

The High Court

OF

Public Opinion

Will Declare that Morris and

His Government Must Go!

An election is not without interest for many reasons. It brings out the future, or shows the want of it, in the men who govern us, and who make our laws; it incites people to think; it tests the worth of public men; it brings to a focus the real issues in the public affairs of the country. The policy of the Government of today is the policy of Sir Edward Morris; it is also very little short of the policy of an "irresponsible." Whether he is judged by the Railways and their cost, by his own opinions, or by his Ministers and their conduct, one great fact stands out, that Sir Edward Morris poses as a political "irresponsible"; or he is a Premier who assumes the people to be incapable of discernment. He is one or the other, with that qualification, when he, in these days of grace, asks the people to commend and approve what he refuses to justify or explain. Let not that estimate of his worth be put down to prejudice, if it is possible to focus against him and his Ministers so many acts of political depravity.

He is a striking example of a Premier whose acts, conduct and speech should cause young men and old to be alarmed. Occupying the highest position in public life, he trampled the timber laws under foot, and willfully deceived a Governor in one stroke; he approved Ministers of the Crown and their infamy, and, at the same time, with inordinate egotism, arrogated to himself high ideals in another stroke.

If Premier Morris realizes the depths of his political conduct he would not now be a candidate for reelection unless he also deceived himself in believing that you, the people, did not appreciate the enormity of the draught he is making up your credulity. "Pay no heed to what you hear!" is the only justification he offers; it is nevertheless sufficient to term him a political "irresponsible." For it is scarcely possible to conceive an incorrupt mind exhibiting such contempt for public opinion. Yet he says: "My opponents are deficient in ideals of statesmanship!" Would you know the character of man Sir Robert Bond is? The test of long years in public life has left his name unaltered; has, indeed, given his name the hall-mark of honour and integrity, without which no Government is safe.

Would you learn of the ideals that were to Premier Morris as guiding stars, that shaped his end—rough-hewn though they be?

The test of four short years exhibits him as a Premier who merits defeat; whose acts and conduct proclaim him to be unsafe to ever again occupy that position in public life.

What ideal statesmanship can be

gathered from the Railway Branches? What statesmanship is contained in a contract given to Reids to build Railways no matter what they cost? If there is any limit to the cost beyond \$15,000 a mile, what is it, and where can it be found? One hesitates to ask the churches! It cannot be found in the law! And since Premier Morris has spoken such nonsense in figures, and is such a great friend of the Reids, he is the last man on earth one would think of consulting. His characteristic penchant to be trivial on great occasions, as he is great on trivial occasions, seems to have been with him in that Railway Deal!

"To be perfectly safe," said Morris in 1910, "I will put the estimate at 250 miles, though some think my mileage too high." Again: "When all these lines are built, the cost will be four millions." Has he to be reminded again that he has already borrowed six millions; that the Railways are not half completed; that it will take five or six millions more to finish them; and that he has not told us how he spent the money!

If Morris, in making the contract, told us in his solemn language that they would cost four millions; if he has now borrowed six millions; if Reids are to be the receivers of the most of the money; will you trust Morris, Reids friend, any further in the business? Will you not rather ascertain what foundation there is for the rumour that the Government Engineer is importuned for certificates of completion, or partial completion, and which, it is said, he refuses to give?

"What has he done with the millions!" should be one of the first subjects of investigation by Sir Robert Bond's Government.

Unfortunately for Premier Morris his sagacity does not commend him to the people; neither should his conduct in assisting Morison to deceive Governor Williams; for it seems to run parallel with Piccott's (his Minister) when he assisted W. Crosbie in trying to cheat Mr. M. Gibbons.

In the Gibbons case Piccott had large scope to lie, yet he was caught; in the Morison matter, Morison was more limited in scope (though not in scope), nevertheless, he lied, and was exonerated for advising another to steal timber.

In the Gibbons case Piccott received a certain letter from Gibbons, and replied to it; yet he denied getting it but failed to deceive the Court.

In the Morison matter, Premier Morris wrote a letter to the Governor approving Morison's lie and succeeded in deceiving the Governor. And Morison got clear. If those men had retired to private life they would not now be the subject of criticism. But two of them are Ministers of the Crown, and

one is the Premier of Newfoundland seeking re-election.

Do you marvel at their miserable ingenuity? Are you astounded that Premier Morris did not recommend Piccott's dismissal? Do you detect any difference in principle between the "ideals" that guide Piccott, and the "high ideals" that guide Premier Morris? These things happened in 1912.

Go back a little! In 1910 Morison and Crosbie, two Directors of the Produce Company, members of the Government also, got a contract from Premier Morris, or took it themselves for carrying mails to Pogo in a small steamer for \$19,000 a year. They also got a contract for carrying mails in Fortune Bay in a smaller steamer, the "Susu," for \$20,000 a year. Both contracts are for twelve years. Do the people know that? Do the people know that those steamers earn a profit in freight and passenger money? Do you think that if those men were not members of Morris's Government they would have got such a price? Marvel as you may but always remember that Morris borrowed an extra two million dollars, and perhaps did not know what to do with the money! But let the tale proceed. The same Crosbie buys a wrecked vessel for \$28,000. He takes the spars out of her. He rigs them up, and also rigs up the price to \$2,200.00, and Premier Morris paid it. He paid it because his "ideals" were as high as the spars, but not a bit higher. The only person in Morris's Party who has referred to the cost of the spars is R. A. Squires. He seems to have had a stiffer face than Crosbie for he sent a circular to Trinity Bay on October 1st, saying Crosbie only got \$2,000. Afterwards on October 8th he sent another circular saying that Crosbie received the \$2,200 for sure. Why was this scalding jobbery not justified by Morris in the Herald or the Daily News? Why did Squires seek to defend it by circulars, sent surreptitiously to a section of the people? Squire's attempt to justify this miserable business will have contributed not a little to his own defeat.

If the recital of these abominable acts do not pall,—acts which Premier Morris flaunts before you as ideals of statesmanship—let the excellence of the fraud, which that infamous Bay de Verde Iron Ore Prospectus was given to commit, satiate the soul of unprejudiced people who can still support Morris!

Has Premier Morris to be reminded again that the Prospectus proposed to sell 60,000 shares at \$7.50 in an abandoned mine; that it falsely stated that the property was estimated to contain forty million tons of ore; that it falsely stated that there were two hundred thousand tons of ore available for shipment?

Has Premier Morris to be reminded again that Morison, Minister of Justice, was named as Counsel for the Company; that M. P. Cashin, Minister of Finance; C. H. Emerson, member of the Executive; F. J. Morris, Judge of Circuit Court, were named as Directors?

Has Premier Morris to be reminded again that nothing more false, nothing more indelicate, nothing more brazen, has appeared in print than that prospectus in mining exploitation?

If depravity is the state of being depraved and corrupted then only one thing can exceed the depravity of that document. And it is: the ideal nerve of the "irresponsible" that Premier Morris and his Ministers exhibit in seeking re-election with that detestable Prospectus staring them in the face!

—glaring at them; the ideal nerve that those men flaunt with closed teeth in the face of an outraged people; the ideal nerve that makes Premier Morris keep silent, and refuse to show that his Ministers are clean.

Would the people have the tale lengthened out? Do you desire more degrading evidence against Ministers of the Crown?

Have not the rough-hewn ideals of Premier Morris and his Ministers received an exposition—scalding as the price of Crosbie's spars!

Do you look for Premier Morris's

return? Can you with decency respect his indecent seeking of re-election? For is it not indecent in a Premier to seek re-election who refuses to justify or explain:—

(1) Why he, as Premier, approved the plea of Morison, his Minister of Justice, that he forgot the law—a plea not known to the law?

(2) Why Morris, as Premier, and Morison his Minister of Justice, willfully deceived the Governor in an effort to explain how Morison forgot the law when Morison advised a man to steal timber?

(3) Why Premier Morris has not given any justification for the price paid Crosbie, a member of his Executive, for two second-hand spars?

(4) Why Crosbie, Morison and their Produce Company got the scalding price of \$39,000 on the two mail contracts?

(5) Why those railways will cost so many millions more than the four millions Premier Morris so solemnly assured us?

(6) Why his ideals of statesman-

ship refuse to allow him to explain what connection Morison, Cashin, Emerson and F. J. Morris had in that fraudulent Bay de Verde Iron Ore business; and why he puts them up for re-election suffering the odium of persons who were stated to have "active participation" in that exploitation!

All these matters have been known to the public for some considerable time. It is but one day before Polling Day.

Therefore, Electors, the facts are before you. You are the highest Court of Appeal in this land; the Court of Public Opinion; the only Court that can order Clean Government because you alone have the power and the will to turn political rascals out.

If eyes were made for seeing, and ears for hearing, and minds for thinking, there is not the slightest doubt that you will issue the order on Polling day that

MORRIS MUST GO!

A Human Trimmer.

Dear Sir,—Please allow me space in your valuable columns to explain to the best of my knowledge, the definition of the word "Trimmer."

There are two classes of Trimmers, one made of steel, iron, or some other metal, for the purpose of trimming lumber and other material; the other is a Human Trimmer, who is ready to trim anything that comes along in the shape of a man's pocket-book, or a man's honor and personality. Mr. Editor, if you happen to have missed that very expressive slang word that has lately crept into Newfoundland Politics, you ought to know it now.

A Human Trimmer is a Politician who makes promises when he needs you, with the intention of breaking his promise when he has got all from you that he can get; a Trimmer is a man who sacrifices his friends to help himself; a Trimmer is a man who betrays his country for his own selfish interests; a Trimmer is a man who holds Government office for his own selfish and corruptible ends; a Trimmer is a Politician who deceives the public under pretence of his office; a Trimmer is a man that meets a poor, widow with a smile, and then slyly defrauds her out of the last 10 cent piece she had in the world to buy a loaf of bread for her starving child.

Now voters of Bonavista Bay, beware of a Political Trimmer, for he is a dangerous person to meet, and more dangerous to do business with. I will not only warn the voters of Bonavista Bay, but of the whole country; and if any of my fellowmen come in contact with this class of a Trimmer, be aware and don't let him trim you the same as I have been trimmed with one of those Political Trimmers.

R. W. STRONG.
St. John's, Oct. 28, 1913.

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