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G. KNOWLING.

The Daily Mail

Issued every week day from the office of Publication, 167 Water St., St. John's, Nfld. The Daily Mail Publishing Co., Ltd., Proprietors, and Union Publishing Co., Ltd., Printers.

Subscription Rates. By mail, to any part of Newfoundland and Canada, \$2.00 per year. To the United States of America, \$3.50 per year.

All correspondence on business and editorial matters should be addressed to Dr. H. M. Mosdell, Managing Editor.

Letters for publication should be sent to the Editor. The name of the author should be attached. This will not be used unless consent be given in the communication. The publication of any letter does not signify that the Editor thereby shows his agreement with the opinions therein expressed.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JAN. 23, 1914.

AN INSULT.

The action of the Minister of Finance yesterday in the House in characterizing the men who voted for the Union Party as "ignorant and illiterate" can be characterized as nothing less than a gratuitous insult.

It is unfortunate indeed when to incapacity in a holder of such a high office under the government we have to add the characteristic of an utter disregard of the dignity of position and place.

Abuse and misrepresentation gains nothing for any man—it cannot fail to lower the Finance Minister in the eyes of the great bulk of our people.

AN ACQUISITION.

The member for Bay de Verde sitting with the Opposition is a decided acquisition to the personnel of the House.

He possesses that desirable attribute to all debaters—wide knowledge of public affairs and especially concerning the staple industries of the Country.

His pronouncement yesterday on the question of the prices of fish bore all the earmarks of inside information and was as full of instruction to his hearers as it was devoid of bluff or assumption.

We look for still greater things from the Opposition member from Bay de Verde who is a credit to his District and an effective factor in the House of Assembly affairs.

HAVE A BAD CASE

The Government are being much disconcerted by the active tactics of the Opposition in the House. They evidently expected the new men to feel so strange that they would give the Premier and his ministers very little trouble during this session at least.

Events have proven how mistaken was this idea. The Leader of the Opposition has proved as effective in the House as he was on the election campaign, and has not hesitated to actively attack the Government on points of policy.

In conjunction with his followers he has exposed the waste, the mistakes, the lack of foresight that has

characterized the Morris Administration. More especially have the Opposition scored off the Government regarding the expenditure on Branch Railways and their wrong estimate of the revenue for the current year. And the Ministers of the Crown are growing extremely restless under all this criticism and cross-examination, as is proven by the angry and insulting statements made yesterday by the head of the Finance Department.

TO THE EDITOR.

CONCERNING EXPERTS.

(Editor The Daily Mail.) Dear Sir,—In the Governor's speech from the throne in the opening of the House of Assembly on the 15th inst., mention was made of an investigation into our fisheries with a view of bettering the conditions under which they are conducted at the present time, particularly the bait pest, the imaginary cause of all our fishery ills and to bring about this great revolution there is to be sent to Norway, a man who will inquire into the system of the bait supply and mode of preservation in that country and report back to our Government, who will in due course disseminate this valuable information to the fishermen around the coast of this Colony.

Commendable. This is a very commendable undertaking on the part of any Government and at the present time it is none too soon. I think that it will be admitted by people of intelligence, that the department of Marine and Fisheries should stand on a pedestal of its self towering far above every other department in importance in this Colony—fully equipped with every modern appliance available to be used in assisting and instructing the fishermen all over the country in the most up-to-date scientific way of catching and curing every kind of fish of which we have an abundant supply. Why, because that department represents very nearly seven-eighths of our earning power, and which will continue to be our main stay for all time to come.

Peculiar Appointment. But in the meantime rumor has it that a certain back number business man of Water Street and one of the biggest fakers of our time is to be entrusted with this important mission. On what recommendation this nonentity is to be engaged for this work is not apparent, unless it is his connection with a certain whaling company or floating factory, or the phenomenal success obtained by his Norwegian motor fishery boat in revolutionizing the fisheries of the country the past six years.

Surely there are better men to be had for such work than this amateur who spent his life behind a desk and knows as much about the actual catching of fish on bait as a cat knows about the interior of an infernal machine. What has the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to say on this matter? Is he going to sit idly by and see his rights and privileges or those of his subordinates usurped by this fellow—haven't we had enough of this fooling already?

One With Us. Is there not a Norwegian expert in our midst at the present time whom we are supporting at high cost, at the expense of the fishermen of this Colony, and what is worst of all is to their detriment, because if this importation had any information to impart to our people he is very careful to keep it to himself, but the general opinion is that he is not able to instruct our people or improve on our conditions which differ very materially from those in Norway,—and now to add insult to injury there is to be sent at the expense of the Colony to northern Europe one, if not two, of these fakirs who compose and dominate that burlesque the Board of Trade to pose as the representatives of Newfoundland, having an enjoyable time themselves with the usual results to the public. When will we get down to common sense? With your permission I will return to this subject at some future date, meantime I thank you in anticipation.

—WATCHMAN.

St. John's, Jan. 21, 1914.

THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

A meeting of the friends and supporters of the Alliance will be held in the Methodist College Hall on Sunday Evening at 8.15 o'clock.

CASHIN CHARACTERISES THE UNION FISHERMEN AS IGNORANT ILLITERATES.

(Continued from page 1.)

Then reverting to the codfishery he made the attempt to argue away his previous statement that Coaker had anything to do with the price of fish.

Straight Question. Coaker—Do you deny I had nothing to do with it?

Cashin—You claim you did it all. It was only the ignorant, the illiterate and the cattle who believed you.

The House stood aghast at this disgraceful exhibition of bad temper shown by Cashin and his deliberate and studied statement that over 20,000 fishermen were mostly fools.

He then commented on the ingratitude of the fishermen of Bonavista, who, despite all the Morris Government had done for them, turned out its candidates in the district.

Cashin then made another bad break discussing the shortage in the revenue, saying that if there was a shortage they (the people) got the benefit which in other words meant that any benefits that came from the present Government the people had to pay for it in taxation.

Tribute to Coaker. Mr. Stone—In reply to Mr. Cashin, contented Coaker did rise the price of fish as he had seen abundant evidence of it the past few years, and it was no trouble to get any information relating to it.

Criticizing the Agricultural policy. Mr. Stone said he had failed to see the two blades of grass growing where one grew before since the policy was inaugurated. All he saw was thousands of dollars wasted and thousands of barrels of potatoes at certain seasons of the year produced by our fishermen farmers finding no sale and yet large importations of potatoes coming in all the time.

If the agricultural policy was good how was it that this wretched condition of affairs still prevailed, that it was supposed to remedy? The time was ripe for improving the country and it behoved the Government to take a step in this direction, and he would assist in any measure that would prove of good to the country.

Fog Free Zone. Mr. Moulton wished to deal with the Fog Free Zone and although opposed to it in Bond's time he was now a convert to the idea and would support it.

Dealing with agriculture he considered the present policy was the right and proper one, because of the introduction of new seeds, new breeds, etc., which proved beneficial if it did not continue to do so the Government could drop it any time and take up some other method.

He then related his own experience of bait freezing, which to him was sufficient to show that it was very doubtful if it would prove a successful venture for the Government. The exploitation of the coal areas he treated in the same way.

Mr. Hickman did not think the Premier and his Government had any right to take to themselves the credit of opening the U. S. market. That was brought about solely by a change of administration in the U. S.

The new government was pledged to reform the tariff, part of which was to enable the people to get cheap foodstuffs, and fish was put on the free list.

He then questioned the figures of the Finance Minister and gave an interesting account of the different fish markets and their relation to the fish industry of Newfoundland.

He contended the Government should try to get the packet fish into the States free of duty, which if done would prove a great boon to the country.

Dealing with the partridge berry question he asserted it could be made a valuable industry and said the District of Bay de Verde could provide large supplies. But it was possible that it would be injured unless steps were taken by the Government to guard against this. He then told how the cranberry industry of Massachusetts was once much like our partridge berry now, but the Government took the matter in hand and had the cranberry cultivated so that now it was an industry of no mean proportion. The same could follow the cultivation of the partridge berry in this country.

Bait Fishes

Treating on bait fishes, he paid a tribute to Mr. Simondson who, he considered, was a practical man and who had discovered the mussel bait in Fortune Bay, that would be worth thousands of dollars to the fishermen if taught how to use it as done in Norway.

Mr. Halford dealt with the depleted Treasury, and said the Government members sat with sealed mouths. The expenditure of the money was all the fault, because it was neither wisely nor honestly distributed.

Speaker Goodison looking at the clock glanced his eye at Mr. Halford, which meant that any further remarks must stand over till tomorrow.

Notice of Question

Mr. W. F. Coaker (Bonavista)—I ask the Premier, under what circumstances, and for what price, £100,000 face value of India 3½ per cent. stock scrip were purchased by the Savings Bank, and what is the value of the said stock scrip at the present market price; also whether the difference, if any, between the price paid and the face value of the scrip was carried by the Savings Bank into Profit and Loss; also whether the sum of Assets of the Savings Bank at the end of 1912 was face value or contained an allowance for depreciation; also what provision, if any, has been made by the Savings Bank for the difference between the current value of Colonial Debentures and India stock scrip, and the face value of the same.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

THE SPENDTHRIFT WORLD.

Those who revel in statistics will find food for reflection in some recent statements made in a Wall Street Journal and in a report issued by the United States Department of Commerce. In the last ten years, it is stated, and the statement is based on estimates from all available sources, the total indebtedness of the nations inhabiting the globe has reached the staggering figure of \$42,000,000,000, an increase of 31.2 per cent.

Father Time, declares Current opinion, in an article on the subject, must be strongly tempted to declare Mother Earth an incompetent and a spendthrift, especially as the future appears to be no rosier. The wastes of war in Southeastern Europe will be repaired by fixed loans, while developments in the East and other backward countries will tend to still further increase the indebtedness.

Piling it Up.

The god of war, according to the Wall Street Journal, will further mortgage the future. France, with the largest debt of any nation, by adopting the three years' service with the colors, is paving the way for still further indebtedness. Perhaps, however, in fairness to Mother Earth, her assets should be placed beside her liabilities.

Statisticians differ as to the wealth of the world. That of Europe and North and South America has been estimated at \$600,000,000,000. The world's savings bank deposits in 1911 were \$16,138,165,000. Its commerce in that year amounted to \$35,389,000,000; while the estimates of the value of crops, the products of the mines and the manufactures read like a tale from the Arabian Nights. The security for the indebtedness is good.

Disquieting Tendency.

The disquieting feature points out the Wall Street Journal, is the tendency to pile debt upon debt, and pass as much of it on to posterity as possible, the present generation meanwhile to pay interest. The interest charge, now amounting to \$1,732,000,000 a year, of this huge indebtedness, is not the only burden of the people; national expenditure, always far in advance of revenue, have since 1900 increased 50 per cent.

The result of the expenditures increasing faster than population and wealth is like adding two and two together; the answer is certain, disproportionate increase in taxation. "That," the writer goes on to say, "is our experience in state and nation. How much longer can the chancelleries of the world pile the straws upon the camel's back?" As the nations pile debt upon debt, they are apparently oblivious of a warning that appears in the form of the depreciation, "the shocking depreciation," to quote a financial paper, of government securities.

Lower Values.

Gilt-edged government bonds are today quoted from 15 to 25 and even 30 per cent. below the market value of a decade ago. This statement is worldwide and international in its application.

British investments abroad are today about \$15,000,000,000, comparing with French investments of about \$9,000,000,000, German investments of about \$4,500,000,000, and American foreign holdings of \$2,000,000,000.

A wealthy gentleman who owns a country seat on one occasion nearly lost his mother-in-law, who fell into a river which flows through his estate. He announced the narrow escape to his friends, expecting their congratulations. One of them—an old bachelor—wrote as follows:—"I always told you that river was too shallow."

JUST A SMILE OR TWO.

A LITTLE LAUGHTER NOW AND THEN IS HEARTENING TO THE GLOOMIEST MEN.

"I've been reading about the stone age." "Those were hard times, eh?"

"So you had a dull time at the banquet?" "Yes, even my foot fell asleep."

Dorcas: "You say the hero was disappointed in love?" Dorothy: "Yes, he thought that after his marriage his father-in-law would support him."

He: "What month is it in which it is unlucky to be married?" She: "Goodness me! What a poor memory you have, my dear. We were married in June."

"There were ten of us boys," said Swarmsby, "and each of us had a sister." "Great guns! Then there were twenty of you altogether?" "No; only eleven."

"Your father has an estate in Essex?" he inquired of the jealous sweetheart. She nodded. "And two in Yorkshire?" "Yes." "And still you doubt my love?" he asked.

"How would you classify the telephone girl?" asked the old fogey. "Is hers a business or a profession?" "Neither," replied the smart youth; "it is a calling."

Detective: "Now give me a description of your missing cashier. How tall is he?" Employer: "I don't know how tall he is. What worries me is that he is £7,000 short."

Agnes: "Can you keep a secret?" Emma: "Well, to be frank, dear—no, I can't." Agnes: "Then I'd better tell you that George and I are to be married next month."

"This isn't a clean knife, Jane," said the young mistress to the new servant. "Well, it ought to be," said the servant, "for the last thing it cut was soap."

"Well," said Mary, who prided herself on her singing and range of voice, "do you think my voice will fill that large room to-night?" "No," said her cruel brother. "On the contrary."

Patience: "What are the three popular methods of communication for gossips?" Patrice: "How should I know?" Patience: "Over the tea cups, over the telephone, and over the back fence."

Young Husband: "Why, Mary, what are you crying about?" Young Wife: "Oh, Harry, I am afraid the baby is going to grow up to be a pugilist! Just see how he doubles up his fists."

"Jones doesn't believe in promoting the good old Christmas idea of Peace on earth and good will toward men." "What makes you think so?" "He has bought his son a cornet for Christmas."

"What did Spender do with the big fortune that was left him?" Ran through it in a year I suppose? "Oh, no! His wife prevented that." "Good for her!" "Yes; she ran through it in six months."

"My poor man!" said the sympathetic wife to the tramp. "Come in and I'll give you a bite to eat!" "Thanks, mum; nothin' short of a square meal will do, mum. I'm one o' these 'ere cubists."

"Will you be mine for ever and ever?" he timidly asked. "No, Bob, now that I am a Suffragette I can never be yours. But you may become mine when you will," she replied in a matter-of-fact sort of way.

Lady of the House (consulting card in her hand): "You're a singing master! But we do not want a singing-master." Herr Pumpernickel: "Barden; the lady next door told me you wanted von badly; she sent me."

Judge: "Now, just what passed between yourself and the complainant?" Defendant: "Well, your Honor, there wuz two pairs of fists, one turnip, seven fire bricks, a dozen assorted hard names, and a lump of coal."

"If I catch you sticking needles into that poor doll again!" said the Candle to the Christmas tree, "I'll light on you; and as for you, Mr. Drum, if you don't stop making so much noise, I'll give you a good beating!"

"I would have a cask of beer for Christmas if I could get it smuggled into the house without letting the old man know." "Won't he allow you to keep beer in the house?" "Oh, it isn't that. He'd drink it."

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