

Acadian Recorder Halifax Nov. 18/24
Maritime Prov^s

058393

REPLY TO A. C. MORTON.

Letter from W. P. Buckley as to his recent communications.

EDITOR DAILY RECORDER :

Resident Nova Scotians in their fight against unnatural trade and living conditions are, no doubt, grateful for the helpful expressions of sympathy and encouragement received from the great majority of their absent sons and daughters who have been forced elsewhere to earn a living.

On the other hand, in marked contrast, a few buxantious, ill-informed young Bluenoses whomiserably failed to eke out a decent living here and settled in more favored provinces call the old folks slackers and slumberers. By so doing they may please and curry-favor with the big interests they now serve.

In any event, it seems clear that they aim to cloud and prevent public investigation and improvement of the economic position of private and public business in this Province. The effrontery of those deserters is beyond description. Perhaps it should also be beyond notice.

Every thoughtful person who has remained here to keep the home fires burning realizes there is something seriously wrong with the conditions under which we seek to live. Steadily these conditions are becoming more difficult and threatening. The cause and remedy should be found, despite the calumny and libel of a few unsympathetic outsiders who know nothing of our cause and care less.

One illustrious and outstanding son, now of Montreal, A. C. Morton, in denouncing and reviling our people, paints out the vast sums of outside money spent here.

Let it be granted, that his statements in regard to the terminals, Dalhousie and the explosion are true. What do they prove? Manifestly, that the effect of adverse conditions would have been felt more keenly if those expenditures had not been made.

Notwithstanding the political expenditures made or to be made here, the average Nova Scotian cannot keep his head above water. He is weighed down by the cost of living and prohibitive freight rates and is denied natural lines of trade.

He is ready to work but conditions, over which he has no control, are against him. Under the present economic policies of Canada there is no opportunity in this province for the average Bluenose to make a proper living. If ten times as much outside money and patronage were spent here it would not alter basic or fundamental conditions one iota. The benefit could only be temporary and confined to a relatively few persons in the immediate field of the expenditures.

His reference to the fact that our people will not invest in new enterprises is equally simple and puerile. Very properly they won't invest under present conditions. Once bitten, twice shy. They have all tried it and know that industry cannot succeed against adverse economic conditions. A few enterprises with long established trade names may continue but new ones cannot get under way. Let unbelievers try it. No one will hinder them. The coast is clear.

In one of his letters Mr. Morton seemed piqued that someone had intimated that perhaps Nova Scotia had been put into Confederation and into an unnatural and uneconomic union in order that a few rival politicians might strut and pose upon a larger stage. He evidently does not know that such a remark is not new. It embodies briefly and directly the words of Hon. J. W. Johnston, who in 1865 wrote: "The opportunity of rising to degrees of political influence,..... which cannot be reached in small and contracted communities."

However, if Mr. Morton has seen fit to give up the fight here for service of larger interests elsewhere, he might with charity and grace, allow Nova Scotians who have preferred to remain at home to work out their own salvation and public betterment and welfare.

Be it known that Nova Scotia is not seeking doles or patronage. It wants only justice and the right to live. If there be doubt about our rights and needs as there seems to be, let there be a searching public enquiry into conditions, and when Mr. Morton and his ilk are called to testify, it will be shown that they do not know whereof they write.

WM. P. BUCKLEY.

RECORDS PAPERS, Series 5 (H.S. 2, I, Volume 107)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA