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Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



(To Every Man His Own)

The Mail and Advocate

Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D. JUNE 17th, 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW

A Warning

WE wish to warn the reading public generally that a new disease of a virulent nature is now prevalent in the vicinity of Adelaide Street. As it does not come within the purview of the Board of Health, we are giving proof of our interest in the well-being of a certain section of our citizens, by issuing this notice gratuitously.

The new disease is labelled LAMITIS. Symptoms: Swelled head; splenetic effusions; and Unimphobia, with wobbly manifestations in the pedal extremities. Cause: unknown; but due, presumably, to visions of generous hand-outs from Water Street merchants who have money to burn. Prognosis: unfavorable; but yields to Coaker specific when administered in large doses.

For the benefit of the competitors in the C.H.E. exams (who are supposed to have some rudimentary knowledge of Latin and Greek) the new disease gets its name from the Personal Pronoun, "I," Latin, ego (fundamental of egotist), the second syllable is "Am" (First person Sing. Ind. verb To Be). "IT" is a non-descript Pronoun, in this instance of masculine Gender: TIS (sorry we haven't any Greek type), but it is found in derivatives to express some disorder, found in nearly all recent medical terminology.

The disease is supposed to be infectious; but, as the medical authorities will likely get busy, we have no space to discuss the matter further.

Patriots All

WE are being roundly abused, and in certain sections vilified for our utterances regarding the tragic episodes now being enacted on blood-stained fields where blundering seems to be rampant, if one may judge from telegraphic announcements; yet the slipper-peace patriots with in our borders are handing out stuff which would find no place in our columns.

Last evening one local organ made what is tantamount to a plea of extenuation for Northcliffe whom English journalists generally regard as a menace to the Empire, as he has assailed Lord Kitchener with venomous quill and his paper The Times has been hailed before the Courts on a charge which is practically lese-majeste.

Another is offering for the sum

Stick a Pin Here

OUR Labrador fishermen will be somewhat handicapped in their movements this season by the prevalence of ice along the North-East Coast; but from what we can glean from weather reports and other quarters, the ice is nearly all inshore. There is very little ice to the eastward; and we would suggest the "outside run." There is absolutely no reason to be discouraged, as similar conditions have already existed within recent years; and as a seemingly Providential compensation for the Spring handicap, the catch on those occasions was large, and both up the shore and northwards good voyages were secured.

Dr. Johnson's definition of Patriotism is being verified in fact and deed; he terms this useful shibboleth: The Last Refuge of Scoundrels.

Recently the Public News contained a momentous announcement: POMMERON WON THE DERBY. Evidently there are still "Flanneled fools at the wickets and muddled oafs at the goals." Kipling wrote a good deal of jingoistic duncombe; but this is very expressive.

Our outports are daily impounded for further contributions. The Derby Stakes would supply more "socks and shirts for Soldiers" than we could reasonably provide in five years!

Patriotism and Profit

THE War has been a bonanza to certain people in this country; and it has been the means of helping some of the firms in the city to do some house-cleaning, of a very profitable kind.

We have heard of firms on whose shelves were certain commodities which had gone quite out of fashion; but for the past months, the shelves are being unloaded, while the hand-rubbing clerks (who get a decent commission on the unloading process) talk glibly of the increased cost of certain lines of goods.

We have heard, too, of certain Patriotic Houses selling a certain line which twelve months ago sold at 33 cents per yard. To-day the said line sells at 50 cents—all on account of the War, you know! But these goods have been in stock for twelve months; and they are not lines which have advanced perceptibly in price.

Whilst on this subject we beg to ask:

- (1) Is it true that certain parties under regular salary as Government Officials are drawing so much a-month for their Patriotic Service?
(2) Is it true that one individual whose family have long been identified with a Government salary is drawing \$1000 per annum as clerk to some other functionary?
(3) Is it true that some needy widows whose sons have gone across the Herring Pond to fight the battles of the Empire have actually had to BEG a loaf of bread and other necessities because their allotments have been irregularly paid?
(4) Is it true that there is dissatisfaction over the assignment of Commissions?
If somebody in authority would vouchsafe the information required, it would allay a good deal of unfavorable comment.

Published By Authority

His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint Messrs John Wells, Sr., James Coffin, Sr., James Beason, Charles Freake, Christopher Roebottom, John M. Pen-ton and Stephen Jacobs, to be the Road Board for Joe Batt's Arm, District of Fogo; Mr. James King, of John (White Point), to be a member of the Road Board for New Bonaventure, District of Trinity, in place of Mr. Noah Miller, resigned; and Mr. Walter Vivan (Cat Cove), to be an additional member of the same Board; Messrs Thomas Burke and William Skeans (of John), to be members of the Road Board for Collier's, District of Harbour Main, in place of Messrs. Thomas Hearn and Patrick Ryan, deceased.

Department of the Colonial Secretary, June 15, 1915.

Last evening a n'er do well of the West End created a disturbance on New Gower Street and knocked the pipes from the mouths of people who were smoking, as they passed by. One of the latter very rightly almost knocked his head off and the police made him quit the street.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

Mr. Kent, Leader of the Opposition, Scores the Government in Forceful Speech Delivered in House of Assembly on April 27th, 1915

Pointed Out That Under Morris the Vote for Supply has Increased Over \$1,000,000--Shows the "Morris Methods" of Cloaking Over Unauthorized Payment, Reviews the Report of Auditor General Who Says All Such Payments Are Illegal

MR. KENT—Mr. Chairman, I think it is a pity that the Government has decided after the request made from this side of the House, that they will not bring down a statement showing the present financial condition of the Colony. We have only asked for a general statement, not a detailed one. We only want an outline showing the financial condition of the country. The request is a reasonable one and the Government is in no way justified in refusing a reasonable and just request from the Opposition before we go out with Supply, voting away \$4,000,000. That statement of the financial condition of the country ought to be before us. The request is reasonable and the refusal is unreasonable, and I am sorry that the Government has not seen fit to comply. There are several matters in connection with the estimates which are most important and most necessary for an intelligent debate. On the first page there is the public debt of the Colony and considering the amount of the public debt, and the particular way in which it stands at the present time, I think a statement on that point ought to be supplied. It is not necessary to go into way and means, but a general statement outlining the financial condition of the country in order that the House may intelligently form an opinion on the estimates for the public service. The Estimates of late years have been on the increase. This year they are larger than last, and last year they were larger than the year before. In the last five or six years the amount of the supply has increased over \$1,000,000. And yet we are told that the business of the country is carried on with due regard to economy and prudence, and that the Estimates have been prepared with regard to the necessary demands of the public services. If we examine what the Government has done during the time they have been in office we find that they have always under-estimated their expenditure, largely under-estimated it. For instance, in 1909-10 the expenditure exceeded the estimates, including the additional estimates by \$196,000. In 1910-11 it exceeded by \$299,000; in 1911-12 by \$197,000; in 1912-13 by \$199,000, and

1913-14 by \$234,000. That, sir, shows that the Government has not had due regard to the requirements of the public service in making up their Estimates. The difference between the estimates which are brought into the House in the shape of Supply and the expenditure which takes place during the year for which the Supply is provided is larger than the difference between the actual expenditure and the gross Supply. For instance, in those years you had Supplementary Supply and you had Additional Estimates each year. In 1910 you had Supplementary Supply of \$214,000, in 1911 you had \$147,000, in 1912, \$142,000, in 1913 \$227,000, and in 1914 \$224,000.

Now, Sir, in connection with the preparation of the Estimates the Minister stated here last year that the Government were more or less penitential in this matter, and intended in the future to have greater regard for the requirements of the Public Services in making out their Estimates. Well, the figures before us now show that is not so. The Estimates that we voted here last year have been exceeded up to the present time. We will have to provide Supplementary Supply before this Committee rises. Large expenditures have been made during the year which were not provided for in the Estimates, and which should have been foreseen and placed in the Estimates, and the needs for which in the Estimates were pointed out by us last year. The Minister told us, when we pointed out certain votes were necessary according to the Report of the Auditor General, that these votes were dropped because they were unnecessary—votes for salaries and increases and other things of that kind, notwithstanding the remarks of the Minister we had the same comments in the Auditor General's Report for this year.

Then, sir, last year at this stage, when the House was in Committee on Supply, I took the opportunity to call the attention of the Government to the Audit Act and to the fact that the Audit Act was not being observed and the payments covering large amounts had been paid that were absolutely irregular and illegal and that there was no warrant or authority for the payment of large sums of money which were made by the Governor in Council. This matter is not a new one. It has been referred to by the Auditor General year after year in his reports. The intention and object of the Audit Act as the Ministers know, and as the members of the Government know is to keep control over the expenditure of public services is supposed to consult every Department into which the public service is divided, and to get estimates from these Departments, from the experienced permanent heads of the Departments—not from the political heads, but from the permanent heads who have been there for years, and know the workings of the various Departments, and make recommendations on the matter of Supply, and Supply has been more or less a fixed matter from year to year; and every year the faults and defects have been pointed out. Now under the Audit Act it is provided that all moneys received for public purposes are paid into an account in the Bank. These moneys can only be released by a warrant of the Governor. The Governor issues his warrant and appropriates the money to the different Departments. Then according as the needs of each service require credits are issued in favour of the Accountant or Deputy Head of the Department. These credits are drawn against a monthly repayment cheque which is drawn after the Auditor General has had an opportunity of examining the accounts. The amount is drawn regularly according to the terms of the Audit Act and is placed against the credit. The Audit Act takes into account the fact that circumstances may arise during the year which cannot possibly be foreseen. Emergencies may occur. In these cases authority is given to the Government to make certain payments beyond the payments made in the regular way under the Appropriation Accounts. These payments are made under a special section of the Act. Beyond this there is no other authority for the payment of public moneys; but it has been the

Hunt and Henly, Slade & Co., Hodge and Waterman, Punton and Munn, we invoke you!

Where are the tens of thousands which jingled in your coffers from the sale of the festive cod?

What about these cosy nooks in Devonshire and elsewhere? Now, if modern conditions on Labrador are such as to make the gathering of the skekels so difficult (!), who is responsible? The men who have eulchered the gatherers of the harvest, and forced them to market SLOP fish.

We know several fishermen, not ten thousand miles from Hawke's Harbor or Battle, who some years ago washed their fish from the knife and were scrupulously clean in handling it. They received the same price as did the less careful roomer in a nearby cove who "let it go."

The Remedy? Why, it was suggested in the columns of a local paper many years ago, but it was pronounced "impossible" by the Street.

Just at the time, if memory serves us aright a certain firm bought Labrador fish at \$3.00. It sold some weeks later at Twenty-Seven Shillings.

Of course this was an exceptional price; but, then, why not give the fishermen some consideration? They were paying at the time \$10.00 for flour.

The Labrador question is one that can be easily adjusted. Let there be mutual confidence between the supplier and the dealer; less Shylockism on the part of the buyer; and more consideration on the part of the Powers that Be.

practice of the Government for years to pay money by Minute of Council. There is no authority whatever in the Audit Act for any such payment as this. It is an irregular and illegal payment, and it is a payment made entirely at the risk of the Bank that makes it, and unless the Legislature when the amount is brought here and reported by the Government is prepared to sanction and grant indemnity for these payments the Bank has no remedy except against the person who drew the cheque.

There is another matter to which I would wish to draw the attention of the Government, and it is a matter which has been mentioned by the Auditor General, and which has been referred to by me in this House. It is the practice of delaying payments— withholding the payment of account— until the close of the financial year and accounts that should ordinarily be paid in one year are left over until the following year and then paid and charged up not to the proper year but to the following year. Now, the money appropriated by this House is appropriated by the year to cover the service for which it is voted, and no one here has any authority to use money for one year which has properly been voted for another. Now I order to close the accounts at the end of the financial year on the 30th of June and in order that the various Departments may settle up their affairs these Departments are allowed from the 30th of June until the 1st of October before closing their books. Now the Auditor General in his Report calls the attention of the Legislature to this matter, and I think we ought to take steps to prevent a repetition of this matter.

Now there is another matter in connection with the accounts of last year. Take the matter of overdraw accounts. Take the General Contingencies vote. The General Contingencies vote has been fixed for years—almost I think since we had an Audit Act. It was first introduced a \$10,000 a year. Now, last year a new practice was introduced. The Auditor General last year made a stand, and tried to have this account kept within the amount voted by the Legislature. The result was that the account was overdrawn and the Government issued a Special Warrant transferring the amount then charged to General Contingencies to another account, and left General Contingencies open for a further draft. In addition they had to come in here and ask for additional supply under the head of General Contingencies. Now, sir, the Audit Act expressly provides that expenditures shall only be made for services for which they are voted. Look at the Auditor General's Report in connection with the payments under Section 33 (b) of the Audit Act. That is the section making provision for emergencies. Now under that section it is provided that if any accident happens to any public work or public building, or any other occasion arises which could not have been foreseen and which could not have been foreseen and money needed the Minister in charge must certify that it is necessary, and the Minister of Finance must report that there is no Legislative provision. Then and only then has the Government any authority to make any payment under this head, and then only for the specific purposes which are provided for. Last year there was under this a Special Warrant in favour of the Department of Public Charities for \$16,000, and one for \$15,000 in favour of General Contingencies. These are supplementary to the Departmental accounts which were overdrawn and to which the Auditor General protested, again in his Report. Thus a use of this section of the Act for Supplementary votes made by the Legislature. The section is intended to cover emergencies which could not possibly have been foreseen, and not to supply further Supply upon which any Department or Sub-Department can draw for the ordinary requirements of the Department. That is taking the absolute control of moneys out of the hands of the Legislature and putting it in the hands of the Governor in Council. The only control which the Legislature can exercise in cases of that kind is by comment afterwards, which after the money is spent is very poor satisfaction to the people

who have got to pay the money.

Then there are payments under orders in Council. These are utterly irregular and illegal. There is no authority in law for the payment of these amounts, and they generally cover matters that ought properly find a place in the ordinary Estimates coming before the House. There are rarely any matters of urgency covered by these payments. These payments are mostly in the way of increases of salaries or the creation of new offices and other matters which could wait until the Legislature met and a vote could be put in the Estimates in the ordinary way. Under the Auditor General's Report down to the end of February of the year he reports that an amount of \$25,811 has been appropriated in this way. In order to inform the House of the nature of the services for which these payments have been made and the amounts appropriated, I will read a few of them. Take the first, D. James Davies, Government Analyst, no salary voted—\$1,800 appropriated by the Government. There is no legislative authority. There has been no explanation to the Legislature as to what the office is or what the functions of the office are. Then Mr. Davies also receives \$500 from the Department of Agriculture and Mines also. That is a salary of \$2,100. Then there are a number of pensions here which should have been provided by the Legislature last year. I do not think in any of these cases any reason has occurred between the time the Legislature was sitting last and the time these pensions were provided by the Governor in Council which justified them in creating these pensions that did not exist then. At an accident happened to a man in the public service, and he becomes incapacitated, there might be some justification for making a payment under section 33 (b) of the Audit Act by the Governor in Council.

Then in the Colonial Secretary's Department we find the following cases: Edward Collins, zoaler, Pleocantia. This is an increase of \$20 in salary. The amount is small, but the principle is not small. The next is S. J. Patten, Head Constable. The same remarks apply to him. The Inspector of Methodist Schools is increased from \$700 to \$800, an increase of \$100. The same thing has been done in the case of the Assistant Inspector of Church of England Schools. These could very easily have been put in the Estimates.

Customs Department. A Crocker, Shipping Office, no salary was voted last year, but he was paid a salary of \$900. This is one of the cases to which I referred last year, and I pointed out to the Minister that if he intended to keep this man in the Office he should put a salary in the Estimates in the ordinary way. There are a number of boatmen in the Customs Department for which no salaries were provided last year. These payments amount to about \$2,000 in all. There are seventeen outport tidewaiters for whom salaries were paid here, that were not provided in the Estimates last year, and I think that the requirements of the service cannot show that between the time these men were appointed and the time the House met last year provision could not have been made for them.

Public Charities Department. Doctor Grant and Doctor Jones. These are two cases I mentioned last year when going through Supply, and the Public Charities vote was up. I drew attention to both these officials. One is quarantine officer at Channel and the other is a District Surgeon. I asked the Minister last year if it was the intention of the Government to continue these men in office, and he said no, that there was no need of it. Government to continue their services. Now, sir, we find when the Auditor General's Report comes down this year that they are still in office, and drawing salaries which should be voted here.

(To be continued)

A Narrow Escape

At 9 o'clock last night a boy named Thos. Mullowney while crossing Water Street opposite the Round House, narrowly escaped being killed. He was knocked down by a horse and carriage in which were three men. The horse was pulled up quickly and the men and some Boy Scouts who were near took the lad to the residence of Joseph Cook, nearby. Dr. Tait was called by phone and found that the lads injured were not serious, though at first it was believed a wheel had gone over his back. He was driven to his home on Lime St.

R.A.M.C.

Amongst the McGill students who have received commissions in the Royal Army Medical Corps are Dr. C. D. Keen of Brookfield, B.B., son of Captain A. Keen; and Dr. William Templeman of Bonavista, son of the Hon. Philip Templeman.

Venus and Velvet pencils will give you satisfaction.—ap12ft