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(By OBSERVATOR.)

"Now, to begin at the beginning. And come directly to the point. I think the country's underpinning is quite considerably out of joint. I am not going to try your patience by telling you who did this or that. I don't attempt insinuations. I just let you know a fact."

"RAINBOW CHASING" OVER THE LABRADOR BOUNDARY.

Now that the "Humber Development" and "Railway Settlement" Bills have been disposed of by the Legislature, it is only reasonable to assume that we shall soon hear something definite about the "Labrador Boundary Question." If no other reliable information can be obtained there, it would be of some interest to the taxpaying public to know just what our "rainbow chasing" in that direction has cost the Colony the past year or two. The history of the whole affair has rather a fishy flavor about it. To refresh the reader's memory, let me recall the facts of the case. One fall the Dominion cruiser Montcalm brought from Quebec to Hamilton Inlet a party of nine surveyors, a lawyer, and a specially-appointed surveyor, and they established themselves at the head of Lake Melville, a salt-water basin 110 miles from the coast line, building a camp and clearing a field, and branding trees and rocks with the legend "Province of Quebec." During the winter they surveyed the basin and inlet, and rivers emptying into them, and subsequently, after presumably satisfying themselves of the merits of their case, the special Sheriff seized the trading company's logs in due form and declared them forfeited to the Province he represented. An agreement was reached whereby the Company was allowed to give bonds and continue to work at sawing the timber, as there was no disposition to cripple the company in its operations; but, as a result of this interference and the uncertainty regarding the outcome, the company soon suspended operations.

HAMILTON INLET AND THE QUEBEC SURVEYORS.

Those of us who have visited the coast know that Hamilton Inlet is an arm of the sea that extends into the heart of the Labrador hinterland for 140 miles, the salt water being perceptible that far and the tide rising and falling noticeably there, while the incoming flood "backs up" the river water, in the form of a tide, for some further distance inland. The Quebec surveyors established themselves on, and appeared to regard as part of their Province, the territory thirty miles nearer the sea. Yet the one fact clearly affirmed by the Alaska arbitrator was that the "coast" followed the sinuosities of the land, and wherever the waterfront was washed by the salt sea that strand was part of the "coast." If this principle be applied to the present controversy, it is manifest that Canada cannot make good her title to Lake Melville's borders, seeing that the ocean penetrates several miles still further inland. Clearly, then, Canada is about to advance in this case, the headland theory, and claim that Newfoundland is only entitled to the actual Atlantic coast line. Even this, however, will involve the question of how far back such a "line" should be construed as extending, since the permanent settlers on the outer sea-face are in the habit of withdrawing up the rivers some 20 or 30 miles inland each winter to obtain shelter from the furious blizzards which assail the outer margin and to pursue the trapping industry amid the snow-clad forests, when wild denizens there yield the finest peltries. The settlers also use the wood from these forests for firing, for building houses and boats, and for the construction of fishing stations; and if Newfoundland should be restricted to such a mere littoral occupancy as Canada claims, these people would be prevented from using the nearer hinterland any longer.

NEWFOUNDLANDS PREPONDERATING INFLUENCE.

The indisputed possession of all this territory by the people mentioned for all these years, the fact that the Hudson Bay Company has paid duties on all goods landed at these posts, whether intended for their own use or for barter to the Indian tribes of the interior, and the recognized preponderating influence of Newfoundland in the region for a century or more, should make it difficult for Canada, with any show of justice, to push Newfoundland back to a mere fringe of coast, and secure all the rest of the "principality" for herself. In 1894 the Dominion Government extended the boundaries of Quebec Province northward and eastward, by including in the Province a portion of Ungava territory, so as to give her an outlet to Hudson Bay and the eastern portion of the Mingan district beyond the Saguenay, and extending to the western boundary of Labrador. This latter, though, was not described; and it is a significant circumstance that while the Canadian maps published many years ago represented Newfoundland as owning a large section of Labrador, each succeeding issue shows her area there on a diminished scale, until now she is indicated by a barely visible line along the seaboard.

GOVERNOR BANNERMAN'S REPORT.

In 1892 Governor Bannerman reported to the Duke of Newcastle, then Colonial Minister, that the Newfoundland Government intended to establish courts and Custom Houses on Labrador, and to impose the same duties that are levied under the annual revenue acts here, adding that "forty years before an attempt to collect duties was made, and was resisted by the wealthy fishing firms there, but that Earl Russell, then Colonial Minister, informed the Governor that, as a dependency of the Colony, there could be no question as to the legality of levying the same duties there that were levied at St. John's," in which view the Duke of Newcastle concurred. This is the region that Quebec and the Dominion of Canada, as the paramount power there, have challenged Newfoundland's right to. The Hudson Bay Company had formerly the exclusive right of trading with the Indians of that part of the region, which had rivers flowing into the bay, from which the company takes its name; but the Company sold out this right to Canada in 1870, and Canada is therefore the owner to-day of all the watershed, thus embraced, and has sovereign jurisdiction over it. But the point has never been made, until recently, that Canada possesses any sovereignty over the territory watered by the rivers that flow eastward to the Atlantic; and to the unbiased mind, this would appear the ideal solution—for the "height of land" or watershed to be the political as well as the geographical dividing line.

THE ORIGINAL BOUNDARY.

It seems that the original boundary was the St. John River to the Hudson Bay. In 1824, however, in Governor Cochrane's commission, the boundaries are described as "from the entrance of Hudson Strait to a line to be drawn due north and south from Anse Sablon, on the said coast, to the 52nd degree of north latitude, and all the islands adjacent to the said coast of Labrador." This provokes discussion as to what is Hudson Strait: does it begin at Cape Chidley, as modern maps show, or at Cape Hope's advance on the west side of Ungava Bay, as the ancient cartographers put it? If the latter, as would seem natural in a proclamation, drafted from a map 80 or 90 years old, then such a boundary line would give

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Newfoundland a very large slice of the hinterland; but if the former, then it would not even give her the whole coast line, because this curves westward at one point and a line drawn from Cape Chidley to the fifty-second parallel, at the point described, would give her control over only the northern and southern sections of the coast, leaving the middle removed from her authority. This, it is clear from the wording of the clause and from the whole administrative practice of a hundred years, was never intended, and therefore such a boundary line as is defined is impossible, and cannot be regarded as binding upon Newfoundland. On the other hand, the Canadians bitterly contest the theory that Ungava Bay is within our jurisdiction.

THE PARTY LEADER AND HIS PECULIARITIES.

Party leaders, in small communities like ours, are often more notorious than famous because of the short contrast between their utterances and their actions. A local critic who has studied one of them pretty closely seems to "hold the mirror up to nature" with considerable accuracy. He thinks the said leader's utterances should be dated, like vintage. He may not have changed. Possibly in his inner convictions he has not changed. But circumstances have changed, the perspective has altered. Friends have become foes and foes have proffered their friendship. Hence the opinions of to-day need to be adjusted to the circumstances of to-day; it is the inevitable result of the influence of environment. In the Museum there is a most interesting series of groups of stuffed birds and beasts, showing the difference between their appearance in summer and then winter. The ptarmigans and the Arctic hares, which are brown in summer and white in winter, are no doubt perfectly consistent ptarmigans and hares. It is only their coat which is readjusted to altered circumstances. So it is with the leader in question. He is the same leader. But he wears another coat. The truth is that he is the supreme special pleader in politics. There never was any one to equal him in that respect with the exception of Lord Morris, and as he grows older he seems to surpass himself. He has supplied a complete set of arguments for almost every point of view in politics. He has described Toryism from a Radical point of view, and Radicalism from a Tory point of view; he has taken every prominent local leader in detail—Sir Hugh Hovell, Sir Ambrose Shea, Sir Frederick Carter, and half a dozen others—and shown us first their evil and then their angelic side, or vice versa. The great measures which were

twenty years ago to inspire the democracy and lead them into their promised land, are now, according to the same authority, the turbulent ravings of diseased minds. However, in view of the many difficulties by which he is confronted, from time to time, it is barely doing him justice to say that he has displayed a considerable amount of political tact and ability. As the poet puts it:—
"To win the prize in the world's great race,
A man should have a brazen face:
An iron arm to give a stroke
And a heart as sturdy as an oak;
Eyes like a cat, good in the dark,
And teeth as piercing as a shark;
Ears to hear the gentlest sound
Like moles that crawl in silent ground;
And stomach stronger than an ox;
His tongue should be a razor blade,
His conscience India-rubber made;
His blood as cold as Polar ice,
His hand as grasping as a vice;
His shoulders should be adequate
To bear a couple of thousand weight;
His legs like pillars, firm and strong
To move the great machine along;
With supple knees to crouch and crawl,
And cloven feet placed under all."

JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND THE PARENTS.

"How do you account for the presence of so many juvenile offenders in the Police Court these days?" asked a city clergyman of me the other forenoon, as we walked down from the Temple of Justice. "Is it due to lack of restraint on the part of parents, or has the boy of to-day more wild oats to sow than his predecessor?" "I am more than half inclined to think that parents of our time have not the same control over their children as had our grandfathers and grandmothers, or even our good old fathers and mothers. The mother's influence doesn't count these days, and the father has 'too much else to think about.'"

LIMITATIONS OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY.

And here I am reminded that, according to the present law of England, children have only one parent—their father. With him is vested the sole control of their custody, maintenance, education and religion, and even in the event of his proved unfitness legal proceedings are required to limit his rights. By the way, there is now before a Joint Committee of both Houses of the Imperial Parliament a Bill which puts an end to this anomaly and declares that both parents shall enjoy equal status as guardians of their children. The Bill further gives effect to its own intention by modifying the law as to maintenance orders. At present only the High Courts and County Courts can take cognisance of guardianship cases and the expense involved deprives the average working-class mother of her rights. This hardship is remedied by providing that cases in which the sums involved do not exceed two dollars a week, may be dealt with by ordinary magistrates. The principle which the Bill seeks to enact is so self-evident, and the practical application of it is so thoroughly reasonable.

THE RESULT OF Muddled THINKING.

As to the general objection that in every marriage one or other parent is master and that the Bill contradicts facts by putting both parents on an equality, it is the result of muddled thinking. No doubt, one or

other parent is master, but the present law declares that mastery is permanently vested in the father, and it is only under the provisions of the new Bill that the Courts will be enabled to judge guardianship cases on their merits. The present law, in fact, codifies a theory of women as the weaker vessel, which is now entirely obsolete. "We are committed to a re-organization of society on the basis of sex-equality, and in the interests of orderly social development it is essential that the principle should be given full application in legal practice."

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

My attention has just been called to an extraordinary case of political bribery and corruption; but, in the absence of details, I shall, at present, make only passing reference to it. If I cared to do so, I could draw a very proper parallel between the case in question and that of an ordinary case of bribery and corruption. The comparison would not be favorable to the accused. I suppose the latter and the public in general have heard the story of the outboard man and the mule. It was originally told me by the late Mr. John Boone, who always enjoyed a good joke himself and humored it in others. "What is the difference," asked an outboard man of St. Barbe one day of him, "between a mule and a donkey?" The outboard man, of course, had never seen any member of the Equus family. "My dear fellow," responded his friend, a mule is a donkey, only more so!" Now, the accused in this case should be made to know that his conduct is a very flagrant example of bribery and corruption, "only more so," and the mulish conduct of the said accused in this connection accentuates the flagitious offence. His bribery and corruption are of the wholesale order. Appointed to a position of great responsibility, he basely, meanly and clandestinely sells his trust for money. He sells what does not belong to him for money, and he pockets that money himself. What is to be said of such a man as that? Why there are beggars and crossin' sweepers on our streets who would scorn to do an action so reprehensible, far-reaching and demoralizing in its effect. The average party politician of to-day is a good deal like Mr. Hosea Biglow's "Pious Editor," who says:—
"I do believe in being this
On that, as it may happen,
One way or 't'other handiest is
To catch the people napping;
It ain't by principles nor men
My prudent course is staided—
I scent which party the best and then
Go into it baldheaded."

Fads and Fashions.

Almost every conceivable form of a panel is used on the summer frock. A sleeveless wrap-around dress of crepe de chine is headed off over in self color. A deep contrasting material may edge the inevitable apron tunic of one's frock. Clusters of fine petals are used on the straight skirt of a crepe de chine frock. Light summer frocks favor the hand-made chon as a dainty finish to their girdles. Clusters of plait are used at the sides of the front and the back of a straight skirt.



When you are "wandering around again" or at functions where full dress is usually worn, don't you feel out of place with a jacket on? Now is the time to leave your order for Full Dress or Tuxedo. Our prices for these Suits are remarkably reasonable. For special parades, or social calls, we can give you something within your means in a Prince Albert, or Morning Coat. We specialize in these garments.

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Paris wisely choose black and white as distinctive in the riot of summer colors.

Deliciously absurd rubber earrings dangle from the ears of the "beach flapper."

Inserts of plaited black net are charming on a frock of blue and green organdie.

A red jet belt is worn on a frock of white marocain with entre-deux of black Georgette.

With a frock of black and white printed crepe a scarlet hat and sunshade are effective.

A charming mid-summer motif note is the velvet hat trimmed with white organdie.

A row of pearl buttons travels way down the front of a frock of low garbandine.

A frock of white crepe de chine weighs its handkerchief belt with preessive silver tassels.

The one-button wrap-around of white flannel is an addition to summer wardrobe.

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June 21, 1923.

—By Bud Fish

MUTT AND JEFF

EVERY POOR GOLFER SHOULD BE A LION TAMER.

