



(Founded in 1873 by W. J. Herder.)

Evening Telegram

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Wednesday, February 20, 1924.

Economy in Administration.

The Canadian Government, aroused, or possibly it would be more correct to say alarmed, by the demands made by the public through the press are taking steps to reduce expenditure. To what extent official Ottawa is serious in its intention remains to be seen, but that some effort is to be made shows at least that an administration dare not turn a deaf ear to public opinion unless it is willing to face the consequences. An audit Board has been created and an Auditor General appointed. His first duty is to investigate conditions in the Civil Service in order to ascertain in what directions a saving can be effected.

Barring official opposition and the inherent dislike of governments generally to practice economy, he should not find his work difficult, for if one may judge from the figures given in a Canadian journal there is dead wood aplenty upon which to use the axe. It is said that whenever at the opening of the century the number of civil servants numbered 4,000 with salaries not much over \$3,600,000, to-day they number 40,000 and their payroll totals \$50,000,000.

A former Newfoundland politician once said of our administration that it resembled the trappings of an elephant on the back of a cat. If such a remark could be applied to it in those days, what can be said of it now?

We have a population of less than a quarter of a million and a public service that is sufficiently elaborate, numerous and costly to administer the affairs of a country many times the size of Newfoundland. We have adopted a policy of economy in salary at the expense of efficiency in service, as a result of which in many of the departments two officials are doing the work that might well be accomplished by one. We have gone further in discouraging efficiency by refusing to adopt the principle of promotion by merit. We have promoted the service for political ends by using it as a dumping ground for political heels who, after a brief occupation of some "cushy" job, retire with an honourable pension to live a life of ease.

By adopting the system of examination tests, we should be certain of obtaining none but qualified officials; by promoting those who proved themselves efficient, we should soon have a capable organization, and by paying adequate salaries we should encourage the ablest men to enter the service. Honesty, industry and ability are the three primary qualifications which every public servant should possess. Were such conditions insisted upon, the cost of our administration would be considerably less than it is, and the value of the service would be enhanced.

But where is the Government that would have the courage to effect the changes or to wield the axe?

Echo answers, where?

Rotary Club

WEEKLY LUNCHEON.

Inspector General Hutchings presided at the Rotary Luncheon held on Tuesday at Wood's West End Restaurant, and Rotarian Peter O'Mara in his own inimitable style, entertained the gathering with a short history of the Fire Brigade, interspersing his remarks with many humorous anecdotes of the old days of the Phoenix and Volunteer Fire Brigades.

Mr. O'Mara traced the history of the Fire Brigade from the inauguration of the Phoenix Brigade in 1847, under the command of Captain Lewis, until it disbanded in 1877, in which year the St. John's Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed and of which Francis Boggan was Chief. They adopted as their motto "Faithful and Fearless," and the records of their work are replete with incidents of bravery and devotion to duty, which speak for themselves, and show that the Volunteer Brigade were ever true to their motto. The Volunteer Fire Brigade disbanded in 1895 in which year the Government enacted a law in which the Fire Department and Constabulary were placed under Government control. Inspector General McCowan holding office from 1895 to 1908; Inspector General Sullivan from 1909 to 1917, and Inspector General Hutchings was appointed in 1917.

Mr. O'Mara told many amusing stories in connection with fire brigade work in the old days, and others where grave fatalities had brought sorrow and grief to the home. He paid high tribute to the old fire fighters many of whom are still attached to the Fire Department or pensioned. Captains Dunne, Kane, Trebble, Reardon and McGinn. These men had seen the service when the premises of Mitchell and Higgins were destroyed in 1894, and in which eleven persons were rescued; had done good work in MacCauley's southside fire in 1901, and had stood by Inspector General McCowan when on the deck of the S. S. Aurora he directed the fire fighting operations unmindful of the fact that five hundred pounds of gunpowder and ten thousand cartridges were stored proximately to the furnace.

Mr. O'Mara had seen many Fire Fighting forces in his travels, and was frank in saying that our present equipment and force under the leadership of Inspector General Hutchings, could compare favourably with any Fire Department of the world. He paid well-merited tribute to the energy and initiative of our present Inspector General in bringing our fire fighting equipment up to such a high standard of efficiency.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. O'Mara for his interesting address.

St. John's Boy dies in U.S.

Mr. James O'Neill, well-known by the boys of St. John's twenty-five years ago, died at St. Vincent's Hospital, N.Y. City, Feb. 18th. Mr. O'Neill was born in Harbor Grace, the son of Wm. and Ellen O'Neill, and learned the shoemaking trade with Mr. P. Maher, of St. John's. He was 47 years old at the time of his death and has lived in the United States since 1929. He leaves a widow and 8 children, 1 brother, William O'Neill, of Atlantic City, N.J., and 1 sister, Mrs. James Ryan, of N.Y. City.

Popular Official Honored

Last evening a number of lady friends visited the home of Miss Agnes Power, the popular and courteous postmistress at the West End Branch, and presented her with an address and several articles indispensable in the culinary department. The recipient, although taken by surprise, thanked the gathering in a witty and humorous manner for the thoughtfulness which prompted their kind act. Tea was served and card games were participated in up to midnight, after which all dispersed with the one wish that Miss Power may spend many years in occupying the position now held by her.—COM.

Kyle Outward

S.S. Kyle, Cap. Stevenson, sailed from the Dry Dock wharf at 5.40 p.m. yesterday, for North Sydney, via Port aux Basques. She took a large foreign mail matter, and the following first class passengers:—Rev. S. J. and Mrs. Pike, Lloyd Pike, Capt. Campbell, besides 10 in steerage.

To-night Merchantile Hockey at 6.30, Harvey & Co., Ltd., vs. The Royal Stores, Ltd. General skating afterwards.

THE TRAINS.—Yesterday's West bound train left Glenwood 5 hours and 10 minutes late. The local train was due to arrive at 1.15 p.m. The regular cross-country express will go out at 1 p.m. to-morrow.

The rush for tickets for Able's Irish Rose is unprecedented. Feb. 20, 11.

Secretary of Agriculture Examined re Potato Distribution.

At the beginning of the session yesterday afternoon, the Commissioner asked Mr. Howley for some information re allegations concerning Dr. Campbell as to that he could summon the persons who made the allegations to give evidence. Mr. Howley regretted that he had no definite information and he had referred to what were rumors around St. John's.

COMMISSIONER.—Rumors in St. John's! Heavens, if I were to pay attention to all the rumors floating around about myself!

MR. HOWLEY.—I have not heard any.

COMMISSIONER.—Well, I have them come back to me. My religion, my convictions and everything that I ever did have been canvassed wrongly.

MR. HOWLEY stated that what he had in mind was that when the Commission was framed and when the statement was made in the House of Assembly, that allegations of wrong doing in the Department of Agriculture and Mines had been made those responsible for the framing of the Commission must have had something to go on. Mr. Howley said he was not personally acquainted with the doings of the House of Assembly but reference could be made to the official reports. Mr. Howley added that he believed there were statements made in some of the local papers editorially and otherwise at the time.

The Commissioner said if he (Mr. Howley) could bring any such materials before him he would see if any persons could be identified who would be useful as witnesses.

MR. WALKER said he wished to get particulars in order to see if there was anything in the suggestions made in the House of Assembly on which he understood that the basis of the enquiry had been laid.

MR. HOWLEY said it would go a long way towards justice to his client if the Attorney General would make an official pronouncement. His only desire was to disabuse the Commissioners mind.

COMMISSIONER.—Until you mentioned the matter, my mind was a blank, I had not heard even by rumor so prevalent in Newfoundland that Dr. Campbell left the country in 1923 much less that he was fleeing from justice. He had not heard that the Government was taking steps to bring him back to stand his trial.

MR. HOWLEY stated that he had read in the Canadian papers of Aug. 1923 despatches about the indictment. The Commissioner replied that he had not been reading the Canadian papers at this time which was months before he had a thought of crossing the Atlantic. He would allow the persons concerned to make their denials but he could not see what use there was for a person to make denial of a matter of which he is not accused.

OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT ON CHARGES.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL asked permission to clear up some of the matters which appeared to be alarming Mr. Howley. He said he did not hear of all the allegations that had been made against Dr. Campbell. The Commissioner then read as follows:—The allegations have been made that Dr. Campbell has been guilty of the misappropriation of the funds of the Department, and that when he left the colony in 1923, he was fleeing from justice.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL said this allegation was practically made in the House of Assembly and it was a question for the Commissioner to decide but the statement that "when he left the colony he was fleeing from justice," was not knowledge in the possession of the Government. As far as the Department of Justice is concerned, he gave the statement a flat denial.

COMMISSIONER reading "That indictments were prepared and the Government was taking steps to bring him back to stand his trial."

MR. WARREN.—As Minister of Justice at the time, I deny that.

COMMISSIONER.—That large misappropriation and misuse of funds in other words "graft" were divided up between Dr. Campbell and Sir Richard Squires.

MR. WARREN.—I don't remember any allegations that the proceeds were divided between Sir Richard and Dr. Campbell. The large misappropriation, other large or small is the foundation for the enquiry. As far as facts are concerned I think I have disposed of the most alarming ones.

COMMISSIONER.—I am afraid Mr. Howley has not given me any information which would warrant my summoning any individual here.

MR. A. J. BAYLY, Secretary of Agriculture, was then called and examined by Mr. Hunt. Witness asked about the formation of the Agriculture and Mines Department and his position therein, said the Agriculture Board ceased to exist in 1913. Following this he was appointed Secretary of Agriculture, R. G. Winsor is at present Commissioner of Agriculture.

The personal of the staff include Mr. Ryan, a stenographer and messenger. Mr. Bayly detailed the ordinary work of the staff. For a period, he said, the work in connection with the Model Farm under the Minister was handled by himself and assistants. They had also to look after the distribution of animals and the sale or distribution of seed and fertilizer.

DISTRIBUTION UNDER TWO DEPARTMENTS.

The distribution of seed potatoes was done partly by witnesses' department and partly by the Mines Department. Cheques were issued by the latter. The distribution of good in 1922 was made under the authority of the Minister. Seed potatoes were sent to every section of the Island. Some of the distribution witness knew nothing about. He thought that the value of the seed potatoes distributed was between \$57,000 and \$58,000. There was a diversity of methods of getting this seed. Taking Bay de Verde district as an example, witness said \$930 was the value of the potatoes which went from the department. He thought there were potatoes purchased in the district probably by the Road Board members and then turned to those in need.

ESTIMATE EXCEEDED IN PRACTICE.

A letter of April 4, 1922, was read by witness, asking the members to make an estimate of the requirements of seed potatoes. The estimate was considered extravagant as it amounted to about \$40,000. The amount was cut by the Minister to \$30,000, but in actual practice witness said the original estimate was greatly exceeded.

Forms on which to make returns were sent out by the Deputy Minister to the Chairmen of the different Road Boards. Only a small number of the forms were ever sent back.

MR. HUNT.—This distribution was in the nature of relief?

MR. BAYLY.—Yes.

COMMISSIONER.—I can't understand how this was relief. It would not be much relief to give a man seed potatoes that would make a meal four months hence.

MR. HUNT.—The suggestion was that a day's work should be given for a barrel of seed potatoes?

A.—Yes.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ABUSED.

Asked if there were any abuses of the system, witness said that in the latter part of May it came to his knowledge that the system was being abused and he at once told the Minister about it. The abuses he had heard of were about the distribution in St. John's Bay. For a couple of days following his interview the distribution ceased. Dr. Campbell consulted with the members and then the distribution was continued.

COMMISSIONER.—What was the abuse?

A.—People who were not entitled were receiving potatoes.

WITNESS said it would be impossible to show the value received from the distribution, and some of the returns did not come into the Department until recently.

A list of the places and the value of potatoes distributed was given as follows:—

Fogo	.....	\$395.00
Fortune Bay	.....	250.00
Gr. Grace	.....	447.00
Carbonear	.....	1460.00
Perryland	.....	394.00
Trinity	.....	381.00
Port de Grave	.....	823.00
La Poile	.....	548.00
Burda	.....	9123.00
St. Barbe	.....	1857.00
Bay de Verde	.....	980.00
Twillingate	.....	3469.00
Bonaville	.....	2742.00
Harbor Main	.....	4729.00
Placentia and St. Mary's	.....	6412.00
St. John's West	.....	3102.00
St. George's	.....	84.00
St. John's East	.....	3723.00

The cost not including freight and other charges was about \$57,050.00.

Commissions were paid for the distribution of the seed potatoes the witness explained, and in the case of Mr. Vincent he was assisted in the Department during the last week in May until the 10th June. Questioned about the returns sent in, the witness said that a very large per centage sent in absolutely none. In Fogo district acknowledgments of receipts were received but no returns showing work done. In Harbor Grace there were some returns of work. In the case of Placentia the number of returns of work was very limited.

NO PROVISION AGAINST ROGUE.

Witness said a large quantity of the potatoes was bought by the department from people in St. John's and suburbs. It was not the duty of anyone in the department to see that there was no connivance under the system. There was nothing in the system to provide against rogues.

This practically concluded Secretary Bayly's examination-in-chief. Cross-examined by Mr. Howley, witness said that practically every applicant in St. John's East and West received his share of the distribution.

Re-examined by Mr. Hunt, witness said the informer of rider given the applicant it was called for that a day's work should be given for a barrel of the potatoes, but it was not expected that this would be given. It was simply a matter of applying for the seed and it did not matter if the person had ground or not to set them in. The members of the districts both East and West were responsible for this state of affairs, the witness thought.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, yet several questions to the witness, after which adjournment was taken until this morning.

Able's Irish Rose is bound to run a week.—Feb. 20, 11.

Interesting Debate

FOR TO-MORROW NIGHT.

The challenge debate entered into between the M.C.C.I. and Llewellyn Club will take place in the Methodist College Hall on Thursday, February 21st, at 9 p.m. The subject for discussion will be, Resolved: "That the modern Labor Movement is injurious to the social order." The speakers will be: M.C.C.I.—Rev. R. E. Fairbairn, M. B. Owsen, I. C. Morris, Geo. Peters, Capt. A. Keen, A. E. Parkins, Wilson Clarke; Llewellyn Club—Rev. Lightbourn, R. R. Wood, L. Colley, R. G. MacDonald, J. G. Hodder, H. Y. Mett, Mr. Turner, Mr. Hollis Walker, K.C. has kindly consented to act as Judge. Special invitations have been extended by the members to the lady and gentlemen friends of both organizations to attend.

Silvia's Outward Passengers

The following have booked passage by S.S. Silvia, sailing to-day for Halifax and New York:—Wm. S. Western, John T. Kearney, Mrs. Geo. Dodd and 3 children, Alfred Winsor, M. Howell, J. Fiddister, Mrs. Fiddister, J. Galloway, W. Ellis, Michael Shee, Malcolm Dams, Lorenzo Adams, Wm. Haynes, C. A. Haynes, John Manuel, W. H. Herder, A. Omond, W. White, T. J. Buckingham, H. Drake, Mrs. M. Burt, Mrs. Blackler, Miss Agnes Power, Violet Crocker, Mrs. T. Grant, W. J. Delaney.

Something new at St. Mary's Hall, Wednesday and Thursday, 30c. only.—Feb. 20, 11.

Card Party and Dance

An enjoyable card party and dance was held last night by the R.A. Ladies' Auxiliary at the Armouries. The prizes for the card tournament went to Mr. P. Crowe and Mrs. Geo. P. Coughlan. Following the serving of supper, dancing was indulged in until an early hour this morning. The Elimination Leap Year Dance proved a special feature, the prize winners being Mr. R. and Miss B. Martin. Mitchell's Orchestra furnished the music for the occasion.

Able's Irish Rose is a play that delights and pleases every part of the house.—Feb. 20, 11.

Elected Officers

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's Society was held last night, when the reports for the past year were presented and adopted. The election of officers resulted as follows:—

President—H. D. Reid, re-elected.
1st V. P.—R. G. Ross, re-elected.
2nd V. P.—D. McIntosh, re-elected.
Secy-Treas.—H. Butt, re-elected.
Executive Committee—J. M. Brown, A. E. Holmes, J. Taylor, J. A. Young, I. Kennedy, W. B. Hadle, Jos. McKinlay, L. Culvart, J. Forbes.

SHIPPING.—S.S. Rosalind leaves New York to-day for Halifax and this port.

Floral Tributes to the Departed

Nothing so nice as Flowers in Times of sorrow. We can supply wreaths and crosses on short notice, and guarantee satisfaction. We will endeavour to meet the humblest need. "Say it with flowers."

VALLEY NURSERIES, LTD., Tassier Brothers.

IN LOVING MEMORY

of Ella May Strong, who died Feb. 20th, 1921.
Dearest Ella, how we miss you. As the days have come and gone; Yet your memory lingers with us. As we look around our home. Though we could not keep you longer And the parting was hard to bear; Yet we know you're safely landed In our heavenly father's care.

When our tolling here is over And our work on earth is done; And we hope again to greet you Just beyond life's setting sun.—Inserted by her loved ones.

NOTE OF THANKS.—Mrs. Arnold Webster, of Clarendville, wishes to thank Drs. Keegan, Gwynne and Fox, also Sister Doyle, Nurses Hutchings, Jones, Cunningham, Gardner, Connelan, and Norcross for their care and kindness to her while at the General Hospital.—adv.

TODAY'S MESSAGES

SERIOUS SITUATION CAUSED BY DOCK STRIKE—THE REDS IN EVIDENCE.

LONDON, Feb. 19. While employers claim some slight improvement in the dock strike situation to-day, so far as London is concerned, there are no signs of a let up at other points in the United Kingdom. About 2,600 men are still working at the London docks which is less than one-fifth the normal number. Secretary Bayvin, of the Dock Workers' Union, asserts that the strikers' delegation is increasing everywhere. Cargoes of thirty-one ships are being handled, but as many more are being kept waiting, meat prices are soaring, and importers say they will suffer in any case, as chilled meat will presently necessitate freeing with consequent depreciation in the value. New phases of the strike are developing. The transporters union has instructed members to refuse to carry goods to or from the docks. Four thousand carriers quit this afternoon finding their journey to docks wasted, and Secretary Bayvin asserts 10,000 will quit to-morrow. Railwaymen at Grimsby and Hull, handling fish traffic have refused to work, and big consignments of fish are left stranded. Dockers at different Ulster ports also have struck in sympathy, and Secretary Bayvin has called out the Canal workers on the Manchester and Liverpool Canal. The Council of Trades Union Congress unanimously decided to-night to support the strikers' demands, and there seems no likelihood of mediation from any quarter. Red lettered bills appeared ever night on the boardings in Liverpool appealing to dockers to stand pat and affiliate with the Red International. Authors of the Manifesto took occasion to denounce the Labor Government and their dupes. The police were kept busy tearing down these bills.

DESERATE STRAITS OF PEOPLE IN THE HEBRIDES, AND SCOTLAND APPEALS TO U.S. FOR AID.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.

A cablegram from Lord Balfour to John Stewart, of Sulgrave Institute, in this city to-day, contained the following message: "Reported to us that 30,000 persons in the Hebrides are in danger of starvation. What can Sulgrave do? If anything, please advise by cable, Balfour." Ten months unceasing rain, which has destroyed crops, ruined Scotch natives' hatched homes, and cut off every means of livelihood has, according to Mr. Stewart, prompted that appeal to the United States for aid. Not since 1846 when the great flood visited the Scotch Hebrides and America went to the rescue with food, clothing and money, have these proud but poor inhabitants sought charity, he declared. Mr. Stewart said he had transmitted an appeal to George Vincent, head of the Rockefeller Foundation, asking that organization to join in a relief campaign, and to President Coolidge upon the basis of additional reports received to-day that 20,000 more persons on the mainland of Scotland between Sutherland and Argyll were destitute, and in grave danger of perishing. Dr. Stewart said he had cabled to Edinburgh for a detailed statement and promising American aid as soon as possible. An appeal to the English Government by the Edinburgh authorities to supplement private contributions by the Government, relief, has met with no response according to Dr. Stewart.

A SPECTACULAR FALL IN THE FRANC.

PARIS, Feb. 19.

A spectacular fall of the franc on the exchange has roused the French people to a keener sense of realities than has been manifested since the armistice.

FEARS FOR SAFETY OF CREW.

ATLANTIC CITY, Feb. 19.

Coast guards to-night expressed concern for the safety of 25 men comprising the crew of the United States fruit steamer Amalia, which stuck fast on South Bar, Little Egg Harbor Shoals, where she went aground at two o'clock yesterday morning. High seas lashed by a 50-mile northeaster and a blinding snow storm caused postponement of an attempt to float her at six to-night.

Rescue can only be made by small boats and the coast guards fear they would be swamped in the attempt. The Amalia is 1,500 tons, 155 feet long and loaded with bananas.

TO-NIGHT'S DANCE.—The Ladies' Auxiliary, of the B.I.S. Society are holding another dance in their rooms to-night. The Prince's Orchestra will supply the music for the occasion.

S.U.F. CLUB SEALING SWEEP.

Total Catch Neptune	.....	\$100.00
1/2 Catch Neptune	.....	40.00
Total Catch Thetis	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Thetis	.....	40.00
Total Catch Terra Nova	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Terra Nova	.....	40.00
Total Catch Eagle	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Eagle	.....	40.00
Total Catch Ranger	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Ranger	.....	40.00
Total Catch Viking	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Viking	.....	40.00
Total Catch Seal	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Seal	.....	40.00
Total Catch Sagona	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Sagona	.....	40.00
Total Catch Sable Island	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Sable Island	.....	40.00
Total Catch Stella Maris	.....	100.00
1/2 Catch Stella Maris	.....	40.00

COME AND SEE ME—\$1.00 EACH.

Tickets 10c. Ten Chances on each ticket.

Any steamers having odd numbers, the highest numbers—half catches, will take the prize. Any steamer, say, may have 23,002—half catch will read 11,502, this number will take the prize.

(Please cut this out and keep for reference).

Feb. 20, 21.

W. MUGFORD, Secretary.

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7000 TONS

Best Screened North Sydney Coal

and 3000 TONS

Best Welsh and American Anthracite

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WE ACT AS AGENTS FOR EXECUTORS

THOSE who have had placed upon them the responsibilities of Executorships or Trusteeships and find the burdens connected therewith greater than they care to undertake, will do well to place their responsibilities with the Montreal Trust Company by appointing the Company their agent.

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ROYAL BANK BUILDING.
Sir Herbert S. Holt, President.
A. J. Brown, K.C., Vice-Pres.
F. G. Donaldson, Gen'l Manager.
F. T. Palfrey, Mgr. St. John's.
Oct. 14, 1923.

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England's Most Famous Cigarettes!

We have in Stock a shipment of the famous

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Virginia Cigarettes.

COMPRISING:

Bears No. 1 First Quality, tins of 50.

Bear's No. 1 First Quality 10's packages.

Bear's Ark Royal First Quality, tins of 50.

Bear's Elephant Best Quality, tins of 50.

The above Cigarettes are considered by Smokers to be the very best high class Virginia on the market.

CASH'S

TOBACCO STORE,

Sept. 23, 1923.