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LEGAL DECISIONS IN NEWSPAPERS PER CASES.

- 1.—Any person who takes a paper regularly from the Post Office—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.
2.—If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay up all arrearsages or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.
3.—The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the Post office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

THE STAR.

MONDAY, MARCH 21st, 1875.

DURING the past few years, the several branches of trade in this town, have undergone a considerable degree of depression. This unfortunate condition of affairs has not arisen altogether through the unsuccessful operations of the fisheries, but has its origin, at least to a large extent in the failure of the well known and extensive mercantile establishment of Messrs. Ridley & Sons. We have reason to fear, that the usual bustle and activity which were displayed throughout the Beach premises, at this season of the year, have glided into the history of the past; this is more to be regretted as we are not made aware of the probability that their place will be taken up by any other gentlemen of like enterprise.

In passing, however, we cannot but speak with disapproval of the exaction, and overbearing selfishness which characterized the conduct of their creditors. At that point of misfortune when every imaginative effort was strained to its utmost by the respective members of that firm to discharge their liabilities in a just and honorable manner, the creditors' screw was put in operation, and it was found all efforts were unavailing—the crash came—and with this memorable casualty, poverty and want were spread around the homes of many. These matters have passed and resuscitation is gradually taking place, and the trade is now assuming a more pleasing aspect; advancing in the groove of sure and steady progress. Like many of our neighbors, we have been sufferers in a pecuniary way also, and have met with adversities too. We are, however, determined upon using our utmost endeavours to make the STAR as interesting as possible; and we trust that as the trade advances, the STAR will be found to advance also, throwing its cheering beams around this town and neighborhood.

Parties requiring good work in the Photograph line would do well to read the following complimentary notice to Mr. Wood, St. John's:

"I can confidently recommend any persons wishing to get old pictures of any kind enlarged and coloured in ink, oil, or water, to Mr. Page Wood, Photographer, St. John's, who can execute them in a style and finish not to be surpassed. He has done some work for me, and I can therefore bear witness to the excellent manner in which it was performed."

G. MACKINSON.

(FOR THE STAR.)

The Festival of St. Patrick, was celebrated as usual by the Members of the Benevolent Irish Society, walking in processional order through the principal streets of the town, accompanied by the fine brass band of the T. A. & B. Society, playing appropriate National Airs. The Society passed in front of the Episcopal residence on the march to Carboncar, where, on their arriving at the beach they were met by a large and respectable procession of their brother members, residents of that town and vicinity, with a band and carrying a beautiful banner of St. Patrick. The whole Society now numbering nearly three hundred formed into line, the flag of the Society being carried in front beside the banner of St. Patrick, and in the middle a rich white flag with a red cross in centre, and near the rear of the procession the arms of their beloved Bishop, and Patron. The Society was accompanied by an immense concourse of persons assembled to give them welcome. His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Carfraiguin, in company with the Very Rev. D. Falconio, and Rev. J. V. Donnelly, having arrived the procession moved across the beach to St. Patrick's Church, the entrance to the grounds of which was spanned by a handsome triumphal arch, decorated with flags and mottoes, appropriate to the occasion. In the Church seats were provided through the kindness of the Rev. W. Veitch. Shortly after solemn Pontifical Mass was commenced by His Lordship the Bishop, the Rev. D. Falconio and J. V. Donnelly as Deacon and sub-Deacon. After the Gospel the Rev. W. Veitch preached an eloquent and impressive sermon on the life and labors of St. Patrick, which was listened to by a very large and attentive congregation. Mass being ended and Benediction of the Most Adorable Sacrament given by His Lordship, the Society reformed and marched to the front of the Convent—where the band halted to play a few appropriate National Airs—thence by the residence of Rev. W. Veitch, down Water Street and counter-marched across the beach, where the Society halted and was addressed in a few appropriate words by their respected President (P. Doreaux, Esq.). Three cheers were given for the Carboncar members and returned for their Harbor Grace friends, cheers were likewise given for their beloved Bishop, and Patron, and for Her Majesty the Queen. After bidding farewell our efficient Grand Marshal gave the word to move on. The Society marched home in the same good order as they left in the morning, arriving at their place of meeting (T. A. & B.S.'s Hall) Cheers were again given for our beloved Bishop, his Clergy and Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. The Society then dispersed after thus celebrating the festival of their Patron Saint in a truly CATHOLIC and NATIONAL manner. Harbor Grace, March 19.

TO THE EDITOR MORNING CHRONICLE, SIR,—

I have read with no small amount of surprise the remarkable speech of the Hon Mr. Harvey which appeared in the columns of the Newfoundlander on the 23d. February as delivered by him in the Legislative Council. I use the term surprise because I could not have believed that such a speech and such sentiments could have emanated from him. I had given the hon. gentleman credit for the exercise of a clearer perception, a better knowledge of the subject on which he was speaking, and a better judgment.

He commences by stating that the Telegraph Monopoly was "second only in importance to the projected Railway through this Colony for the conveyance of the mails, merchandise and passengers between Europe and America with the view to save time!!! I shall not now discuss the Railway project, since as regards its practicability in the saving of time, as to the inducements it offers to capitalists as a paying job, nature or as to the capabilities of this Colony with its population of only 150,000, principally fishermen subsiding to any material extent such an undertaking but content myself with identifying that gentleman with so impracticable a project. Indeed men of common sense who reason upon the subject will solve the question for themselves.

To the hon. gentlemen's statements in regard to the Telegraph Monopoly which he asserts was to a "great extent" the reason that "led to his disassociation" from the late Anti Confederate Government, I shall direct my present observations; but before doing so I think it proper, as one of the Anti-Confederate party to say that that party would be glad to know what other reasons the Hon. gentlemen have or had for deserting those who placed him in the honorable position he now holds in the Legislature of the Colony, and for joining a Government, (professing as he did himself to be a strong opponent of Confederation) and aiding and assisting them to gain power every member of which is a strong Confederate and its leading men those who composed the delegation to Canada to fix and ratify the terms upon which the great charter of the liberties of this country were to be sacrificed to the aggrandisement of the Dominion.

I admit, as does nearly every body in the country, that the question of the Telegraph Monopoly is a "serious and most important one," and viewing it in this light is the reason why I have joined the public in the strenuous efforts that have been made for its abolition; but the hon. Mr. Harvey's reasons for considering the question "serious and important are quite the reverse of mine. He is for the continuance of the monopoly, and the reasons he offers are so confused that I doubt whether he has any clear conception of them himself, beyond that one idea that the Anglo American Company should be permitted to enjoy their monopoly for thirty years longer. He objects to the words "speedy attention" in the address in reply to His Excellency the Governor's speech, and demands that the word "speedy" and also "vexed" be "expunged" and that the following amendment be substituted, "we observe that the subject of the Telegraph Monopoly continues to engage the attention of Your Excellency's Government and we trust that in the solution no terms will be accepted but such as are clearly and unmistakably for the advantage of this Colony." He then goes on to show that according to his views the requirements in his amendment are impracticable in their accomplishment inasmuch as that "the enormous aggregate amount" (the millions of Mr. Cyrus Field,) which according to his idea this country would have to pay the company, would be beyond its capacity to pay, and if not paid would lead to interminable law suits which would be equally ruinous, and therefore the better plan would be to allow matters to rest as they are. He further tells the Government not to heed public opinion—that they are too fiercely hooded on by outside "pressure" and "outside agitators," that he has "maturely considered" the subject, and therefore, without giving any other valid or sensible reasons, he urges them to be governed by his better opinion. The Council seems to have placed no confidence either in his advice or his judgment.

Then he suggests that the Anglo American Company should be employed to reduce the tariff! The reply to which naturally is that the exercise of pre-emption would compel this reduction to one shilling, or at most one shilling and sixpence the word, without subjecting ourselves to such humiliity. The tariff now is three shillings per word between this country and England, and it was six shillings per word before the movement in favor of pre-emption took place.

We have contributed largely in both money and land to the Company and therefore are entitled to be recompensed in some way or the other, independent of our geographical position for the outlay.

If it is intended on the part of the Government to purchase the cable between this country and Nova Scotia they intend in my judgment to do a very silly and unnecessary thing; for by the same rule they might purchase the cable between here and Europe, neither of which are they required to purchase by the contract. The object of the public is to throw the largest net to all comers, and to create the greatest possible competition. It would be worse than folly, it would be madness on the part of the Government to have anything themselves to do with the line, beyond properly conserving the interests of this Colony and giving fair play to all who may invest their capital in the enterprise. The only cables that could be contemplated to be laid in this island, for crossing our estuaries and rivers.

The hon. gentleman speaks most unbecomingly and disrespectfully of the motives which have influenced Mr. Labouchere in his efforts to establish cheap telegraphy—a gentleman who has by his energy, superior intelligence and personal influence organized the Company which has laid an ocean cable nearly to Newfoundland, and would have completed it in spite of all difficulties only for the unprecedented storm and severe weather experienced since the beginning of October last. This Mr. Labouchere is a London banker and capitalist of the highest respectability, and a gentleman who has made a crusade upon those fraudulent and bogus companies of the Stock Exchange, (to which the hon. gentleman refers) such as will never be forgotten, and which is now working a very salutary effect both on the Stock Exchange and the Money Market, and this same Mr. Labouchere is the person he (hon. Mr. H) refers to as having offered to reduce the telegraph tariff to one shilling and six pence word, and who has done more to break up this monopoly than has been done by any other individual, not excepting the gentleman who in this Colony have rendered him such able assistance.

The hon. gentleman harps upon the millstone that is to be hung upon the neck of Newfoundland if the Government exercise their right of pre-emption. If he would take the trouble to read the fourteenth and fifteenth sections of the Act which constitutes the contract he will find—that the only concession made by this Colony to the Company was the "sole and exclusive right to build, make, occupy, take or work the said line or any line of telegraphs between St. John's and Cape Race," and a prohibition to all other persons to lay cables within the jurisdiction of this Colony, "subject to the right of pre-emption" "at any time after twenty years after the passing of this Act;" and secondly, that on exercising the right of pre-emption arbitrators are to be appointed to value the plant created by the company in the out lay of their capity "in this country," namely, in the building of the telegraph lines, wires, cables, apparatus, vessels, and all other property connected therewith," and the only reservations made in the transfer of their property

are the lands granted to the company and the proceeds connected therewith.

The late Government made known by written communication to the Company their willingness not to exercise the right of pre-emption provided they would give up their monopoly. What could be more just towards that Company than what wrong could they impute to the Government for exercising that right which had been contracted for in the existing agreement? But, supposing the Company were even to push matters to extremities and compel the Government to exercise the right of pre-emption, (a very unlikely thing inasmuch as it would render the whole of their large investment in ocean cables wholly valueless, and for a considerable time at least suspend the receipts of upwards of £60,000 sterling a month for the messages that are now passing over the line,) the "Direct Company" would be only too glad to possess these lines and very likely to pay a handsome consideration for the pre-ference, inasmuch as they would then be the only parties that would for a time be able to conduct the telegraph business. Hence it will be perceived that there would be no financial embarrassment to the Colony but a profit accruing to it out of the transaction.

When the Hon. Mr. Harvey speaks of the derangement of our West coast Telegraphy, he speaks like a child without experience. At present we are very imperfectly supplied with Coastal Telegraphy to the Westward and what we have is at a very high cost. But the moment we have competing companies, the probability is, that our present defective system will be improved that our Coastal Telegraphy will be made more perfect and at a much less cost, then we now pay for it; in fact arrangements might be made by the Government with one of the Companies to supply this requirement.

The Hon. Gentleman also says that the "tolls will soon be reduced," as "the Direct Cable Company will succeed in completing the laying of their Cable next summer" and "at once reduce the tariff" to fourteen or fifteen pence a word between here and London. This another sentiment equally contradictory to many of his other statements, for how is it possible that the Direct Company can land their Cables next summer if the Government do not exercise the right of pre-emption. Canada might pass a veto upon the monopoly and authorize the landing of the Cable in the Dominion, but the monopolists have the power and will no doubt exercise, to exclude the Direct Company from the privilege of landing their Cable in Newfoundland.

Each of the mercantile houses (as hon. Mr. H. states) pays the sum of four thousand dollars annually for Telegraphy it is surely one of the strongest arguments that can be adduced in the interests of this country why the monopoly should be put an end to as soon as possible.

Again the hon. gentleman says that the majority of the legal profession in England are of opinion that we should have to "buy the Cable from Newfoundland to Cape Breton" as well as the land lines and other property. I am aware that such is the case with regard to the land lines &c., but I know not on what authority he asserts that we shall have to buy the Ocean Cable between this country and Cape Breton. I believe that his statement is carelessly made being without any foundation in fact, for there is nothing of the kind stipulated for in the contract nor any reference thereto in any of the published opinions or reports that I have read.

With regard to the one per cent as a tariff on the gross receipts being an inadequate consideration, we are not limited to that one per cent since it will be in the power of the Government to make their own terms with those who are reaping such large pecuniary advantages and the Government would not impose a tariff that would be unreasonable and thereby defeat the object that is sought by themselves and the public generally, nor would it be their interest to do so. To lower the tariff the greater will be the amount of business, as has been experienced in the Post Office, and it is impossible for any one with the greatest foresight to give a correct judgment as to what the increased proceeds of telegraphic communication across the Atlantic may be under such reduction.

Mr. H. further says that if pre-emption be exercised and a tariff of taxation be imposed, that "a still larger proportion of the messages" would pass through St. Pierre. Now if there be that difference of time in transmission of signals between the two lines as that admitted to exist, namely one third in favor of Newfoundland, how is it possible for the St. Pierre line to take business from the Newfoundland speedier and consequently cheaper line.

As regards the line to the Labrador, assuming that they intend to take the nearest point to Europe, the hon. gentleman seems to have forgotten that that point is within the jurisdiction of Newfoundland, and he does not appear to be sensible, first as to the extra distance, and secondly, to the physical difficulties that would have to be encountered, in the risks to which the cables would be exposed from the numerous icebergs that would be continually passing over them and damaging them.

C. F. BENNETT. St. John's, March 8, 1875.

Manning of Westminster, Lodochow-ski of Posen and McClosky of New York have been created cardinals. Philadelphia Boston and Milwaukee raised to Metropolitan Sees.



LOCALS.

Report goes to say that the Hon. A. Shea has become the agent of the Direct U. S. Cable Company.

The steamer 'Hercules' left here yesterday morning for St. John's, but was compelled to return in consequence of ice.

The Mail Steamer "Newfoundland," arrived at St. John's, from Halifax, on Thursday morning.

The Brig 'Trusty,' Hennessy, master, belonging to Messrs John Munu & Co. succeeded in reaching St. John's.

The Entertainment in connection with the Presbyterian Sabbath School came off on Thursday evening last, and was a decided success.

Mr. Thomas McCulloch Cairns sold by Auction on Thursday last, five splendid Oxen, belonging to Mr. Mackinon.

The Quadrille Committee intend having a 'big night' on the 6th April. Great credit is due to the worthy M. C. (Mr. Selby Gundry Allan) for the efficient manner in which the Entertainments are conducted.

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