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## Morris's Election Kite.

An Invitation to Bankruptcy — A  
Stumbling Block to Progress.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—Sir Edward Morris by his recent action in reducing the revenue by \$400,000 has given the country another proof that he is pre-eminently a politician. The record of the past four years of Tory Government abounds with such examples of ill-balanced policy. Morris began his term of office with a spectacular attempt to line up the country behind him by extravagant and ill-timed expenditure of public money. Such was the branch railway policy. It was abortive and underdeveloped. Four million dollars were to suffice for construction work. Six have already been borrowed for the purpose and it is conceded that a further loan of two million dollars will have to be floated before the five branch lines can be finished. The Government press hailed the branch railroad as a masterpiece of statesmanship—a practical and well-considered attempt to supply a long-felt public need. The miscalculations made in estimating the length of the branches and the total cost thereof prove conclusively that the present Government plunged blindly into an expenditure that bids fair to amount to at least eight million dollars without first thoroughly counting the cost. In his public speeches, Sir E. P. Morris has persistently scored the late Liberal Administration as a "band of political apprentices." He has rolled the phrase under his tongue time and again even as a morsel of honey; he has attempted by spell-binding, by arrogant assertion, by vague charges to blind the electors to the fact that under the direction of Sir Robert Bond, the country enjoyed an unparalleled decade of sane, conservative, practical administration. But his dust-throwing has failed, and that right utterly, to blind our people to this fact; nor has it prevented them from recognising the glaring mistakes and maladministration of the present administration of the "prentice" manner in which Sir E. P. Morris has guided the Ship of State.

## APPEALS TO THE CROWD.

Practically all of Premier Morris's official acts may be characterised as political appeals to the crowd. Not one shows a vestige of statesmanship. The "Old Age Pension Scheme" so-called, bestows the handsome amount of ninety-six cents per week upon the toiler of the sea who has worn himself out as a producer of revenue for his country. It is merely a case of granting pauper relief with the voting disability removed. Why should not other indigent fishermen who have been deprived of their franchise for years because of the receipt of a few cents per week of Government relief money be also permitted their right of having a share in public affairs? What if misfortune or ill-health has dogged their footsteps and reduced them to poverty? Are they any the less men? The high-placed official, to whose salary the worn-out toiler contributed his mite every year, retires, is pensioned, held in high esteem and permitted to exercise all his privileges as a citizen. But the fisherman who is assisted by the Government in his disability is, perforce, disgraced and disenfranchised. Socialism or any other system that would right such a grievous wrong would be infinitely more Christian than the class system of to-day. As for the Morris pension doles, they make excellent vote-catch-

ing bait and it would be eminently surprising if they were not distributed with an eye to political effect. What counts most in their apportionment, party affiliation or actual merit? Few Newfoundlanders will have any difficulty in reaching a decision.

## PARTISAN PUBLIC ACTIONS.

Every public action brands the present administration as partisan to the last extreme. Their policy is based on the old selfish basis. "You scratch my back and I scratch yours." Bonavista supports the Government; Bonavista must be given signal recognition, hence the branch railroad to that district. Besides Trinity District can be served at the same time, and Trinity returned three Morris candidates. But there are quite a number of Morrisites in Trinity Bay off the line of the Bonavista branch and so the Heart's Content branch is arranged for and built—34½ miles of railway at \$15,500 per mile, or \$535,000 in all—a high-priced political sop. Trepassy is, of course, regarded as Cashin's pocket borough—an enviable reputation, indeed!—and Cashin has ever been consistent in copying Morris's political inconsistencies, so Trepassy gets a stub line of 120 miles at a cost of almost \$2,000,000, on which no one ever expects any profitable financial returns. John C. Crosbie has found that political pickings are well-worth while, and as the Hon. gentleman is never anxious to lose a good thing every possible effort must be put forward to make safe his seat for Bay-de-Verde district which thus gets 60 miles of railroad. Now, what particular brand of high-browed statesmanship was involved in the conception of these branch railroad projects, especially these lines to Trepassy and Heart's Content? Echo answers "politics."

## OPPOSITION DISTRICTS.

Sir Edward grew righteously indignant in his speeches as he condemned "the principle" of "punishing districts which happened to be in opposition" and pointed with pride to the action of his Administration in planning a branch railroad for St. Barbe, an opposition District. But where is the force of his argument? Over one hundred miles of useless and unprofitable railroad are built in Trepassy, Bonavista and Trinity Districts get two branches aggregating upwards of one hundred and twenty miles, while the "opposition district" of St. Barbe gets a railroad of estimated length, 25 miles and besides has to wait till the hungry government districts are filled. Yet the Premier claimed that when he came into office he found it the most neglected district in the island. And recognising the neglect what did he do? Why simply proceeded to neglect and left it as he alleges his predecessors did.

The Bonne Bay branch is also significant as a proof of the carelessness with which the branch railroad scheme was prepared and the impractical and precipitate manner in which it was foisted on the country. The length of this line was estimated at 25 miles at first. In the House of Assembly, recently, it was stated that the surveyors have reached the water's edge at the Bay at 29 miles from Deer Lake. The Government further stated that the Company were endeavoring to shorten the route—a real gentlemanly action on their part, seeing that they get paid per mile. Maybe, though they are endeavoring to prove real

friends in need to the Premier, et al., by attempting to cover up his miscalculations. But "it can't be didd!" The 29 miles from Deer Lake only bring the railroad to the bottom of Bonne Bay and to reach the settlements the surveyors have had to take a route which adds on upwards of thirty miles, making the branch 60, instead of twenty-five, miles in length. It will take quite a number of surveys to reduce the length of the line from sixty to twenty-five miles. Of course the trouble could be fixed up by making this branch as elastic as Sir E. P.'s politics.

## "THE GLAD HAND."

As with Districts, so with individuals. J. C. Crosbie immolated himself in last elections. He was well rewarded. Least there should be any misconception, he was officially dubbed "Honorable" and, being an energetic man, has "made good"—for J. C. Crosbie, that spar deal and the coastal contract show that the honorable John above everything loves home comforts and is not sparing the necessary feathers to make it easy. Likewise the Honorable Donald with the abbreviated memory. During the Morris moulting season these two "honorable" managed to secure feathers valued at \$39,000 in the shape of a coastal contract for a company of which they are co-directors. Then there is the celebrated Anglo-Development Company, in connection with which Hon. Donald came very near shocking our recent and much-lamented Governor, Sir Ralph Champneys Williams.

Small wonder that these gentlemen; that the "News," "Herald," "Pleasant," et al., vote Morris "a jolly good fellow." But the intelligence of the country, the fishermen and laborers who value the independence of the island and long for a return to sane, wholesome, statesman-like administration, have been forced, by the record of the past four years, to the conclusion that, whatever value Morris may have had as head of a department, he is too much of a politician of the opportunist kind to be entrusted with the leadership of an administration.

## CONDEMNED BY HIS OWN ACTS.

His revenue-reducing act has clinched the case against his party. For four years now the Government newspapers and orators have bragged almost unceasingly of mounting revenues. "Prosperity, prosperity" has been parroted by a hireling press and by self-interested politicians. But it does not seem to have occurred to the premier or his associates that the general public had any right to a share of this superabundance of good things, at least not till the year of a general election. Contracts were provided for the Rieds, for Crosbie, for Morrison; jobs old and new were assigned to a multitude of lesser fry, but the voter was left unconsidered until a campaign stared the Government in the face.

"Look at Morris' record for the past four years and tell us how any reasonable man could in view thereof refuse him support," was the appeal of the government to the people up to the present session of the Legislature. They were abundantly confident that the administration stood in the good graces of the people; had no doubt of the return of Morris to power; professed to believe that the whole country was behind the Premier and his party.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. MOSDELL,

Bonne Bay, N.F., March 24th, 1913.

(To be continued.)

The Nickel  
Crowded Again.

There was much regret last evening that 'Vanity Fair' could not be repeated, but the condition of the film was such that it could not be satisfactorily shown, and rather than have constant interruptions, Mr. Kieley decided not to put it on. The programme given was a highly interesting and amusing one. Nemesis is a great story, that is often heard of in high life. The principal character is impersonated by the world renowned actor Maurice Costello, and he is ably assisted by Rose Tapley. It is a drama that all should endeavor to see. There are four comic pictures, each a screacher. Misses Gardner and Gueffin were in splendid form again last night and sang to delighted audiences.

## New Concrete Building

As already intimated in the Telegram, the new locomotive shops will be built of reinforced concrete during the summer. The temporary erection is finished and is covered outside with roofing felt and the work of installing the machinery has begun. The engines are not as badly damaged as it was at first thought, and can be put in good order after a while though some engines must be imported for the line.

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TEN PER CENT. on all purchases during the week

We believe that our patrons will appreciate this liberal offer far more than they would the gift of some trifling Souvenir.

We appreciate the liberal patronage that always has been and is still extended to us, and we know of no better way to express our gratitude than to have this Anniversary Sale.

Make us a Birthday call, and if you wish to make a purchase of any sort

Your Entirely Welcome to Our Birthday Discount of  
10 per cent.

Remember on Wednesday the Sale Starts.

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