

The Daily Mail

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

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ST. JOHN'S, NFLD., MARCH 23, 1914.

"HIGHER WAGES."

According to Sir Edward Morris the Government, in its Branch Railroad Contract, by stipulating for \$1.50 per day for the workmen boosted wages to an unprecedented extent.

Apparently, they did. As a matter of fact, they did not. According to the Minister of Finance the average number of men employed per year on Railroad Construction work was fifteen hundred.

At \$1.50 per day this figures out at \$225,000 per year in wages. That is, \$675,000 for the three years 1910-13.

But, on account of the bungling finance methods of the Morris Government, this Colony sustained an absolute loss of \$400,000 in raising the two loans that have been already floated.

The people have to find this money; it has to come out of their earnings. Therefore two-thirds of what Sir Edward Morris gave the people by the contract was taken away from them again by the bargain made with the Reids in that contract.

Figure it out for yourself and you will find that One Dollar out of every Dollar and a Half paid the workman as ady's wage has to go back to the Government again to make up for the big loss due to Morris's bungling and incapacity.

That recently imposed surtax of ten per cent is one of the first-fruits. And this country has yet to garner a whole harvest of this Dead Sea fruit.

LASTING IMPRESSION.

The proverbial nine days of wonder over the appointment of Richard Anderson Squires and Sydney D. Blandford to the two vacant Departments and to the Legislative Council have passed.

But the general impression created thereby in the minds of our people has not by any means been so short-lived. They will never forget that a band of politicians led by Sir Edward Morris posed before them at election time as the "People's Party" and afterward used the power obtained through fair words and specious promises to flout the people and to evade their will.

Well, it has been said that "danger deviseth shifts," and "wits wait on fear," and so it has very evidently been in the case of the Morris Government.

Their unpopular acts have made them the scorn, the eye-word and the contempt of the people.

They fully recognised the danger, the inevitable disaster that would overtake them at a bye-election, so they devised this shift of making the necessary appointments without opening two Protestant Districts.

And with the fear of defeat before their eyes they set their wits to work to find some excuse for evading the necessity, the plain duty of having the people pass upon their actions.

And the artifice adopted was an appeal to "Constitutional Law" which, they declared, upheld them in making a party convenience of the Legislative Council.

So that now we have a Government whose boast was that they were elected to power on questions of policy and on matters purely of principle prove the hollowness of their own pretensions by employing legal guiles and quibbles to enable them to evade risk and an announcement by the people that would unquestionably be adverse to themselves.

Let us not obscure or lose sight of the principle involved. Matters of this kind should be referred to the Electorate not to Executive.

The one reflects the popular opinion; the other considers only party expedience.

The Government of Sir Edward Morris, consistent in their selfishness, at any rate, have elected to ignore the people and have presumed to usurp the prerogative of the electorate.

This country, therefore, is now administered in the interest of a party to the entire neglect; to the absolute disregard of the people that elected that party to power.

Having forfeited the confidence and lost the favor of the electorate the Morris Party are driven as a last resort to entrench themselves behind "Constitutional Law."

That's cute politics, but we believe that at the first opportunity our people will show their absolute scorn of these Morris subtleties and declare emphatically for a government whose preference will be to give the electors a square deal and holding the healthy, old-fashioned belief that

"Because right is right, to follow right Where wisdom is the scorn of consequence."

"FULLY CARRIED OUT."

Sir Edward Morris says to the people of Newfoundland: "The contracts we made with you; the policies we outlined to you; the pledges we gave to you; the undertakings we assumed for you have been carried out."

And in making such a statement Sir Edward Morris shows a reckless disregard for facts that are now common property.

His claim reminds us of Sheridan's criticism of Gladstone in which he states that "the Right Honorable Gentleman is indebted to his imagination for his facts."

Does Sir Edward Morris so far insult the intelligence of the people of this country as to imagine that they will swallow such vain, empty boasting?

Who amongst us, in the light of recent events, regards that so-called reduction in taxation last year as anything more than mere political maneuvering, designed to influence the electorate in favor of the Morris Party?

None, but the very small minority whose outlook is limited by personal political prejudice with which is closely linked up some consideration of purely selfish gain.

In 1913 the Morris Party at one fell swoop wiped out \$380,000 in taxes. In 1914—less than a year later the Morris Party imposed close on \$700,000 in additional taxation.

1913 was election year. 1914 is not. When the \$380,000 were wiped out the Revenue Slate, the Morris Government were on the eve of appealing to the people for a renewal of their support.

But in this Year of Grace, 1914, there is no election looming up, so on goes \$700,000 to the burden of taxation and that \$380,000 reappears with "a mere flea-bite of \$300,000 added thereto.

A pledge of the Morris Party, prior to their accession to power, was Reduction of Taxation.

A contract made with the people of Newfoundland in the 1913 Morris Manifesto was adjustment of the Tariff "in such a way as to lessen the cost of living and diminish the burden borne by those least able to bear it."

Has that pledge been kept? Has that contract been discharged? Sir Edward Morris says it has.

But the people who have to shoulder that ten per cent. surtax—and they are these least able to bear it—realise that when party expedience dictates Sir Edward Morris obeys, whatever pre-election pledges be broken.

Sir Edward Morris has shown more anxiety to shield and benefit the politicians who wear his party badge than to perform his duties faithfully as a trustee of the people.

For, like the time-serving politician of old, he took on him: "To reform Some certain edicts, and some strait decrees,

That lie too heavy on the common wealth; Cried out upon abuses, seemed to weep Over his country's wrongs; and, by this Face,

This seeming-Brow of Justice did he win The hearts of some that he did angle for."

But hard experience has amply proven to us the hollowness of Sir Edward Morris's professions; the emptiness of his promises and the hypocrisy of his declared intentions.

THE IRISH SITUATION.

Developments in Ireland indicate troublesome times if the Asquith Government persists in its refusal to grant Ulster absolute exclusion from the working of the Irish Home Rule Bill.

Saturday's cable messages contained the grave information that civil war was imminent—a development that Britons the world over anticipate with absolute horror.

To-day the news is flashed to us that the situation is more promising, although the dangers of the crisis are by no means passed.

What appeals to us as one of the most serious aspects of the Home Rule problem is the effect it is having on the British Army.

If the information cabled us is to be relied upon officers are resigning their commissions by the score rather than participate in any movement designed to co-erce the province of Ulster.

Orders for "despatching an Army Brigade to the scene of anticipated trouble could not be carried out because practically all the officers had resigned.

The same trouble was experienced, with the Sixteenth Regiment of Lancers.

Fifty officers of the forces stationed at Curragh, Ireland, have also handed in their commissions.

And great dissatisfaction prevails amongst even those officers who are remaining with the Army, some of them being reported as consenting to go to Ulster only on the absolute understanding that they will not be required, in any event, to turn their arms against the Covenanters.

Lord Charles Beresford emphasised the gravity of the military situation when he stated that he knew "for a fact that many officers, including those of high rank, and some of the best men, will resign their positions if ordered to take part in the coercion of Ulster, or even if the order alone is issued."

This is a development of the Home Rule problem that we believe was never anticipated by the Liberal-Nationalist Government of the United Kingdom. But it is none the less grave for having cropped up unexpectedly.

There is little doubt that the attitude of the British Army officers towards any anticipated or attempted coercion of Ulster, reflects the attitude of a great many of the rank and file.

The result, then, is bound to be the subversion of that discipline on which the effectiveness of any Army depends and there is little doubt that much mischief of this nature has already been done amongst the British military forces.

When Irish Home Rule involves nothing more than a consideration of how best to apply local self-government to the country we can readily agree to leave the arrangement of ways and means to the Irish themselves.

They know their own position best; they are acquainted with all phases of the situation and should easily be able to arrive at some solution of the problem without coercion and by peaceable means. Neither side would lose anything by making a few concessions in the general interests of the country and the great gains that would accrue are too obvious to need enumeration here.

Unfortunately cool heads and wise counsels are not apparently outstanding features of the situation.

If actual conflict with Ulster be precipitated the world at large will be forced to the conclusion that there is too much reason to accept the proverb which characterises the Irishman as more hot-headed than far-sighted.

But the Irish Home Rule problem loses its purely local aspect, when the efficiency of the British Army is threatened, and thereby becomes a matter of vital interest to the British Empire as a whole.

To that Army we look for the defence of our interests; it is the instrument that maintains for us the rights and privileges we enjoy as British citizens; it is the guardian of the Union Jack, the symbol of all that is desirable in our nationalism.

Hence the British Dominions Overseas must call a halt to proceedings that involve the very existence of the Empire.

Ireland can have Home Rule; it can become independent as to local government; Ulster can be fully satisfied and yet no principle need be winked out of sight nor need the United Kingdom in particular and the British Empire in general be subjected to all the dangers that, in modern times, threaten a nation whose military forces become undisciplined, dissatisfied and, consequently, inefficient.

If this spirit of intolerance continues to prevail and a conflict is precipitated over Home Rule those responsible for civil war will be in the unenviable position of having strained at the gnat of concession at the risk of being forced to swallow the camel of national disaster.

INCONSISTENT.

There is very little to admire in the staff taken by Joseph Devlin on the present crisis in Ireland.

Mr. Devlin is leader of the nine Irish members who hold aloof from the party led by John Redmond and style themselves Independent Nationalists.

Mr. Devlin is represented in to-day's cable message as having stated at a Nationalist demonstration at Glasgow yesterday that: "The Irish Party has never asked for the Army in Ulster. The responsibility is the Government's. If there should be riot and disaster, the responsibility is not with the Nationalists."

All through the consideration of the

Irish Home Rule problem Joseph Devlin has been the great human stumbling-block in the way of compromise and concession for the sake of peace.

John Redmond has shown some disposition to make an effort to placate Ulster, but Joseph Devlin absolutely none.

In fact the latter is represented as advocating publicly an "Ireland, one and undivided," and as condemning the recent offers made to Ulster.

Joseph Devlin and his following may not have requested the Government to send troops into Ulster to coerce the province, but by acting the political firebrand he has rendered the crisis more acute and has forced the authorities to make this move.

In view of this fact, it will be easy to decide who is responsible in large measure for any riot and disorder that may result.

MEDICAL OFFICIALS.

Dr. Rendell, the Government tuberculosis official, writes us to challenge and contradict many of the statements made by our Correspondent "Equal Rights" and published in The Daily Mail on Saturday.

It is well to get at all the facts in connection with the Government Medical Service and give them that publicity which will ensure a thorough understanding amongst our people on the matter.

It is for this purpose and not at all on account of any personal bias on the matter that we are devoting our space to these concerns. We shall be glad to see the situation cleared up satisfactorily to the people and to the officials.

There are some matters of general interest that concern the Hospital that we hope to deal with in the immediate future. Meanwhile we commend Dr. Rendell's letter to the attention of our readers.

In your issue of the 20th Inst. you give marked prominence to a letter by "Equal Rights," and bless it with your editorial approbation. I fear some undue influence has been used to hoodwink your customary judgment or else you could not fail to see the untenability of your position.

Recently certain doings in connection with the General Hospital have greatly aroused public interest and, inasmuch as an attempt has been made to palliate or excuse these doings by dragging in the Lunatic Asylum and the Tuberculosis Public Service, and by personal reference to myself, I have to request you to give equal prominence to my reply.

The Tuberculosis Service has been actively at work a little over seven months; these Hospital doings began before the Tuberculosis Service was born; how then can you fairly and logically endorse an attempted justification of these doings of several years ago on the ground that the Tuberculosis Officer is receiving certain privileges today? If this be a sample of what you appear to consider good reasoning I fear you will not get the public to agree with you; as well might a murderer expect to go free because some one else committed murder, or with equal reason the unborn child might be held responsible for the sins of his father. Is it not better policy, sir, to let every public tub stand upon its own bottom, especially when it is a matter of considerable public interest as to whether the bottom is a sound one?

Turning now to "Equal Rights" reference to myself, he or she states "that these three worthy gentlemen (i.e., Drs. Duncan, Keegan and myself) receive the same equivalent as regards salary, horse, carriage, &c." I must emphatically contradict these statements: an examination of the estimates will prove that the amount in cash received by the Hospital Superintendent is considerably larger than that given the other two "worthy gentlemen;" all the hospital stable expenses are paid by the Government (or have been till very recently), the sum I am allowed for this purpose does not nearly cover my stable expenditure incurred in connection with the Tuberculosis service. It would afford me much satisfaction and a considerable saving to be placed on a par with the Hospital Superintendent as "regards salary, horse, carriage, &c.;" take one item alone, wear and tear, and it must be obvious to anyone acquainted, even superficially, with the work of the Hospital and of the Tuberculosis Service, that in this respect my stable expenses must largely exceed those of the Hospital.

"Equal Rights" next says: "Then Dr. Rendell who has his income from the Tuberculosis work—he holds another Government position as well—that of Dr. of the Constabulary—and also visits a few chosen people in the city, thereby increasing his salary considerably."

It is correct that I receive a salary as Tuberculosis Officer, but I receive no other salary; pending other arrangements, the work of Constabulary Surgeon has been tackled on to that of Tuberculosis Officer, but for Constabulary work I do not receive

one extra cent of salary, and when I cease to be Constabulary Surgeon my salary will remain as it is at present.

I must also emphatically deny the inference contained in the statement that "I am visiting a few chosen people in the city, thereby increasing my salary considerably;" some time ago I received orders from the Government to discontinue private practice, but long before that I had practically given up such work; it is not easy at a moment's notice to sever bonds which have taken nearly thirty years to form but so far as money is concerned, these bonds have been severed.

I take this opportunity to state publicly that I do not wish to engage in private practice and I think the city members of the medical profession have substantial reasons for knowing that I have given up such work, indeed I have carried this so far as to even decline to attend my own relatives.

Your correspondent further says: "While Dr. Rendell receives other moneys for the Constabulary, and while he is still at liberty to practice where and when he will..." &c. I have already covered these statements, but, to leave no doubt in your mind, I beg to state categorically that I do not receive other moneys for the Constabulary and I am not at liberty to practice where and when I will; but I will go even further and state that even if I were at liberty I have neither time nor inclination for such work.

Tuberculosis work has increased so rapidly that I have been unable to overtake it with the aid of one horse

and, to enable me to cover the ground more quickly, I employ my own motor car when convenient and entirely at my own cost; further, up to the present I have contributed a Tuberculosis Dispensary to the work without charging the Colony one cent of rent, also the horse and carriages that I use are my own property. There are many other points to which I might refer, bearing upon a number of expenses which I have to meet in consequence of residing in town and private property, as compared with the residing in the country on Government property, these will readily suggest themselves to you therefore I need not add further to the length of my letter.

In conclusion I ask you particularly to note in this letter I have written entirely from the defensive side, but there is also an offensive side, Sir, which, if necessary, I shall assume and handle without gloves.

You are, I believe, trying to be fair to all. I think I am therefore justified in concluding that you will now bring your influence to bear to make "things equal all round," and for this I feel sure I cannot be premature in asking you to accept my best thanks.

—H. RENDELL.

P.S.—This letter has been written solely because you endorsed the statements made by "Equal Rights." Without such endorsement that letter, being anonymous, was not entitled to reply, nor should I have noticed it.

—H.R.

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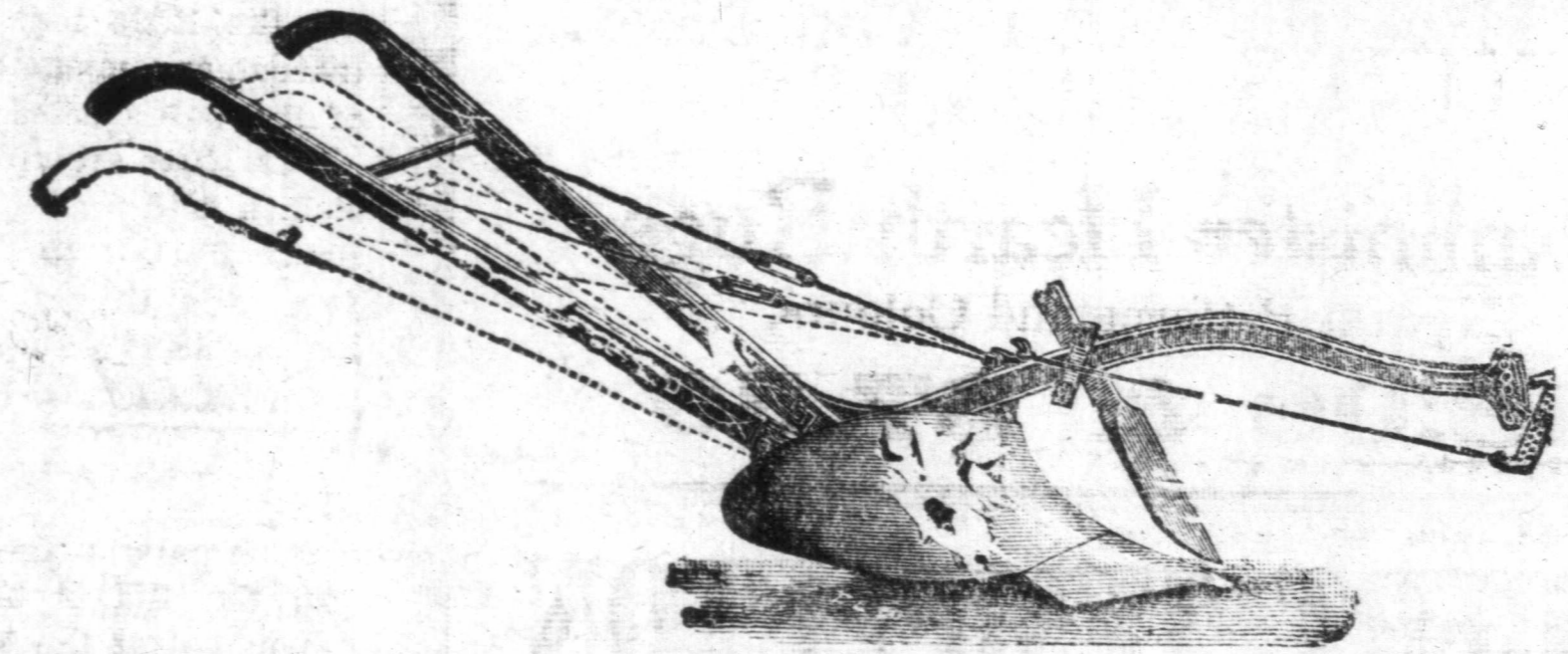
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