

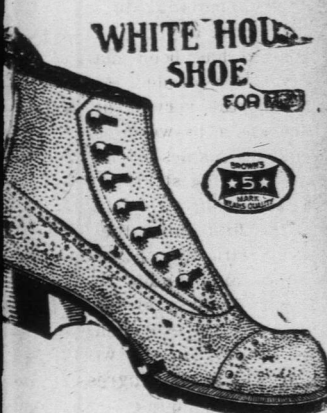
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Canker and Cancer!

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—One of the first acts of the Morris Government, after their entrance into power was the nomination of an "Agricultural Commission" for the purpose of taking over, moulding and extending the whole agricultural policy of the Colony. To this end three members of the present Government were given the appointment, at a salary, respectively of \$1,600 per year, besides sundry other pickings, in the way of cab hire, travelling expenses, etc., with the additional power to import and distribute seeds, feeds, etc. of different kinds to the farmers of the country.

The Commissioners appointed at the time were Mr. Downey, member for St. George's, Mr. Devereaux, member for Placentia and St. Mary's, and the late Mr. Seymour, member for Harbor Grace. No sooner had this precious trio entered upon office than, instead of building up, they began immediately to pull down, and from that day this their whole system has been marked by chicanery, despicable and decay, until to-day the very term agriculture has become a by-word and a reproach, and the names of the commissioners the laughing stock and derision of the whole country.

The first thing they did was to do away with the Experimental Farm, inaugurated under the policy of Sir Robert Bond, a system developed and extended by every enlightened farming country in the world, an institution which the progressive people of farming communities can possibly do without. Experimental farms are established in every Province of Canada, throughout the United States and in various colonies of the Empire. By means of these institutions the best methods of farming are taught, and scientific information given on all points in connection with soils, seeds, feeds, the rotation of crops, and all helpful methods in reference to dairies, the proper handling of stock, etc.

Under the late administration this system was established here for the first time, and under the care and direction of a scientific expert the good work was just beginning to be appreciated, when, lo and behold what did the present Government do immediately after their return to power? They abolished the new system and, for the purpose of furnishing salaries, they appointed three members of their own Government as "Commissioners" at big salaries, who succeeded in tearing down the new system instituted under the administration of Sir Robert Bond—the only wise and economical system approved of, and adopted, by all en-

lightened and progressive Governments the world over, and in its place they built up a huge system of graft and booting whereby, not only themselves, but all their followers have been able to ruin the prospects of the country and extract thousands of dollars from the revenues of the Colony.

The system inaugurated by Bond was not an expensive one. It was scientific in principle and practical in results, and by this time if left alone, instead of chaos and confusion, we would have had order and profitable returns. One of the first things these wise "Commissioners" did was to import into the country what they preached, was "a great boon to the farmers," viz., seeds, feeds, various kinds of potatoes, etc., which they assured the people were superior to their own, and would yield an abundant harvest in the future. "Where only one blade of grass formerly grew, now two would spring forth; our hills were to be white with sheep, while the potato crop was to increase an hundred fold."

These wise-acres, Downey and Devereaux, cared little for the interests of the country, or the welfare and happiness of the farmers, so long as they were able to draw their salaries and distribute large patronage among their friends. During their term of office, by means of their useless and extravagant policy, they have not only added thousands of dollars to the debt of the Colony, but they have irretrievably ruined the best industry of the country. By their fraudulent system they have been the means of introducing into the various districts of the country the **Canker worm**—the greatest pest of modern times, and the fell destroyer of the potato crops of the world. This pest is now becoming so prevalent as to cause fear and consternation in Canada and the United States. This fear is so great that quite recently both Canada and the United States have instituted quarantine laws against this country, so that now, not even a barrel of potatoes from this Colony can be shipped abroad, or allowed to land, even from a fisherman's punt, at Halifax, or any other port in Canada or the United States. At a meeting of Canadian scientists recently held in the city of Montreal, it was the opinion that the canker in the potato was the cause of cancer in the people, and therefore, that strict quarantine was necessary to kill this evil from getting a foot-hold in the fair Dominion. As a proof of the damage done by the canker worm, only the other day a whole field of potatoes out on the Topsail Road had to be dug up and destroyed by the farmers themselves in order to stop the spread of the evil and thus save their friends and fellow-countrymen from the sting and poison of the disease. Just think of it; the damage, the

loss, the far-reaching consequences of this dire calamity brought about by the inadvertence and ignorance of these foolish commissioners undert-

taking to do things they knew nothing about. Had the Experimental Farm of the late Government, with a wise and competent man at its head, been allowed to stand, this sad experience would never have overtaken us. This country is especially adapted for root-crops—especially the potato; but now, the whole industry is ruined, and the best prospects of the country jeopardized by the Government and the stupidity of their commissioners, who have been able to ruin the prospects for place and pay have brought upon this unfortunate country the stigma and stain of disseminating abroad the cankeroid and cancerous disease.

To the agricultural policy of the present Government, and their ignorant agents, must be attributed this serious and critical condition. Even yet, with this sad warning before them, they take no heed, but recklessly ride on to their own destruction and, unfortunately, to the detriment and disgrace of the whole Colony, the evil consequences of which no man can adequately estimate. Aside from all this, what benefits have been derived from the enormous expenditures made for the promotion of agriculture? What have our agricultural experts, Devereaux and Downey, taught us? Have they given value for the large salaries they have been receiving from the Agricultural Grant? What good could come from money spent in the following manner. The vote was \$46,000. The amount expended was \$44,146.57. This is the way in which it was frittered away:

Exhibitions	\$4,488.99
Grants to Societies	6,911.20
Purchase of animals	9,507.66
Salaries to Downey, Devereaux and Secretaries of Societies	6,999.00
Feeds and Seeds	3,200.00
Travelling expenses	1,000.00
Prizes	1,911.00
Printing	932.18
Peat and Wages	2,752.70

The balance being made up in sundry small disbursements for cab hire and other items equally unnecessary and extravagant.

What do you suppose, judging from the foregoing, the expenditure will be for the present year?

What do you think of the indecency of holding agricultural exhibitions in Bonaville, Trinity, Briggs, Harbour Main and Placentia during the Elections? Are these exhibitions being held for the purpose of promoting the best interests of agriculture, or are they being held for the purpose of trying to promote votes in favor of the Government candidates? Are you prepared to support a Government that will expend your money in this way? If you want this kind of extravagance and recklessness to go on, you will of course vote accordingly, but if you don't, vote for the Bond Candidates and turn the rascals out.

Yours truly,
ODDENHAM.

Your Duty.

Nothing to do with the Custom House, good friend. Its only reference just now is to yourself. Let us suppose that you are a man of family with sufficient of the world's goods to keep them in comfort. Very well. You did not reach this satisfactory state of affairs without care and labour—few men do. Suppose you are awakened some night with shouts of alarm ringing in your ears. Too late then to talk of prudence; too late then to say: "If I had only, etc., etc." That "if" means too much to many forgetful people. Is it not always the duty of a self-respecting citizen to protect his home and thus provide for those within it. Is it any more than his duty to those depending on him to protect them as far as possible? Can you call your property your own when it is not insured? The answer to this argument is to carry insurance with Percie Johnson's agency, the most popular office in Newfoundland and the least expensive.

Cable News.

Special to Evening Telegram.
YARMOUTH, Sept. 29.
The arson squad destroyed the municipal golf links here with acid last night. They also destroyed timber work at the lumber yards, by pouring oil on the planks. Usual placards.

LONDON, Sept. 29.
The Duchess of Connaught is now able to motor in Bagshot Park every day. It is hoped she may be able to return with the Duke to Canada, after Prince Arthur's wedding; but will not be able to take any active part in social affairs. Princess Patricia will take her place. At the wedding semi-courts toilettes will be the proper thing. There will be white court gowns, cut low back and front, short sleeves, but no trains, veils or feathers, which will allow the wearing of diamond tiaras, and other hair-ornaments, but colored stones will not be permissible in the day-time.

Mr. Whiteway's Lecture

On the Teacher's Tour.

Mr. Whiteway's lecture was a literary treat of unusual excellence. He has the discerning eye and the receptive mind that must have made England with its history, its old and hallowed associations, a joy to him.

We have always found in him a mind stored with historical information beyond most men, and we can understand with what intense interest and deep emotion he stood amid the scenes so well known to him and under their influence constructed with new life and fuller comprehension the events that most of us can only imagine by the help of cold type. Rather halting in describing the trivialities and amusements of the Atlantic voyage by the "Sardinia" in July, Mr. Whiteway became richly eloquent when the land of Burns and Scott was reached and they steamed up the Clyde to the sound of hammers and noise on both sides.

The story of Burns and the debt of £5 under which he died, which has been changed so overwhelmingly into a debt which all Scotland owes to his memory; Melrose Abbey and Abbotsford and all the romance of Scott's time we treated with a sympathetic mind and it was so refreshing to find that these places were not beautiful for their own sake alone but for the association which surround them. The story of Scott's noble attitude in paying his creditors to the last farthing, though it cost him his life, shames our day when "compromise" holds so much dominion.

The lecturer evidently enjoyed Oxford and its Colleges, and the various movements in Church and State which have had their origin there were dealt with in a lucid and interesting manner, from the days of Henry III, when Simon de Montfort devised the first English Parliament, to Weyliff, Wesley, and the days of Newman, Pusey and Keble.

Mr. Whiteway stood on the spot where Latimer, Ridley and Crammer were burned at the stake and curiously enough, there stood by him a Miss Ridley, a direct descendant of the martyr. Was it by accident or was it Destiny that at the end of a long and tiring day at Oxford, when about to follow the others to the hotel, Mr. Whiteway should have heard the name "Shelley" and have gone back to a scene that moved him most of all he saw in England?

There in the College from which he was banished for writing "The Necessity of Theism" they have raised a monument to his memory and acknowledge him as one of their celebrated Poor storm-tossed Shelley—"A beautiful and ineffable angel beating in the void his luminous wings in vain" as Matthew Arnold describes him—drowned at thirty, refused burial by the Italian authorities and his body burned on the sea-shore in the presence of Leigh Hunt, Byron and Trevelyan. There in the Oxford room, carpeted with a sky painted in all the calmness of moon and stars, Shelley's statue reclines on his tier of firewood just as he lay on the sea-shore.

"Peace, peace! he is not dead, he doth not sleep—
He hath awakened from the dream of life"

Mr. Whiteway's language in describing the room and the monument showed to the full how deep an impression it had made on him.

Necessarily the lecturer could only touch on some experiences of the trip but we hope that very soon he will be given other opportunities for large audiences to hear him concerning the places he had not time to dwell on last night. In London the teachers were the guests of the King and Sir Lewis and Lady Harcourt and Mr. Whiteway contrasted the "thorn" which Lehouche would give us in 1857 with the "Rose" that Lady Harcourt presented each of the teachers with in 1812.

Altogether the lecture was such as we hear too seldom nowadays. If those who visit England so often came back with minds enriched as Mr. Whiteway has, maybe we should not feel the lack so much.

Miss Taylor and Mr. Hatcher rendered songs during the evening.

SAGONA RETURNS. — The S. S. Sagona, Capt. B. Barbour, arrived yesterday from the northward. The ship brought a small freight and several passengers. Capt. Barbour reports a good sign of fish at several places north.

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