

The Daily Mail

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All correspondence on business and editorial matters should be addressed to Dr. H. M. Mosdell, Managing Editor.

Letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only and the real name of the author should be attached. This will not be used unless consent be given in the communication.

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MARCH 19, 1914

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

HOUSE OF REFUGE.

This Country possesses a House of Refuge.

Not a public house of refuge but a house of refuge for public men who fall by the way in the political race.

It is commonly known as the Legislative Council.

Politicians who are chased from public life by the people find it a hiding-place from the storm of popular disapproval.

M. P. Gibbs found it a useful back door to the public life of this Colony. In his case the various electoral districts he contested slammed the front door in his face.

John Alexander Robinson, for the same reason, was also forced to avail himself of the same convenient, even if undignified, mode of entrance.

Into this port of political delinquents also drifted P. T. McGrath for whom there was never any prospect of a haven in an electoral district for there was no body of electors "so poor as to do him reverence."

And now the roll of political orphans in the Legislative Council is increased by the appointment thereto of Sydney D. Blandford and Richard Anderson Squires.

By utilising it in this way the Legislative Council is being perverted from its original purpose.

It was intended as a sort of brake on the legislative machinery of the Country. It was created for the purpose of windowing out the chaff from the wheat of legislation passed by the House of Assembly.

The Country looks to it to take a dispassionate, non-partisan view of public measures submitted to its consideration by the Assembly.

This, we believe, is the spirit in which the Old Wing of the Upper House are prepared to act. It is but reasonable, though, to expect that the New Wing of Councillors, appointed for reasons of party expediency, will be but little less partisan in the Legislative Council than they would be in the House of Assembly.

In this way the Legislative Council bids fair to be perverted from its original purpose.

But this is by no means the most serious aspect of the question.

A body created to serve the public has been transformed into a means of flouting the public.

No matter how emphatical the expression of popular disapproval of a public man may be there is no longer the certainty that an adverse verdict at the polls will drive him from public life.

Instead of being forced to hide his head in dismay at the disapproval of the electorate, he may at the will and pleasure of a political party be exalted to a place of the highest dignity.

Such a line of conduct is, of course, inevitably bound to lower the dignity of the Legislative Council and to bring it into absolute contempt amongst our people.

More than this, they are bound to conceive a deep and lasting resentment against an institution that is utilised time and again as a means of flouting their judgment and setting their expressed will at naught by parading before them the very men they refused to accept as their representatives.

To what avail the voice of the people declaring "We will not have these men make our laws," if on the other hand a band of politicians declares, "It is necessary and expedient to us that these men remain in public life and, therefore, we will place them where they will have as much to say in the enactment of legislation as if you had elected them to the fustian of Assembly?"

Evidently we are far—very far—removed from those specious days

"when none was for the party and all were for the state."

We have a Government to-day that specialises in partisan administration. Everything is so ordered that the party may not suffer.

If the will of the people-run counter to party interests then the will of the people must be defied.

If the people show a practical desire to oust a politician from public life, and this expressed desire does not accord with party expediency, then it must be ignored.

If popular opinion dictate a course of action that would jeopardise party safety, then popular opinion must be disregarded.

This is the essence of partisan government.

It is the principle of autocracy that excludes the people from the direction of public affairs.

It is the species of politics that uses the people to boost a party into power and then does not hesitate to act as if the people were absolutely non-existent.

To argue that the people of this Country will tolerate such an unbearable condition of things is to presume the non-existence of a public conscience.

We repudiate such an insulting contention and we look for a general expression of popular indignation at the action of the Morris Government in placing R. A. Squires and Sydney D. Blandford in the Legislative Council and at the same time making them Ministers of the Crown.

And the Government will surely learn to their sorrow, that no party ever offended the public conscience, but first or last, it was revenged upon them for it.

ROMANCE AND REALITY.

The pronouncement of the self-interested political camp-followers of the present Government would persuade us to believe that the three great lights of this Country are, first the sun; second the moon and third, Sir Edward Morris.

And the speeches and writings of the Premier himself aim at creating the same impression.

And we are entirely of the opinion that, if you discount them one hundred per cent, the claims made on behalf of the present Government are perfectly correct.

"The present Government," says Sir Edward Morris, "has done more for the people than any Government which preceded it."

Sir Edward was always particularly good at telling old wives' tales.

This is one of his masterpieces of fiction.

During the period of six years that the Morris Government have held office they have done absolutely nothing to stimulate or foster the industrial life of this Colony. There is not a single new industry that they can point to as of their creation; not one established industry that they can claim to have encouraged to increase its output and so to add to its staff of wage earners.

They have spent close on a Quarter of a Million Dollars on an Agricultural Policy that has not stimulated agriculture in any way. In fact they cannot point to a single acre of land cleared and put under cultivation because of the institution of the Morris Agricultural Policy.

There has been no development of our forest wealth. Exploitation of this great natural resource there has been, but it has tended to the advantage of Party favorites and not to the advantage of the people.

No movement whatever has been instituted to create new avenues of employment by the development of our mineral resources.

And the fishing industry, the great industrial stand-by of the Country has not been helped or encouraged in any way.

Not a single new market has been opened up.

Not a single improvement has been made in conditions in our old markets.

Nothing has been done to encourage the adoption of modern methods in the catching and curing of our codfish or our herring.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries is as useless to the fishermen as it has always been.

The Bait supply problem has been absolutely untouched.

To quote Sir Edward himself, there has been a state of "stagnation and depression" ever since the Morris Government assumed the reins of power.

More than this, Sir Edward's own supporters have actually stood in the way of the accomplishment of necessary reforms in our industrial conditions.

Thus we have P. T. McGrath, nominated to the Legislative Council for reasons of party expediency disparaging the Coaker Sealing Bill, the most beneficial measure introduced into our local legislature for many years.

And we have the same Morris mouth piece defending the action of our Upper House in administering its quietus to the Coaker Logging Bill which aimed at the reform of conditions at the

loggers' camps and in the lumber-woods.

So that the specious claim advanced by Sir Edward Morris is empty and hollow, absolutely lacking the substance of truth.

It, indeed, amounts to nothing more than that species of unmerited self-praise that

"Seeks to enhance his value in the eyes Of those with whom he mingles."

BRITAIN WATCHES OVER INTERESTS OF HER SUBJECTS

No Matter Where They Are in Wide World—That is Why Old Land Is Stirred By

THE BENTON MURDER INCIDENT
Notable Instances of the Nations Which Have Been Punished For Harming British Subjects.

The killing of Mr. W. S. Benton, a British subject, at Juarez, by the Mexican Constitutionalists, and the cabled despatches that great indignation thereat is being felt in the Old Country, remind one that, time and again, within comparatively recent years, the people of Great Britain have evinced a very resolute determination that the rights of British citizenship shall be respected throughout the world. The whole question of what are the rights of a subject resident in another, is one as to which authorities differ. But, at least, it is plain that the Governments of civilized nations extend the mantle of their protection, to a very large degree, over their subjects in foreign countries, and, in fact, in extreme cases, they are wont to demur to the denial, or to the application, of the laws of such countries, when denied, or applied, in a manner which subjects of such countries might have to endure without protest.

Nor is this only so in the case of manifest harshness. But the doctrine holds good even in respect of laws which are not, in themselves, unobjectionable. For instance, no Government will allow one of its subjects resident in a foreign country to be compelled to serve in the army or navy of that country, even though conscription be in force there. Were we living in the days when Lord Palmerston was at the British Foreign Office, it is not improbable that he would have found occasion, without too careful an enquiry into the merits, for a repetition, of the Benton case, of his famous "Civics Romanus Sum" speech.

Don Pacifico.

That speech was made not in connection with any killing of a British subject, but with regard to the attacking and plundering, in the year 1847, of an Athenian mob, in the living of Don Pacifico, a Portuguese Jew, living in Athens, but, nevertheless, a British subject. The attack was lawless, and Don Pacifico received no aid from the Greek authorities. He estimated his losses at something around a hundred and sixty thousand dollars. And, as it happened, Great Britain had several other complaints against Greece, while Lord Palmerston also suspected both France and Russia of intriguing against Great Britain in that country. Outrages on Ionian subjects of Great Britain, an arrest (by mistake) of a British midshipman, and other matters, all swelled up the total of the British claims. These were all lumped together, converted into a national claim, and the demand made that Greece must pay up or take the consequences. Greece was dilatory, and the British fleet proceeded to the Pireaus and seized all Greek vessels. The Greek Government appealed to France and Russia.

The subject came up in the British House of Commons, and gave Lord Palmerston the opportunity of making the speech of his life. He spoke from the dusk of one day to the dawn of another, concluding by a powerful appeal to the House to say that just as the Roman was free from indignity when he could say "Civis Romanus Sum," ("I am a Roman citizen"), so also a British subject should feel confident that the watchful eye and the strong arm of his country would protect him against injustice. The whole affair was really of a trumpery description, but Palmerston's speech saved the Ministry at a critical moment. As regards Don Pacifico, his claim was ultimately settled by arbitration, and he was found to be entitled to about a thirtieth of it. But he nearly brought on a European war.

Summary Vengeance.

It is impossible to read the history of the reconquest of India by the British after the Indian Mutiny without, as it has been well said, coming to the conclusion that in the minds of many of them a temporary prostration of the moral sense took place, "under the influence of which they came to regard

the enemy's guilt as the standard for their right of retaliation." Against this doctrine Disraeli vehemently protested, calling on his fellow-countrymen not to make the fiend, Nana Sahib, a model for their imitation. One act of summary vengeance, committed by a British officer, stands out particularly.

A young officer named Hodson of "Hodson's Horse" discovered that the King of Delhi and his family had taken refuge in a tomb—its size of a village—with a vast crowd of armed adherents. With but a few troopers, Hodson daring called on them to surrender—and surrender they did. Hodson tried, condemned, and killed three princes on the spot. Borrowing a carbine from one of his troopers, he shot them dead one after the other, with his own hand, and exposed their corpses on the gates of Delhi. In Great Britain his act was generally applauded, though it aroused not a little criticism. Nana Sahib's lieutenant, Tanita Topee, when captured, was tried for his share in the Cawnpore massacre and hanged, while the King of Delhi was transported.

Against Abyssinia

In 1868, a successful punitive expedition into Abyssinia was conducted by Great Britain. A number of British subjects, both men and women, had been seized and held in duress by Theodore, the king of that country. Among these was Captain Cameron, the British Consul at Massowah, with his secretary and servants. They were made prisoners while actually engaged in official business of the British Government, and the expedition was formally charged to recover them, as well as other captives held by Theodore, including a number of missionaries. It was said that this monarch, who claimed descent from the Queen of Sheba, had been desirous of marrying Queen Victoria. At any rate, he fancied himself slighted by Great Britain.

The expedition against Theodore was completely successful. His rock fortress of Magdala was completely destroyed, nothing being left of it but blackened rock. Five hundred Abyssinians were killed, and fifteen hundred wounded in the engagement in front of Magdala, while not one of the British force was killed, and only nineteen wounded.

The Ashantee War

In 1870 a punitive expedition was despatched to the Red River region to put down the Riel rebellion. Riel, however, eluded it, but it was successful in establishing the authority of the Canadian Government in that part of the world. Lord Wolseley (then Colonel Wolseley), was in command of this expedition, and he also commanded another expedition on a much larger scale, which was despatched to Ashantee two years later. The Ashantee king had been harassing British settlers, and Mr. Gladstone's Government determined to inflict a blow on him. Accordingly, Lord Wolseley's expedition was despatched. The British defeated the Ashantees everywhere they could get at them, and ultimately forced their way to Comassie, the Ashantee capital, where they compelled the king to come to terms, one of the conditions being the prohibition of human sacrifices.

IMPORTANT MEETING

An important meeting of the Grenfell Association will be held in Boston on Saturday, 28th, and Monday, 30th.

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

I look for the new teacher that shall follow so far the shining laws, that he shall see them come full circle; shall see their rounding complete grace; shall see the world to be the mirror of the soul; shall see the identity of the law of gravitation with purity of heart; and shall show that the Ought, that duty, is one thing with science, with beauty and with joy.—Emerson.

POEMS OLD AND NEW.

WHO GUIDES THY FLIGHT?

Bird on the wing, who guides thy flight?
Who trims thy course aright
Across morass and sea?
Who taught thee thy felicity
Of flight, maternity and song,
Thy love unquenchable and strong,
Thy wealth of service to the human cause?
Who taught thee circling midst the clouds, to pause,
And, like an arrow, twanged from bended bow,
Winged to thine eyrie down below?
Bird on the wing, who taught thee how thy nest to twine,
To choose just colors that combine
To please thine artist eye?
Who taught thee, Bird, thy love-call and thy cry?
Who mapped for thee the cloud-realm of the sky?
—George Klinge.

Important Notice!

The Fraser Machine & Motor Co. for the purpose of reorganizing and enlarging their plant, lately went into voluntary liquidation; the organization is now complete, much more capital has been subscribed to meet the growing demands of the business, and this year double as many FRASER engines will be built as last year. There is no other engine so popular in Newfoundland or Canada as the FRASER, and with the New Company we can promise better service and deliveries than in the past, when many had to wait for their engines, as we could not get them from the factory fast enough. All orders now booked we can ship at a moment's notice. FRANKLIN'S AGENCIES, LTD., St. John's, Newfoundland, Agents.—Feb 28

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Due to arrive on Wednesday, January 14th, ex BEATRICE a small cargo of SCREENED.

W. H. HYNES, East End Coal Dealer

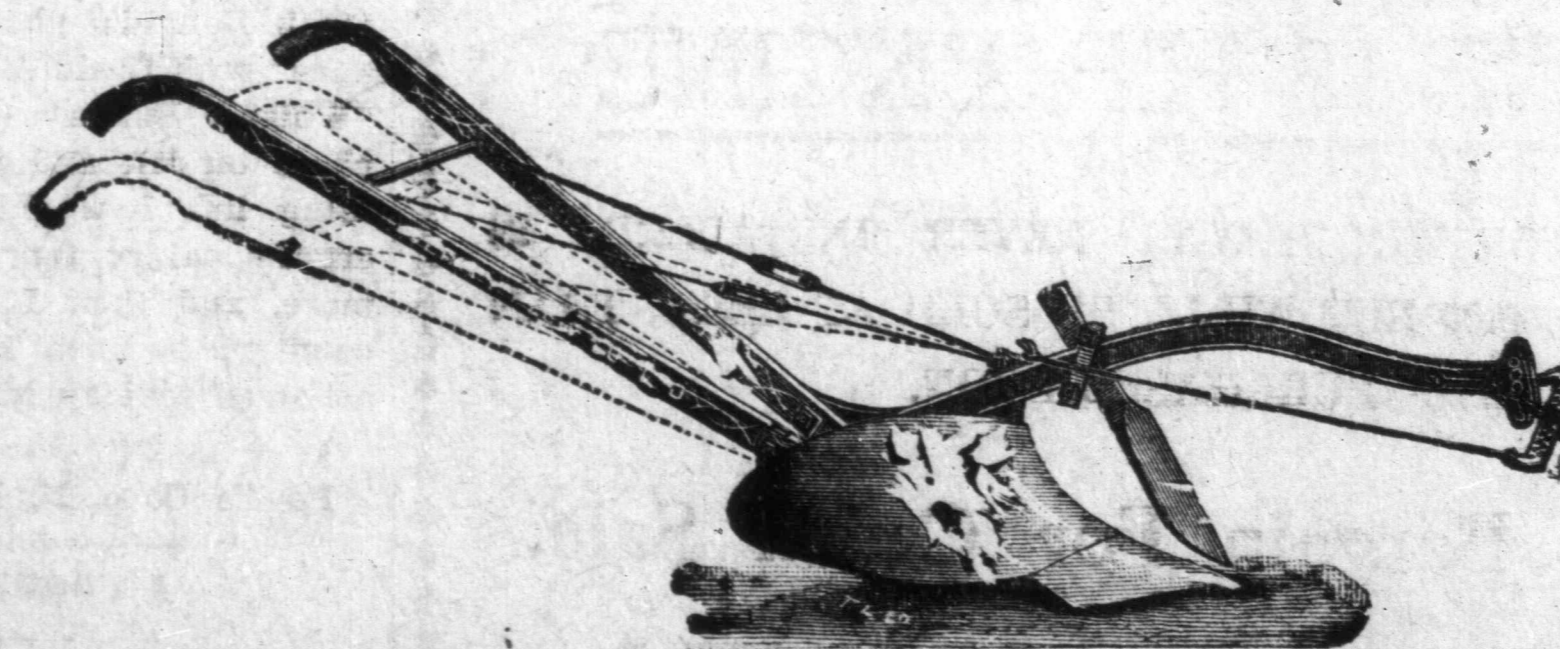
TENDERS for Furness Line Pier

The date for the receiving of Tender for the above work has been extended to Saturday, March 21st, noon.

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JOHN COWAN, Agent for Newfoundland.

Jan 21, 3m.w.f

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