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("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate

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Sir E.P.'s Umbrella

The Hon. John Anderson gives us a whole budget of interesting news about our boys at Ayr. We feel indebted to the "Great Provider," and the relatives of our soldier laddies will be pleased to hear from "the banks and braes o' bonnie doon." We were sorry to learn, however, that Sir E. P. Morris had lost his umbrella. We know that he needs one badly in Scotland, but he will need it more from now onward in this land of political fogs, for it is going to rain—and very heavily for some time to come. Edward is responsible for this anticipated political condition; and the rain which threatens to pour down in torrential showers will drench through the skin of the most inveterate political pachyderm.

We wonder if it has ever occurred to people why our knight usually carries an umbrella? Well, he is a historian; writes about every thing (or it is so said), from the Lebanon cedar to the quantitative and qualitative analysis of peat bogs! Doubtless in delving into the historic, he must have learned that in the East the umbrella has ever been a symbol of power and authority. Our knight is an adept in wielding the "big stick," politically. In some countries the umbrella has become part of religious symbolism. It is likewise an accessory of great antiquity; and the Chinese date the first umbrella back to four or five thousand years anterior to the Mosaic date of creation.

The word umbrella is derived from the Latin *umbra* ("a shade") and among the Greeks and Romans the umbrella was used by women, while its use by men was considered effeminate. Formerly, umbrellas were kept only in hotels and in the halls of the houses of the English aristocracy to keep visitors dry as they passed to and from carriages. Nobody ever thought of carrying an umbrella in the street.

Our knight has evidently a higher appreciation of the umbrella than did the fighting Lord Cornwallis. The latter had been dining with a friend, and when about to enter his carriage to return home, he stopped to speak a parting word to his host. It was raining in torrents, and a servant standing by took up the house umbrella to hold it over his lordship's head. The old soldier was indignant, and exclaimed: "Take that thing away! Do you suppose I am a sugar doll to melt in a shower or do you take me for a woman, who is afraid of her head?"

I have not been all this time fighting my country's battles, to be frightened now at a little cold water. If powder and lead did not annihilate me, a shower of rain may be risked."

The largest umbrella in the world was made in Glasgow, for a king of East Africa. It is twenty-one feet in diameter, with a staff nearly half as long as one of those

THE HARVEST OF THE SEA

INTERESTING AND USEFUL TO THE FISHERMEN OF THE COLONY

By Our Own Correspondent

THE LOBSTER FISHERY

WHILSLT no accurate date is available regarding the entire catch of lobsters this year, a pack of from 9,000 to 10,000 cases will doubtless represent the Colony's output. The fishery on the South and West Coasts has been much better than last year's; but, according to Mr. Coaker's statements, it has been practically a failure to the northward. The decline of this industry within the past few years we cannot but view with alarm; and it would seem that within a few years we shall not be able to reckon it as an important feature of our fish trade. There are all sorts of theories about the shortage; but we need not theorize; the lobsters are becoming extinct from overfishing; and we have done nothing to restock the depleted areas. We say nothing because we do not believe in the haphazard methods adopted by the Government, miscalled propagation. We have no quarrel with the gentleman who is entrusted with this impounding business; but we insist that he possesses neither the scientific knowledge nor the experience required in a director of such an important work. If lobster propagation is ever to amount to anything in this country, we say: "Take the Lobster out of Politics." We borrow this expression from the manager of the largest lobster exporting firm in the world—Mr. Williams, of the firm of Roberts, and Co., of Halifax.

The editor of one of our local journals, discussing the Lobster industry some months ago—at the opening of the fishery—very solemnly informed us that "the methods recently introduced by the Government are already bearing fruits, as the catch is better this year than formerly." Does the editor imagine that we are all "lobsters" intellectually? Or did he make the statement because he knows so little about the natural history of this toothsome crustacean?

The lobster is a fish of very slow growth; and it takes six years to grow nine inches long, and lengthens in the next few years about one inch per annum. This has been demonstrated by scientists such as Dr. Herrick and others. It does not breed till it is eight inches long; and it is not definitely known if lobsters spawn every year or every second year.

The Commission appointed by the Government last year to devise means for, amongst other things, the protection of and the propagation of lobsters, "resolved" after a consultation with the Board of Trade:

- (1) It is the opinion of the Commission that it is desirable to close down the catching of lobsters for the coming year;
- (2) That further legislation is required for the preservation of the lobster fishery to succeed closing.

There were certain recommendations appended to these Resolutions which are about as useful as the Mackinonian methods of watering salt cod.

The Report of the Commission tells us that "the subject was exhaustively discussed, in the light (doubtless a *lucus a non lucendo*) of the information that had been previously obtained, notably that supplied by the officials of the Department of Marine and Fisheries." We know just what some of the officials could supply in the way of information; and the whole business was a huge joke.

This last word suggests a rather interesting address recently delivered by Mr. Williams mentioned above; and we quote two of three paragraphs, as under the veil of humor there is a good deal of natural history and information.

"I wonder how many persons could state off-hand how many legs a lobster has? The truth is that after thirty years in the business I could not tell with alacrity the exact number because, as the Irishman says: 'Some of his legs are not legs.' We know, however, that it is a decapod crustacean, i.e., ten-footed. There are other features of its anatomy, but I do not feel competent to speak with full authority on this subject and (we commend this to certain people who discuss the lobster business with an air of omniscience) there are already too many persons who discuss the lobster in this way upon insufficient evidence."

"By the way, it was the shape of the lobster's claw, it is said, that first suggested the construction of the shoemaker's pincers, and as the two claws differ in their formation, acting between them as crushers, saws, holders, and carriers, there is food for reflection. The sensitive antennae (feelers), one set locating the presence of food or foe and the other its taste, are really worth study in the same manner as a careful reflection upon lobster's tail suggested to Watt the idea of a flexible metal pipe. The Swimmerets and the tail fan have hidden lessons for propelling bodies under water, and this day of the submarine makes those possessions of the lobster well worth serious study."

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Mr. Williams says, in discussing the lobster industry: "One of the crying needs of the business today is the utilization of waste. Only forty pounds of lobster meat are taken out of about 200 pounds of lobsters; the remaining 160 pounds are usually thrown away as worthless. I do not profess to claim a relative value for the surplus (160 pounds in every 200), but there is a high food value to a considerable percentage of that wastage and there are important calcium, or phosphate and nitrogen properties in the balance that should be utilized."

Already in these columns we have discussed the value of lobster offal, shells, etc., as a fertilizer. Many of our people utilize them in this way; but the manner in which they use the offal means a loss of fully seventy-five per cent of its fertilizing value. The lobster offal should be either composted or it should be covered as soon as it is put on the ground. When it is left exposed to the air, scattered broadcast, as is the usual custom with our people, it evaporates and calcines without leaving much permanent result. This offal is one of the most valuable fertilizers available; and we suggest to our august Board of Agriculture, or what is so called, that when they are giving the next "hand-out" to the newspaper offices that get the rake-off for printing the pamphlet miscalled a Report, that this bit of information be incorporated in it. It is perfectly gratuitous.

A great deal of ink has been spilled in this country regarding the embargo (recently lifted) against the admission of our lobsters into the French market. We doubt if the French market means a great deal to us; and this seems to be borne out by the fact that since the embargo has been lifted the price of lobsters has not advanced to any appreciable extent. France consumes, or did previous to the war, about 40,000 cases annually about 25 per cent of the lobster pack of the Maritime Provinces. We have never had any large trade in lobsters with the French Republic; nor are we likely to have. In fact it is only recently that we discovered the French market. We really have never been looking for markets; we sit on our business haunches and await the buyer to fall over us before we realize that we have anything to sell. The same applies to our salmon, herring, and other fish markets. We are always awaiting "enquiries"; and we make no effort to push our goods. People come to our shores and gather up everything that is available; and they are reaping a golden harvest off our stupidity.

Here we discuss this lobster question; we are under the impression that we have too many small packers; there are too many people engaged in it. We suggest that, failing to enforce a close season, of say five years, we should limit the number of packers. How? To us it seems easy enough. Let this fishery be reserved for old fishermen or fishermen (there are a number of women fishing lobsters around the coast) and set an age limit. It is a fishery which does not involve much hardship, as it is conducted in sheltered nooks and creeks. It should be made illegal for able-bodied men to engage in it; and were these wise they would abandon it. It is moreover an expensive fishery, and for the past two years many of those engaged in it have not made the two ends meet. Twine, rope, tinplates and all canning materials have advanced fully fifty per cent, with

REVEILLE

BY CALCAR

NEXT Fall and Winter we expect to hear the annual complaint of high price of coal, also it is probable shall we hear of coal shortage.

In view of these probabilities, it may with propriety be asked what is our so-called government doing in the matter? Of course we know what the answer is to be. We know the government is doing nothing. It would be altogether an unprecedented turn of affairs were they to display any interest till the very pinch of dire necessity impels them.

Now what about the coal areas? Why is the geological survey suspended? This is a time when it should be the duty of the government to instigate enquiries by the geological department with a view to making some preparation for the future.

What has become of Mr. Dunstan's report on the coal areas? We have seen a sort of preliminary report of that gentleman's work and findings. Is it possible that he has discouraged all further investigation. Is this really the cause of the suspension of all enquiry in this direction? If so why are we not warned of it? Why is the matter hushed up so closely?

If the coal areas have received a wet blanket, then what of our peat beds? The government told us of their value in 1910, in the most glowing terms, but it seems they have not the courage of their convictions, else why is there nothing being done to develop those areas. The question arises had Morris and his satraps any convictions or was their talk mere blarney. We are inclined to believe the jargon was meant merely to create the impression that they meant business and if possible to start some adventurer after a bubble. One thing is certain they had no idea what they were talking about. How could they see that no enquiry had ever been held to determine the possible value of our peat areas.

If our peat beds are as valuable as the Morris Government says they are then why in the name of common sense are they not being made to yield up their value to us. If the government were honest in their professions of belief in the utility of our peat bogs, it was in the prospect of going still higher. So, even a good pack would hardly let the fisherman out of the game with anything like a substantial balance to his credit.

cumbent upon them to at least start an investigation and survey. Only a survey can tell us whether our peat areas are worth development and we know not how we are standing in our own light by our failure to make this enquiry.

It may be possible to boost our agriculture through a development of some of our peat beds. In Germany such moors are made to yield power and light to surrounding farms as well as a supply of the valuable fertilizing element nitrogen. The government would be doing much to promote the comfort and happiness of the farmer if they could supply him with cheap power and light, and this improvement in the condition of the farmers' lot would be reflected in his greater activity.

What are our Agricultural Commissioners doing in this matter? Do they fail to see the important connection between the development of our peat areas and agricultural welfare? It would be infinitely better to aim at agricultural improvement along the lines suggested here, namely, the betterment of the rural settler's condition, the supplying him with cheap power and light and cheap fertilizing elements, than by the foolish methods adopted by the Morris Government. Besides it is quite possible to effect these results at no cost whatever to the country. A development of our peat areas by the government would provide employment for many persons, and this is just what the country requires; the opening up of new avenues of employment.

Let it be borne in mind that it is not here suggested that these developments be jumped at after the Morris style. It is most im-

Halifax Threatened With a Fish Famine

THE Halifax Herald of 15th inst. has this flaming headline to an article which we reproduce in part:

"A situation which is relatively serious is faced by the people of Halifax. With all its market facilities, the city is threatened with a fish famine. Astounding high prices and the absence of fish from the stores led The Her-

ald to make enquiry into existing conditions, which elicited the fact that owing to the prevailing bad weather in the early part of the season and the intense heat of July and August fishermen were unable to make their fish; so there is literally no dry fish in the market. Hence the city stores are deplorably bare of stock and prices are correspondingly high. There is no fish to fill orders and the merchants in the city have more orders than they can fill."

With regard to pickled fish—mackerel and herring—mackerel is selling at \$13 per barrel and is still rising. The catch has been small. Herring have also been scarce. The shipments from Newfoundland are fewer than formerly, owing to the fact that Newfoundland fishermen are putting up so much of the Scotch cure which brings a higher price.

"New Newfoundland salmon (pickled) are just beginning to arrive in limited quantities, and good prices are being obtained for them."

This summarizes The Herald article; and it would seem that there is an opening for some of our fish products in the Halifax market. Some small cargoes of herring have gone into Halifax recently from the West Coast; but we have not heard what the price was.

This leads us to believe that the price of fish must advance very materially in the local market shortly. If Halifax fishermen are unable to fill their orders, there must be a good demand for codfish. Let our exporters get after this market.

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READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

Reid-Newfoundland Co.

Bay Bulls' Garden Party

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20th.

THE regular Tors Cove Excursion train will leave St. John's station at 12.30 p.m. instead of 2.00 p.m. on Sunday next, and stop at all stations between St. John's and Tors Cove. Will return immediately from Tors Cove to Bay Bulls to accommodate passengers attending Garden Party, and will leave Bay Bulls at about 6.45 p.m. for Tors Cove, returning from Tors Cove to St. John's at the usual hour, arriving at St. John's 8.00 p.m. Train will then return to Bay Bulls and leave Bay Bulls at about 2.00 a.m. for St. John's.

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