The Bell Island Ore Tax Agreement.

A Bad Bargain For Newfoundland.

Dear Sir,-A contract appears to ave been made in November last beween the Government and the Bell onfirm it is now before the Assem-It is very improper, far-reachng and difficult to understand; I loubt, indeed, if even every member the Assembly comprehends it. I uggest that the Bill should be sent a Select Committee of the Assem s meaning clear, and to erase some lauses. I cannot believe that the ssembly will pass it in its present orm, if the members become quite ware of the forcible objections which an be urged to it. I also suggest at a meeting of the Board of Trade ould be held at once to discuss this ntract, which will be far-reaching its effect upon the trade and comerce of the country. If the Council the Board of Trade will meet at nce to consider the matter, I will

SHING

BAR-

Cotton

The first objection I have to the Bill that it seeks to bind the Colony to certain policy for a period of 20 ears, altogether too long, in view of unsettled condition of affairs at the present time, and of the changes which the immediate future seem to have in store for us. There is not any eason that I can see why this Colony should bind itself to industrial mpanies already established here or such a long space of time. While the Colony's policy to such companies should be generous, it should keep itself from entangling committments. Five years is long enough to enter into an agreement of this char-

EXPORT TAX ON ORE.

The main purport of the Bill is to ix the amount of duty which the Company shall pay upon Iron Ore speaking, the provisions of the conract are to the following effectupon all Ore shipped to Nova Scotia upon Ore shipped to other parts of he Dominion of Canada, after one nillion tons have been shipped to lova Scotia, the export duty shall be 25c. and Ore shipped elsewhere than to any part of the Dominion, shall pay no duty. If shipments to Nova Scotia in any year. re less than one million tons, the leficiency if shipped to other parts of anada, is to be liable for 25c. per

There is, however, a provision (1) hat unless the Companies expend \$3,000,000 for improvements, exten sions and development at Bell Island, etc., within five years, a maximum export tax of 10c. per ton shall be paid upon all Ore shipped elsewhere than to Nova Scotia, and this shall apply retrospectively; and (2) that unless the companies also erect a plant by 1928 capable of smelting one hundred thousand tons of Ore per year, the same tax shall be collectable. The contract itself is so badly expressed that in my hurried examination of it I may make some errors; but if so, it is an example of the fact that the contract requires the most chiefly goes to Germany, where it will afford no labor to our men, but will enter into competition with the products of the British Empire, and be an implement for our undoing in the hands of our enemies. Improvements in Bell Island and the erection of a smelting plant, might to some extent compensate the Colony for loss of export duty, but would not the improvements and the smelting plant come to us even if we kept on the export duty. Indeed might they not be expected to come all the more rapidly if the Company had no foreign outlet for its ore. For this reason I would charge less for ore going to Nova Scotia than anywhere else. I cannot for the life of me see why this Colony should subsidize, as it were, for the exportation of Ore to foreign countries, which if retained here, or sent to Nova Sco tia, would continue to afford grea

employment to our people. It may be said that it is necessary to encourage the exportation of Ore to foreign countries in order to increase th amount of labor given at Bell Island But surely that will be a spendthr policy, since there will be an end to the Ore of Bell Island, and the time

will come when we will wish that we had been slower in exporting it, and had kept it for more profitable use in

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cluding steamers and docks, the requirements of the Reid on coal of similar quality sold for shipment to Nova Scotia

indertake to convince them of the

rent from time to time"? Might not a price be made by the Company by a sale on any day or days for the very pur- the Companies agree to abide by the pose of fixing a high rate on labour law of this Colony, and that made here; but all the evi- provide suitable dwellings for their party at the time.

way, whether operated by a mence the development, and a fur-

what shall be "development." It seems to be possible to "develop" a wafer-power without completely utiliz-

whole host of questions arise profits, income, municipal or local. He probably ought to have said it, (1) What is meant by the words liability shall not exceed the sum of which meant precisely the same thing, "Nfid. Railway, including steam- \$10,000 per year. These Companies only not as "neat and appropriate." ers and docks"? What steamers operating plants at Bell Island, and "Father, I cannot tell a lie! I did it and what docks, and how does on the West Coast, propose to oper- with my little hatchet!" is an immortal the Railway include either one ate another one near Colinet, and saying attributed to a truthful boy who Why are the requirements of the es, throughout the Colony. The pres- wise George Washington. Reid Company provided for ent rate of public expenditure and specially, and not the require- probable revenue from Customs sourments of the sealing owners, for ces prove beyond peradventure that

instance, and other steam ships the time has arrived when municiengaged in the trade of the coun- pal and local organization of the boys and girls, especially if they were Colony must take place. Local taxa-(3) What is meant by the phrase tion for local improvements would story itself is a lie from beginning to "the domestic requirements of advantage industrial companies more Newfoundland"? The word than others, and they should pay who did enormous business with a "domestic" generally refers to their share. To free them from such penny life of the "Father of his Counhome life, and it might be said taxation will prevent the internal that here it means nothing development of municipal institutions more than coal for cooking in this country, and it is a fatal error purposes, or at most, for heat- to lose our liberty of action in this ought to have been a diplomatist, o ing purposes And again with particular. When the Wilson deal, the head of a publicity departm regard to manufacturing plants so called, was going through the an expert in propagat it might mean not more than Legislature, in 1915, the Opposition of enough coal for heating pur- that day, including many of the eral Wolfe reciting Grey's "Elegy" to poses. The larger meaning is F.P.U. members of the Assembly to- his brother officers as they probably intended, but should day, notably Mr. Coaker and Mr. ed silently, with muffled oars, up the

ges for political purposes. Why

What is meant by "manufac- Justice Kent, Sir Wm. Lloyd and myturing plants" Is a black- self, waged a fierce fight against the stanza: "The path of glory lead but smith's shop such a plant? proposition to free the Wilson pro- to the grave," that he would rather Would an electric light plant ject from municipal taxation, and I be held to be a manufacturing think we succeeded in preventing the bec on the morrow. tying up of the liberties of the Colony

What is meant by "prices cur- in this particular.

the purchaser be at all times Legislature to impose obligations has given rise to the proud name of at such a disadvantage that upon Companies resident in the Is- "Contemptibles." But the idea was Why make sacrifices in order to Companies are merged shall be bound procure black coal, and then give by the contract; but I fail to see how careful criticism. I assume that the away our "white coal." In the same existing Companies can bind Comremission of duty upon Ore exported contract there is a provision that panies that are not yet established, elsewhere than to Nova Scotia, is for the Companies are to have what ap- or indeed how one Company can bind the purpose of encouraging investpears to be an exclusive right to the any other Company. Finally, I notice ment in Bell Island improvements and water powers situate at or near Col- that it is agreed that the Colony shall the erection of a plant in the Colony inet, Rocky River, St. Mary's Bay, for pay 25c. per ton on Iron shipped to for the smelting of Ore. In effect, the purpose of creating electric powthe further our Ore is taken away er to run a smelting plant. But notice any provision that the Nova from us, the less the Colony is to get this river can be harnessed to give Scotia Steel & Coal Company shall from it; the nearer at hand the port light, heat and power to the whole pay the amount (claimed for other to which it is taken, the more the of Avalon Peninsula. It is "white years)) for which they have been Colony is to charge. It seems to me coal," to be had by investment. The sued. Surely it would have been that precisely the opposite should be price of black coal may become so right and proper to have stipulated the case. A ton of Ore taken to Syd- great that we shall desire to be at in this agreement for the payment of ney gives employment to our men who liberty to harness every river in the that amount, and so have cleaned up go to the Steel Works and Coal mines.
Colony, and yet, with scandalous the whole matter in the one contract.
The ore taken to foreign countries prodigality, the Colony has been giv-

ALFRED B. MORINE. May 1, 1921.

Some Sayings That Were Never Said

prices current from time to time MUNICIPAL OR LOCAL TAXATION. the famous regiment at Waterloo, panies shall not be liable for a period sault of the French: "Up, Guards, and

> and that hereafter their maximum and it is certain he said something may hereafter operate in many plac- grew up to be the great, good, and

Halfyard, with the support of Mr. St. Lawrence, to the assault of Ouehave written that poem than take Que-

This story has lately been thoroughly investigated in all its pros and cons, The provisions of the contract that

"Westminster Abbey or victory!" coal coming to this country? they will provide suitable working- has been a saying attributed to Nelson What is the tribunal which is men's houses, submitting their plans during practically every pattle he ever to decide between the Company to the Government Engineer for ap- fought. There seems some evidence and a purchaser from the proval, are no more than mere camou- that he actually did say something of preme Court would have juris- of course, they will abide by the law, and was probably said in a joke, even diction, as this contract was and, of course, they can be made to though he was leading a boarding-

dence as to coal rates would labourers, and the provision in the It has been strongly denied that the have to be obtained in the contract that they will abide by the ex-Kaiser ever referred to "French's Province of Nova Scotla, and law compromises the right of the contemptible little army," although it land. In conclusion, towards the end true if the actual words were not, for of the contract there is a provision there can be no doubt the Kaiser and that any new Company into which the all his generals regarded our original

GERALD S. DOYTE,

At The NICKEL TO-NIGHT

Hall Caine's

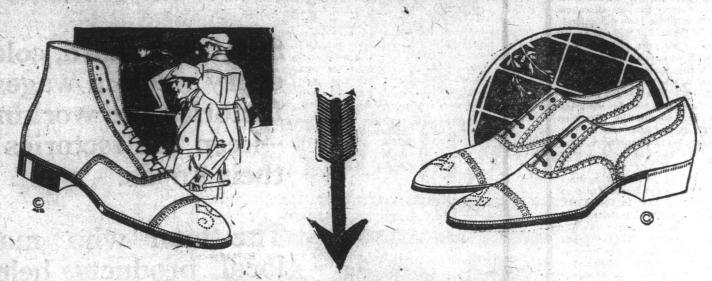
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The Home of Good Shoes

found in Pascal's works two hundred years before Hellweg or Bulew was

Disbelieve Them all. Did Caesar say: "Et Tu, Brute"? Did Crowwell say: "take away that

bauble"? Did Drake say: "I have time

to finish my game and beat the Spani-

credited with the famous "scrap of pa- "Let the lad win his spurs"? Did Gre- "Thus far shall thou come and no farper" phrase, the other one can be gory the Great say: "Angels, not An-; ther" to the advancing tide; that, in

> Let Cuticura Be Your Beauty Doctor

Expeditionary Force as a flea-bite: | ards, too"? Did Nelson put his glass | gles"? Did Sydney say: "Thy necessity Bethman-Hollweg and Bulow are to his blind eye and say: "I don't see is even greater than mine"? jointly credited with talking about the cease-fire signal"? Did Napoleon It is hard to say. Now that it is provdermany's "place in the sun," but at- refer to the English as "a nation of ed that Alfred did not burn the cakes, though the former can truthfully be shopkeepers"? Did Edward III. say: that Canute probably never said:

spite of Voltaire, who had the story from Newton's niece, it is very improbable that the great scientist first thought of the theory of gravitation on seeing an apple fall in his orchard, and that it is still more improbable that Queen Elizabeth said: "A million of money for a moment of time," one must be prepared to disbelieve any-

thing, especially if it be particularly well corroborated.-Answers.

Organdie dresses are sometimes worn over slips of crepe de chine. Fringed and fluted taffeta trims a demurely bouffant taffeta frock.

MUTT AND JEFF-

JEFF THOUGHT THE TICKET SELLER DISPLAYED GREAT STURIDITY.

-By Bud Fisher.

