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The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S NFD. JULY 15th. 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW**Official Procrastination**

A WEEK and a half ago we wrote to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Mines calling his attention to the erection of a bathing house on the margin of Long Pond, and asking that he take steps to have the thing removed, as it infringed on a public right and further more that it had been built over the only spot on the south side of the lake where one may go swimming with out the risk of breaking his feet on sharp rocks. We have had no reply from the Hon. Minister, save one which we received when we called him over the telephone. The reply we then had was that he (the Minister) had "taken the matter up, with them" (the M.I. A.) Here is an instance of how heads of Departments attend to their public duties.

Mr. Blandford, in the first place refused us the courtesy of a prompt reply to our communication, and in the next place he dabbles with and temporizes with men who have committed a distinct breach of the Crown Lands Act, over which he has particular care. Why did Mr. Blandford think it necessary "to take the matter up"—to use the stereotyped form of expression used by the Minister himself,—with the law breakers. There should have been no delay in exercising the law in this respect.

The offense had been committed, the house had been put up on the public lands, the public was inconvenienced and the Minister's duty was quite clear.

He should have at once ordered the removal of the house, as there is no excuse for it being there. But it has ever been thus in this country, the law has been ever slow to check abuses of this character, but it is quick enough in other matters, where leaden feet were better.

What can we expect anyway from a department, at whose head sits a man who is accountable to nobody. He has been pitchforked into the job contrary to the wish of the people. He was turned down by the people of Bonavista Bay at last election by a drowning majority, but little things like that do not signify in the very smallest degree to the bandits who have control of this unfortunate country's affairs.

Rottenness pervades every department in the Colony's administration since the advent of Morris and his horde to power, but the most rotten of them perhaps is the Department of Agriculture and Mines.

Look what big grabs of public property, in timber, mineral and

water powers have disgraced the administration of Morris and Company.

The raid on our timber areas has been the greatest scandal on record. Members of the Government have been in the big grabs right up to the chin, like hogs in a wallow.

Then look at the giving away of our greatest natural asset, our water powers, culminating in the most disgraceful episode in a disgraceful administration, the big give away to the Reids at Deer Lake. We refer to the Willson—alias New Reid Deal, whereby one hundred and fifty million dollars worth of the people's property was bartered away for ever, for a song.

And we have had men with cheek enough to openly defend the outrage, and to come out in public print day after day in abuse of the vilest kind of the few men who had the honesty and intelligence to condemn the crime.

Such crimes would be impossible if there were not weak men to support the evil doers, and to stand between them and an outraged public.

Beside such low down villains who sell their country's blood, the "fence" who shields the thief is an honest citizen.

For the former betrays his country into the hands of thieves, while the latter only steals from an individual, who often does not miss what has been filched from him.

Hospital Accommodation

THE following item appeared in Monday's evening's Telegram:

"Mr. Manuel of Jackson's Cove, Notre Dame Bay, who arrived here to enter the Hospital for an operation, was unable to get satisfactory treatment there owing to the crowded condition of the Institution."

We made reference to the case also; and on enquiry, we found that the Hospital is very much crowded at the present time. We believe that there are some patients in town from the outports awaiting admission.

To whom is this sad condition of affairs largely due?

It is not the fault of the Hospital staff who are all exceedingly courteous and attentive to the wants of the patients; but it is due, chiefly, to the fact that numbers of city patients are sent to the Institution who SHOULD BE TREATED in their own homes, and at THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

We have heard of several such cases recently; and we know positively that a near relative of a wealthy Government booster was placed in the Hospital and remained there for several weeks, when she should have been taken care of at home.

The outport patients receive the greatest possible attention at the hands of Mr. Whiteway and his staff, on their arrival; and the people appreciate their kind services.

It is high time that certain city folk who can afford it, should be made to pay for medical and surgical attendance. There are several trained nurses in this city who would gladly take charge of such cases; and we have a very efficient body of medical men whose services are available.

The fact is that we have not sufficient Hospital accommodation in this country; and there is a crying need for, at least, three small hospitals in the outports.

These, in our opinion, should be located, one at Twillingate, one at Belleoram, and one at Bay of Islands.

Buildings, sufficiently large, may be built and equipped for about \$10,000 each; and the upkeep would not involve a much larger outlay is now being made for so-called pauper cases and for transportation.

We have a number of young (and old) medical practitioners

Dr. Lloyd's Speech on The New Reid Deal

Wherein He Exposes the Criminal Folly of the Govt. Propositions to Hand Over to a Private Corporation So Much of Our Valuable Natural Assets.

April 30th., 1915.

MR. LLOYD—Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of saying something in connection with the contract now before us; to give some reasons why the contract as it now stands must not receive the approval of this House. Before going into that aspect of the matter, I would like to look at certain principles which justify my taking that attitude. I would like also to make it clear that I am not treating this matter as a party question, or raising any objection to something being done to further development of Newfoundland.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that for the past quarter of a century, both parties in this House have been making concessions, giving away water, timber, free simple rights inland, in the hope of promoting developments in Newfoundland, and forcing work to all classes of labour seeking to foster an increase of population, and revenue. We do not object to large expenditures in the proper direction such as education. I should like to see a large increase there if we could afford it, but we cannot afford it. We find that we have been going ahead faster than our revenues enabled us to do. But that is all the more reason why every man in this House should do, what in him lies to see that we get an equate return for what we give. Further I say that though I have been one of those who have drawn attention to the promoters of this company, it is not because they are the Reid Nfd. Co., or any other. I do not say that because the Reid Brothers are the promoters of this that it should be condemned. They already control large interests in this Colony, notably the railway system. They hold millions of acres of land in free simple. Both parties in this House have contributed towards giving them these interests. But there are facts relating to the bill itself that must be taken into consideration. The experience of the past 25 years is such as should make us halt to consider carefully, before going further.

The Reid Nfd. Co. have extraordinary interests in this Colony. I passed the earlier part of my life in South Lancashire where a very large amount of cotton is manufactured. The climate is such that it contributes largely to the success of the cotton manufacture. It rests on a coal field; indeed the cotton industry is based on the fact that there is coal there. It is the same elsewhere. The success of any large manufacture is based on the fact that something is easy to get there. In this case our great resource is our water power. And there fore we ought to take care what we are doing, and be reasonable in looking after ourselves, and at the same time we ought to give this proposition fair consideration.

That is the spirit in which I approach this question. What are we asked to do? I am going to deal with this matter from the standpoint laid down by the member for Bonavista.

In Bay of Islands they ask for rights over the drainage area of the Humber. That is very large. If you look at the map, you will see that it includes a very large drainage area, running in the direction of White Bay and South beyond Grand Lake. Much that is outside of that area they also want. This matter needs great consideration. If we give those grants we must see that we get fair returns. Outside of that area there is a request for water power that would include practically the whole centre of the Island. If we turn to the first section of the agreement we find that the company is asking not only for water powers, but the power to control the whole of the western drainage area, including Grand Lake, and to do what is necessary for their purposes in connection. There is a complete absence of information in connection with these water powers. We

who would gladly avail of the position of Resident Physician; and we have several competent nurses who would make admirable matrons.

Such institutions would prove a boon and a blessing to our outport people many of whom are now forced to make long and wearisome journeys citywards to obtain proper medical treatment,

have no report dealing with the point. We ought to have the whole of the information before us. It will be noticed that the whole thing amounts to the asking for the power to handle the whole drainage area of the Humber. On turning to the map which the Premier has laid before us, it will be observed that a large section is blocked off.

I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to this,—to the southern boundary of that area. An examination of the Southern Boundary of that area and the local topography will reveal this fact that there is a number of very valuable locations for water powers situated just within the area. For instance it takes in the North part of Red Indian Lake—and the very fact of the establishment of a water power under the concession made and the promise of similar concessions in regard to his area gives them the power to control the whole of Red Indian Lake and the waters which drain into it. Then going a little further we come to Victoria River. They control that area by the acquisition of water powers there they get the right of controlling the whole drainage area which runs into Victoria River. That runs pretty well down to Burgeo and La Poile. Going further you come to Noah Paul's Brook. They have the control of the entrance of that tributary, and with the concessions made to them they get control of practically the whole centre of the country outside of the limits marked here. Then again, if you turn to the Gander we find the mouth of the Gander within the limit; so that if a water power is acquired at the mouth of the Gander under the concessions spoken of they obtain the control of the whole drainage area of the Gander.

Now, Sir, if any member will take the trouble to look at the map he will find that this acquisition gives the Products Company absolute control over a whole host of private individuals, and a whole host of corporations who have timber limits not only in the described area, but all the extensive limits to the South till you get to the watershed running into Burgeo and draining into Fortune Bay and Placentia Bay. Now it would be reasonable to consider water powers that would contribute to the industries which will be established at Bay of Islands; but here you have an immense area covering half the country, divested altogether from Bay of Islands, and having no connection with it, and, from the speech which I heard Mr. Wilson deliver, which has nothing to do with the Bay of Islands enterprise, and which is only thrown in as part of the bargain, I think the whole thing highly improper, and it ought to be rejected and not considered by this House. I do not want to go at this stage to the Labrador. I shall hardly have time, and I shall reserve my remarks for another time. I will get now to what I consider the crux of the whole position.

Anyone who reads the contract and the resolutions covering the contract will be compelled to come to the view that everything possible has been done to conserve and make sure and the copperfasten any suggested concession to this Company. But if you look at the Resolutions there is not one single word from the beginning of the Resolutions to the end which attempts to restrict or limit or assure or copperfasten any interest of the Colony—not one single word.

Now Sir, that naturally leads to the question how are the interests of the country conserved in this contract? Now I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to the second clause. I would like to direct the attention of the Committee to clause No. 2 of the Agreement which is contained on page 21 of this Green Book, and well down in that section these words can be found. They have reference to development work on the Labrador:—"the Company shall within five years from the date hereof expend in the development of said water powers and the construction and operation of its plant in Labrador the further sum of ten million dollars." Now the words to which I wish to direct attention are the specific undertaking that a large sum of money shall be expended in the development of the said water powers, and the construction and operation of the plant.

That is, that there is to be a plant and the actual development of water power, and the actual expenditure on the plant and undertaking, and that that money shall be spent in reference to Labrador, or if not spent then the fee simple grant shall be void. Now that is specifically laid down, and it naturally turns our attention to the clause which deals with the undertakings of the Company in regard to the whole contract, and particularly with regard to its holdings in Newfoundland. Bearing in mind the undertaking to spend money in the development of water powers, and the construction of a plant on Labrador, I will now ask you to look at clause 18. That is practically the undertaking clause of the Company. I shall read it. "The Company undertakes to begin actual construction work upon its undertakings within two years from the date of these presents." First I would like to draw your attention to this fact, there is no definition of what the Company's undertaking is. It may mean anything. It is the Company's undertaking to be the actual development of the water powers and the plant at Bay of Islands, if it is to be the actual construction of the electric furnace or coke furnaces, if it means the processes by which the nitrogen is extracted from the air to make the nitrogen compounds which is the particular feature of the proposition before us, and then afterwards develop the ammonia salts—if by the undertaking is meant these manufactures and processes, then it should be specified clearly. At present there is absolutely no definition of what it means. There has already been some comment on the point of beginning actual construction. There is no undertaking to go on with the construction even if it has only spent five dollars. The next point is more important. "to spend a sum of five million dollars within the Island of Newfoundland in and about the business operations of the Company within five years from the date of these presents, and if the Company fails to begin such work or expend such money within the times mentioned this agreement shall be void." Now I wish to dwell upon this feature, that in clause 2 to which I have directed your attention there is an undertaking to spend ten million dollars on the Labrador on the Company's water powers plant and works. There is no such undertaking in this clause. It can be spent in connection with the business of the Company, in connection with the operations of the Company.

Now there is nothing in the clause that lays down that the business of the Company shall be carbide works or ammonia plants. It has already been pointed out that it may be anything within the limits of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and may not contain one single factory connected with the fertilizer scheme. That is the dangerous clause. I am not attributing to the Reid Brothers or any of the promoters that it is their intention to collar the resources without spending money on the construction of a plant; but the promoters of this Company may fail absolutely to raise the eight million dollars talked of by the Premier, or even the five million mentioned in this contract, and they may fail absolutely within the next year. They may fail to get the money and may fail to put up an fertilizer plant at Bay of Islands, and if they do fail to do development work at Bay of Islands in connection with the fertilizer plant or the development of the water powers the agreement will necessarily be void and all the concessions laid here. Now I wish to point out that here there is a means by which the promoters can conserve all those interests and retain all the benefits of the Contract without spending one cent upon construction work should they fail to obtain this money through no fault of their own, or through no fault of their own. Should they fail to obtain this money and do any development work there is means of retaining all the concessions under the Contract so far as Newfoundland is concerned without spending one cent at Bay of Islands on the water powers or on the fertilizer plant. I would like to point out how it can be done, and how it is likely to be done if it is necessary to do it. All that is necessary is for the Products Company

to pay five million dollars in bonds for the holdings of the Reid Newfoundland Company for their lands or water powers or anything else they have, and if they spend five million dollars in acquiring these properties and rights from the Reid Newfoundland Company they satisfy this section, and retain all the rights given in regard to Newfoundland. What does that mean? It probably means that so far as they are concerned all they have to do is to take five million dollars out of one pocket and put it into another. Take five million dollars worth of bonds from the Products Company and put it into the Reid Nfd. Company and they have satisfied the contract without the expenditure of one cent. Now, Sir, this is not good enough. I am not accusing them of an intention to do this; but I am pointing out that it can be done, and if it is done it satisfies the contract, and they retain all the concessions given. That is why I say if there is a specific undertaking by the Company to spend five million dollars in Newfoundland on the development of water powers, and on the construction of these factories, and electric furnaces, carbide plants, chemical plants, and all such undertakings; if there is a sound undertaking, and it is the intention that the Agreement shall fail if these undertakings are not carried out, then we ought to be careful as to this proposal. If there is no undertaking then the consideration given for the Contract, is illusory and useless, and we are grasping at a shadow; giving up substantial interests and getting nothing in return. Now Sir, may I point out another reason why we put temptation in the way of the Reid Newfoundland Company to transfer its landed interests to the Products Company. Under the Railway Contract the land of the Reid Newfoundland Company becomes taxable, a subject to taxation immediately it is improved and worked upon; whereas if the Reid Nfd. Co. transferred its landed interests to the new company, they escape all taxation in regard to improved land; and not only do they escape all taxation in regard to improved land, but they get the benefit of getting all the concessions given in this Contract in regard to Newfoundland without spending one cent in construction work. Now, Sir, as I have already pointed out you ought to treat this proposition as a business proposition—that a suitable return should be given to us, and that that suitable return should take the form of an undertaking that the whole contract shall fail, unless this money is actually expended in regard to these factories and water powers at Bay of Islands.

With regard to the other concession, the concession throughout the rest of the interior of Newfoundland, as they are unconnected with any clear business proposition for the carrying on of any work then they ought to be rejected, and rejected absolutely because it has nothing to do with any definite proposition of development. I have already illustrated that the great industries of England rest on the coal fields and should any one corporation control the coal fields they would control every manufacturing industry in England. The water powers in Newfoundland in regard to our development stand in the same relation and unless in connection with some specific undertaking no water power should be given; and this throwing in of water powers over the whole interior of Newfoundland for no purpose whatever except to enable the Reid Newfoundland Company to control the interior to a greater extent in order to make better bargains in any future promoting scheme is totally without justification.

I have already drawn attention to the fact that there is a great temptation for the Reid Newfoundland Company to place all its lands under the new Company in order to escape taxation when these lands are developed. Now I regard the proposals in regard to taxation as altogether unreasonable. Reasonable concessions might be an exemption from municipal taxation for a period of years. For my part I would be quite content to give a twenty year exemption. I would be prepared to give them exemption in regard to construction material and some limited exemption in regard to raw material; and also to give an undertaking that these raw materials should only be taxable to a very limited extent; but I am not prepared to assent to the proposition that shares and particularly their dividends—no matter what dividends may be declared, shall be forever free from taxation. In fact I cannot conceive for what purpose—except to see how much it was possible to get out of the legislature—any body of reasonable men should approach a legislature and ask that no matter what profits they may make forever they should never be subject to any taxation, except it might be on coal. It is an absolutely unreasonable and improper concession to ask for. I hope the Government will take into consideration the various objections and criticisms made from this side of the House. I would commend to their serious attention the remarks which have

come from this side. They have not been made from any party standpoint. I am prepared to vote for reasonable concessions in connection with a business proposition where there is an undertaking that the money shall be spent in actual development of water powers and actual construction work; provided the concessions in regard to taxation be more reasonable and be limited in time; and that with regard to dividends within five or six years after they have been paying dividends some reasonable contribution should be made towards the upkeep of the country; but I am not prepared to support the giving away of all our valuable water powers all over the Island not only for nothing but for no object—absolutely no object except it may be to put them in the control of a body of men who already are in control of very much. We do not object to the Reid Brothers getting concessions because they are the Reid Bros; and we do not object to them getting water powers if it is for reasonable development purposes; but we ask and fairly ask that a proper bargain be made with them and if we give up water powers to the Reid Newfoundland Company and the Reid Brothers, they should give something in return. I do not think if we give them a very valuable water power on the Labrador and ask them in return to hand back some of the fee simple lands of the country, or that they undertake to develop these lands which they have so far been able to develop that we would be asking too much. If we give them these valuable concessions they should give us something in return.

If they are prepared to come to us with any kind of a fair deal I am prepared to support it; but if this is the proposition I am not prepared to support it, and I shall endeavor to prevent it going through, even if I have to remain here all the summer.

An Appeal

The proposal that the Colony of Newfoundland should furnish two Aeroplanes for the Imperial Air Flotilla has met with general approval, and a Committee has been formed to collect funds for that purpose.

Living as we are, far from the scene of conflict, peacefully and quietly following our usual vocations, it is hard to realise that the British nation is fighting for its life. Yet such is the case.

Think what this means. The future of the Empire and of each part thereof—of Newfoundland as well as of England—depends upon the issue.

In the past, we have enjoyed the fullest security without being asked to pay any part of the cost. But now we are called upon to help to the best of our power and ability in the defence of the Empire.

Fifteen hundred of Newfoundland's sons have volunteered for the Army and one thousand more have joined the Navy, and an opportunity is now offered to help another most important branch of the Service—the branch that supplies vision and intelligence to both Army and Navy. His Majesty, the King, Lord Kitchener and Mr. Lloyd George, have all strongly urged the necessity of increasing the number of Aeroplanes. It is proposed that all the colonies shall furnish one or more aircraft, to be named after the localities giving them, and many colonies have already responded to the call.

Newfoundland must have its representatives among the Imperial Air Fleet. The Committee hopes that it may be possible to send two Gnome Vickers Gun Biplanes, complete with Gun, to cost \$11,250.00 each.

Give what you can to help, be it much or little, and give quickly, as the need is urgent.

Subscriptions will be received by the Treasurer, Mr. Clift, and will be acknowledged in the daily papers.

W. G. GOSLING,

Chairman Aeroplane Com.

After living on bread and cheese and kisses in a cottage for a few weeks, the young married couple begin to economise by cutting out the kisses.

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