

### Coaker's Live Criticisms Of Administrative Blunders Of the Morris Government.

#### A Dredge That Is Useless, And Yet Costs Us a Mint of Money.

#### EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

#### Undesirable Features of Old Age Pensions in This Country.

(Continued)

Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Government in their policy of securing a dredge; but I do not consider the dredge which they have secured is suitable for the work. The boat may suit St. John's alright. It is able to take up soft mud; but the most of the northern harbors have bottoms of hard sand. The boat has been tried in these places and I have reason to say that the result has been very unsatisfactory.

I sent an experienced man who had spent several years in connection with this work, on board of that dredge. He reported that it was the kind of boat that was used for taking clams. I should like to see the Government secure a better boat. The need for the dredge is apparent, and there are hundreds of harbors all over the Island that require the use of a good dredge.

#### Great Benefit

It would be a great benefit to the fishermen to deepen the entrances to the harbors. Obtain a dredge that can do blasting work. Some of the dredges used in the United States cost about \$200,000. This is a large amount; but it would be money well spent, if you bought a dredge that would do the kind of work needed in this Colony.

This boat of yours could be used very well as a tug-boat here in the harbor. It could be used as a distress boat to go to the assistance of schooners driven off the coast. There are plenty of uses for this boat. I am afraid we will not get good results considering what the dredge now costs for maintenance. It would be better for the Government to spend the money to maintain a boat that would do good work.

I see here a payment of \$650 for a colter; but I thought the boat was fully equipped when purchased. Mr. Pearcey has received quite a sum, likewise Mr. Duffett. The Newfoundland Produce Company received \$800 in June and Mr. Foote got \$228 on June 30th.

#### Numerous Hauls

Other amounts are:—S. Pearcey, \$452; P. J. Lake, 189; W. H. Burr, \$100; M. Duffett, \$375 in Sept.; P. J. Fitzgerald, \$50; Mr. Cashin, \$256; P. J. Fitzgerald, \$61.69; P. J. Fitzgerald, \$890 in Oct.; J. & W. Winsor, \$296; Nfld. Produce Co., \$52.

I find that the Nfld. Produce Co. received in June, 1912, to Nov., 1913, \$14,172 as payments for insurance. I have not the slightest doubt that the gentlemen who received those splendid payments are delighted.

Now we had to-day tabled the expenses for about 12 months in connection with Prevention of Consumption. Mr. R. White received \$2,000 for a site for a sanatorium. I have no objection to some expenditure for the Prevention of Consumption, but a great deal of money has been voted for that purpose during the last 5 years and I fear little has been accomplished.

I wish to make special reference to the conditions prevailing in the lumber camps. We find men going to these camps from remote outports. They are often compelled to eat and sleep in a small room about 30 feet by 20 feet. In such a room some 20 or 30 men have to eat and sleep. These men go to their quarters, from their daily work, with wet clothes, and with no means of drying them. They put them on next morning in about the same condition as when taken off the evening before. In some cases they sleep on beds of boughs, and this year there are a number who have no mattresses.

#### Inspection Necessary

It would be worth while for the Association for the Prevention of Consumption to send someone to report upon the conditions of the logging camps. Some men are there a couple of weeks and the first thing their friends know is that they are seriously ill of pneumonia. I have known many cases in Green Bay where young men after a month's logging returned home to die.

Three thousand men are working under these conditions. If we want to look out for their health, we must certainly take some means to ensure better conditions. We must see that they get suitable accommodation and means of drying their sweaty clothes. I am not over-drawing this picture. I hope that something will soon be done

to relieve such conditions. It may not have been brought to the notice of this House before; but now that it has been I hope such miserable conditions will be remedied.

With regard to the exhibitions, I note from the returns that the exhibitions which were held during October cost \$7,500. This is not all the expenses. We have not all the accounts in from Harbor Main. Would it not have benefitted agriculture much more if this \$7,500 had been expended in clearing land? I notice that the R.N. Co. has taken \$2,500 for freight. That is a large item out of the \$40,000. Mr. M. A. Devine gets \$174 and Mr. Devereaux \$200 for expenses; Mr. Downey \$150 for expenses, in addition to \$125 per month received as salary by each.

#### Lobster Inspection and Cull

Now as to the Lobster Fishery, here is our Resolution:

There shall be a Lobster Inspector for St. John's to have control of the

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**P. E. OUTERBRIDGE,**  
Sole Agent for Newfoundland  
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TELEPHONE 60.

For instance 10 or 20 cases of lobsters are sent on here and out of that a case and 24 cans say, are condemned and in many cases the packers does not know why. It is often found that the cans condemned are not to be

for sampling. I am told that it frequently happens that someone takes away those samples and makes a meal of them. Of course it is necessary to sample lobsters. But there is a tremendous loss in connection with this sampling and testing. I should think that as much as \$4,000 worth is lost to the packers in this way every year.

Nothing has been done to meet our requests and I do not suppose anything will be done until the power comes to us.

Meanwhile the fishery is dwindling away. It decreased last year 10,000 cases. The year before last it amounted to 26,000 cases, last year it was only 15,000. That is a serious thing for the Country to consider. That is one of the shortages upon which the Minister of Finance did not reckon last year. That is where his estimate may be out—10,000 cases at \$22 is quite a sum of money and the Minister of Finance lost his one-third of the \$220,000 short in the value of lobsters.

I have had something to do with the lobsters, especially during the last 25 years. I believe the only cure for this fishery is to close down one part of the coast one year and close down on another section the following year. At present a tremendous lot of small lobsters are being canned. I know that as many as 25 are put in

out to fishery wardens and that there was no way they could waste it better. I say the same now and I know what I am talking about after twenty years experience. Fishery wardens are no use to carry out the law.

#### How To Do It

If you want to protect this fishery you must do something more than has ever been done. I see that it is not fair to ask the Government to do everything but I suggest that they pass a law to close down this fishery on the North East Coast for two years. I would not like to see the whole fishery closed down for two reasons.

In the first place we would lose our connection with the markets. We have control of the markets now and if we close down for any length of time we would not only lose control but probably we would lose all connection with them.

And secondly, if we closed down the whole fishery for a couple of years you would probably have a number of people rushing into the business at the end of that time hoping to make a lot of money out of the high price and you would soon again have the industry ruined and the last state would be worse than the first. So that the only remedy is to close down each part alternately for a couple of years.

This policy of taking lobsters and breeding them in ponds is only good to the men you employ to run round in motor boats collecting them. The incubators used years ago hatched the fish all right but to be a success the little fish when taken from the incubators should be protected.

#### Outport Hospitals.

I now come to outport hospitals.

We strongly urge the Government to make a start in connection with their promises in this respect, and are of opinion that Twillingate, Fogo and Bonavista should be considered the coming session, as great suffering and even loss of lives are caused owing to the want of those most beneficial institutions.

I am a believer in cottage hospitals as proposed by the F.P.U. resolutions. I do not see why a dying man or an injured man should be brought on here from Bonavista or Trinity or Green Bay. There are in Bonavista three or four good doctors who are able to look after such an institution as a cottage hospital with ten or a dozen beds.

At present a man is very often taken and put on board the train and then a journey of a couple of hundred miles in our easy going trains. No wonder they are nearly dead when they arrive.

I know that the Government has a great deal to expend more money than they have, but I think that in places like Bonavista and Twillingate, where there are two or three good doctors and in similar places on the West Coast we ought to have cottage hospitals. I believe that if the Government went the right way to work they would get the fishermen to subscribe to the upkeep of such institutions. I am sure I could get the F.P.U. to give \$1.00 a man to support a cottage hospital in their own town.

#### People Should Help

I do not see why the Government should have to pay for everything and I think that if the Government showed interest in the right and proper way they would find the fisherman a very reasonable person where such matters are concerned. You are not going to bull dose and force him but there is no man more reasonable than a fisherman, if taken in the right way and I believe they would pay \$1.00 a head for the support of cottage hospitals.

Dr. Grenfell had a hospital at Pilleys Island which failed, but Dr. Grenfell is not the Government and not the F.P.U. The fishermen don't take to Americans easily. The Americans do not know our people. They are a little distant and stand-offish. The fisherman likes to feel comfortable and happy and intimate with those with whom he comes in contact. Dr. Grenfell's hospital has not been a success at Pilleys Island for that reason.

While on this subject there is a matter should like to mention. We ought to have a dispensary in connection with the hospital here. I do not know why we have not got one. We ought to have one, it ought to be every man's right to go there and be examined and find out what is wrong with him.

#### High Cost

At present a poor man has to go to a doctor or get one to come to him. It costs him \$1.00 or \$2.00 and so he puts off having one as long as possible, so that a matter which if dealt with at the initial stages would succumb to treatment, a week later very often takes six weeks to cure, because the sufferer failed at the right time to receive proper medical treatment. So that we ought to have a dispensary and everyone ought to have a right to go there and be examined and prescribed for and if the doctor in charge thinks it necessary to send him to the hospital let him send him there. I

(Continued on page 4.)

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testing and grading of canned Lobsters. He shall provide sufficient subordinates to supply firms purchasing lobsters. These subordinates shall pass an examination of qualification and be licensed by the Inspector, they shall test all cans purchased by the firm or firms allotted to each, and grade the quality of the lobster. They shall see that no lobster is graded lower than No. 1 is mixed with No. 1, or that lobsters bought at less than No. 1 price is mixed or shipped abroad with No. 1.

The Inspector shall brand all cases exported when his agent can vouch for their contents. Severe punishment should be provided after passing the test of the culler. The Inspector and his agents to be dismissed for first breach of duty, and the license cancelled for the future. The Government shall pay the salaries of Inspector and his agents, and receive the said payments by placing an export tax of 10c per case. The cullers shall only be engaged by the Inspector for the season requiring the testing and grading of lobsters from about June to October.

Now this is a very important matter and we had packers at the convention who seemed to think that a great deal of wrong is being done in the assorting of lobsters in St. John's.

be found. Often they have been unfairly condemned.

There should be inspectors to look after the packer's interest here. These packers are in the hands of the buyers at St. John's. The merchants themselves may not be responsible. Some assistant on the wharf is probably the one to blame.

A large number of cans are used

a can. A legal lobster measures eight inches. Of these there ought to be no more than five in a can.

#### Changing Averages

The average when I began to pack was three and when we got down to putting in five we thought they were small lobsters. This is a most serious question. We now sell them at \$24.00 a case. Next year they will be \$25.00.

We need not talk about the Nova Scotia fishery. It is no longer important to us. Most of the Nova Scotia catch is sent fresh into the States and I dare say when the Fog Free Zone railway is established we will do the same.

But the Government ought to take up the matter seriously. A commission of lobster experts should be appointed to gather all the information possible so that laws may be passed that will be stringent and that will be strictly adhered to. Never mind appointing fishery wardens. They do not carry out the law. They are only a waste of money.

I was a fishery warden many years ago. I visited my section three or four times and I was paid \$100 and when I made my report to the Government I said that if they wanted to waste money they should go on paying it

### King George The Fifth Seamen's Institute.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Girls' Department

#### NOTICE

Classes for reading and writing will be held in the Girls' Department of the King George the Fifth Seamen's Institute every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock from March 3rd. Any girls who do not know how to read and wish to learn will be welcome. Everything will be free of charge.

(Mrs.) EDITH H. JOB,

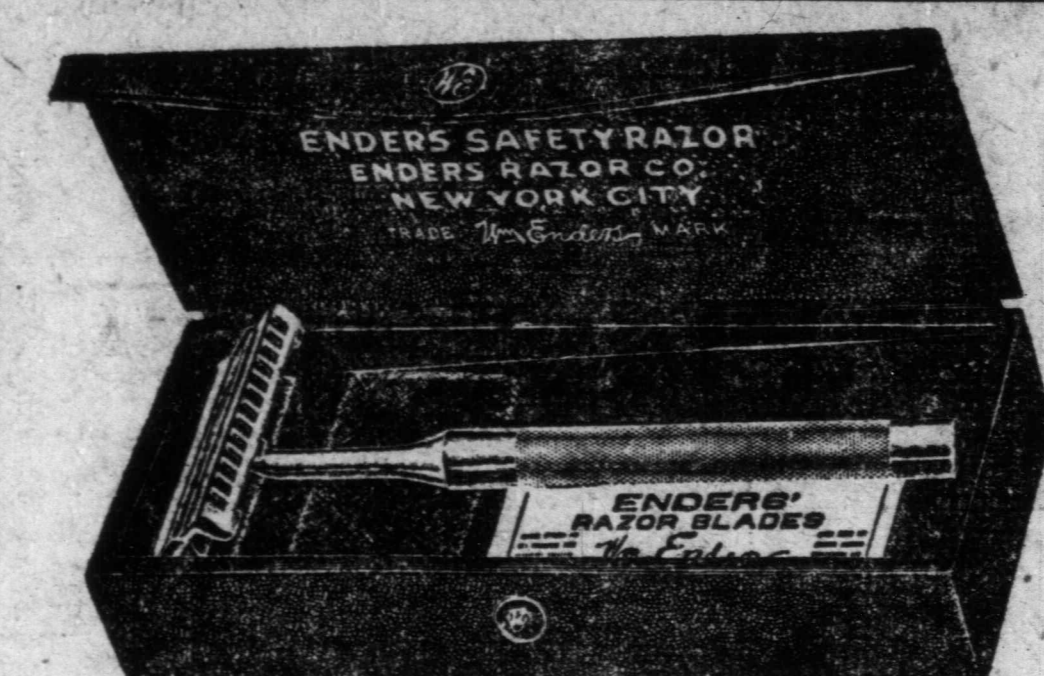
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- S. S. "RANGER" will sign crew Thursday, 5th March, sailing Noon March 9th
- S. S. "EAGLE" will sign crew Friday, 6th March, sailing 5 p.m. March 9th
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