

Bennett and Reduced Taxation

[Founded in 1879 by W. J. Herder.]

THE EVENING TELEGRAM

THE EVENING TELEGRAM, LIMITED, PROPRIETORS.
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St. John's, Newfoundland, Thursday, April 26, 1923.

The Humber Project.

Important Considerations Concerning It.

Speaking in his Manifesto about the Humber project, Sir R. A. Squires says: "It is of such magnitude that I am bound to submit it to the people for their decision before binding them by any act of mine." Two points are brought into prominence by these words, which clearly state an obvious duty. First, has it been submitted to the people, in any true sense of the word? Second, has not Sir Richard already bound the people to the project, on pain of great loss if they reject it? Sir Richard has submitted his political fortunes to the people. He has falsely endeavored to make the people believe they cannot reject him and yet retain the Humber project. He has misrepresented the matters of fact concerned with the project, exaggerated the possible benefits, and minimized the risks, but he has not placed the agreements, the correspondence, the evidence before the people, so that they may judge for themselves. He has merely asked the public to sign a blank cheque in his favor, and has used all the arts of a confidence man to induce them to do so. He admits the impropriety of binding the people to the project without their consent, yet he has allocated millions of dollars of public money for expenditure on it, and much has already been expended, without the prior approval of the people, or the authority of the Legislature, and not one dollar of this can be recovered, except as the long distant result of proceeding with the work, and making it profitable. No sufficient defence can be made for this misconduct, the gravity of which Sir Richard himself confesses in the above quoted words. It was an unnecessary piece of lawlessness, for the Legislature could have been called together last autumn, (a session was, in fact, promised), and necessary authority could then have been given, if desirable.

"CARBIDE WILSON" DEAL.

Maladroitly, the Manifesto calls attention to Sir Richard's connection with the "Carbide Wilson Deal," in 1915, when the Humber project was really born. It was enacted under the auspices of the Morris Government, in face of the determined joint opposition of the Liberal Party, led by the present Judge Kent, with whom Sir William Lloyd was associated, and the Union Party, led by Mr. Coaker, which opposition led to many important amendments. In the course of the debates, it was elicited that the Deal, and the Statute authorizing it, had been drafted by the late M. W. Furlong, a Reid Co. Director, and that the present Sir Richard Squires had acted for the Government in the negotiations, when the rights of the public had been shamefully sacrificed, so much so that even a hardened government majority did not dare to force the scheme through without amendments. Is there any more justification in adopting to-day, without careful examination, than there was then, the work approved by Sir Richard Squires? Are public interests any more likely to be faithfully and ably preserved now than then by him?

HARMSWORTH DEAL 1905.

The Manifesto goes out of its course to misrepresent the opposition exhibited both in and outside of the Legislature, in 1905, to certain features of the Harmsworth Deal, and the deflection was for the purpose of making a very characteristically nasty attack upon "Water Street." It will be recalled that, as originally introduced, some of the Harmsworth proposals which were not essential to the project were unnecessarily detrimental to public rights and interest. There were, for instance, restrictions upon public rights of passage over the wide Harmsworth areas, upon the right to use the rivers and lakes therein, and upon the right to fish and hunt. Protests were made in the Assembly, by the Opposition, and outside, by the public, and in consequence very valuable amendments were made, which improved rather than injured the Harmsworth Deal. Now, Sir Richard represents all this public spirit as "Tory" opposition, and the moral to be drawn from what he says is this, that any opposition hereafter to any proposal contained in his secret arrangements about the Humber project will be resisted as treason towards him and the country. In other words, he would jam his schedule, holus bolus, down the throats of the people.

WHAT ARE THE LABOR CLAUSES?

The Manifesto makes two statements concerning important questions relating to the Humber proposal which demand close attention, and call for specific proof. Sir Richard says (1) that the British Government's proposal to guarantee bonds for material and machinery is conditional upon the giving by this Colony of a further guarantee, for money to be spent here, with a provision that no workmen not Newfoundlanders shall be employed, and (2) that the Armstrongs are themselves investing millions of dollars in cash (of their own) in this enterprise. Here are two really vital matters, easily susceptible of proof, if Sir Richard has told the truth. We believe that what he has told on both points is absolutely false, and challenge proof of his veracity. (1) We have been informed that there is a clause concerning labor in the agreements to a precisely opposite effect to that stated by Sir Richard. Our information is, that there is a clause providing that no opposition shall be given to the importation of foreign labor. Sir Richard, if he has told the truth, has, in his own control, the power to prove what he has said, for he has only to quote the actual words of the agreement, certified by the Governor, for Sir Richard's own word will not be accepted. It will at the same time be necessary for him to explain what he means by a "Newfoundlander"; if, in short, he has restricted labor on the project to the men now living in the Colony, or if he means that he has provided against men becoming Newfoundlanders by merely coming here to reside. (2) As to the cash contribution of the Armstrongs to the project, how is it to be made, and when? Have they taken common or preferential

stock, and paid cash for it, or are they simply to buy guaranteed bonds? No information so far afforded the public has indicated that a dollar of their own cash has been put into this proposal by the Armstrongs. If it has been, it will be easy for the Premier to show the manner of its investment. To us, it seems that the whole project is to be financed with money borrowed on the strength of the guarantee given by the Governments.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF IT FAILS?

And this brings us to one final and terribly important consideration. It is this. All the high flown talk about the Humber industry has been based upon the supposition of its success. What will happen if it fails? We are told that interest on the bonds, and a sinking fund, are to be paid "out of profits". But suppose there are no profits? The Colony will then have to pay both interest and sinking fund out of taxes upon the fishermen of the Colony. The interest will be, say, about one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year, and the sinking fund another million (\$1,000,000), and if the profits are not sufficient, the shortage must be provided by this Colony. That is to say, if the Humber project does not pay, additional taxes of about \$10 per head may be levied upon each person in the Colony for a blasted enterprise, a dead and defunct project. That means that an average family is asked to risk a perpetual debt of \$50 per year. Is there not good reason why a prudent people should pause before incurring this vast obligation? Mr. Maddock, Squires' candidate in Carbonear, is reported to have said, he had never seen the contract, but "he had seen a man who had seen it", and yet, in the face of this desperate ignorance, the intelligent people of Carbonear are asked to sign an agreement which they have never seen. The whole Colony is in like case, and if it is sane will refuse to sign until it has read the contract. But surely the mass of the people, especially those fathers of families who follow the fishery, those who wish to live and die here, those who have homes here, those who must continue to pay taxes here, will not risk their all, that which they have and may hope to have, upon the desperate fling of a political gambler, without at least pausing to examine the proposal carefully. Sir Richard Squires can leave the Colony when he will, he may go to Canada or the United Kingdom, and, from afar off, regard with sardonic mirth the wreck and ruin he has brought; but as for the people of this Colony, their days must continue here, and what they have they should hold.

CITIZENS, PROTECT YOUR HOMES!

Mr. Bennett and his associates have earnestly said, we will support the project if it seems good when we have studied it; this is all that wise men should say. They deserve the confidence of their country for their refusal to be stampeded into unqualified approval of what they do not understand. It is self-evident that no person charged with the care of public affairs would oppose a beneficial project. But Sir Richard's political future is bound up with the approval of this project as it is now framed, whether good or bad, and the electors who vote to give him a blank cheque will be as unwise as men always are who approve what is proposed to them under such circumstances. It will be the part of wisdom to put the Bennett Party in a position to uncover the dark places. The British Government will treat one party in this Colony as well as another. It will not withdraw any offer it has made. On the contrary, it will approve of an exhibition of sound discretion by our people. Citizens! Protect your homes!

Portia Reports.

SHIP LEAVING HERMITAGE TODAY.

The shipping department received a wire from Capt. Connors last night to the effect that the ice had moved off the land and the Portia is expected to leave Hermitage this morning for Gaultois where a quantity of freight will be landed. The Portia has been ice-bound in Hermitage Bay since January 17th last, and the news of her getting free will be greatly welcomed in shipping circles.

"Quarantined."

AT SYNOD HALL TONIGHT.

The famous three act comedy entitled "Quarantined" which recently made such a success for four nights in St. Mary's Hall, Southside, is being repeated in the Synod Hall this evening at 8 p.m. and judging from the delighted number of the fortunate people who have already witnessed this truly creditable performance we bespeak for the troupe comprised of St. Mary's Dramatic Club a full house. The proceeds are in aid of the C.L.B. Band.

McMurdo's Store News.

THURSDAY, April 26, 1923.

Hutax Tooth Paste has many friends and those who use it call it the "best ever." It is at any rate worth trying. You may obtain it in either Peppermint or Wintergreen flavor to suit your taste. Price 50c. for large tube.

You can obtain Sutton's Seeds, the always reliable kind, from us; we have both flower and vegetable seeds which are all selling at moderate prices. You can be sure of Sutton's Catalogues in a few days.

Methodist Orphanage "At Home."

The following lady friends of the Methodist Orphanage, Lady Crobie, Mrs. S. Milley, Misses Elsie Herder and Mary Mackay will serve tea at the Orphanage to-morrow afternoon between 3.30 to 6 p.m. All the lady and gentlemen friends of the orphanage are cordially invited to come and have a pleasant afternoon at their first "At Home."

Sealing Turnouts.

JOB'S SHIPS DISCHARGED.

The S.S. Thetis finished discharging this morning. The total turnout was: 16,149 young and old seals, made up as follows:—11,628 young harps, 6 young hoods, 4,160 bedlamers, 349 old harps, 6 old hoods. The net value of the cargo amounted to \$33,005.87. Her crew of 161 men shared \$89.83 each.

The official specifications of the S.S. Neptune's seals landed totalled 15,266 as follows:—10,449 young harps, 32 young hoods, 5,395 bedlamers, 337 old harps, 64 old hoods. The net value of the cargo is \$34,159.39. Her crew of 165 men shared \$89.01 each.

Magistrate's Court.

Two well known characters were arrested by the police at 2 o'clock this morning for loitering about the street. In court this morning the defendants gave a satisfactory statement and were thereupon discharged.

Two respected citizens of Georgetown summoned for loose and disorderly conduct on the 21st inst., were each fined \$2.00.

A case of indecent assault preferred against two young men was postponed until the 7th of May.

"MISS FEARLESS" will be repeated by the Mayflower Club in the Congregational Lecture Hall, on Friday evening at 8 o'clock. Admission 20 cents.—apr26,23.

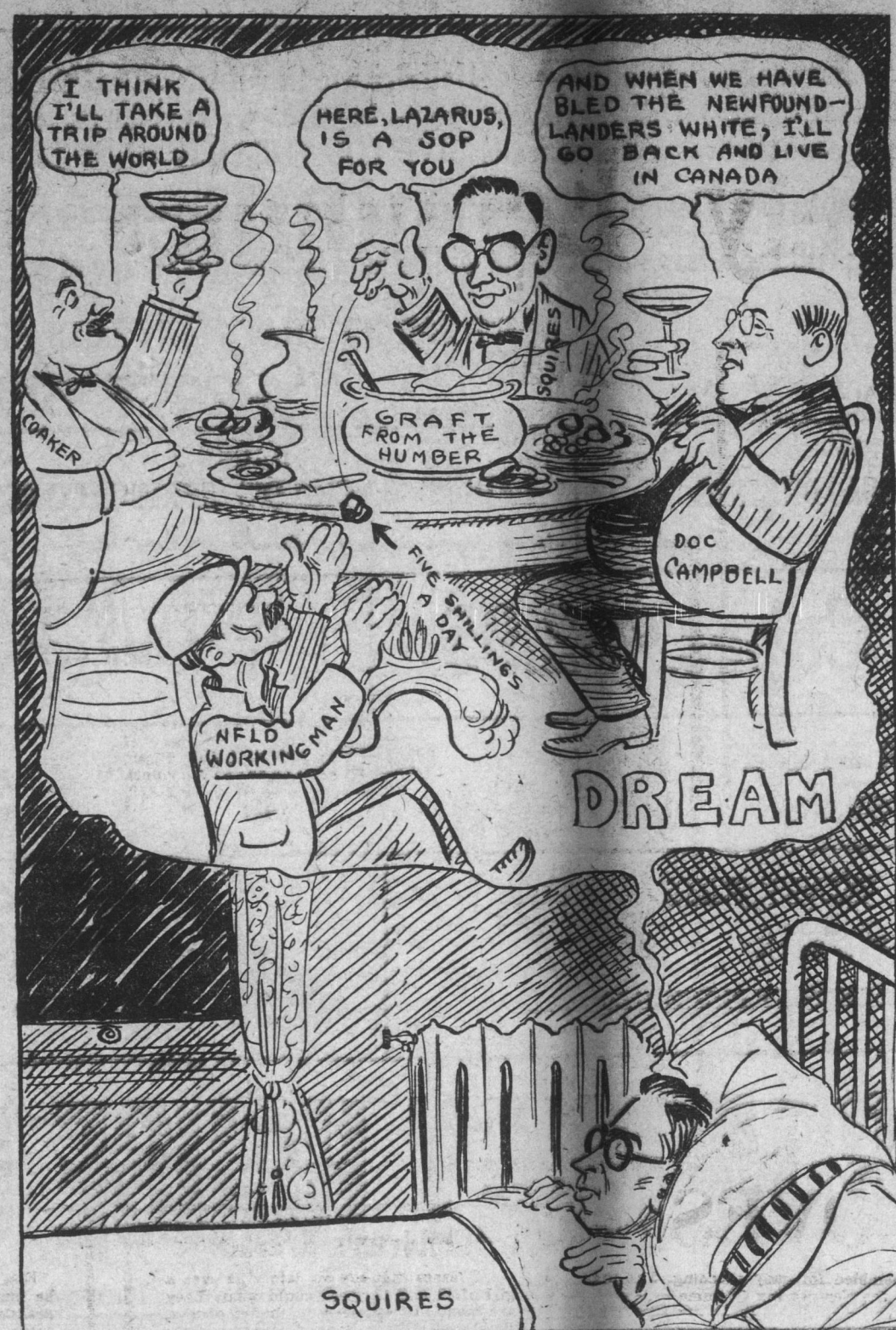
At it Again.

Special Evening Telegram. NEWPORT, Greenspond, April 25.

Our names were not given R. G. Winsor for publication in the Advocate April 17th as supporting Coaker. We will vote straight ticket for Monroe, R. G. Winsor and Little as we must save our fisheries.

ROBERT KEATS,
THOS. COLLINS,
KENNETH KEATS.

He's Due For A Rude Awakening. Watch Bonavista



In three and a half years of insane expenditure that has shaken the country to its foundations, Squires, Campbell and Coaker have made the following grabs for personal enrichment at the country's expense: Squires, \$270,000.00; Campbell, \$240,000.00; Coaker, \$600,000.00 amounting to the huge sum of \$1,110,000.00 for these self-styled patriots.

NOW THEY WANT THE HUMBER—are they thinking of you? Are they thinking of Newfoundland?

Return a BENNETT GOVERNMENT who will finalize a Newfoundland Humber Deal, and not a Squires-Campbell-Coaker Grab-Bag.

FISHERMEN, READ THIS!

Coaker Issues Circular Which, if Carried Out, Would Destroy Our Fisheries For All Time.

Wants to Control the Purchase, Sale and Exportation of all Codfish --- A Glaring Attempt to Complete a Policy of Ruin and Stagnation --- Last Regulations Were Bad, But Those Which He Now Proposes Would Cripple the Industry Entirely.

When the last convention of the Fishermen's Protection Union was in session Mr. Coaker the President of that organization intimated his future plans respecting the codfish industry. Few people outside of the F.P.U. were made acquainted with the ideas and intentions of President Coaker and it is only now we learn of the most deliberate attempt to once again inflict his dastardly regulations which if adopted, would complete the ruinous policy so far advanced by his regulations in 1920. In his address to the members of the Fishermen's Protective Union, Mr. Coaker tells his councils that it is his purpose to control the industry entirely. To use his own words we clip from the Advocate which issue was prepared specially for the members of the F. P. U. who were present at his last convention, the following paragraph:—

"Every cargo and package must be certified by the Commission's inspectors. The Commission will obtain its capital from the issue of a million dollars' worth of bonds, guaranteed by the Government. It will utilize the banks in the same way as the exporters do at present. Profits and some losses will be made, losses arising out of claims for inferior fish losses arising out of the competition of other countries in the latter part of the season, or on carrying old fish."

"My plan is to ask the people for a mandate to place in the hands of three Commissioners the power to purchase, sell and ship all codfish exported from Newfoundland. The merchants will supply and subject the fish as at present; the price paid by the collectors or merchants to the fishermen will be fixed by the Commission."

"Each collector will prepare the fish collected for market under inspectors appointed by the Commission. The collector will receive from the Commission the price paid, plus the cost of handling, storing, assuring, insuring, interest, packages and a profit of fifty cents per quintal. All fish taken by collectors will be purchased by the Commission."

In the same issue of the Advocate the following interesting paragraph is clipped:—

The F.P.U. Convention, embodying as it does a very considerable portion of the best practical brains of the country when it comes to a consideration of fishery matters, has, after careful deliberation determined that to the people must the issue of a new fishery export policy be submitted.

Watch Bonavista

Monroe, Winsor and Coaker are scheduled to hold a public meeting at Bonavista to-night. It will be surprising if they are not present. The astonishing decline in strength manifested in all parts of Bonavista Bay so far dressed has taken place in the town also. On the other hand, disorder occurs, it will be surprising if they are not present. We anticipate trouble for the Coakerites are desperate for their lost strength everywhere. In 1919, organized obstruction by er agents made speaking by Cashin candidates wholly impossible. It is, of course, impossible for the Coakerites to prevent disorder, but well meant efforts to stop it to the din. So the majority of the mercy of the minority is spect, and the reputation of the city would be destroyed. Bonavista to-night, and another her intelligence, her character good manners prevail over her reputation be again raised by such misconduct as rowdies were guilty of in the Coakerites, who will be guilty not on poor Bonavista the victim.

S.S. Seal for West

The Seal has been chartered by the Government to make a trip to the West. It is now loading freight at the Brothers premises for the Western ports of call. She is to get away to-morrow morning.

Clyde Due To-Night

S.S. Clyde is due in port at Green Bay route to-night. In her next sailing will leave for Lamaline and the West. Placentia Bay, and is scheduled to leave St. John's at noon Saturday.

BORN.

On the 26th inst, a son to Mrs. Herbert Calmes, 25 Buxton St.

MARRIED.

On April 25th, at George Parsonage, by Rev. R. E. P. Snowden S. Mercer, of Bay St. to Florence Whiteway, of St. John's.

DIED.

On April 26th, after a short illness, Samuel Angel, aged 90 years, notice later. R.I.P.

On Sunday, at 1.30 a.m., long illness, Annie Monroe, wife of William Knight, late husband and one brother, and three daughters and six children. Funeral on Friday at 11 a.m. from her late residence, 111 St. Street.

Last night, after a short illness, Rogers, aged 84 years, leaving daughters and one son to mourn sad loss. Funeral on Friday at 11 a.m. from her late residence, 111 St. Street. R.I.P.

At Sanatorium, Topsail Road, McDonald, aged 19 years, son of John and the late Anne Donald, Bay D'Esprit.

At Placentia, this morning, daughter of the late Francis Shaw, M.D., aged 79 years.

IN FOND AND LOVING memory of our well loved brother, William Haynes, who died April 1919,

Four years have passed, but still sore,

As time flies by we miss him sore. The call was short, the blow was hard. To part with him we loved so dear. But in our hearts he liveth still.

—Inserted by his sisters, the Lorah Haynes, Catalina, 73.

Corkwood

In stock: 100 Bundles Corkwood H. J. Stabb & Co.