

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE."



(To Every Man His Own.)

**The Mail and Advocate**

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MAY 6 1914.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW.**

**NOT IN EARNEST.**

Everything points to the conclusion that when Sir Edward Morris promised W. F. Coaker and his associates in the House of Assembly last session that the people would be given every facility to enable them to elect their own Road Boards he was not in earnest.

Sir Edward had evidently learned that it was not good policy for him to oppose the mandate of the people as presented to the House by the Union Party.

The people demanded Elective Road Boards—the Union members asked for legislative assent to that demand.

So Sir Edward Morris adopted such bluffing tactics as, he must have known, would lead his opponents to believe that he was one with them in the matter.

But, scarcely had the House closed than the members of the Opposition found that the pledges of the Premier amounted to nothing at all.

All that "red tape" could devise was done to discourage the Elective Road Board movement.

The Government adopted a "pin prick" policy—opposed all kinds of senseless objections to such boards as were elected.

The reason is, of course, obvious enough.

It is true that the people are likely to choose only the men most fitted to serve on their road boards; it is true, also, that this class of member will expend the public road monies to the best advantage.

But, and here lies the explanation for the government opposition to elective road boards,—to leave the choice of the members of the boards to the people would be to deprive the members of the Morris Party—elected or defeated—of a very useful avenue for distributing rewards to political friends, helpers and favorites.

It would strike from their hands a very useful and effective campaign weapon.

It would leave them powerless alike to reward their party friends and punish their political enemies.

So they frown on; they oppose and they put numerous stumbling-blocks in the way of the elective road board movement.

The Government also intimated in the House of Assembly that they were ready to accede to the just demand of the Union members that the affairs of a district should be administered by the elected representatives of the people whether they sat with the Government or in Opposition.

Just how sincere they were is proven by the intimation given to President Coaker yesterday that the Marine Grant for Bonavista District this year will be less than Fifteen Hundred Dollars.

Almost ten times that amount was spent in this district last year and the inference is obvious to the meanest intelligence.

The doctrine of the present Government evidently is that districts that choose to vote against them must suffer neglect and bear punishment for their political leanings.

And yet, in his famous Bonne Bay speech, Sir Edward Morris asserted that his party stood for fair play to all districts—whether its representatives sat with the Government or with the Opposition.

**DEEDS VERSUS WORDS.**

The Morris evening organ yesterday took occasion to assure the public that it does not oppose the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the recent sealing disasters.

Words are cheap; in this case they have absolutely no market value whatever.

Throughout the whole discussion of these recent and terrible tragedies our evening contemporary has never yet taken occasion to back up The Daily Mail in its insistent demand for the appointment of a daily qualified and fully empowered Commission of Inquiry.

Public sentiment has been insistent in its demand for such an appointment—yet that public demand has had no echo in the editorial columns of the Morris organ referred to.

Considerations of public interest dictate such a move—but our contemporary has failed to take up the cudgels and champion the cause of the people.

Why? Are we to regard our contemporary's attitude of indifference as a reflection of the attitude of the political party it supports?

If the Government has, from the first, been determined to have the causes of the recent distressful fatalities probed to the bottom, how comes it that the public mouthpiece has been so silent about the matter?

Surely the action to take was that of assuring the public that every effort would be made to render such awful tragedies as nearly as possible improbable, if not impossible, in the future.

Yet this was not done. We were not even assured that any determined effort would be made to place the blame for the tragedy that resulted in the loss of almost four score lives.

It was only after this paper had persistently campaigned for the appointment of a competent Commission that the public were assured that this would be done.

And coupled with this assurance came the statement of the Government that they had determined on such a course of action from the very beginning.

Small wonder that the knowing ones stuck their tongues in their cheeks at such an improbable claim.

Such shrinking modesty on the part of the party in power was absolutely unthinkable.

And now the Prescott Street organ asks of us another high flight of imagination!

The words are fair enough; the declared attitude is honesty itself, but alas and alack! there is nothing of action to lend reality thereto.

Day followed day and week merged into week and not a line did this protesting Morris organ print in advocacy of the appointment of the Commission.

And even when the Government announced its intention of having such a Commission appointed, its party press allowed that announcement to pass all most unnoticed.

The reason, of course, is plain enough. The Government had given a grudging assent to President Coaker's righteous demand; its organs were naturally unwilling to acknowledge to admit that the hands of their masters had been forced in a case where common sense and public responsibility should have prompted them to instant, decisive action.

Small wonder then that the public suspiciously regard the appointment of the Hospital Commission as an attempt to draw them from the trail of the Sealing Disasters Commission.

What thinking man could come to any other conclusion?

The Prescott Street organ in one issue devoted more space to a discussion of a squabble between a few women at the Hospital than it did in all the weeks past to the vital subject of the causes of a tragedy involving the loss of almost four score human lives.

And yet the editor asks us to believe that the sealing disaster weighs more on his mind than the hospital squabble.

Well, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and we prefer to judge his sentiments from his deeds—which are noticeably lacking—than from his words,—plausible and multiplied though they may be.

And even so with the Government, of which our Prescott Street contemporary is the organ.

Mr. Coaker demanded a Commission of Inquiry into Hospital affairs while the House was in session. It was not appointed. Nobody ever expected to see such an appointment. But, behold! just as the public feeling is wrought up over the terrible sealing tragedies, and the universal cry is for a judicial inquiry thereof, a Hospital Commission is sprung on them.

Of course, it is a mere coincidence;

there is absolutely nothing planned or premeditated about the making of the appointments at this particular time! Nor must the splash made in the Prescott Street organ over the Hospital squabbles be taken as at all significant of a desire to draw off the attention of the public in a new direction.

Of course not. Well now, let our Prescott Street contemporary, which is the organ and mouthpiece of the Government face this issue squarely.

It made a great to-do about the appointment of the Hospital Commission; it suffered the announcement that the Government would appoint a Sealing Disasters Commission to pass almost unmentioned.

It follows then that the hubbub about the Hospital Commission was intended to divert public attention from the Disasters or that it is significant of the relative value placed by the Government on the two affairs.

Columns for hospital affairs; lines for the sealing tragedy, as far as the Commission of investigation is concerned.

Unlimited space to a discussion of superintendent versus matron; the barest most grudging mention of the promise of an appointment that involves such issues as life and death.

Which horn of the dilemma will The Evening Herald—and the politicians who pull the strings that work the journalistic puppet—choose?

**TO THE EDITOR.**

**LIKES THE MAIL**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—We are glad to hear of Mr. Coaker's safe return from the icefields, and trust that his trip has put him in good shape to continue the great fight for the people's rights.

The people North are all very well pleased with *The Daily Mail*, but are much dissatisfied over the fact that it does not turn up regularly.

—D. U. G.  
Catalina.

**WANTS THE REASON**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—The people of this place are anxious to know how it is that we in Green Bay can only get \$1.25 per day, when the Premier stated in his Manifesto last Fall, that since his Government came into power, the lowest daily wage paid in this country was \$1.50.

—DAILY MAIL MAN.  
Rattling Brook.  
S. W. Arm, Green Bay.

**SHOULD BE CHANGED**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—I don't like to be making complaints against Government officials, but things are in such a desperate state here now that we are forced to ask those in power to have them changed. The public here are all complaining about our mail mat-

**POEMS OLD AND NEW.**

**A VISION OF FLOWERS.**

There grew pied wind-flowers and violets;  
Daisies, those pearl'd Arcturi of the earth,  
The constellated flower that never sets;  
Fair oxlips; tender bluebells, at whose birth  
The sod scarce leaved; and that tall flower that wets—  
Like a child, half in tenderness and mirth—  
Its mother's face with heaven-collect'd tears  
When the low wind, its playmate's voice, it hears.

And in the warm hedge grew lush eglantine,  
Green cowbird and the moonlight-colour'd May,  
And cherry-blossoms, and white cups whose wine  
Was the bright dew yet drain'd not by the day;  
And wild roses, and ivy serpentine,  
With its dark buds and leaves wandering astray;  
And flowers, azure, black, and streak'd with gold,  
Fairer than any waken'd eyes behold.

**A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.**

Why art thou troubled when things succeed not as thou wouldst or desirest? Who is he that hath all things in his mind? Neither I nor thou, nor any man on earth. There is none in the world without some tribulation or perplexity, though he were Emperor or Pope. Who has the better lot? Surely he who is able to suffer something for God.—Thomas A. Kempis.

ters. The service is not as regular as it should be and the mails are not handled carefully.

The Postmaster-General should not allow mail men to send boys and girls under age, with and for the mails.

—A SPECTATOR.  
Smith's Sound, N. S.  
Trinity Bay.

**DIED LIKE HEROES**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—Permit me through your columns to express my heartfelt sympathy with the many families bereaved through the recent sealing disaster.

Newfoundlanders here in Toronto are grieved to the heart over these terrible calamities. But like thousands of others, we are proud of the noble record revealed by the story of the survivors. The men who died, died like heroes—such heroes as have built up our great and glorious British Empire.

—M. E. HAWCO.  
Toronto.

**WHY THEY DIDN'T APPLY.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—There was no row at the Hospital. The Sisters simply sent in their resignations, through the lady Superintendent, on the 1st of April to take effect on May 1st.

They declined to remain any longer after the treatment meted out to Sister Redmond, who, after 15 years' service of hard work at the Hospital, finds herself ignored.

The Herald also says: "None of these Nurses applied for the vacant positions." No. It was understood that the vacancy would not be filled for at least six months, therefore they would not apply over the head of Miss Redmond.

There was neither a row nor a squabble by those Sisters.

—O. W. K.  
St. John's, May 5, '14.

**DEFENDS SHEPPARD**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—I have been much interested in the letters that have been appearing in your papers concerning the sealing disasters and especially those written by Capt. Kean and Mark Sheppard.

I object very much to some of the remarks made by Capt. Kean in criticizing Mark Sheppard as a man. I served under him for eight years at the fishery and found that there are very few men that can show Mark Sheppard his work as a fisherman or at anything else he takes in hand.

—F. SHEPPARD.

**END THE WASTE.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—I don't like to see that somebody wrote to your paper regarding the great waste of public money that takes place here.

A great deal has been spent on Government well and brooks, but the people get very little benefit from it. We hear a great deal about certain people getting \$40 and other amounts for these purposes but that is all we know about it.

We are all very pleased at the way Union members fulfilled their duties in the House last session, and we hope that they will keep up to their good work and put an end to the great waste of public money that occurs so often in this place.

—UNION MAN.  
Amherst Cove, B.D.

**A GOOD WORK.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—Through the medium of your paper kindly allow me to say a word of praise for Mr. Coaker re the stand taken by him on the present sealing disaster enquiry.

In your issue of last evening he intimates his intention of convening a meeting of the citizens to demand a more searching one than that now being conducted. This I think will certainly be a step in the right direction.

It is not a case of Liberal or Tory but simply doing the right thing at the right time, and the consensus of opinion to-day is that the Government is not going far enough with the matter.

To briefly sum it up "it's not good enough" and should Mr. Coaker take the position he has intimated he will I feel safe in saying, he will have the support of fully nine-tenths of the people of St. John's.

—T. R. JACKMAN.  
Apl. 17, '14.

**CRITICISES THE COMMISSION**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—by this evening's Herald I learn that the Government has appointed a Commission to enquire into the trouble at the General Hospital, and note further that of the three gentlemen appointed to sit on that Commission, neither one is a medical doctor.

It appears that the trouble in the

hospital hinges entirely on a question of discipline.

Now it may be asked, and in all due respect to Messrs. Gibbs, Robinson and Lloyd, what do these gentlemen know of hospital discipline?

Of the three gentlemen appointed two are lawyers and one is a layman. It strikes me that a doctor should be on that Commission, and one who has had considerable hospital experience. Only a doctor can know what laws, written and unwritten govern such institutions, and one ignorant of those laws and their application is not the most suitable one to investigate the trouble.

I suggest that a medical man be appointed to act with the three gentlemen already named.

—A. ENGLISH.

**A DELAYED MESSAGE.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—The people of this vicinity fully realize the sadness and sorrow that overshadows so many happy homes in the different localities of our country which have been caused by the recent disaster of the ice fields. As a community we wish to sympathize with all that have to mourn the loss of loved ones.

The Tollers of our country suffer most severely in various ways,—they suffer at the ice fields, they suffer at the codfishery and they suffer in the lumber woods. At many times those sufferings are caused by officials in office not being faithful to their duty.

**Should Be Trustworthy**

We have a telegraph system in this country which has been placed there out of the revenues of this country and the general public of our country are depending largely on the telegraph system for the safety of lives and property, therefore we consider that those officials in these offices should be absolutely trustworthy.

We in this neighborhood came very near in facing a tragedy which would have plunged this neighborhood into sadness and sorrow on account of a public official not delivering a message when received. By the delay three young men of our neighborhood came near meeting death.

Arthur Pittman, one of them, makes the following statement:

**Statement**  
I, Arthur Pittman, was one of three men who wired twelve o'clock at Badger Station, Thursday, the 9th of April, for a dog team to come and meet us on the route home; being strangers to the route. We expected our friends to get the telegram time enough to meet us on Rushie Pond, after that we knew nothing about the route, depending on the eam.

We came to Rushie Pond, got there about five o'clock Friday evening, found no team. We knew nothing about any camp. We stayed on an island in the Pond, without any shelter until about six o'clock, Saturday morning. Now we knew not what to do, we had only a limited amount of provisions, so my two companions and myself had to leave our clothes behind.

**Hoped to Reach the Sea**  
Not knowing what other course to take, we started to travel in hope of reaching the sea side somewhere. If a storm had come up, as it often does, I feel sure that our doom would have been sealed.

At three o'clock Saturday evening we reached the seaside in a blind and crippled condition.

Fortunately, we knew in what direction our homes lay, and of course this revived us somewhat. When we arrived at Churley Harbor, we were kindly received and shown generous hospitality, being supplied with food and put on the right road for home. As we were suffering severely from blindness it was difficult for some of us to see our way home. My opinion is, without food and shelter we would not have lived very much longer.

**Telegram Delayed**  
We reached home about eight o'clock Saturday night. Then we learnt about what time our friends received the telegram. This telegram must have been laying at Pileys Island about thirty-six hours and my home is only about a mile distant from that place.

The operator at Pileys Island I believe has been a faithful public servant in the past and loved and esteemed by all, but the holding over of this late message was a big mistake, such a mistake as we hope, will never occur again.

—R. W. FUDGE.  
Pileys' Isld., April 13, '14.

**NO HUSTLER**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)  
Dear Sir,—The people of this place are very much dissatisfied with the arrangements by which we get our mail from Western Bay.

I believe that a great deal of the trouble lies with the courier, who is not as much of a hustler as he should be.

—S. G. A.  
Gull Island, B.D.V.

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