

SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.



A HALL OF INFAMY.

"He ought to have a window in the hall of fame" was the refrain of one of the popular songs of my younger days. (A dangerous admission as to the length of these days, isn't that?) I hereby establish the opposite of the hall of fame with a hall of infamy.

I know quite a few people who ought to have a window in that Hall of Infamy.

I am going to tell you who they are and then you can tell me some of your candidates.

The people who repeat what one person says about another to the person about whom it was said.

The people who laugh at everything they say not because it's funny but apparently as a sort of punctuation mark.

The people who call a wonderful work of art "cute."

The people who are always wanting to tell you the plot of a story or (worst of all) of a moving picture.

The people who seize the moment

when something goes wrong in your life because you didn't do what you should have done to point out to you just why it went wrong and just what you should have done.

Practically Call You A Fool.

The people who call you a fool for the things they believe about you. For example, your husband has been deaf for ten years and they say: "I should think you would go to a specialist."

The people who when they are visiting you assure you that they don't pay attention to them and then are hurt when you don't.

The people who tell you long boring tales about personal incidents involving people you never heard of and having no point to bring out the content's importance.

The people who talk all the time, no matter how witty they are.

"It Was So Funny."

The people who are always dragging in incidents into the conversation that begin with: "It was so funny," or "I never shall forget the time when, etc."

That's my present list of candidates for just now. I may think of others.

Send me your candidates and we will group them together some day and put them up for election to a window in the Hall of Infamy.

About Men and Things

And Public Men in Particular.

(By SCRUTATOR)

"Our fathers to their graves are gone; Their strife is past—their triumph won; But sterner trials wait the race Which rises in their honored place— A moral warfare with the crime And folly of an evil time."

In view of existing conditions, the important question of how to put a stop to graft in high places will be one of the large subjects on which "the powers that be" will have to deliberate during the coming session of the Legislature. In approaching this subject, the Legislature should bear in mind that the people of this land need to realize first of all, that the people who are thinking of all sorts of graft and corruption are probably only fifty per cent. of the public. Of this fifty per cent., at least two-thirds will invariably be with the Prime Minister in any courageous stand that he may take for rightness. Of the rest, at least four-fifths will follow the majority of the really thinking people. In other words, any masterly action on the part of the Prime Minister will immediately command an overwhelming following.

How to grapple with graft in the public service certainly seems a very real problem. Already it is the potential reason for all sorts of political entanglements, which the colony can escape only as it stands for a real simplification of the way in which the people can reason together about the whole thing. If Premier Warren can master the present situation, he can do almost anything that he will. Newly elected, as he is, and with nearly a term of full freedom, he can go on to lead the Government in playing the part in local affairs which it cannot ultimately avoid. It is a supreme opportunity which should bring out the best that is in him.

Political corruption is to-day a sickening common-places through our whole political structure everywhere. It is more distressing when it appears on a general scale, but it is certain to appear in St. John's at times so long as we have the habit of promoting to office all shades of local politicians, among whom there are so certain to be a proportion of rascals. The great majority of politicians and office-holders used to be honest, but of late the habit of the political healer runs clear through to the top. We seem, as a Dominion, to be willing to stand this until it becomes quite outrageous, as it is at present, rather than take the trouble to insure decency.

As a matter of fact, the Government runs through cycles of decency and corruption, much as business runs through cycles of prosperity and depression. We have occasionally a great awakening and house-cleaning, but quickly turn to our private affairs again and allow the dust and cobwebs and insects and vermin of politics to creep into possession of the place. They keep it till we lose patience once more, and they are again thrown out, rather surprised and greatly protesting, for they always come to feel that they have vested rights in public loot. The present excitement, viewed in perspective, merely means that we have again reached the bottom of the curve of political morality and are trying to climb up again. One can almost see the historians write: "The Morris Government began and was followed by a period of graft, waste, and corruption in Newfoundland politics, which, let us hope, was brought to close a week or two since, and which resulted in those scandalous revelations made before Commissioner Walker in the Council Chamber at the Colonial Building."

Shades of the mighty dead—the Honorable Lawrence O'Brien, John Rochford, Samuel Carson, Philip Duggan, Thomas Row, John Cormack, James Rogerson, James Tobin, John Fox, and others—the incorruptible Councillors who, with grace and dignity occupied seats there so many years! Did it ever occur to you that the Chamber you held so sacred to Veracity, Honesty and Purity would ever be the scene of such an exposure of perjury, dishonesty, corruption and fraud as it was during the ten weeks of the recent investigation held there? There's a moral melancholy about the whole unfortunate affair that turns satire into pity and ridicule into contempt. "Tell

It not in Gath! Publish it not in the streets of Askelon!"

Another thing that stands out is that the great bulk of the Government and office-holders are unaffected by the present scandals. They go their rather dandering way, no better and, apparently, not much worse than usual. The fact remains, however, that the exposures have been disgusting, shocking, shameful, and have gone to destroy the confidence of the people in the Government and politicians, chiefly and naturally directing both anger and distrust against the late party in power, and very naturally and properly so!

The present Government faces the dilemma of either proceeding with its programme of reform and thus making good its promise to the people, or violating its pledge and inviting a new and popular upheaval in favor of a clean and honest public service. The masses are crying out for and insisting upon a more wholesome condition of things all round, while certain high officials are making the most of a grand opportunity for "easy money."

Obviously, the "Sage of Whitbourne's" opinion that we are unwilling or unable to properly govern ourselves, remains the same to-day as when he expressed it. From all sides the chosen few who are really trying to save the country are having the cry of failure hurled at them through the radical press, and the "old you so," of the little mind finds the air. But the patriotic statesman is not dismayed. "The dogs bark," says the old Persian proverb, "but the caravan moves on." And the patriotic statesman knows what that means. He does not attempt to minimize the colossal nature of the task, does not refuse to envisage the failure that has been heaped on failure so far in the effort to solve the problem, but, as a patriotic statesman and a lover of his country he recognizes the fundamental fact that there is no failure save in ceasing to try, and so he calls to the country in general, and the right-thinking people of the colony in particular, to rise to the summit of opportunity, and compel past failures to make themselves as stairway to success.

It must be admitted that, at present, there is little incentive for citizens of the best type to go into the public service. The present system stimulates those with ambition and a desire for money to seek office, instead of the office to require and attract the best results in the body politic. If members of the Legislature and cabinet officers are to be drawn from the professional politicians who are looking for either what they consider solid honors, or for opportunities to rehabilitate themselves, honest government is in a very precarious condition, and the extension of government activities is a real menace to the integrity of the country.

The moral question, of course, is not whether the late Prime Minister actually arranged with those Bell Isle companies for a monetary consideration while he was Premier of the Colony, but why he or any one else could think for a moment that it was right for him to place himself under such obligations to companies manoeuvring on a large scale with the Government. Sooner or later the facts have to come out, and no one could expect that then any white-washing of the affair would suffice to allay public indignation. And now that the facts are out, the public indignation must not be allowed to subside until the guilty parties are adequately punished!

The investigation just closed should be made an imperative occasion for a great reform. Once and for all the public must demand firm men in its chief governmental positions. In future elections the public must interest itself far more thoroughly in every candidate, scrutinize his qualities, his experience, and his relationships, both actual and potential, and find some way of drafting the best possible material. The public must examine and discuss fully the record of every suggested appointee, and express its determined disapproval of whatever unfitness it discovers, for the servant it chooses is a gauge of its own thought. General sincerity is manifest as specific official sincerity, and general indifference is manifest as official laxity and corruption. It is not political skepticism that threatens the welfare of this country to-day; it is political corruption, a lack of character, a failure devoutly to believe that a public office is a public trust.

Beware of the man in public life who has nothing to lose, is one of the axioms of government, and contains within itself an obvious truth. So far, Newfoundland has comforted itself with the easy reflection that while it is true "these noisy demagogues," as a rule, make undesirable representatives and generally fail in their efforts to control public affairs, yet they sometimes "do work meet for repentance"

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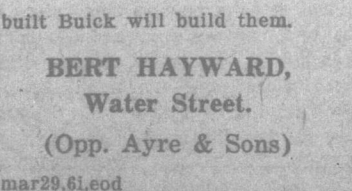
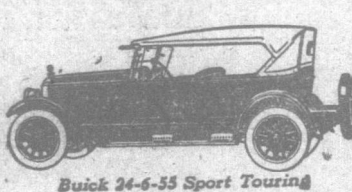
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Sunday Services

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

C. of E. Cathedral—7 and 8. Holy Communion; 10, Mattins; 11, Choral Communion; 2.45, Sunday School and at 3, C.M.B.C. in Syrood Building; 4.15, Holy Baptism; 6.30, Evening Service.

St. Thomas's—8, Holy Communion; 11, Morning Prayer and Sermon; Rev. Canon Bolt; 2.45, Sunday School and Bible Classes; 4, Holy Baptism; 6.30, Evening Prayer and Sermon; the Rector, subject "Faithfulness in Prayer."

St. Mary the Virgin—8, Holy Communion; 11, Mattins and Holy Communion; 2.30, Sunday Schools; 2.45, Bible Classes; 3, Holy Baptism; 4, Class for those lately confirmed; 6.30, Evensong.

St. Michael and All Angels—8, Holy Communion; 10, Mattins; 11, Holy Eucharist (sung), sermon by Rev. Dr. Facey, Principal of Queen's College; 2.30, Catechism Class and Sunday School; 2.45, The Faith Classes; 4.15, Holy Baptism; 6.30, Administration of the Holy Rite and Sacrament of Confirmation by the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

Gower Street—11, Rev. C. H. Johnson; 6.30, Rev. H. Johnson.

George Street—11, Rev. H. Johnson; 6.30, Rev. R. E. Fairbairn; 7, G. Joyce; 6.30, Rev. C. H. Johnson.

Wesley—11, Rev. R. E. Fairbairn; 6.30, Rev. J. G. Joyce.

Gospel Mission, (Adelaide Street)—Services at 2.45 and 7. Speaker in the evening, Rev. Dr. Curtis.

Congregational, (Queen's Road)—11 and 6.30, Rev. Dr. Darby.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian—11 and 6.30, Rev. R. J. Power, M.A. Salvation Army, No. 2, (Adelaide St.)—7, Kneel Drill; 11, Holiness, 3, Praise, (open to all); 7, Great Salvation Meeting. Open air before indoor services.

No. 3 Corps, (113 Duckworth Street)—Colonel and Mrs. Cloud will conduct the services at 11 a.m.; Holiness Meeting; 3, Special Meeting; 7, Great Salvation Meeting.

Adventist (Cookstown Road)—6.30, speaker, Evangelist L. H. Davies;

subject, "The Man With the Mystic Number." Special music.

International Bible Students, (Victoria Hall)—3, Round Table Bible Study, (Creator); 7, Subject, "The Cardinal Attributes of Jehovah."

NOTES.
St. Thomas's—At the 11 o'clock service to-morrow, the new Rector, Rev. John B. Elliott will be inducted by the Lord Bishop and the sermon will be delivered by Rev. Canon Bolt. A cordial invitation is extended to all who can participate in this or any of the services at the old Church of St. Thomas's.

Let your slogan be follow the crowd to St. Joseph's Hall Easter Tuesday night. Grand Card Party and Dance. A good time assured all who attend. Band in attendance. Tickets 50c., Teas 20c.—ap15,21

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