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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., FEB. 9, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

STEALING IDEAS.

"Imitation," runs an old saw, "is the sincerest form of flattery." It is the brand of practical admiration that the Premier is handing out to the members of the Union wing of the Opposition.

Two weeks ago Mr. Coaker introduced in the House a Private Bill intended to embody in statutory form the provisions of the famous Sealing Agreement whereby the condition of sealers on our steamers was materially improved.

It now transpires that Sir Edward Morris is himself introducing a series of Resolutions dealing with this matter and is thus in a manner unobtrusively stealing the ideas of the President of the F.P.U.

For the information of readers of The Daily Mail we are publishing the Coaker Sealing Bill in the form in which the member for Bonavista introduced it in the House. It will be instructive to compare it with Edward Morris Sealing Resolutions.

These Resolutions, being fathered by the Government, will, of course, take precedent over Mr. Coaker's Bill which is a private measure.

This much is certain. No act of the Government, cute, underhand or otherwise, will succeed in depriving President Coaker of the credit for starting the agitation which resulted in so many practical benefits to the sealers. It was his own handiwork; he it was who persuaded the owners to consent to the Agreement; and his are the thanks of thousands of grateful fishermen all over the Country.

When it comes to originating, advocating and carrying reform measures into practical effect, the Union members of the Opposition prove themselves the brains of the House on every occasion.

And Sir Edward Morris proves this fact by playing second fiddle to W. F. Coaker, M.H.A., for Bonavista, in the Sealing Bill connection.

The Danish court says the tango is all right; but, then, it said the same thing of old Doc Cook.—Washington Post.

OBSERVATIONS.

One never realises how expensive talk is until he visits the House and meditates on the fact that the group of speakers on the Government benches have let us in for extra expenditures totalling One Million Dollars in six years.

If we may judge from the frost, the snow, the rain and the thaws that have characterised the last few weeks, even the Clerk of the Weather is so interested in affairs at the House that he is forgetting his business just now.

So the Government repudiates the suggestion that some of our local farmers are characterised by "milk and water" actions. Well we wouldn't be a bit tempted to fasten such a charge on the senior member for Harbor Main or the junior member for Harbor Grace.

Judging by their passive conduct in the House the Minister of Finance and the Hon. J. C. Crosbie are becoming, in some measure, resigned to their fate. But what's the use of their kicking against the Opposition pricks, anyway? Mere bluff and bluster cannot scare off the dogged critics across the House.

So the Government fought the elections in the North "on principle." And, judging by Mr. Cashin's complaint that the electors of Bonavista showed marked ingratitude by voting down the Morris candidates in spite of Branch railroads and other extras too numerous to mention, the Government evidently believed that the more dollars they spent the more convincing their "arguments" appeared to the electors.

AS OTHERS SEE IT.

Eggs at 7 cents each may do for table ornaments.—New York World.

Cigarettes have advanced in price. Of what importance now are increases in cost of beefsteak and eggs?—New York Tribune.

Several girls have entered the Toledo school of carpentry. Is it possible that women can learn to saw wood and say nothing?—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

The report that Pike's peak was sinking proves to have been unfounded. The peak isn't going down any faster than the cost of living.—Chicago Record-Herald.

There is one man in the country who says he is able to tell a woman's age by looking at her. Maybe he can, but if he has any sense he won't do it.—Toledo Blade.

According to a recent count 44 per cent. of the first class mail is improperly addressed; but whoever heard of a bill going to the dead letter office?—New York Sun.

Sir George Paish, editor of The Statist, offers the welcome prediction that the cost of living is to fall. But more welcome than experts' predictions would be lower prices over the counter.—Exchange.

JUST A SMILE OR TWO.

Gramophone Records

"I have brought this record back. It is no good."

"Try it again. This is a song by Mme. Squallini, the great soprano. She is so temperamental that sometimes her records will work and sometimes they won't"—Louisville Courier Journal.

He Had Designs

A P. M. G. reader sends us the following little story, certainly one of the best of its kind:

To the great god Buddha came the representatives of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religions to pay him homage. Buddha, very flattered, told each of them that if they would express a wish it would be fulfilled. "What do you wish?" he asked the Catholic.

"The answer was 'Glory.' 'You shall have it,' said Buddha, and turning to the Protestant, 'What do you wish?'

"Money."

"You shall have it."

"And you?" This to the Jew.

"I do not want much," quoth he; "give me the Protestant's address!"—Pall Mall Gazette.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

CURRENT OPINION ON HOME RULE.

Conference Desirable.

The more this question is studied the more inevitable will be the conclusion that the representatives of the four portions of the United Kingdom should meet together in the conference chamber as equals, representing as near as possible an identical amount of public backing; and if the solution, whatever it may be, of our present difficulties is to have any value or any permanence whatever the way surely points to a reform of the House of Commons as an essential preliminary.—Major Clive Morrison-Bell in The Nineteenth Century.

Ulster's Case.

The case which Ulster Protestants present to us in justification of their attitude can be stated in a sentence. They tell us that they are a minority of the people of Ireland, and that they will not get justice from the Romp Catholic majority in an Irish Parliament. The fear is undoubtedly real; but there is surely ground in the history of England and of Scotland, to say nothing of the history of other countries, for the view that in Ireland it is a bad inheritance of bad government. More fairly perhaps than any other people in the world, certainly at an earlier stage in their history the peoples of England and of Scotland have recognised for themselves that the one condition of stable and harmonious progress in their common life is that differences of opinion, of all kinds and on all subjects, shall be brought into the open, and be there freely and fully discussed and decided in the light of their common reason and their common sense. It is, moreover, the recognition of this, as the condition of progress, that constitutes freedom and that is of the very essence of democratic government. To ignore it, or to seek to over-ride it, is to divide a community into perpetually warring, irreconcilable sections. It is to do what the government of Ireland by Great Britain has done in Ireland. And to continue to do it, as Irish Protestants desire, is to perpetuate the evils and the weaknesses of Irish life which all unite in deploring.—J. A. Murray Macdonald, M. P., in The Contemporary Review.

Settlement By Consent.

But is settlement by consent possible without sacrifice of principle? And how can two parties confer where a vital difference of principle exists? Writing as one of those who, sitting in the House of Commons through the Home Rule controversies of 1886 and of 1893, it is difficult to refrain from the very obvious criticism that were settlement by consent possible the question of Irish Home Rule should long since have been solved. Public memory, we are always told, is short; but no one who listened to the debates on Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill of 1886, the measure which, being rejected by a majority of thirty in a Liberal House of Commons, remained in twain and relegated its remnant to the cold shades of Opposition for the next six years; and again to the debates and public controversy on Mr. Gladstone's second Home Rule Bill of 1893, during a Session which lasted for fifteen months, can ever forget or fail to realise the apparently irreconcilable nature of this vital conflict of opinion and of principle.—Sir Henry Seton-Karr, in The Nineteenth Century.

Let King Intervene.

If Ministers will not appeal to the country because they cannot, and can not because they dare not, let the Crown intervene. If Ministers are so entangled with party cords that they will make no honest effort to avert civil war, let the Crown appeal from them to the people. We believe that there would be such an uprising of loyal men in response as would surprise our brawling demagogues. The heart of England craves for fair compromise and decent, quiet, honest government. If the King will but step forth and appeal to his people, all the best elements in the nation will rally to his side.—The Fortnightly Review.

Not High Enough.

It seems to follow that, if a statute establishing Home Rule for Ireland is to be not only theoretically enacted, but also brought into practical effect, such statute must be based on the decision of some body or assembly, formal or informal, which possesses a much higher moral authority than does the House of Commons. Such a body is unquestionably to be found in the general electorate of the United Kingdom, and indeed it seems natural that that electorate should, rather

than any other set of persons, exercise or refuse to exercise the right of mandate in such a matter. It is certain that it has not yet given the mandate; at the very outside it may be said to have somnolently muttered a sentence of uncertain sound. It therefore remains, not as a last step, but as a first step, to consult the electorate, preferably by referendum, seeing that Home Rule involves a constitutional change of the first magnitude, and ought not to be confounded with the subject-matter of ordinary legislation.—The Editor of The British Review.

Everything To Lose.

Sir E. Carson has nothing to gain and everything to lose by the extraordinary course he has adopted. But he is, above all things, an Irishman, proud of the name and an honest believer in the solidarity of Ireland. Himself a Dubliner, he has devoted himself unsparingly to what he believes to be the interests of Belfast. He must realise that the Covenanters' war-cry, "We won't have Home Rule," is a declaration that the Irish are the one people in the world incompetent to govern themselves. No need to argue that question now. Sir Edward Carson believes this calumny against the majority of his countrymen, but we may at least assume he is sorry to believe it, and would rejoice to be convinced to the contrary. He would rejoice in a self-governed Ireland, a loyal and united Ireland where bigotry would be extinguished and feuds forgotten, where Belfast would co-operate with Dublin to promote the general welfare of the country. Civil war remains as a last desperate resort when everything else has failed; but conciliation is first entitled to a trial.—An Outsider in The Fortnightly Review.

How To Solve It.

I plead for a solution on federal lines, but I do not dogmatise. The question should be discussed in conference. The futility of attempting a settlement on party lines has been demonstrated. If agreement, is to be achieved it can only be by gratifying the Prime Minister's desire to lift the question out of the cockpit of British party politics. A conference under those conditions is necessary. I tremains with party leaders to say whether, for the settlement of great constitutional questions affecting the future of the United Kingdom and of the Empire, personal feelings should stand in the way and whether party acts and party advantages should not be temporarily laid aside.—The Earl of Dunraven in The Nineteenth Century.

Serious Situation.

No thoughtful Englishman can fail to be concerned at the general situation in which Parliament attempts to deal with the affairs, not only of the United Kingdom as a whole, but also of each of its component parts. . . . Parliament passes more laws, and new departments are created for their administration. . . . The bureaucratic elements are ever eager to divest themselves of supervision, and Parliament will inevitably play into their hands by devolving more of its work upon the departments until it is able to devolve it upon other elective bodies which are in regular contact with public opinion. Herein we have the only effective remedy for the existing Parliamentary failure, and one of the most potent justifications for Home Rule, which would relieve Parliament of the responsibility, not only of Irish legislation, but, what is perhaps even more important, for the supervision of Irish administration.—I. de R. Walker in The Contemporary Review.

ACCORDING TO PRECEDENT

(From the Chicago Record-Herald.)
The hen that cackles loudest may not lay the largest eggs;
The mule that kicks the hardest may not have the longest legs;
The tree that is the tallest may not bear the sweetest fruit,
And the girl that is the fairest may not wear the smallest boot.
The man whose brow is highest may not always know the most;
The hero who is bravest may not make the loudest boast;
The arm that is the strongest may not have the farthest reach,
And the man who talks the longest may not have the finest speech.
The rose that is the reddest may not have the sweetest scent;
The man whose strut is proudest may not be most prominent;
The woman who has jewels that she measures by the peck,
May not have the slimmest fingers or the most delightful neck.
The man who works the hardest may not draw the highest pay;
The one with deepest knowledge may not have the most to say;
But the man who is most modest gets the last seat in the rear,
And the one who blows his bugle is the one whom people hear.

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