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Published by Authority

**Weights and Measures
Act, 1916.**

THE attention of the Public is drawn to the following extracts from "The Weights and Measures Act, 1916," viz:—

All packages such as cartons, kegs, boxes, crocks, tins, bags and bottles, containing articles exposed for sale in such packages in quantities of two ounces by weight or measure and upwards shall have the net weight or measure marked thereon.

The provisions of this Act whereby the vendors of goods are required to have the net weight of the contents of packages marked thereon shall come into force on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and seventeen.

J. R. BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.
Dept. of Colonial Secretary,
December 29th, 1916.
dec30,31

Crumbs From The Past

By TERRA NOVA.

We said in our first production of "Crumbs from the past" that to-day we would introduce into our article the state of Education in Newfoundland. In the days of the struggle for Political Freedom, Education was at a low ebb in this Country in the early part of the last century. This Country was badly managed for many years, large fortunes were made by the merchants, who took their money and brought it to the other side of the Atlantic, and never as much as a mug on a tank to commemorate their dwelling in a land where they had accumulated so much wealth.

The Duke of Wellington, at one time in the House of Commons, said, "Look at the present state of Newfoundland, in that colony you will see nothing but discord and anarchy, and the interference of the factions in England, of factions who by the by had nothing whatever to do with the Colony, and had no possible right to interfere in its internal Government." A gentleman in England, writing to Mr. Sweetland of Bonavista in 1848, said, "You are astonished in matters relating to Newfoundland, I am not, when I landed, the fishery and all relating to it predominated, and it was treason or folly to talk of cultivation and indeed it would have been useless to attempt it with such as then inhabited the Island. Fishermen, sailors and soldiers who made great exertions for a short time, still lived in idleness, dissipation and folly the greater part of their lives, and endured poverty and destitution."

The founder of a local government for Newfoundland was a Scotchman, not an Irishman, as was stated some months in a local magazine, although I may say and without fear of contradiction that Irishmen were the foremost in getting for Newfoundland the responsible form of government, with which she is blessed to-day. Dr. Carson was the originator of a local government and had struggled against all oppositions for many years without one to aid him, until Patrick Morris, afterwards Hon. Patrick Morris, came to his aid. Speaking of education in the thirties, the Doctor declares, "That it would be hardly credited that this country could have been settled by British subjects for three centuries and still no means of educating the better class of youth. The Doctor means the sons of the Mechanics and others, who were endowed with often higher powers of perception than the son of the merchants. So strong was the opposition to Dr. Carson that the Government of that day told him unless he refrained from his sentiments he would send him out of the country on board the "Isis," the Government flag ship. These were trying times, or as Paine in his "Rights of Man" says "These are the times to try men's souls."

There was a woman at St. John's, in those days, who was banished because she had a scolding tongue. It was Dr. Carson and Patrick Morris and others, who after Butler and Lundrigan were flogged, sought stronger than ever to get justice done to the poor fishermen of Newfoundland. Many years after this inhuman incident the Doctor, in a letter to the press, said in relation to a visit paid him by Butler, "You will not see such a man as Butler in ten thousand. He is a fine Irishman, six feet six inches high, as straight as a rush, well proportioned, with an open and handsome countenance, and the impress of freedom on his brow."

Parson Toque tells us that even in his day, that little or no education

was in progress, the inhabitants for all that seemed to enjoy life, he says that fiddling, dancing, raffles and wakes were held with great enjoyment, tobacco and snuff were very plentiful at wakes, and that on one occasion at a wake, the visitors got so merry that they knocked the corpse out of the coffin on the floor. Playing forfeits and telling stories were also another favorite pastime. Parson Toque delivered a very instructive lecture in the Athenaeum in 1890, at which he said that on one occasion he was reading the burial service over a corpse, when the son of the deceased was so full of whiskey that he fell into the grave.

It is easy to see how education was kept back in this country. Those who made money took no interest in the toilers, having no form of Government was also one of the greatest drawbacks, but now, thank God, the school master is getting abroad in all his glory, yet there is still much to be done in the educating of the sons and daughters of the poor.

Bertram Jones Esq., school inspector, in his report written over seventy years ago, shows the crudeness of education at that time at Turk's Cove. He saw the teacher, Mr. Doyle, in the hut where school was held. It consisted of:—A small squalid room, roofed with birch rhinds and sods, with a square hole cut into one side for a window.

He says: "At Joe Batt's Arm I visited the poor and almost squalid dwelling of an infirm and elderly man who keeps here a school of 25 children on a payment of £5 per annum for this subsistence. At Cape Broyle, he said the teacher, Mr. Kelly, informed him that the school was not in operation as the school house was filled with hay. Speaking of Ferryland he says: "This is a school for girls only, taught by Mrs. Slaney, at a salary of £10. The room with the woman's bed in the corner, exhibits an appearance of squalid poverty." We could enumerate a hundred sad places like the above to the found in the country when Mr. Jones paid his visit.

A writer in the 'sixties, who visited the north part of the Island, said that there were numbers of people without schools, and that the ignorance of the people was great, some families had never seen a clergyman, nor a Bible. The Charity School on Garrison Hill, began over one hundred years ago, then the Benevolent Irish Societies Schools came along, with minor places for educating the youth. Among the girls' schools was the Presentation Convent School, still in existence, and which has sent out of its portals many educated young ladies. The Presentation Convent and School was destroyed in the 9th of June fire, 1846. Before this date the good nuns taught in very dilapidated structures, one school stood on the site of McCabes Ball Alley, near the gate leading to the Belvidere Cemetery. A visitor describes it as follows: "This school was built in two days and a half. As we approached we noticed on the terrace without the house two nuns surrounded by 90 small children, their little bonnets and shawls made fast to the surrounding fences." Among the foremost teachers in this country in the middle of the last century were Professors Roddick and O'Donovan, the former was a Scotsman, and the latter a great Canadian physician. O'Donovan was an Irishman, and the grandfather of Walter O'Donovan Kelly, and William O'Donovan Kelly, two of our most prominent citizens. Talbot was a native of Kilkenny, Ireland, and Nugent was a native of Waterford. Talbot's father came to this country when the future professor and politician was a boy of thirteen years, his mother died when he was young, and he was left in the care of his grandmother and his aunts. He stayed at school until he was 17, then he became Private Secretary to a nobleman named Ford Ponsonby, where he remained for two years. He then entered College and studied medicine, and before he was twenty-two he won a diploma. His father sent for him and he came to Newfoundland. He objected to his return to Ireland. He became tutor to the youth of the most respected families and the late Aden and Sir Ambros Shea were among his pupils. He also taught in the Academy at Castle Remme, and was at one time Professor at St. Bonaventure's College.

Mr. Nugent dwelt for a time in a dwelling at Castle Remme, an incident took place near its precincts which is worth relating, which the learned gentleman took a hand in. As many of our readers are aware the militia were stationed at St. John's at this time. They left the country, the last

of them in the "Tampier," in the seventies. At the time we mention there was a well-known and skilful physician, Dr. Martin, who was the military doctor. One night he was attacked on his way home near the road to Signal Hill, and he received a bad beating from his attackers, who were brought before the court. The first news Mr. Nugent gave in relation to the matters was given him by Mr. Dillon, his son-in-law, who as Mr. Nugent stated: "Had rushed into the room, where I was and resting myself against the wainscoting, exclaimed: "Good God, will you allow Dr. Martin to be murdered at my door. I did not see Dillon when he opened the door, when my attention was directed towards him, his person covered with blood, which dropped on the floor from a handkerchief which he held to his face. I instantly seized a sword, and calling out to my sons and Phelen to follow me I rushed to where Dr. Martin lay." St. John's was a lonely place at the time, in the 'forties. Mr. Nugent was arrested at the investigation of Judge Simms, for libel, the residents who borrowed the policy of Mr. Nugent paid the amount of the libel suit.

For the information of our readers, we may say that an effort was made to establish a sort of Grammar School at St. John's about 117 years ago. It is said that twenty-five of the principal merchants laboured towards its establishment. The subscribers, so we are told, being the persons to whom application would have to be made for admittance to the school.

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Mr. Blackall's Tour
Stimulating Recruiting

My Dear Sir,—I have recently returned from a somewhat lengthy tour on the dual work of inspecting schools and holding patriotic meetings with a view of leading people to a more intelligent interest in the Great War and of stimulating recruiting. As an account of the tour will be pleasing to the residents of the parts of the country visited by my party and probably to others, I ask you to be good enough to publish the following particulars:

The parts visited by us were the districts of Bay of Islands, Bonne Bay, White Bay, and parts of Notre Dame Bay. We held altogether some twenty-four meetings and received the names of some sixty volunteers who undertook to proceed directly to St. John's. It is very likely, however, that others subsequently came forward and will continue to come forward as the result of the visit of the party.

On Wednesday, September 27th, I joined the express at Millertown Junction and found aboard Pte. Bradbury and Royal Naval Reservist Deering who were to form my party. Pte. Bradbury had served with gallantry and distinction throughout the Gallipoli Campaign and R. N. R. Deering was one of those brave fellows who for over two years had watched and endured on the stormy and perilous waters of the North Sea.

Curling:

Timed to reach Curling at 2.35 p.m. we were not a little inconvenienced by failing to reach there until 7 p.m., as all arrangements had been made for our first meeting at 8 o'clock at that place. As the train drew up to the platform, guns were fired and rousing cheers given by the crowd that had assembled to welcome heroes Deering and Bradbury. Magistrate March, Chairman of the Patriotic Committee of Curling, and the Committee itself were at the station in full force and had all preparations well made for our work and our entertainment. The Very Rev. Dean O'Rourke had gladly put St. Patrick's Hall at the disposal of the Committee for the purpose of the meeting and three members of the Committee had kindly undertaken to extend in turn the hospitality of their homes to the party—Magistrate March (Chairman), Dr. Fitzgerald (Hon. Sec.) and Mr. Ruel (Manager of the Curling Branch of the Bank of Montreal), while Mr. Simeon Wheeler and Mr. J. Parsons also on this occasion and at a later one eagerly and generously opened their homes to our heroes. Our first hosts were to be Mr. and Mrs. Ruel, and so immediately after our arrival we hurried in Mr. Court-Sweet's motor-boat to their picturesque and hospitable home at Point Pleasant. Those who have had experience of motor boats know well that seldom they refuse to go when the driver is in a hurry. It was past seven, the meeting was arranged for 8 o'clock, we were all therefore in a dreadful hurry and therefore (?) the engine—quite contrary to its custom, Mr. Sweet assured us,—went in spurts only. The consequence was that we were somewhat delayed and did not reach the Hall until 8.30.

But all's well that ends well. The whole Committee was on the alert and gave the heroes a right royal welcome, the Hall was packed to the doors and the crowd being in good humour, instantly forgave us for being late, so that all went as happily as the proverbial wedding bell. Magistrate March presided and around him on the platform were the Very Rev. Dean O'Rourke, Rev. Henry Petley, Rev. W. J. Morris, Capt. Hillier (S. A.), Dr. Fisher (Hon. Sec.), Mr. Ruel, Mr. Anguin, Mr. McEvoy and many others of the Committee. Happily two heroes from the Bay who chanced to be at home on furlough were able to be present and swell our party—Royal Naval Reservists Parke and Stickling. With rapid attention the large assembly listened to the thrilling stories told by R. N. R. Deering, Pte. Bradbury and R. N. R. Stickling. The Rev. Henry Petley moved, the Very Rev. Dean O'Rourke seconded, Messrs. Anguin, McEvoy, others supported, and the meeting passed with acclamation a vote of thanks to the heroes. No volunteers came forward at the end of the meeting. This was, of course, a disappointment, for there were eligible men present, but it must in fairness be said of Curling that the town had already done well. There are nevertheless others who can go if they will and Curling cannot feel that it has fully done its part until at least four per cent. of the population has got into the King's uniform. After the meeting and at the earnest invitation of the Dean our party betook themselves to his home where a very pleasant half-hour was spent. Thence we returned to Point Pleasant where until the following evening Mr. and Mrs. Ruel and family did all that was possible to make our stay at Curling a happy one.

Humbermouth.

On the following morning, Sept. 28th, Magistrate March and myself went over to Summerside to finalize arrangements for our proposed meeting there on the 29th, and in the evening Ferryman Mr. Davis kindly took the party with several members of the Bay of Islands Patriotic Committee to Humbermouth and later on brought us back to Curling. On arrival at Humbermouth we found Mr. Henry Norman, Mr. Meaney, Mr. Norman Fisher and others ready to welcome us. They conducted us to the Hall which the ladies of the place had artistically decorated for the occasion, and where we found a goodly number of people waiting in readiness to cheer the heroes. Here our party was enlarged by the addition of Pte. Brake, of Humbermouth, who had recently been invalided home, after serving on the Gallipoli Peninsula and in France, and Pte. Young, of Curling, who was home on leave for a few days before going to the Front to "do his bit." Unfortunately a goodly number of the men were unavoidably absent from home on the Railway engaged in some emergency work, Magistrate March presided and the programme of the following evening was repeated. The people listened eagerly and enthusiastically. There were few if any eligible men present and consequently no volunteers, but I must not omit to state that the men of Humbermouth had already done well and that among the first of our Regiment to give his life in defence of home and country was young McQuintier, of Humbermouth. After the meeting the ladies kindly invited the heroes to a repast to which full justice was done. Everywhere it was found that people sought opportunities of showing kindness to our brave lads. At about 11 we returned to Curling and went to the palatial home of the Magistrate of Bay of Islands—a veritable Cincinnatus, where until the following evening he and his family devoted themselves to our comfort.

Summerside.

The following morning Sept. 29th, was spent in putting my little auxiliary yacht in order for the purpose of taking the party around the two Western bays already named. In the evening, accompanied by Dr. Fisher, we proceeded across the bay to Summerside. Here the school-room was decorated and packed. Messrs. Wheeler, O'Brien, Petipas and Loder had arranged everything well, Mr. O'Brien presided at the meeting and the several speakers were heard with manifest interest. No men, however, volunteered at the meeting. We understand that no son of Summerside has yet gone forward to help to keep the old flag flying, so that it is hoped that ere long one or two will come along. We think they will. After the meeting the ladies of Summerside in their desire to give the heroes a pat on the back, invited them to supper at the house of Mr. Loder, where a very pleasant half hour was spent. On our return to Curling Pte. Bradbury and myself were taken by Dr. Fisher to his recently built and beautiful bungalow home, while Messrs. Parsons and Wheeler vied with one another as to who could "collar" the greatest number of the rest of our party.

Saturday, the 30th, was a busy morning. We had finished the work of the Inner Bay and were to set out for the Outer Bay and Bonne Bay. We provisioned the little ship that was to be our home and transport for the next three or four weeks, and in the afternoon set off amid cheers and guns to hold a meeting that night at Meadows on our way outward. And just here I would like to thank very cordially the Patriotic Committee of Bay of Islands for the splendid way in which they had made arrangements for our tour of the Bay and the people of Curling for their lavish hospitality.

Meadows.

At about four in the afternoon we reached Meadows in the Pedanaut—for that is the name of my little craft. Here all the children of the picturesque little village were assembled on the substantial wharf of Mr. A. E. Brake with flags, as well as men with guns and ladies with chocolates. Mr. Brake's little boy, Frank, was the bearer of packets of cigarettes and the soldiers and sailors fared well. The Organizing Committee—a sub-committee of the Bay of Islands Committee—consisted of Messrs. A. E. Brake, Cornelius Brake, James Brake, Jerry Brake, Arthur Brake, and John W. Brake. One might be tempted to name the place Brakestown. Homes were already arranged for the members of our party—now four in number, Royal Naval Reservists Deering and Stickling, Pte. Bradbury and myself. I had had the misfortune on the previous evening to bend one of the blades of the propeller of the Pedanaut.

J.J. St. John

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aut. Messrs. Fred and Will Brake undertook to put that right for me between tides—for which I thank them. After tea we proceeded to the school-room. On the way we witnessed an unusually beautiful display of the Northern Lights. On arrival at the place of meeting we found it gaily decorated and well packed with the residents of the immediate neighbourhood, some people travelling as much as four miles in order to cheer the soldiers and attend the meeting. Mr. Davis—an ammunition worker—presided. The meeting passed off well, but alas! we gleaned no immediate volunteers. As I wrote of Summerside, so must I write of Meadows. Not a son, I understand, has gone to the fight for right yet, but I am hopeful that while there is yet time some mother of this lovely and prosperous spot may yet learn the joy of having a lad numbered amongst the brave and gallant who have gone to slay the dragon that threatens to devour the world.

(To be continued)

Of the natives in India, about 2,000,000 can now read English.