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(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JUNE 18th, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Wanted! Public Men With Backbone!

THE outstanding weakness of men in public life to-day is lack of backbone. Many of them are, as Longfellow says: "Dumb, driven, cattle," or as a local side-walk philosopher puts it: "Dummies pulled by the nose by the fellows higher up."

The essential at this critical period in our history is personality; and that many of the present Administration lack this factor was conspicuously evident during the session of the Assembly just ended, there were ominous creakings of certain parts of the machinery owing to lack of lubrication. But when the requisite lubricant was applied, the members voted as noiselessly as the motion of well-greased journals on a locomotive.

The influence of a man with personality is paramount, for that inherent power which gives personality is the factor which helps to determine their position.

If there is one thing needed in our Public Men to-day more than another it is Personality. Members of the Assembly, educationists, editors, clergymen, require more of that stamina which will lead them to stand alone on a rock of isolation, rather than sacrifice what they consider lofty principles. Too many who should be STRONG are WEAK-KNEED. Too many who should be fearless and bold in defending right (such as we endeavor to do) are swayed and turned like a weather vane in the wind. They lack that moral courage which entitles them to leadership. Our political life, as never before, is looking for men who are true to their convictions (not voting pawns), and who do not disgrace the gift of personality which Heaven has vouchsafed them.

Had we such men on the Government benches, the Civil Service of this Colony would not be a political Augean Stable, nor would it be the dumping-ground for the "Sisters and the Cousins and the Aunts" of party touts.

Strength and courage are two simple virtues, owned by no race, found in all faiths, expressed in every real hero, the inspiration of all great souls, and the basis of character. Weakness and fear—political fear especially—are neither good medicine nor sound doctrine. They lock the lips, chain the soul, darken the brain, thwart the purpose and paralyze the soul. There is no fight in the jelly fish.

The military idea of life—"Life is a warfare" is a good working ideal. The soldier is still the example of the man who is aggressively good. It is a HUNDRED TIMES BETTER to be a fighter than to be pawn on a political chess-board.

Strength is everywhere respected. We look out on the sea and, conceding the color and the grandeur of Old Ocean's vast domain, are moved by its mighty power. Strength is everywhere admirable, even in a losing cause.

A man without Strength is like a steamer without steam. We find that what most men lack is steam. Dreams they have but do not realize them; theories they have, but do not PRACTISE THEM; visions gladdens them; but they lack the strength to make them real. Think about it you weaklings who vote franchises without consideration of your duty to the people.

Courage is related to Strength, as the branch is to the trunk. We are courageous when we know how strong we are. A weak man is never really brave—his bravery is bluff. Courage of the highest form is related to the highest morality.

Backbone with an ordinary amount of brain is a more profitable asset than an extraordinary amount of brain with little or no backbone. The NEGLECT OF THE SPINAL COLUMN is making the SHIP OF STATE creak from stem to stern.

Be a good fighter for the welfare of the masses. The coarse-grained politician with a club was very well in days gone by, but his place is not in the twentieth century. There is success ahead for the man of strength and courage, who is an honest fighter, and has no corrupt corporations behind him.

This is the time for independent action; so pitch in and do something. Of course, you may be for the while cut off from invitations to the functions of swaddom; you may have to foot your own bills; but be a hero in the light. You hold your mandate from the people; and don't be recreant to the trust which you have received by honest suffrage.

More Injustice

DURING the unsavory revelations in connection with the administration of the Postal-Telegraphs Department we had an opportunity to see how some of the public monies were being squandered in "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," and to realize how inefficient this public utility is. But there is a phase of this business which has not been sufficiently aired; and, possibly, the public will imagine that we are guilty of exaggeration, when we say that we refer them to the accounts of the Department for verification of the statements.

We refer to the salaries paid to outpost Operators. There are to-day numerous operators North, South, and West, who are receiving but a paltry TEN DOLLARS PER MONTH. They work practically 365 days in the year (they must be on hand on Sundays), and their office-hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and in some cases the thing called an office is not fit to be placed among dog-kennels! These officials (usually most courteous and attentive) receive THIRTY-THREE CENTS per day for their services; and we have heard of instances where they have even been unable to procure from the Department a BROOM to sweep the office!

We know, too, that the coal supply is restricted; and we know further, that in certain instances, though coal could be purchased in the place at \$5.60 per ton, it was not bought locally; but it was SENT FROM A CITY COAL DEALER, costing originally \$7.50. Freight to destination meant \$4.00 additional. Why should \$6.00 per ton be bootled?

When one considers these disgraceful things, and knows that

MOSDELL'S BOOMERANGS

[A BOOMERANG—A missile of hard wood, peculiar to the aborigines of Australia, of two feet in length, and so constructed that, though thrown forward, it takes a whirling course upwards till it stops, when it returns with a swoop and falls in the rear of the thrower.]

Newfoundland Toilers awaited a champion, an organizer and a leader. Men there were a-plenty to pose as champions of the cause of the Fishermen, but they generally transpired that they were politicians at heart and not true friends of the Fishermen. Numerous leaders appeared at one time and another but they accomplished nothing either because of their half-hearted attempts or because they lacked the saving grace of organization. They were men who did not possess or engender in the Toilers that absolute confidence that is essential to the success of any general and champion of the cause of labor.—Mosdell, in The Fishermen's Advocate, Dec. 20, 1913.

Men looked for the saviour and the deliverer to come from legislative halls or from so-called upper classes. They had decided that he must be one learned in law or politics; prominent in business or some other department of public life. How else, said they, can he successfully organize and lead the Toilers and do battle on their behalf. But they were mistaken in their anticipations and once again was proven the old adage that it is usually the weak of the earth that is used to confound the mighty. The organizer and leader appeared in W. F. COAKER, who possessed none of the qualifications generally deemed essential to success.—Mosdell, in The Advocate, Dec. 20, '13.

the Ramea Cable, or rather an attempt at a Cable, cost the Colony more than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars it is enough to make even angels weep.

Why this Ramea Cable at all? The entire Ramea Islands have not the population of one of the thriving settlements in the District of Fogo, Twillingate, Bonavista, or Trinity which have no means of communication except the casual visitor to a neighboring office.

The only business done on the Ramea Islands is done by the firm of Penney, and we do not think that the Colony owes any single firm a Twenty-Five Thousand Dollar Cable, especially as we know that the major part of the business is done with a neighboring Province, and that the families of the members of the firm are non-residents.

Why not try and do something along the South Coast for the Winter Fishing Fleet? Why not put them in touch with their owners during their dangerous winter trips?

It is not so long ago that a vessel was wrecked going to the westward—a fishing vessel with a crew of 16 men, who suffered dreadful hardships before they could make known their plight to the owners or to the Government.

They were FIVE DAYS trying to get into touch with a telegram office; had to row in leaking dories about thirty miles; why? Because there was means of communication between Cape LaHue and the cove where they were wrecked!

Yet \$25,000 can be squandered in wining and dining and freighting; but the bone and sinew must be content with being allowed to exist!

Inconstancy

THE inconstancy of President Coaker is his sole fault, so says the Bottle Washer. He has not attempted to prove his statement because no one knows better than himself that such a statement is false.

President Coaker possess a deep sincere and self sacrificing character, and he strongly resents conduct of insincerity. He is willing to sacrifice all to the furtherance of the cause he has espoused on behalf of the Toiling Masses of Newfoundland.

He is a born worker and despises a lazy man, or a man possessing abilities that he misuses, or is too indolent to utilize. He hates the man that would despoil his country of her heritage or place personal interests before that of Country and People.

Mosdell's make up was long ago analyzed by President Coaker and found wanting in many characteristics that are essential to success

where work entailing self sacrifice, tact, strenuous toil and economy had to be accomplished.

Mosdell possesses none of those qualifications. He would out do Croscie as a Grabber if he had the opportunity; his want of tact he displayed time and again while a member of our staff; he has no comprehension of the word economy, he is not nor never will be a strenuous worker, he lacks stability.

During the absence of President Coaker to the icefields in 1914 Mosdell displayed what tact and common sense he possessed by attacking Home Rule, although the discussion of the issue was strictly forbidden by President Coaker.

Mosdell's defence of Capt. Keen prior to the arrival of President Coaker from the seafishery last year is another indication of his tact and inability to place Country and Country's best interests before personal consideration.

Mosdell's vile attack on Piccott is an indication of his mental make up, and his lack of discretion and principle. His speeches during the Hr. Grace Campaign exposed his inordinate conceit and love of displaying before the common people that he had received some education since leaving his native town. He spoke above the people's heads and created a contempt for his airs that left him the last man on the list, although the only one of six who claimed university degrees.

One of the chief flaws in Mosdell's make up is his inconsistency. He is only 29 years old, yet he has already been a teacher, then a newspaper proprietor, then a Methodist parson for part of a year, then a newspaper reporter, then a student of medicine; then he craved for notoriety as an editor, then he longed for political honors, then he wished to practise medicine again, then he endeavoured to become a sub-editor of an enemies paper, then he sold himself to a Clique expressly for the purpose of destroying his former employer and patron, and next week he will be ready to sell the Clique that purchased him if the would-be-purchaser would make it worth his while.

A year ago Mosdell pretended to be an ardent supporter of the F.P.U. and acclaimed President Coaker to be the bearer of a message to the People and Country, which was nothing short of a Divine Revelation.

Last year Mosdell was concocting a scheme to edit a Confederation paper, now he is the trusted tool of the bitterest mercantile Anti-Confederates who believed they were buying an able editor to assassinate Coaker as a political and commercial factor and organize a great campaign against Confederation, yet within three

Mr. Kent, Leader of the Opposition, Scores the Government in Forcible Speech Delivered in House of Assembly on April 27th, 1915

Showed Up Some Startling Facts—Public Debt Under Six Years of Morris Government Increased Ten Million Dollars—Nest Egg of \$500,000 Left by Bond Administration Wiped Out of Existence.

In the Marine and Fisheries Department the same thing occurs.

In the Postal Telegraphs Department we find large increases. J. W. Mitchell for special services (whatever that means) received \$1,000—a new salary J. R. Clarke, Assistant Secretary to the Postmaster General received an increase in salary of \$100. J. W. Payne was appointed to a new office with a salary of \$500; J. M. Knight, another new office, \$400; John Hefferen, new office, \$360; Escott, new office, and so on. There are sixteen messengers whose salaries come to a total of \$1,920, and a number of new operators.

In the Public Works Department the same thing was done. F. Woods, fireman in the Museum, received an increase of \$120; H. Whiteway, keeper of the Grand Fall building, a new office, \$400; Tobin, keeper of Harbour Grace building, a new office; Martin Sreman, Harbour Grace, a new office; Dr. J. P. Knight, House Surgeon, \$3200.00. The salary of the fireman of the General Hospital was increased, and also that of the ferryman at Codroy, and so on.

Now, sir, all these payments should have been provided for in the ordinary way last year.

Then, with reference to the question of overdrafts: if you look at the Auditor General's statement you will find that there are large overdrafts which occur year after year, in every Department of the Public Service. This, of course, is notwithstanding a system of transferring balances from one sub-head to another, which the Auditor-General acts upon, a practice which is not authorized except

to a very limited extent; but to the extent to which it is used now, it is not authorized. For instance we had last year a case where an account was transferred in the Agriculture and Mines Department from the Agriculture Branch to the Mines Branch or vice versa. I forget which, but it was one or the other. That is not the intention of transferring from sub-heads.

Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to go through the different heads of the estimates to-day, as the matter will be discussed as each head comes up. However, I would like to refer briefly to the public debt. Now, sir, the gross public debt, at the present time, including the amount of the war loan of a million dollars which we got from the Imperial Government, and to which the Prime Minister referred in the beginning of his speech, is about \$32,000,000. That is the gross. There are deductions for amounts guaranteed, such as the Municipal Council amounts, and those would have to be deducted, but the gross liability of the Colony is about thirty-two and a half millions. At the time the present Government came into office, according to a statement of the public debt contained in the Minister of Finance's Budget for 1909, the public debt was \$22,000,000. That would be an increase roughly of about ten millions in six years. Now, this increase is made up largely of railway expenditure. There are eight millions of that for railway expenditure. I include the two million dollar loan which was authorized last year, of which one million only has been raised up to the present time. We

are in position in relation to the public debt which would warrant a statement of the financial position of the Colony, such as was asked for from this side of the House. We have gone on authorizing loans year after year. We find that a large amount of the local loans which have been authorized are still held on temporary loan at the Bank, and are going on from year to year paying 5½ per cent interest, some of them, instead of the 4 per cent that we authorized here in the Legislature. Another loan is paying 4½ per cent, instead of 4 per cent, which we authorized. We have no statement showing exactly how this temporary loan account stands at the present time. The Minister ought to have, in dealing with this matter, a statement showing exactly how the public debt stands at the present time—what has been raised, what amounts are held on temporary loan, and the various rates of interest which are being paid on the different amounts. Now, last year, sir, when the House was in session, there were two loans authorized. One was for \$2,000,000 for railway construction; the other was for \$360,000 for telegraphs, light-houses, and the construction of public buildings. It is now a year since these loans were authorized, and up to the present neither of them has been repaid. All that has been raised under them has been by way of temporary loan, and on terms and conditions other than those authorized by the Act. In relation to the railway loan, the Members of the House will no doubt remember that we passed out that the recognized conditions (Continued on page 3.)

months he has written himself down to be everything but what they believed him to be.

They ought to have known that if Mosdell was any good, Coaker would have got along with him, and Coaker might have considered that if he was any good he would not desire to become an editor while a doctor of medicine. Instancy is the fault such a man hurls at Coaker, while every action of Coaker's since he organized the F.P.U. has demonstrated that his opponents cannot cajole or bribe him into any position that departs from his original intention of making the F.P.U. a real Union of Toilers.

Journalistic Myosis

WE fear that the editor of the New Daily is badly afflicted with journalistic myosis in addition to manifesting very pronounced symptoms of megalomania.

We feel deeply grateful to this omniscient personage for his disquisition on the "Dark Mediaeval Ages"; "The French Revolution"; "The Dignity of Labor"; but we would advise him to read a recent article by Rev. Dr. Ryan in the last number of "The Newfoundland Quarterly" ere he again trots out Macaulay, "who," says this learned Newfoundland cleric, "could believe anything that tended to damage the opposite party. It is even though it tended to destroy the reputation of his country."

The effusion regarding Democracy in England is somewhat misplaced. We regret that we are not gullible enough to accept the educational pronouncements of the "restless" editor. We were under the impression (and still are) that education spelt STABILITY OF CHARACTER.

We used no such terms as he reads in "our little disquisition on the noblest of callings; on the contrary, we are clamoring for better educational facilities for our Toilers whom the New Daily editor had dubbed "the ignorant masses."

tional farce held annually under the auspices of the C.H.E. is a crime against the youth of this country, notably in our outports; and we think it is one of our city teachers—Miss Dawson—who wrote, sometime last winter:

"We bribe children to acquire facts, by promises of scholarships, prizes, and other distinctions, and the pupil's ambition is aroused sufficiently to gain these distinctions."

She says further: "At a recent conference in England, the Head Mistresses' Association passed a recommendation that girls under 16 should not TAKE EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS . . . considering them to have a BANEFUL influence on the full and free growth of the faculties."

To this we would add other opinions of competent judges:

"The first principle of (the ladist) is that the boy and girl are receptacles for all theologies. For them he builds up a school curriculum (such as that of the C.H.E.) so extensive as to bewilder the average mortal. He casts them all in the same mould and turns them out, year after year, as the finest fruitage of his system. It matters not that this education? is what Artemus Ward used to describe as many frills and little shirt. It matters not that pupils, filled with indigested facts, fall victims to mental anaemia. It is of little moment that the reasoning powers are not cultivated, and that the imaginative faculties, which to all seeming are not withheld in the purview of some educators, are left in abeyance.

"The pupil may be ignorant of fundamental subjects, but he may have a bowing acquaintance with scientific names, talk about stones and nature lessons. In other words, he is, to use a military expression, in the air. He has no foundation on which to build in after life. The teachers who are caught up in this whirligig curriculum have our sincerest sympathy. They cannot stem the tide of ologies that SWEEPS AWAY THEIR TIME AND PREVENTS

THEM FROM GIVING THEIR PUPILS THE INFLUENCE OF PERSONALITY which is of far greater VALUE than any amount of book learning. Some day a reformer may bring us back to saner methods, to a school curriculum which shall be simple and conducive to the cultivation of the reasoning powers and strengthening of the moral faculties."

Just another excerpt, and we dismiss the puerilities of the New Daily.

"The school-room is too often the grave of mental power and hope and ambition. For there are two ways of teaching, and one of them is fatal to intellectual life. It ruins the very vitality of the mind and leaves it jaded and prostrate. This method is an unnatural process of CRAMMING unaccompanied by digestion. The teacher hastily loads his own intellect with ill-sorted, unassimilated odds and ends of knowledge, and by dint of great physical exertion worthy of a stevedore, pitches shred after shred, patch after patch, chunk after chunk into the tender minds of the pupils. Mental dyspepsia, with all its lamentable results, such as a disgust for learning, follows. Ruin is at hand; for the process is violent and unnatural. By it the mind is continually overloaded and weighed down with debris of all sorts.

"It cannot react on the contents; they subjugate it, curb it, smother it, kill its initiative, condemn it to a passivity which in the end destroys its appetite for knowledge, and puts in its stead a tendency to nausea at the very sight of a book."

Cramming, stuffing, gorging is not to be tolerated. Intellectual food suitable in quantity and quality, to the age and condition of the child must be given in a rational manner." To our way of thinking, the Syllabus of the C. H. E. renders the rational process impossible.