

Mr. Morine's Able Speech Regarding the Use of the Dumping Chamber

Squires and Blandford Appointed to Maintain a Minority Government Afraid to Face the People in Power --An Infringement of the Spirit of the Constitution-- Legislative Chamber Not Intended for Defeated Politicians

Mr. Morine said: Mr. Kent has said nothing whatever against the constitutional right to make the appointments referred to, therefore, we can dismiss the argument to which the Prime Minister has confined his remarks. He endeavoured to show that in British Governments and many Colonial Governments, ministers have held seats in the Upper House. That goes without saying, and without proving, it is common knowledge. The point here is, that the letter of the law has been stretched to cover a breach of the spirit. The Premier said that Whiteway and Bond held seats in the Legislative Council in 1905, though they were Attorney General and Colonial Secretary respectively, but he added that the instance was "unusual and extraordinary." That is precisely what we are now complaining of in relation to the appointments of Messrs. Blandford and Squires—they are "unusual and extraordinary."

In 1895 the men referred to had been unseated and disqualified, but a commercial crisis arose, and under unexampled circumstances Messrs. Whiteway and Bond were given seats in the Legislative Council for a few months. The late Hon. Mr. Donnelly, as long ago as 1874, being then financial secretary, had a seat in the Legislative Council, but the Receiver General of that day had a seat in this House. The late Hon. Ed. Sheehy Colonial Secretary, had a seat in the Legislative Council for many years. To the presence of one minister or to one or two members of the Cabinet, there can be no reasonable objection. To the presence of four members of the Cabinet in the Upper House, two being ministers, there is the strongest possible objection—there being contrary to the spirit of constitutional practice in this House and other Colonies.

The Premier has referred to British Governments during the past century, and has pointed to the fact that many members of such governments have sat in the House of Lords. There is no similarity between the conditions existing in Colonies and in the Mother Country in this particular. For many centuries the nobility of England were the controlling political power. Many Lords made a vocation of political life—they belonged to a distinct and powerful class. The members of Legislative Councils have no such claim upon the support of the people of the Colonies, as the Lords have historically upon the support and confidence of the people of Great Britain.

Then the Premier has referred to practice in Canada. I wish to tell him, that the Secretary of State is not an important minister. The late Senator Scott, who held that position, was a minor member of his Government, though he was leader of the Senate Mills had been a member of Commons for many years.

Legislative Councils have been tolerated in Colonies because they were regarded as bodies in which men of substance and high standing in the commercial world could find a place in which to play their part in public life, without submitting to the hurly-burly of contested elections. It was thought that the Councils might form a sort of balance wheel upon the impetuosity of the Lower Houses. For many years appointments to our Legislative Council seem to have been made with these principles in view, but they have been abandoned almost wholly of late years, judging from the character of appointments made under the present Government. Men are appointed now who have no connection with commercial life. They are defeated Governmental Candidates or men whose claim to a seat is that they have served the Government well as partisans. I could name several appointments recently made to the House, for which there is no other justification than that these men had served the party well, and something had to be done for them. The Council has come to be looked upon as a "house of refuge" for unsuccessful politicians.

There are now four members of the Cabinet in the Legislative Council, out of a total of nine, which is too large a proportion. Beside the four Ministers, there is in the Council one who has great influence with the Government, and who is more responsible for its existence and for its daily work than either of the four ministers. I refer to the Hon. P. T. McGrath. It may be said, therefore, that there are five ministers in this House and five in the Council. Of these five Ministers in the Council, three, at least, are not the kind of men for whom the Council was intended, they ought to be in this House, if in either branch of the Legislature. I should be glad to see them here, if they could get here, but they introduce into the Legislative Council ideas which are foreign to its existence. They are not men of commercial standing or experience, nor are they of the kind likely to control the impetuosity of this House by their innate conservatism. By their mere membership of the Council they introduce the element of political partisanship and personal consideration. They are there, because they are politicians. The interests of their party are their interests, and are their chief concern. That is true, of course, of members of parties in this House, but that is not the spirit or principle upon which a Legislative Council should be conducted.

The Department of Agriculture and Justice ought to be represented in this House by their Ministers. I do not agree with the Premier's opinion that nothing has been lost to the country by their absence. He has himself done all he possibly could to prevent inconvenience, and in consequence has been weighed down with the amount of detail he has had to attend to personally. This is not profitable. His time ought to be given up to the consideration of the larger matters of policy.

The Department of Agriculture has the internal resources of the country under its charge. Recently in dealing with the Products Contract, there has been need of the presence of the Minister of Agriculture here. The Minister of Justice, if here would attend to all the legislation which passes through this House and take upon himself that weight of detail which has fallen upon the Premier. A large portion of our time has been taken up in correcting error which would not have occurred had an active Minister of Justice been sitting here.

I am responsible, I believe for bringing the present Minister of Agriculture into public life. He became a Member for Bonavista as my colleague. He and the Minister of Justice are both my personal friends. What I have to say about them, therefore, cannot be through any personal dislike. On the contrary, it is apart altogether from the personality of the men. Both these gentlemen were candidates in the General Election of 1913. After serving their constituents well for several years they were defeated by overwhelming majorities, not upon personal, but upon political grounds. Notwithstanding this fact, they were immediately appointed to the Legislative Council—one was retained in his Ministerial position, and the other was appointed Minister of Justice, in the place of another gentleman defeated at the same election. The express disapproval of the electors was overruled by the Government. The candidates who had been disapproved by the people refused the confidence of the electors were promoted to a higher sphere than they had previously occupied. This was a flat denial of the public verdict. It treated the Legislative Council as a "dumping chamber" for those rejected at the polls. It was calculated to bring the Council into contact with the people, which was not fair to the Council itself. The appointment of Messrs. Blandford and Squires to the Council, and of Mr. Squires to the Minister of Justice was not merely

improper—it was unnecessary. These are men in this House who could fill these positions as well, men with claims upon the Party. Mr. Moulton, for instance, the Member for Budgeo, could have been made Minister of Agriculture; Mr. Higgins, the Member for St. John's East, could have been made Minister of Justice. The real fact is that the Government was afraid to face the electors at by-elections. The result of the general elections had been to keep the Government in power on the strength of the minority of the popular vote. The majority of electors were known to be against the Government. For denomination reasons the Government could not make appointments which would open safe seats. That is the real point of this question. The appointments of the Ministers to the Legislative Council were made in order that a Government might be continued which had not a majority of the people at its back. In the final analysis, the matter resolves itself into this—that the Legislative Council has been made a Dumping Chamber in order that the will of the people may be evaded, in order that a Government without the confidence of the people may remain in office. This is supposed to be a country in which the Government is of the people and by the people, but by a piece of trickery it has been made a Government of the people by the Legislative Council, not through any fault of the Council as such, but through improper appointments to the Council for unworthy partisan purposes. Why then talk about British precedents, of Canadian precedents, of the precedents of this country, when the whole truth is that the appointments we are calling in question have been made for the purpose of evading the judgment of the people, and of continuing in power a Government which has ceased to have the right to govern.

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WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Expenditure Voted the Past Session by the Government
--Every Elector Interested--Every Cent of All This \$4,072,000 Comes Out of the Pockets of the People

Pensions	
W. White, First Landing	600.00
Waiter, H. M. Customs	200.00
H. J. Haddon, Preventive Officer, Fortune	200.00
Rebecca Oke, Service of husband, Mechanician	100.00
Widow Buckley, husband killed whilst giving service at fire	116.00
Widow Fennessey, husband killed whilst giving service at fire	80.00
C. Prowse, Light Keeper	250.00
R. Ryan, Turnkey Penitentiary	500.00
G. Kelly, Turnkey Penitentiary	500.00
J. Fleet, Warden Penitentiary	320.00
E. Abbott, Lighthouse Keeper, Wadhams	240.00
E. Harding, Lighthouse Keeper, Cabot Island	240.00
Peter O'Rielly, Assistant Lighthouse Keeper, Cape St. Mary's	240.00
Emma Bradshaw, Postmistress Placentia	170.00
R. Bradshaw, Sub-Collector Gaultois	400.00
T. Pike, Lighthouse Keeper, Channel Head	240.00
James Campbell, Delivery Clerk General Post Office	534.00
J. F. Bancroft, Assistant Examining Officer	666.66
James Duggan, Watchman M. T. Knight, Secretary Public Works Dept.	800.00
Thos. Long, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines	800.00
D. Cantwell, Light Keeper, Cape Spear	400.00
Thos. Haynes, Warden, Poor Asylum	300.00
Giles Foote, Sub-Collector, Bell Island	466.66
Wm. Gosse, East End Road Inspector	300.00
Jonas Soper, Assistant Keeper, Cape St. Francis	308.00
Mrs. T. W. Stabb, Postal Telegraph Operator	160.00
Dr. Hy. Shea, Resident Physician General Hospital	1,800.00
William Day, Lighthouse Keeper, Dodding Head	220.00
J. P. James, Timewaiter, H. M. Customs	260.00
J. Binden, boatman, do.	320.00
E. Lewis, do, do.	280.00
H. F. Shortis, Clerk General Post Office	433.33
E. Murray, J.P., Magistrate Hr. Main	300.00
J. B. Wheeler, Postmaster, etc., Musgrave Hr.	180.00
Geo. Tuff, J.P., Magistrate Old Perlican	440.00
Angus McEhren, Sub-Collector, Bay of Islands	433.33
Geo. Hudson, Warden, Penitentiary	366.00
S. B. Pike, Sub-Collector Customs	180.00
B. Parsons, Sub-Collector Customs	300.00
C. Skeans, late of Poor Asylum	200.00
W. Cummins, late of Poor Asylum	80.00
John Sainsbury, Lighthouse Keeper	240.00
Wm. Ring, Lunatic Asylum	400.00
Robt. Toucher, Museum	200.00
Thos. Hudson, Lighthouse Keeper	277.33
Mrs. John Carnell, Ex-keeper Oil Store	100.00
Thos. Coffin, Chief Locker, H. M. Customs	400.00
M. Tracey, Tidewaiter, H. M. Customs	260.00
Solomon Warr, Ferryman, Twillingate	50.00
Edward Hefferton Newtown	80.00
John Winters, Tinker's Island	50.00
John Wrexon, Epworth	100.00
Michael Byrne, Bay du Nord	40.00
R. Walsh, Post Office Keeper	300.00
L. Mooney, Placentia Ferryman	160.00
Thos. Morris, Clerk, Board of Works	534.00
Kate Ronan, attendant, Departmental building	88.00
John Barnes, Warden, Lunatic Asylum	350.00
James Denief	400.00
Pat Houlihan, Light Keeper, Cape St. Mary's	400.00
Thos. Ryan, Agricultural Farm	500.00
Timothy O'Brien	400.00
Geo. A. Moulton, P. O.	400.00

Keeper, Carbonear	500.00
G. R. Lilly, Magistrate, Trinity	700.00
Elliott, Light Keeper, Change Islands	200.00
P. Christopher, late Chief Officer, S.S. "Fiona"	520.00
\$22,600.00	
Administration of Justice	
Amount Voted, \$181,392.73	
Supreme Court	\$13,144.40
Deeds and Companies	2,400.00
District Courts	4,033.00
Magistracy	24,896.00
Constabulary (1) Police	74,881.70
Constabulary (2) Fire Dept	25,172.24
St. John's Penitentiary	19,641.00
Court Houses and Galos	7,249.00
Local Constables	1,060.00
Miscellaneous	6,900.00
\$179,377.34	
B.—Expenditure authorized by Statute:—	
Supreme Court—	
Salary of Chief Justice	\$5,000.00
Salary of Judges (two at \$4,000)	8,000.00
Sheriff	1,500.00
District Courts—	
Salary of Judge at St. John's	2,400.00
Salary of Judge at Harbor Grace	1,200.00
\$18,100.00	
Summary	
A.—Amount to be Voted	\$179,377.34
B.—Authorized by Statute	18,100.00
\$197,477.34	

ful service for the money they receive. It is all well enough to pension a man who has become worn out in the Civil Service or who has become permanently disabled in the discharge of his duties; but this rotten pensioning for political purposes is an outrage on the taxpayers of this Colony. We fear that a close investigation of the whole business would reveal the fact that men to-day are drawing pensions from the Treasury who are better able to perform their duties than they were before being placed in the Pension List.

From the list published above we see the names of many men who can be seen to-day walking around the streets of this City actively engaged in political canvassing for the Morris Party, and the taxpayers who have to listen to the idle vapourings of these paid spouters would do well to heed and say nothing. Isn't it rich for a poor old fisherman who has spent the greater part of his life snatching from the sea the harvest that keeps this country going, to have to listen to these paid patriots every four years.

Many of them have been placed on the Pension List for no other reason than the Government had to provide jobs for some heeled, and so the fishermen and labourers have to pay two salaries now instead of one. Isn't it time to end this kind of thing. Why should a man occupying a Government job with a good salary expect the fishermen of this country to keep him well provided for the remainder of his days when the fishermen themselves have hardly enough to keep body and soul together. The whole thing is a useless drain on the resources of the Treasury and one of the first things that the incoming Government will have to do is to adjust the whole business and provide a scheme whereby Civil Servants during fifteen years and give good and faith-

to provide for their own pensions by paying a monthly stipend.

The fishermen of Terra Nova are, God knows, almost bled to death by taxation. This taxation has never been so hard as during the reign of Sir Tax Morris and the Nunnybag Government. Civil Servants in this Colony, who in many cases, receive a salary away ahead of what their services are worth to the country ought to be able to lay aside sufficient to keep them in their old age without having the Colony forced to foot the bill.

It can be done. It is done to-day in several States of America. It is neither right, just or fair to expect the fishermen, farmers and labourers who earn their living by the sweat of their brow to be compelled to contribute to the support of Civil Servants who in nine cases out of ten are pensioned to make room for political heeled. The present condition must end and now is the time to end it.

Take the case of Mr. E. Murray, formerly Magistrate at Harbor Main. Here is a typical case of a first-class man being forced to take a pension to make room for a heeler in Harbor Main District. Mr. Murray was a good Magistrate and gave every satisfaction to the people of that district. He is as well able to perform his duties to-day as he was ten years ago.

Take the case of H. F. Shortis in the Post Office. Isn't he as well able to do his duties now as he was before being placed on the Pension List. Sure he is. Now-a-days he passes his time in writing to Christmas Numbers and lecturing on Historical Events in the country history. The fishermen have to find his salary. Mr. Shortis has no worry on this point.

Another case is that of Mr. Thos. Morris, late of the Public Works Department. Here is a man to-day forced to take a pension against his will. Mr. Morris would sooner be back at his post than killing time as he is at present. The whole system of Civil Service pension is rotten. A job had to be provided for some heeler and so Mr. Morris was placed on the pension list much against his will.

The fishermen have to get so many qts. of codfish more to make up the amount of this and other salaries.

The last one on the list is a Mr. Christopher, late Chief Officer on the Government Pic-Nic yacht "Fiona." Mr. Christopher gets a snug little sum—known as a pension—of \$520.00

(Continued on page 6)

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