hard hit.
The first increase that I notice is that of the Governor. I know it would be tremendous disloyalty on my part to say anything against this, and I do not intend to do so. It is

one of those matters that a fisherman cannot understand, but I presume that the social functions and other affairs of that kind bring about this heavy expenditure.

Need More Population.
I wish we had a great many more people living in the island, for the cost of carrying on the Government in all its departments would come more easily on our shoulders. However, we have to take matters as they are, and if it is necessary to pay those high salaries, I do not see how we can very well get out of it.

I am quite in accord with what has been said from this side of the House concerning the appointment of officials in the outborders, for I am very sure there can be a great saving in the public expenditure if the whole matter is reconstructed and put on a proper basis. If we go right down to the bottom of the whole matter and work up, we shall find the means to bring about a change.

Numerous Officials.
At Moreton's Harbor, where I live, and which has a population of 1,375 people, there are a magistrate, a sub-collector, a tidewater, a postal clerk, a jailer, a fire-warden and an operator and assistant. The public services there is over-manned, and there is room for a great saving of public money there.

I know one old gentleman in the public service there, who is getting up in years, and cannot do the work. However, he managed to make himself very busy at election time, for he went around to the old fishermen, and told them that if they did not vote for the People's Party they would lose their Old Age Pensions. I mention this particular place because there are many others where the same state of affairs exists, and where money can be saved.

Concerning Education.
There is a section here that deals with Education, and when that subject comes before us it brings to my mind the remarks of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs, who spoke of us as "illiterates."

I go back forty years when I left off going to school, and I can remember very well the conditions that existed then. We had two weeks holidays in twelve months, but under the present system the teachers have their holidays in the summer months, which is the very time that children can get to school in the outports.
In the winter months there are

weeks at a time, when the children cannot go to school, and since I have been here I have heard that on several days it was impossible for the children to go there.

New Regulations Needed.
In the summer months the school is closed and there should be some new regulations made in this matter. The teachers have been getting an increase in their salaries and I think that two weeks holidays in the summer should be sufficient.

If they want more let them have them in the winter months when the weather conditions often make it impossible for children to attend.

We did not have the same opportunity of learning forty years ago that children have now, and my hon. friend can see why it was that we were "illiterates." I am glad to be able to say however, that many of the children are making a good showing, for they have a chance now that their fathers did not have.

I know one boy, a fisherman's son, whose father sacrificed a considerable amount to give him a good education. He came here to college and not a boy came out ahead of him.

That boy got the chance, whereas many of us never did. Still, I have met one school teacher that the hon. gentleman has met, and that teacher's name is Experience.

Concerning the Campaign.
Mr. Jennings.—The claim has been made since this House came into session that the recent election campaign was carried out fairly.

I think that in law there is such a thing admitted as a person being an accessory to the fact. I understand that a man who did not actually commit the crime, but who knew the person who committed it and who had any knowledge of what was going to happen in the eyes of the law considered as guilty as the person who really committed the act.

I suppose that I have the privilege of being one of the representatives of a district that has been one of the cleanest districts, politically in the whole Island. As far as I am concerned, I would not go into the House of Assembly, if I could not get there without personal jobbing and offering money.

There is one particular occurrence to which I want to refer. I hold a precious document here in my hand, it is dirty from falling in the mud but it is still dirtier because of what is printed on it.—(To be continued.)

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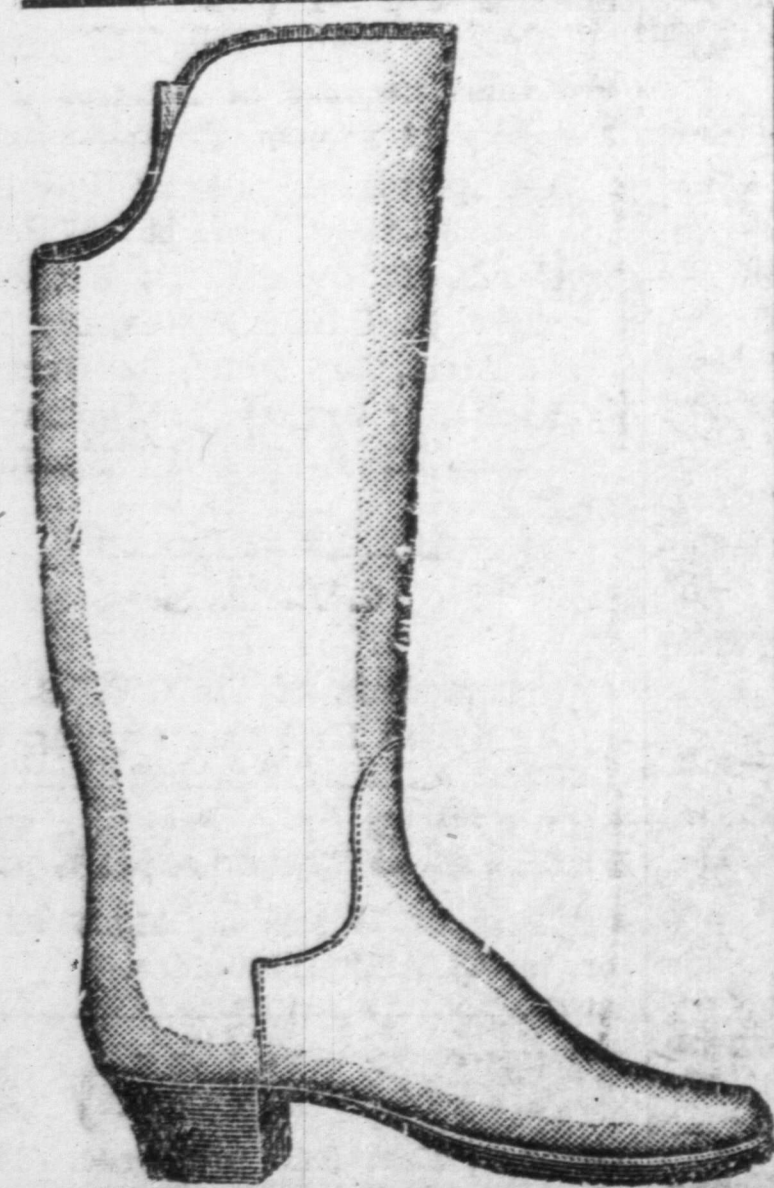
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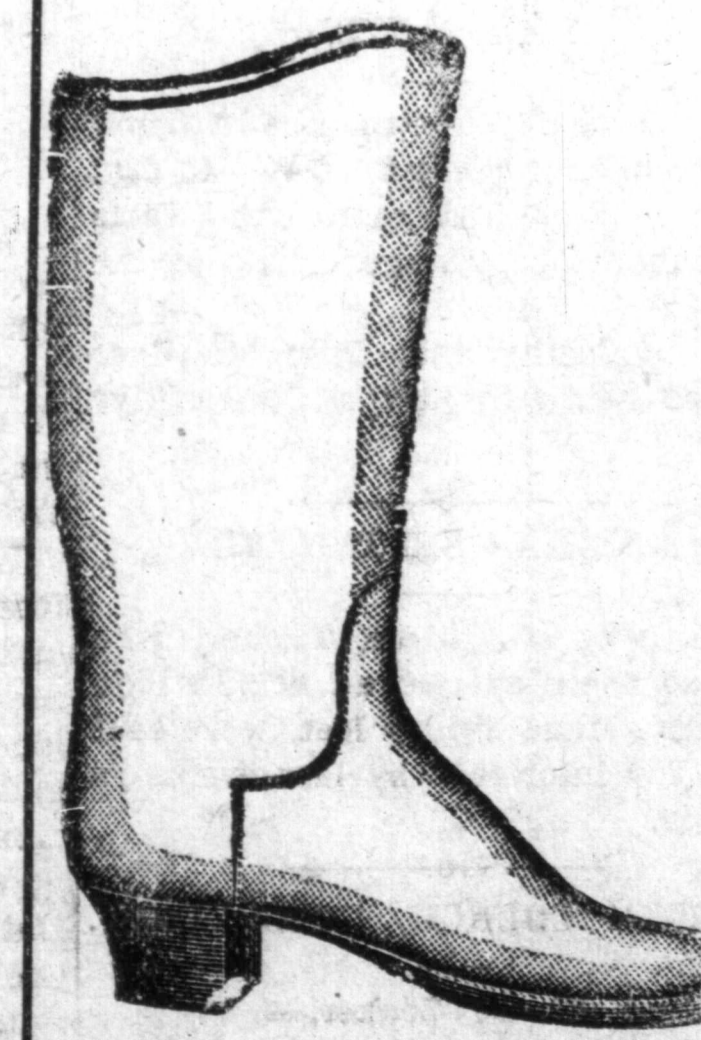
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