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(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JUNE 30, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

THE TREPASSEY BRANCH

WE TOOK a trip over the Trepassey Branch railway in order to verify for ourselves statements which we had heard from others regarding the state of that road. What we had been told is mild indeed to the actual conditions. Accustomed as we are to bad roads, our nerves were sorely tried when we essayed a trip on that line.

The Government would be acting only honestly towards the country did it refuse to pay the Reid & Co. a single copper till the facts relating to the condition of that road shall have been laid before a commission.

The road has been built without regard to grading and is crooked beyond all dreams of crookedness outside the political contentions of the present Government.

That road is as crooked as the conscience of the builders and the Government that sits pat and allows the outrage to be committed.

What has the Government Engineer to say about it. As pointed out by this paper before, the Government Engineer is at the mercy of the contractors when it comes to a dispute as to direction. There are no authorized plans of those roads to which the Engineer can hold the contractors.

Morris said in the House of Assembly that there was no plan, and if there were, "they would show nothing but curves and grades."

We ask, how can the Government Engineer or the Government tell whether the curves and grades are the right ones if they have not a survey of the country along the line?

We submit that to allow the contractors to build those railroads without first obtaining plans, was an outrageous act on the part of the Government and also on the part of the contractors, to have undertaken it.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been thrown away on unnecessary mileage. Between St. John's and Witless Bay there are at least four miles of unnecessary track. Not only are those miles unnecessary, they also are involved expenditure in the way of arbitration awards that might have been saved.

The road is brought out of its way to

its own injury as a road. Better grades could have been maintained by taking the shorter routes, notably between Bay Bulls and Witless Bay.

The distance between the two places is about three miles by the highway and about six by the railroad. Instead of making the distance greater the railway might have reduced it and had a better gradient.

A greater piece of scandal has never been committed in this country than the manner in which the Trepassey Branch has been built. Until surveys shall have been made and all the plans of such surveys in the hands of the Government and submitted to competent engineers, the Government has no right to pay the contractors.

Assuming there are only ten miles of unnecessary track between St. John's and Trepassey, there are \$150,000 thrown away on what is absolutely useless, and if we add to that the amounts paid to owners of land as awards we have an unwarranted expenditure of at least \$200,000 on that one branch alone.

The incoming government must take up the question of those branch railways, and have surveys made.

NOT FAIR COMMENT

EDITORIALS such as that which appeared in The Daily News of this morning by no means constitute fair comment on the recent Ontario elections. One would judge from the remarks made by our contemporary that, after all a "Danish the Bar" campaign was a great necessity in the Province of Ontario and that that which was recently fought failed only because it looked as if the Liberals under Mr. Rowell had made it a matter of expediency and an election catchery.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. As a matter of fact the Liberal Party, under Sir George Ross really owed its defeat by Sir James Whitney in the first place to the fact that Temperance advocates came to the conclusion that they had nothing to gain by supporting Ross, while Whitney, who promised reform, might, from his general record, be expected to act sincerely for them.

And Whitney's record as the leader of the Provincial Government of Ontario has amply justified Temperance people in the trust they reposed in him a few years ago.

It is true that Temperance advocates balk at the legislation which requires that to place itself on the "dry" list any section of the Province must give a three-fifths vote to such a requisition to the Government. And yet in nine years, under this legislation Twelve Hundred Licenses have been revoked—or an average of almost one hundred and fifty bars closed during each year that Whitney has held office.

Now, what is the record of the Liberal Party as far as Temperance is concerned?

While The Toronto Globe, the organ of the party in the Province of Ontario was denouncing the liquor traffic on its editorial page, it was carrying the advertisements of that same traffic on other pages of the same issue.

And Mr. Rowell, leader of this same Liberal Party, is a director of The Toronto Globe.

Furthermore, the Liberal Club of Toronto, headquarters of the Opposition in Ontario, features on its menu a lengthy list of wines.

Surely neither fact is evidence that the Liberal Party adopted the "Danish the Bar" election cry through any overwhelming desire to see the whole of Ontario Province go "dry" at once. If so, why did they not at once begin their Temperance house-cleaning at home?

The chief reason for Whitney's great victory was his consistent adherence to the great progressive policy on which he was first elected to power as leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party in Ontario.

He has proven himself trustworthy; he has been, above all things progressive, and the people of Ontario have too much faith in his sane, cautious, statesmanship to think of turning him down for a party that killed itself when it held the reins of power.

MISDIRECTED SARCASM

UNDER the heading "Another Heroine," The Daily News of this morning grows severely sarcastic over a photograph that its editor noticed in The Montreal Star, bearing the legend "Society Girl to Brave Arctic Wilds—Miss Rosamond Bradley, daughter of Robert S. Bradley, a prominent Boston millionaire, who has given up a Life of Luxury to Serve as a Nurse in Dr. Grenfell's Mission Hospital at St. Anthony on the Labrador."

The sneering remarks of the editor of The News are, to our mind, entirely unavailing for.

There is something very worthy about the action of this daughter of a rich house who has decided to forsake a life of ease and devote herself to the cause of the sick and the afflicted.

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TO THE EDITOR.

THE NEW GEOGRAPHY

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—I have just read in Dr. Burke's School Report his notes on the new Newfoundland Geography.

He says, "There is one map in the book which is incorrect, and that is the map of Canada, giving as it does, the incorrect boundary line of Labrador."

Dr. Burke is in error here. There are two incorrect maps. The map of Newfoundland, in which a portion of Labrador and Quebec province are shown, also gives the incorrect boundary line.

This point I made plain in a letter published in The Evening Herald December 11th last. Dr. Burke read this letter, and even if he did not read it, he has eyes to see with as well as I have, therefore, it is strange that he should say "one map is incorrect," when actually two maps and two statements in the text are incorrect in this very important particular.

Dr. Burke also says, "It is written from a patriotic Newfoundland standpoint and in accordance with the latest and most approved pedagogical ideas. Consequently it is a book quite foreign to the accepted ideas of the 'man in the street' as to what a Geography should be."

The publication of two maps and the writing of matter in the text which embody the Canadian view of the boundary question, is certainly not done from a "patriotic Newfoundland standpoint," and the "man in the street" can easily be excused for regarding it as quite foreign to his accepted ideas, and a wee bit too foreign for his children to use.

Mr. J. P. Howley, F.G.S., in a letter

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Will be sold at a bargain for quick sale.

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ter to the press last December, showing the publication of these incorrect maps and incorrect text would prejudice Newfoundland's case in the boundary dispute with Canada.

Conveniently Silent

Dr. Burke is very conveniently silent in regard to the numerous geographical mistakes which this book contains in the section devoted to Newfoundland. Mr. Howley in one of his letters last December, gave a long list of these errors. Other writers also pointed out many more mistakes.

If Dr. Burke did not read these criticisms in the press he could not fall to have seen them in the book if he read it carefully and had even a passing knowledge of the Geography of Newfoundland. Yet in the face of this, he says, "I should wish to see this book in the hands of every child in Newfoundland, of suitable age, as I have no hesitation in saying that it is far away and ahead of any geography yet used in our schools."

Not At All Desirable

It is not far and ahead of any geography yet used in Newfoundland. Howley's Geography of Newfoundland, published some years ago, fills the description more accurately, because it was written by a man who knew the topography of the country he was writing about, and who obtained his information from personal observation in travel and exploration, not from hearsay or the futile imaginations of magazine writers who visit Newfoundland or Labrador for a few weeks and then write articles or books describing the country as it is not or ever will be.

In 1912 Mr. Blackall sent some manuscript of the Newfoundland sections of the Geography to Mr. Howley, with a request for his opinion. Mr. Howley read the manuscript and wrote Mr. Blackall a letter, giving his candid opinion as asked for.

Refused to Publish It

Last fall when Mr. Blackall was acting as an apologist for the mistakes in the work, Mr. Howley asked him, through The Daily News, to publish this letter. Mr. Blackall did not do so, presumably because he knew that the publication of Mr. Howley's letter would kill the work in the estimation of every intelligent person.

I like to be fair-minded and give every man praise or blame as deserved, and I regret the necessity of

criticising Dr. Burke and Mr. Blackall on the geography question, as I believe that both these gentlemen are very much in earnest in their desires to promote education.

In Accord With Him

Although I disagree with Dr. Burke on the Geography, yet I am thoroughly in accord with his remarks on Home Lessons. These remarks are well worthy of the most thoughtful consideration of teachers and parents. I hope every newspaper in the country will publish them in full, so that they will attain as wide a circulation as possible.

From a pedagogical point of view the Geography has some desirable features, but the mistakes, errors, misstatements and even blunders in the Newfoundland section of the work, renders it, in my opinion, unfit for "every child in Newfoundland." Therefore I do not allow my children to use it, though Dr. Burke has introduced it into the school which they attend.

When teaching, and since, I have always maintained the principle that the parent, when capable of doing so, is the proper person to direct the child's education. The teachers and superintendents are paid by the state to carry out the parents' wishes in this respect, consequently they have no power to make children adopt any subject or use any book to which the parent may object.

—MICHAEL J. JAMES.
St. John's, June 30, 1914.

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Are you prepared for a fire? Most folk are not! One of my liberal policies will make the calamity easier to bear. It will cost you nothing to ask for a low rate and very little to be perfectly secure with Percie Johnson's Insurance agency.

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