

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

played and unemployed are the classes which demand our attention. Hon. Mr. Morine in his palliation of the Government's solution of the question, confuses and classes all four categories as one. I am fully in accord with him when he states that when work is offered to a man and he refuses to take advantage of the offer, the fault is not in giving the dole but in creating the necessity. Nor do I disagree with him when he states that there is no disgrace in a woman accepting relief because illness or some other such uncontrollable cause has forced her to seek it. But these types come under the division of "the vagrant" and "those physically and mentally unfit for work."

When Mr. Morine urged this in support of his conclusion he failed to realize that those classes are at all times subject of Government aid. They are largely the poor whom we have always with us. We accept his dictum that the method adopted by the Government in this respect is correct. But it would be necessary to agree with him that the classes which demand our attention and which swell the number of unemployed to over a thousand are principally the under-employed and the unemployed.

A learned English authority on social subjects treating of unemployment has written: "Experience has shown that relief, however necessary and judiciously administered, is no solution. It leaves the problem just where it was." Had he in mind the particular kind of relief doled out to a needy public by our Government he would have gone further. He would have said, search the world as you will, you cannot find a more plausible and at the same time more effectual means of degrading the people than the giving of dole.

The Hon. Mr. Morine has said that the Government looked the matter square in the face, but my opinion is, their solution is the product of a sluggish mind, of a blunted sense of public duty, or a dampening indifference to public welfare.

Upon us is placed the obligation and duty of serviceable activity. That duty binds great and small. It is a wise precept a protection against moral, intellectual and physical atrophy.

But as right and duty are correlative that duty carries a right none the less demanding and that right is the right to labour. The right is inalienable to a man and cannot be taken away. If it is not exercised the better elements of man's human nature become degraded. The State, the Government, is a creation of man's intellect, formed and fashioned to preserve amongst other things, the five or six inalienable rights peculiar to his nature. It is, therefore, a duty incumbent

upon the Government when unemployment is so wide spread, to tackle the question in the manner best suited not only to the needs of the moment, but with a view to the effect of the solution on future generations. There are needs which the moment asks you to supply. Opportunity wears all his locks before, should we not noise him as he advances. There are marks which can never be erased, and are we making such an indelible stigma?

Unquestionably there is destitution, and will be no matter what happens, because we have seven to eight thousand people here who, if conditions were normal, would be in want because there is not sufficient employment for them. And some solution has to be found to remedy this. It is only those of us who have opportunity to go amongst the people and in their homes who know the conditions that exist. Only recently I heard of a schoolmate and went to his home and found he had scarcely fire or food in his home. Do you think I could tell him to go down and get a pauper's dole and offend his manhood; a man of education destitute through no fault of his own. Neither would I send a policeman to his home to investigate as to whether he wanted relief or not.

There are 257 coopers in this city and 200 of the mhave been out of work for the past three months. Many of these men have College educations, better than some in this Chamber, and from this class has been recruited some of the best citizens of the country. Would you ask that class of man to degrade himself to ask for a pauper's dole? He would not do it. He would sooner lay down and die.

HON. MR. ALDERIDGE:—Mr. President, I should like to make a few remarks in reference to the Speech from the Throne but before doing so may I offer you, Sir, my sincere congratulations on the honor conferred on you by your appointment to the presidency of this Council. It goes without saying, Sir, that you will maintain the position with dignity and credit to yourself and to the country at large.

Reverting to His Excellency's Speech. Appropriately enough, fish comes first on the legislative bill of fare. It is gratifying to know that remunerative prices have been obtained for last year's catch. It appears to me that, more often than not, it is our own fault when we fail to obtain paying prices in the foreign markets. Probably no other food commodity receives such casual treatment as is accorded our codfish from the time it is taken out of the water until it is landed in the foreign market. Surely we have reached the time when standardization of quality and controlled market distribution are essential. With proper grading and strict supervision and avoidance of feeding the markets beyond their point of absorption, there should be no recurrence of the conditions of codfish reached a level where taining during 1923 when Labrador was scarcely worth the catching.

In regard to the Humber operations, I hope the optimism displayed in that paragraph of the Speech on this subject will be realized. It seems to me a bad start has been made at the construction end. Let us hope it will not be repeated under operating conditions.

The position of the Bell Island miners is deplorable. The Government are to be congratulated on the stand they have taken in defence of the men. The idea of a compulsory ten hour day for underground work is unthinkable. It looks to me as though the Besco people were handling their labour troubles everywhere in a spirit of sheer perversity. There seems to be a sinister purpose behind it all, but whatever the aim may be it is clearly the duty of the Government to stand by the men where acts of oppression and injustice are attempted. It is gratifying to know a good beginning has been made in this direction and I feel sure it will be continued.

It is unfortunate the Government were not able to award the contract for the building of the Port aux Basques to North Sydney steamer to a British firm. But a difference of nearly \$50,000 in cost is more than this country could afford to expend on sentiment.

The intimation that unemployment is decreasing is encouraging. The Government are to be congratulated on having the courage of their conviction in abolishing the rock sheds and

relieving distress by other methods. Stone breaking is usually associated with convict labour and savours too much of the unproductive treadmill. It is wrong in principle, and, to my mind, lowering to the dignity of labour to ask men to perform work of a nature that gives practically no returns for the time and energy expended.

The intention of the Government, as outlined in His Excellency's speech, to institute a bounty for the encouragement of repairs to fishing vessels is commendable and is a step in the right direction. Granted, there may be difficulties in the way of making equitable distribution of the bounty, it will, nevertheless, be the result of putting many a vessel into commission that otherwise would within a year or two be qualifying for the hulk class because of the need of an incentive such as this bonus supplies.

The proposed Bill for the Redistribution of the Seats in the House of Assembly is highly desirable. Many anomalies that now exist are sure to be removed. One man for each district is the ideal form of representation; for it brings home to each member a full sense of his responsibilities to his constituency.

Tourist traffic is indirectly referred to in relation to the proposed revision of the Motor Traffic Laws. Good roads must precede Tourist Traffic development, but before either must come hotel accommodation. This is most essential, for before we attempt to advertise the scenic beauties and attractions of our country we must prepare comfortable quarters for our prospective paying guests. If we are to attract the wealthy tourist, we must be able to assure him of getting here the same comforts as are at his disposal in his own country and for that reason a first class hotel here in St. John's is imperative and should be the first step in the development of Tourist Traffic.

The proposed legislation for the incorporation of Municipalities ought to be productive of much good. The aim of the measure is to permit settlements and communities to initiate public utilities and give them authority to levy and collect taxes to finance them. This ought to foster a spirit of independence and responsibility and should engender a proper civic spirit that is bound to react to the benefit of the general good.

And now, Sir, with your permission, I should like to say a few words of a personal nature. Through you, I should like to tell the honourable Members of the Legislative Council how much I appreciate the warm welcome that has been accorded me by every member and how much I desire to thank them. In particular I should like to thank the Hon. Mr. Ellis, the Hon. Mr. Morine, and the Hon. Mr. Bishop for their rare too complimentary references to myself. I am afraid their good nature got the better of their good judgment. In any case, I desire to assure you that it is my firm resolve to give honest, loyal disinterested service in this House, thereby hoping to make some return for the great blessings I have found in this my adopted country.

But above all, I wish to thank these three gentlemen for their references to my uncle, the late Moses Monroe. They did not say one word too much. His lovable, loyal and thoughtful disposition endeared him to everyone who came into close contact with him. His sympathy and kindness of heart for those in affliction was proverbial. His democratic spirit and strong sense of fair play appealed to the whole community. He has gone but his good works live after him; and I can assure you Mr. President, it is very consoling to his relatives to know the fragrance of his memory still remains within the confines of this House.

HON. MR. MORINE:—It is always a pleasure to me to listen to my late junior partner in the practice of law, and to reflect how much better fitted he would be for a seat in the Lower House than some of those there who try to attack the Government from day to day. However, I think too much reading has driven him mad. He propounds theories and answers them himself in the same speech. Quotes principles that have no bearing on present day affairs, and I will try to show their false application. For instance, take the Bell Island question. Hon. Mr. Gibbs tried to draw a distinction between the price of labour and the hours of work, but it is apparent that they are so closely connected as to be inseparable to a large degree. The Government is bound to interfere if the work resembles anything like slavery. But as to whether the men shall work 8 or 10 hours is not a matter that the Government is called upon to interfere with at present. As regards the reference of Hon. Mr. Gibbs to the haggard condition of the men emerging from the mines, in none of their representations have they laid any stress on the evil effects resulting from their long hours of toil. It is true they have said the hours should be eight, not ten, but I understand they had no insuperable objection to working ten hours if they got more pay for ten hours. There has certainly been no evidence to show that suffering and bad health had been caused by these long hours and consequently no need for the interference of the Legislature, if sufficient wages were given the men would work for 10 hours. It would not be beyond their normal strength. The punch clock which may have caused some trouble, was the sort of thing which registered, when men came and when they left, and gave evidence of the men at work in the mine at certain times. This was quite a common practice and was in the interest of everybody. The men would be willing to do one of two things—work for 8 hours a day at the present rate or work for a longer time at a higher rate. If short hours meant a lowering of price, or if the company said that 8 hours were not sufficient to produce what they should, then the question of safe-guarding the industry arose. The Government is anxious to get for the men reasonable hours and pay without endangering the industry. There is no need to talk of the Government as though it has wanted disregard of the welfare of the labourers. The best that could be done must be done. Those who hesitate did so for fear of doing harm to our neighbors, the labourers or to the industry. We have no fear as to how the share-holders may suffer; the only fear is that in striving to take the side of the men, in trying to obtain shorter hours and higher wages we might be killing the goose that laid the golden egg. If the industry ceased the result would be most harmful for many men would be thrown out of work altogether. Anyone who knows the conditions of the steel market to-day and of the history of the Besco Co., what it was doing or even what its enemies said of it, could realize the dangerous position we should be in if we hampered it in any way. It would be more expensive if run more inefficiently and more dangerous to the company. If the company were put into insolvency it might mean that the mine would be closed for years. This would have very harmful results, many men would be thrown out of work, some probably would find labour elsewhere, yet many who are permanent residents, would have their living taken from them.

(To be continued.)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Mechanics, Labourers and Other workmen will be paid on Saturday of each week, Bills or accounts for services rendered or goods supplied will be paid fortnightly, on the FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY of each month excepting petty bills for vegetables, firewood and forage, etc., purchased from residents of outlying settlements which will be paid every SATURDAY.

All bills or accounts properly certified and on hand in the Department for approval and audit on the preceding TUESDAY will be available for collection on the following SATURDAY.

The above also refers to allocations in connection with Roads and Special Grants.

In the event of any SATURDAY being a whole holiday, bills must be in the Department on the preceding MONDAY and payment will be available on FRIDAY.

All those concerned will please govern themselves accordingly.

C. E. RUSSELL,
Minister of Public Works,
Department of Public Works,
November 7th, 1925.
nov. 13, 41

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"The owner was so pleased with the success of this experiment that he then tried removing a very small quantity of the water daily until the bowl was empty, and found that the herring did excellently entirely without water, and as he was so lively in the empty bowl, he had to put him in a cage."

"Here he lived happily, hopping from perch to perch just like a bird, until one day some sudden noise startled him and he fell into his water trough and was drowned."

BROKE HER ENGAGEMENT.

In old days when a young man took his sweetie out to ride in a sidecar buggy behind a high-stepping nag instead of in an automobile, a certain betrothed couple of my acquaintance went forth of a summer evening for a romantic drive, writes Dorothy Dix in the New York Evening Post.

On the way the horse somehow angered the man, and he gave it a merciless beating, whereupon the girl promptly broke her engagement to marry him.

"Thank God I have found out what sort of a temper you have in time to save myself!" she told him. "because I do not propose to spend the balance of my life covering before any man's rages or walking on eggs when he is about, for fear I will do or say something to rile him. Furthermore, I am no fool. I can take a tip when I am handed one, and I know that any man who will be cruel to a defenseless animal will be cruel to a woman when she is once in his power. So I am through."—Dumb Animals.

THE TYPHOID OUTBREAK.

Dr. McDonald and Health Inspector Lawlor left by the express on Nov. 22nd en route to North Harbor, P.B., to take steps in combatting the outbreak of typhoid fever from which several deaths have already resulted. Nurse Cooper had already been sent there by the authorities. Mrs. R. Gaul also left by the express yesterday to assist in nursing the patients at Corner Brook. The outbreak there is said to be due to the water supply and to improve which steps are now being taken.—Daily News.



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