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The Daily Mail

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The publication of any letter does not signify that the Editor thereby shows his agreement with the opinions therein expressed.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., FEB. 13, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

From all quarters complaints of the non-delivery of The Mail and Advocate are coming in.

We call the attention of the postal officials in outports and in trains to the matter, and trust all possible will be done to deliver our papers.

We have some information to hand respecting the doings of certain postal officials, which won't improve their position with the public and the government when we make it public.

In Bay de Verde District things have gone from bad to worse and the feeling of disgust is at high tide. Something must be done at once or trouble must ensue, for people who pay for papers won't tolerate delay and non-delivery any longer.

DECLARES DIVIDEND

The Union Trading Company has declared a dividend of 10 per cent on its capital of \$100,000.

The year 1913 was a successful one for the various branches of the organization and under the management of the indefatigable president, W. F. Coaker, the concern has flourished and grown exceedingly.

The influence of the Union Trading Co. is, of course, much more far-reaching than that produced merely by the dollars and cents it puts into the pockets of investors as dividends.

The Company is recognized on all hands by our tollers as the bulwark and the protection of the fisherman—an organization that maintains and augments the income from his fishing products and at the same time materially reduces the cost of the necessities of life and so makes living much easier for him all round.

The F.P.U. has caused a bloodless revolution in this country; it has infiltrated and encouraged wholesome reforms; it has set the fisherman on the highway to permanent prosperity. In all things the F.P.U. has become the benefactor of the Fishermen of Newfoundland.

INEFFECTIVELY DRAMATIC.

The shades of night were falling fast when a brave and fearless band of legislators rushed boldly into the House of Assembly, Mr. Speaker heading the noble contingent, P. H. Moore in the ranks dauntlessly waving a copy of The Daily Mail.

In fierce array they sat at their desks menacing the Opposition with fiery glances, while P.H. thundered denunciations loud at the scribe who had led the temerity to state that Philip had trodden on the tail of an Honorable Member's Coat.

And Sir Edward Morris sat at ease in his political Zion, musing on the righteousness of his colleague's anger, forgetful the while of the scene in Committee but a few minutes before when he had flouted public opinion and done absolute despite to constitutional practice and precedent by forcing through supplies for a department which has been headless for three months.

Carried away on the full tide of P.H.'s frothy eloquence, he forgot the sectarian catchcries used by his candidates to gain the election; conveniently forgot the association of the names of his Cabinet Ministers with a very shady mining prospectus. And then P.H. sat down.

APPROVE THE IDEAL.

Just as soon as thoughtful men carefully examine the F.P.U. legislative proposals, they are forced by reason and logic to admit their practical value. This was proven last night when at the M.C.L.L. debate the Homestead Idea received more votes than the Model Farm and Distribution of Seeds policies together, as the members evidently looked on the model farm as useless under present conditions and the distribution of stock and seeds as a farce as the receivers are not well enough informed on farming to get full returns of equal value to the amount invested.

The Homestead idea really plans to do for the farmer what Mr. Coaker would do for the fisherman, that is give the farmer a chance, by loaning him money, to purchase the farm utensils, stock and seeds to start proceedings properly; this money would be payable within say 10 years and if 20 farms per year were started in 10 years we would have at least 100 model farms instead of having but one farm for the whole Island.

An instructor or two could visit these farms and give necessary advice as to the soil, stock, etc., and as the money invested would be payable within a certain time, more farms could be started at no expense whatever to the Country.

The farmer in the first place would invest a \$3500 and the Government about \$1500, and as the farmer would receive proper instruction from the Department in St. John's, he would in a short time be in a position to get good value out of the land.

The Department of Agriculture would be in a position to handle his stock as they would require this to stock other farms, and in this way an endless chain of benefit to farmer and country would be formed, that would forever do away with the idea of giving away public moneys as in the past.

This is the idea approved of by the M.C.L.L. debaters, and this is the agricultural policy proposed by Mr. Coaker.

The F.P.U. plan will mean practical benefits to the whole country; the Morris party simply results in an extravagant outlay of public moneys to absolutely no practical purpose.

A MATTER OF COATS.

Mr. P. Moore, the junior member for Ferryland, waxed ineffectively indignant in the House yesterday over the letter of "Success" which appeared in The Mail of even date.

It seems to us that Mr. Moore was in altogether too much hurry in characterizing the letter referred to as the work of a "political assassin." There is something very suspicious about the tremendous amount of energy he put into his disclaimer—Verily he did "protest too much."

Now our Correspondent is usually quite reliable in his statements and we hereby challenge the frothy M.H.A. to publish over his own name an absolute and unequivocal denial of having ever made, in a City Club room any would-be witty remarks regarding Salvation Army "Shirts" or Salvation Army "Coats."

Mr. Moore keeps very poor company in his associations with the Morris party. No less a celebrity than Hon. P. T. McGrath went out of his way some time ago to make some insulting remarks to the Union members and dress suits. M. P. Cashin did not hesitate to characterize Union voters as "ignorant," "illiterate" and "cullage."

Hon. J. C. Crosbie applied some very ungentlemanly epithets to Mr. Coaker in the House of Assembly. It is not surprising, therefore, that quite a number of people were rather inclined to believe that Mr. Moore was but following the lines mapped out by

his revered leader Sir Edward Morris and these other brilliant associates in the Cabinet and Administration.

P.H. is a rather volatile gentleman, but he should remember that a stray breeze sometimes carries froth for a long distance. Verily a little bird may carry the whisperings of an M.H.A. far abroad.

Meanwhile, P.H., we suggest a perusal of "Success" second letter on this page.

LIVELY READING.

The returns tabled by the Government in reply to questions of the Opposition make the most interesting kind of reading. Figures are usually regarded as cold and repellent, but here is a most notable exception. Nothing in the fiction line could give so much excitement as a dip into the Departmental Returns as they come to light.

It would be putting altogether too much strain on the credulity of our people to ask them to accept our bare word as to the contents of some of these reports, so we are publishing them in full as tabled in the House.

Today's instalment is somewhat short, but it makes up in engrossing interest for what it lacks in length. It concerns the vote for the proposition of lobsters, but the variety of lobster it was intended for got little encouragement from the amount voted.

One, A. Morgan, of Bay Roberts, received payments aggregating almost \$800. He is not a lobster expert—probably never caught one in all his life except to cook—but he is a very ardent supporter of A. W. Piccott.

Of course it would be most uncharitable to even suggest that that was the reason for his appointment to a job having a snug little income of \$800 attached.

Then Geo. H. Badcock also made a tidy haul from this vote. He received \$117. George always fits in when Herring or Lobster votes are on the go. He probably got that \$117 for putting salt on lobsters' tails to induce them to remain quietly in the snug little Government pounds prepared for them.

Thos. French and John Murphy got \$833 between them for the hire of motor boats. And they didn't even have to pay freight upon the gasoline used in judging by the fact that the Government paid out \$11.60 on this account.

It was a series of pincies all round—but the lobsters of the mighty deep got very little of the fun provided by their vote.

TO THE EDITOR.

THE VOLATILE PHILIP

(Editor The Daily Mail) Dear Sir,—I notice by this morning's issue of the News that the junior member for the Southern Shore denies having said anything about Mr. Jennings wearing a Salvation Army jacket in the House of Assembly.

Now, we all know Philip as a joker but thought he would admit that what he said in a certain club room about Mr. Jennings was said in a joking way among friends and meant no harm, but instead of doing this he denies having said anything about Mr. Jennings.

I am delighted to think that your letters "If I Were Premier" are having the desired effect, and that the Premier is following the advice given by some of your readers.

The spectators at the House yesterday thought it a great joke for Philip to deny having said anything against the Salvation Army, but those who were present at the time he made the remarks think he should have kept quiet as "a still tongue makes a wise head."

We will believe Philip to please him, and take it for granted that what he said was meant as a joke, and not to injure or make a laughing stock of Mr. Jennings.

If Mr. Jennings was a plumber, and had a pull with the Government, he might be able to appear in a frock coat, but such men as Philip should remember that "fine feathers do not always make fine birds."

As Mr. Jennings is willing to forgive the theatrical member, we will do likewise, but would advise Philip to be more careful in future when making fun for the crowd at the club.

CIVIC REFORM

(Editor The Daily Mail) Dear Sir,—May I say a few words regarding last night's meeting of Citizens and its objects.

In the first place anyone who was present must, I think, have been disabused of any idea that a crusade involving an attack upon our present Municipal Council had been at any time in contemplation by the Committee or any person directly or indirectly connected with the movement.

On the contrary sympathy was freely expressed for them in their many difficulties, and much appreciation of their honest efforts and of their accomplishment under these difficulties.

This is not to say, however, that the conditions under which they have to work are not being criticised. But then conditions were not of their making, nor have they any responsibility for them. The criticism is upon these conditions.

The first question before the public is, are the conditions satisfactory?

No one imagines that they are. The Municipal Council are themselves of opinion that they are not, for not only have past and present members of the Council stated so repeatedly, but it is understood that the Council are recommending a change at the present moment. It is indeed sufficiently apparent that there can be no improvement of an adequate nature in civic affairs under the present system.

If then the present situation is unsatisfactory what alternative courses are open?

1. If the electors prefer it we can go on as we are. That is of course the easy way. But it means four years more of the present state of things.

2. We can adopt hurriedly and at once an ill-digested and immature scheme of change. Not necessarily ill-digested and immature upon the part of the proposers, but certainly upon the part of the municipal electors who would have to pronounce in favor of or against it. Anyone who has been a member of the Committee would appreciate this, for it took four meetings of a comparatively small number of interested men, each lasting from 30 to 11 p.m., to come to a decision upon the best preliminary course to be immediately adopted.

3. There remains the proposal embodied in the resolution passed at last night's meeting—that the regular Municipal Election should by Legislative enactment be postponed for one year, and that an unpaid commissioner should be appointed to study the whole problem, to make a report in good time for the mature consideration of the Electorate, and to administer municipal business in the meantime, as well as for the purpose of putting the Commission into immediate touch with the practical details of their problem.

Is there any other possible way of accomplishing the object in view, viz. the ultimate improvement of our City Government, through popular information and action?

The proposal involves no necessary eventual change in the present position. It carries no ultimate disenfranchisement of voters, and even the provisional commission could be elected by popular vote after regular nomination.

It is to be hoped that all those who look at the present situation from this standpoint and who believe that the members of the Citizens' Committee, who have already made some sacrifice of time and work in this matter, have not been actuated by any personal or selfish motives, will do what they can to see that the petition is largely signed.

MR. COAKER'S BILL

ON COMPENSATION FOR OUR WORKMEN Provides Some Very Important Amendments to the Present Act

A Bill to amend Chapter V. of 8 Edward VII. entitled "An Act with respect to Compensation to Workmen for Injuries Suffered in the Course of their Employment."

Be it enacted by the Governor, the Legislative Council and House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows:

1. Section 9 of the Act 8 Edward VII. Cap. 5 entitled "An Act with respect to Compensation to Workmen for Injuries Suffered in the Course of their Employment" is hereby amended by adding the words "logging work" after the word "quarry."

2. Section 10 of the said Act 8 Edward VII. Cap. 5 is hereby amended as follows:

(a) By inserting the following clause next after the clause beginning with the word "Quarry" "Logging work means any work in connection with cutting, or felling trees, sticks, or logs for the purpose of manufacturing same into lumber, pulp, or other products, conveying same to a river, stream, pond or lake, or to salt water, and floating same down a river or stream."

(b) By adding to the word beginning with the word "Under-taker" the following words: "And in the case of logging work means the person or body corporate on whose behalf the said logging work is undertaken."

THE DAILY MAIL CAUSED SOME HEARTBURNINGS AT HOUSE YESTERDAY.

Member For Ferryland Roused up by the Letter of "Success."

GOVERNMENT FORCES SUPPLY THROUGH.

Ignores Opposition's Demand For Appointment of Ministers.

(Continued from page 1.)

As to the rates for Marconi messages those are fixed in the contract, but as to the charge of \$2.20, made by Reid's ships he considered such a toll improper and the matter will have to be looked into.

Mr. Kent gave it as his opinion that the Government had no power to alter the rates as set down in the contract with the Marconi people; but everything to cheapen and facilitate the delivery of messages to and from stations on Labrador should be done.

Since the loss of the Duchess of Marlborough last spring, a hired steamer, the Fogota had carried on the service on the N.E. Coast.

Mr. Clapp would like to know if the Government had made any arrangement with the Reid Nfd. Co. for a suitable boat, and was informed by the Colonial Secretary that nothing had been done.

The member for Fogo (Mr. Halfyard) keeps a careful eye on the salaries as they are voted in Committee, and asked that the salary for the operator at Joe Batt's Arm be deferred for the present.

Tilt Cove, once a flourishing mining centre, is now a deserted village. There are now only twelve families living there.

Mr. Jennings suggested that the present competent Postal Telegraph official, Mr. Cunningham, be transferred to a suitable station and given a salary in keeping with his ability and a minor civil employe be put in Mr. Cunningham's stead at a salary of about \$120.

The Colonial Secretary will draw the attention of the P.M.G. to the facts, as stated by Mr. Jennings.

A Visitor.

The presence of Vincent S. Jones Esq., Superintendent for the A.N.D. Co., as a visitor to the People's House yesterday afternoon was another reminder to Sir Edward Morris that the workingman must rule, and be given fair pay, wholesome food and decent place to sleep after a hard day's toil. It is well known that the A.N.D. Co. employ a very large number of men at their logging camps, and that any law along the lines indicated by Mr. Coaker's Bill, "An Act to regulate the employment, food and lodgings of men in logging camps" must be of vital interest to the pulp and paper industry.

The Premier will inquire from what source the P.M.G. got his information, which led to the reduction of the wages of the Postmaster at Shoal Hr from \$100 to \$20, while the duties of the office were increased.

Joint Appeal.

Messrs. Kent and Higgins joined in a mighty chorus of appeal for a special vote to put a permanent pier at Portugal Cove. The public wharf at that point was very badly battered by a recent storm. As there is no chance of an allocation from the Surplus this year these gentlemen hope a substantial sum will be voted in Supplementary Supply to build a substantial structure.

Mr. Coaker called a halt in the vote for the dredge set down in the estimate at \$15,000 whereas last year \$24,000 had been spent under this head.

The proposition of lobsters for which \$5,000 was voted last year showed no returns whatever; the bulk of the money appeared to have been wasted; \$4,500 from the statement before him went for motor boats and he would like more details before this vote was finally passed.

A closed season Mr. Coaker contended was what we needed to conserve the lobster industry. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries should be present. The votes went over until the return of the Minister, who is out of town.

Agriculture and Mines.

Mr. Kent had objected the other day to going on with this vote until a Minister of Agriculture and Mines had been appointed and taken his place in the Legislature. He had protested against the estimates going through until the Governor-in-Council had properly organized the department as required by law; but evidently it was the intention of the Prime Minister, by reason of a majority in numbers to force this Supply upon the Committee, the House and the Country; for such action the Government could find no justification.

The present was entirely a different case from any of those cited by the Prime Minister. This was a case of

the absence from the Ministry of the head of a most important Department under whose control were all our material resources on land; such as agriculture, coal areas, mines and minerals and forest wealth.

We have been here in Legislative Session for five weeks and no Minister has been appointed, notwithstanding the fact, that provision is made by law that he can take his seat.

To meet the condition which now confronts us, a law was passed in 1899, providing for acting appointments for six months without going to the Country for election.

The object of this law was to enable the Governor-in-Council to have Ministers in this branch of the Legislature, who would be responsible to the House and the Country; and why the Prime Minister outraged the law of the realm in this manner surpassed his (Mr. Kent's) understanding.

Plenty to Choose.

The Government had a following from which appointments ought to be made to replace the defeated Ministers and it was due to the House in all fairness that this supply stand over until an appointment of a Minister of Agriculture and Mines had been made.

The absence of the Minister was a matter for most serious comment and should not be tolerated for one moment, and as intimated by him the other day he would now move that the estimates be not further considered until the Minister of Agriculture and Mines had been appointed and taken his seat in the House.

Mr. Kent was loudly applauded as he sat down.

Violation of Constitution.

Mr. Coaker made a strong plea in defense of what he believed to be a gross violation of our constitutional rights and the laws of the land—this thing cannot go on much longer.

Those in a position to know the feelings of the people of the Country at large realized that grave suspicions were aroused by the Premier's conduct. Any other course but the one suggested by Mr. Kent was unfair.

He (Mr. Coaker) believed more and more every day that there must be very serious reasons why those appointments had not been made. He did hope that the motion of the Opposition would not be put; it could only aggravate an already serious condition.

He favored a few more days in which the Prime Minister might be able to make up his mind; and in the meantime this vote should be deferred.

Under The Yoke.

It may be truly said that the Morris party went willingly under the yoke yesterday, when not a single Government member attempted to justify the vote which he cast to the ash of the party whip, in the name of the sovereign people, the defiance of the law of the land, and against pure government in Britain's oldest Colony.

Mr. Kent again addressed the Committee. He called once more upon the Prime Minister to desist from outaging the whole system of our Government. The Opposition did not want to pin the Prime Minister down and would wait a reasonable time but some reason should be given to the Country and this House for the course (the Prime Minister) evidently intended to pursue.

A principle more serious than many may think was involved; we were establishing a precedent to-day which may mean a much more serious thing to-morrow.

Weak Reply.

Sir Edward Morris made a weak reply and attempted to justify his course. He solemnly declared that no one directly or indirectly, near or remote, since the general election, until that very moment, had as much as suggested to him what he should do or what ought to be done in relation to filling the vacant portfolios in his cabinet.

Dr. Lloyd supported the motion of the Leader of the Opposition, and in so doing "tore to a tatter" every argument advanced by the Premier in support of his (the Premier's) constitutional position.

The Dr. agreed entirely with Mr. Coaker that there was something behind it; and the Country also believed that there must be something radically wrong in the Government ranks and that was the only explanation he was prepared to believe.

Lots of Time.

The Prime Minister knew since the 3rd day of November—100 days ago, as well as he knew at this present moment some appointments to Executive offices and Ministerial positions would have to be made. Had we to wait until the centuries rolled back for Sir Edward to make up his mind on those appointments.

At 5.15 o'clock a poll was taken on Mr. Kent's motion. Government members who had been lounging comfortably in the Speaker's room waiting for the crack of the party whip which meant an outrage on a representative assembly rushed to their seats; the unreasoning numerical majority in the Assembly had once more flouted the

people's will for what period we must only wait and see.

The Family Grant.

Mr. Coaker drew the attention of the Committee to innumerable family grants. We shall give his remarks in detail to-morrow and they should prove very interesting reading to those who want some information on this mode of political grafting now so prevalent in this Country.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Please write on one side of the paper, leave a good margin at the left hand side and be sure to sign your letter with your real name. If you write over another name we will use it instead of your real name, but the real name must be sent us with every communication.—Editor.

DR. LEHR, DENTIST, 203 WATER STREET. BEST QUALITY TEETH \$12.00 PER SET. TEETH EXTRACTED WITHOUT PAIN, 25c.—jan20,6m

DID YOU EVER FEEL LIKE THIRTY CENTS.

Nearly everybody has, at some time or other, been "up against" an embarrassing situation. Not so funny at the time perhaps, but laughter-provoking, when you get over the confusion of the moment.

Write and tell us about it. 'Tis only fair to give all a chance of enjoying the joke, even at your expense—although nobody will ever guess your identity, if you wish it kept secret. Make your story as short as possible.

COOKING LESSONS IN THE HOUSEHOLD SCIENCE SCHOOL.

The Superintendents of Education beg to announce that a sufficient number of young ladies apply evening classes will be organized for a course of Ten Lessons in Cooking, inclusive fee for the course, \$2. Applications should be made immediately to

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