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(TO EVERY MAN HIS OWN.)

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MAY 11, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The Reid Deal

YESTERDAY the new Reid-Deal Resolutions came up for discussion in the people's House.

The Reids for obvious reasons tried not to appear in this attempt of big grab from the country of her invaluable assets, and for these reasons a Mr. Wilson was pushed forward with a big fan flare, and display of stage lights, in the hope of distracting the people's attention and giving them a mocking assurance that all was right. We were told by the interested section of the press, that this Mr. Wilson was a great inventor and a scientist of great repute, or this much was insinuated in a cunning way. The people were led to believe that Mr. Wilson (Carbide Wilson, by the way) was the inventor of calcium carbide and the electrical turnacc. As a matter of fact Mr. Wilson merely took the data that M. Moissan—a great scientist—had gathered during his classical investigations, and turned to commercial account those wonderful discoveries.

Nobody wishes as far as we are aware to belittle the work of Mr. Wilson, but at the same time, we consider it only fair to put Mr. Wilson in the right light.

He perfected in 1893 what the other discovered, and we believe that Mr. Wilson is quite content to let the scientist of France have full credit for his labors. When a body of men get themselves together and make such outrageous demands upon a country's natural resources, as the Reid-Wilson Company are asking the safest attitude of the country towards them is that of suspicion and caution, or even undisguised unfriendliness.

The demands of the Reid-Wilson Company show a clearly defined attempt to despoil us of our only remaining assets, that the attempt has been made through the channel of the legislature does not in any sense lift it above the level of the conduct of the openly aggressive despoiler, it only makes the attempt safe, but does not rob it of its ugliness.

We cannot be friendly with any concern that aims to rob us, then why should we not condemn in plain language the overt act of aggression on the part of this giant octopus.

Well for us that we have an active and wide awake opposition in the House, at the present time, or else an act of unapproachable corruption might have been carried out and Terra Nova sold as a pawn into the hands of a greedy clique.

The attempt was a dishonorable one, and we cannot disguise our contempt for those who tried the game.

Mr. Wilson has not added any lustre to his name by allowing himself to be coupled with the disgraceful attempt which this new Reid Deal essays through a corrupt party in the legislature. Carbide Wilson—thereby hoping to dazzle the eyes of the public, and so induce them to blindly leap at the tempting bait.

Considerations

MAYBE it were just as well, if when considering the question of the establishment of pulp mills and carbide furnaces at Bay of Islands, our legislators were to consider what effect the operation of such mills is likely to have on the district, that might prove a weighty item on the wrong side of the account.

What effect will the gasses likely have upon the health of the community and upon vegetation, are important questions that should be answered in a satisfactory way, before any right to establish works of the kind proposed in the new Reid-Deal Resolutions.

What effect will the mining on the Humber, and the driving of logs on the lakes and river likely have on fish life?

How will damming the rivers effect the migration of salmon? There may be waste products from those proposed mills that might prove harmful to the fisheries of Bay of Islands.

You may destroy the Humber as a salmon stream, are you prepared to do that in consideration of the returns the industry proposed is likely to give. What is the value of the Humber as a salmon stream?

How many young salmon are hatched in that stream, and what waters do the salmon hatched in the Humber frequent?

Then you must ask yourselves, what will be the effect on the fisheries of the destruction of the forests, which is likely to follow, the establishment of large pulp mills at Bay of Islands.

These are questions more easily asked than answered, but answered in full they should be, before any concessions be given the promoters of the scheme.

If we give away our water powers, our forests, our minerals, and sacrifice our salmon streams, and if we exempt the Company from taxation, where do we come in?

We may also be permitting the establishment of pulp and other mills at Bay of Islands sacrifice the comfort and health of the people, again, where do we come in? To operate the mills men will be taken from other industries—the fishery for instance—once again where do we come in? What benefit will it be to us.

We mention these items as possible offsets to any practical advantages that may accrue from the establishment of the proposed industries.

The promoters of the scheme are asking tremendous concessions from us, and they know that more is being asked than any concern has a right to demand of any free people.

There is nothing certain that even should they get the concessions they ask that the undertaking will proceed. It is all a vague speculation.

To give the scheme the semblance of solidity, the promoters have pushed forward a Mr. Wilson, and invested that gentleman with an awe-inspiring title—Carbide Wilson.

Our Patriotic Governor

THE action of Governor Davidson in taking from the Treasury of this Colony the sum of \$208.33 per month on account of a grant of \$2500.00 voted to him by the Legislature on account of travelling expenses has met with the strongest disapproval of full seven-eighths of our people.

When this outrageous scandal was first made known through the Mail and Advocate some people would not believe the facts as stated by this paper but when the Government in response to a question asked by Mr. Coaker from his place in the House tabled the information the public read with no little amazement that the facts as stated were only too true.

This vote of \$2500.00 was granted the Governor by the Legislature to recupe him for monies which he might have to pay from time to time to meet expenses incurred by travelling from place to place within his jurisdiction. Had the money so voted being spent as intended no one would find fault with either the Governor or the Government.

Governor Davidson was hardly long enough in the Colony, to know his way about when he requested the Government to increase his salary from \$10,000.00 to \$14,000.00. At the time he asked for this increase he stated that he found it impossible to keep up Government House on the salary the former Governors had. Immediately on his request being made the Government allowed him the extra asked for and then came into the Assembly and had the House ratify the vote.

If Governor Davidson or any other Governor found it impossible to live on Ten Thousand Dollars a year the tax payers of this Colony would not shed many tears if he cut out the foolish and unnecessary waste of money necessitated by entertaining the "Blue bloods of St. John's" at the Vice Regal Mansion.

Why should the fishermen, laborer and tradesmen be taxed to death to provide dinner parties and afternoon pink teas for the so called aristocratic ladies of St. John's who seem to think they have fulfilled life's mission when they have their names on the visiting list of Government House? Again we ask why?

The taking of this \$208.33 per month by Governor Davidson is a very striking example of patriotism which pays.

The Civil servants of the Colony some time after the outbreak of war decided to contribute so much per month of their salaries towards the Patriotic Fund and they deserve well of their countrymen for their action. Some of them are not too well fixed with the world goods and some again are not paid anything like what services are worth, whilst some are paid a yearly salary amounting to twice their worth. But all having the true spirit of patriotism made the sacrifice and through the public press we handed down their names to further generation as "good and faithful servants."

What must the feelings of these men and women to-day be when they find out that the Representative of our Gracious King has taken from the public funds of this Colony monies which he is not entitled to and for which he has not done anything by which he could lay claim to it.

The quicker Governor Davidson packs up and gets out the better it will be for this country.

This paper and all connected with it has in the past and will always we hope in the future give that respect and loyalty to the Representative of our Gracious King which is due him; but at the same time we will, as we have done in this case and others, demand that the Governor shall like "Caesar's wife be above suspicion" and we shall not stop to denounce such barefaced outrages as in this case of Governor Davidson's.

With a salary of Fourteen Thousand Dollars per year any Governor should be able to live in ease and luxury in this little land of ours, and the financial outlay caused by the few times he travels on public business would never force him into the insolvency court. The plea that the high cost of living nowadays makes the Fourteen Thousand Dollars necessary does not hold water, for the high cost of living is nothing more or less "than the cost of living high."

Who wouldn't be Governor of a struggling little fishing island for a salary of \$14,000.00 per annum?

The day is now come when Governors and all others in high positions must do something to earn that which is paid them. The common man no longer lets things drift as they have in the past. A new spirit is amongst us and the voice of a new people must be heard.

Governor Davidson has taken from the Treasury of this Colony \$208.33 per month for 10 months. This amount he is not entitled to. What will he do about it. Will he raise to the standard of what should be expected from one holding the position he does and hand back that money to the Colony or will he defy the just expectations of the public over which he has been sent to govern?

Time will tell; wait and see!

The New Reid Deal

THE House yesterday for five hours debated the amended resolution regarding the new Reid Deal.

The debate was opened by Mr. Morine, who delivered a brilliant speech, exceeding his effort of last Wednesday on the original resolutions. Mr. Morine spoke before tea for nearly two hours and showed that the amended resolutions were far from satisfactory and still the most infamous contract ever submitted to a free legislature. His speech tore the resolutions into atoms, exposing its hidden dangers and proving it to be a monster that if permitted to live will cause Newfoundland to rue the day it was ever submitted to the Legislature.

The Premier's reply was the weakest effort he has made on any important subject since he became Premier.

Mr. Morine, after tea, replied to the Premier's remarks, and again

left him without a leg to stand on.

Mr. Kent spoke for over an hour and delivered one of those logical and level headed speeches he is so noted for. He opposed many of the clauses of the resolution and amply proved his reasons for so doing. His remarks were expressed moderately and without any partisan feeling. No one who heard him could but possess grave doubts of the desirability of proceeding with those resolutions in their present form.

At 10 o'clock the Opposition asked the Committee to rise and ask leave to sit to-day.

This afternoon Mr. Kent will ask the House to permit representatives of investors in the Humber to appear before the Bar of the House and explain wherein the resolutions interfere with their private interests.

To-morrow we hope to publish in full Mr. Morine's very able speech delivered yesterday.

To-day we must content ourselves with a short sketch of the outstanding feature of that speech. Mr. Morine started by explaining that:

Certain "laid fellows of the baser sort" outside the House had charged that (a) hatred of the Reid Co. and (b) money from the A.N.D. Co. inspired his opposition to the contract. He had helped to bring the Reid enterprise into existence, and wished it to be successful. He held an annual retainer from the A.N.D. Co. as senior counsel, which would not be increased by any thing he did here. Wood, K.C., was the solicitor who had charge of the Company's interests. The A.D.N. Co. was not opposed to this contract, except in so far as it directly affected the A.N.D. Co. In 1905, while he was still solicitor for the Reids, he had strenuously opposed the A.N.D. Co.'s contract, which the Reids strongly favored, and his opposition at that time was on the lines he now urged against the pending contract.

The Premier had attempted to justify the present contract by certain precedents in the railway contract, 1898. For instance, that made the railway, the telegraphs and the dry dock free of municipal taxation. But there the Colony was dealing with its own property, and if these things had been left subject to taxation, the Colony would have been called upon to pay the Reids more subsidy. Here, the Company was getting freed from taxation upon its own property, for which it paid the Colony nothing.

He had been charged with inconsistency of taking more men from the fishery, to employ in this industry, whereas in 1898 he had advocated the railway contract in order to give employment. But in 1897 the fishery was a failure, and many men were hungry. Now the fishery is a flourishing industry. Then it was hard to get work; now it is hard to get men.

The Premier had referred to the fact that in 1905, he had made many amendments to the A.N.D. Co. contract. He had; they were all defeated in this Assembly, and nearly all accepted by the Legislative Council; the fact that they are now the law was due to him.

He was opposed to giving the Company freedom from taxation and customs duties for more than twenty years. Posterity should be left liberty to deal with this Company's operations as wisdom dictated. Many things the Company would need might be manufactured here, and in such case the manufacturers should be protected. The Company's work would necessitate many municipal expenditures perhaps, and to these it should contribute as well as all others would have to. If the Company made no money, no taxation would be imposed; if it prospered, the Company could afford to pay.

The fact had been urged that our water-powers had long been unused, but he pointed out that electricity was a very recent discovery, and had changed the policy of the whole world in this respect. Every country was now conserving their water-powers.

The Premier had referred to the opponents of this contract who had vested rights as "Land Grabbers." That was vulgar. The land grabbers on the Government side had worked with Government approval, had sold their lands for large sums, and the men who now held the lands had paid much money for them. At least \$3,000,000 of cash capital was invested in the timber lands and water-powers this contract would interfere with. The investors were justly alarmed; they had not been notified; had no opportunity afforded to defend themselves.

The argument that the new industry would give much labor was a corrupt appeal from argument to self interest. It was as appl-

Mr. Morine Delivers Another Brilliant Two Hour Speech Denouncing New Reid Deal As Most Infamous Contract Ever Submitted to a Full Legislature--A Deliberate Act of Piracy

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1915
THE SPEAKER took the chair at 2.15 p.m.

MR. JENNINGS presented a petition from North West Arm of Green Bay on Timber Reserves.

MR. STONE presented a petition from Hillview on the question of Total Prohibition, and a petition on the same subject was presented by MR. CRIMES from Clark's Beach and Bereened.

MR. HALFYARD presented a petition from Fogo district asking for a grant of \$150.00 for bridge repairs necessary on account of destruction by fire.

Notice of Questions were tabled by Messrs. Halfyard, Crimos, Abbott, Kent and Coaker.

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES tabled replies to previous questions as did also the MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

THE SPEAKER announced that the Legislative Council had passed the Bill relating to Estates of deceased persons, and Order of the Day was announced.

The General Hospital Bill passed its third reading and was ordered to be sent to Legislative Council for concurrence.

House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Products Corporation Resolutions, Mr. Parsons, chairman.

MR. MORINE in opening the debate, first of all took exception to the construction put upon his attitude relative to the Reid Mfd. Co. and the Harnsworth Co. by the Premier in his previous speech, and the attempt that had been made by the baser elements outside of the House. With regard to the Reid Mfd. Co. Mr. Morine said that to a large extent he held himself responsible for the 1898 contract, although it had been finalized by his successors. He was therefore much interested in the success of that company and for this reason the damnation alluded to was unjustifiable and uncalled for.

With regard to the Harnsworth people, Mr. Morine stated that since his recall to the Colony, he held an annual retainer from them that didn't increase or decrease, and in connection with the deal now before us, the A. N. D. Co. didn't object to the Bill in the Main, but only inasmuch as it affected their rights already secured.

The Premier had also alluded to the freedom of taxation that was provided for in the '98 contract in connection with the railroad, telegraphs and dry dock, giving that as an excuse for the Tax Exemptions given in this new Reid Deal; but said Mr. Morine, outside of this Colony it was almost impossible to buy water powers.

How much said Mr. Morine would the city of St. John's be prepared to pay to-day for the water power

from these sources, whereas as far as this Product Corporation was concerned, they were simply in it to get all the concessions possible in order to make all they could out of it, without giving us any security as to any returns whatever.

Mr. Morine also made allusion to his statement in the House in a previous speech that the contract now before them was really three contracts in one when the Premier had retorted that the '98 contract was 33 in one, and in that connection, Mr. Morine pointed out the fact that the Reid contract dealt with a variety of subjects, all of which, viz—the railway, telegraphs, steamboat, dock, etc., were clearly specified in clauses dealing with each separately, whereas the contract now before us didn't specify anything, but attempted to deal with the whole contract, as it were in one muddled up clause, and the best proof of which was the amended Bill now before us. It had also been said that he (Mr. Morine) had made an attacks on Mr. Furlong, the Solicitor of the House, but that wasn't so. He had rather complimented Mr. Furlong, and he still contended that outside legal authorities should have been consulted, and if such had been done, we would not have a contract of such an indigestible nature which had occasioned delay and still would continue to do so, unless remedied.

Referring again to the 22 amendments of his in 1905, which the Government had opposed, but which the Legislative Council had accepted almost in toto, Mr. Morine said that he thought the Government had acted wisely in connection with the contract now under review, by accepting the suggestions from the Opposition for an amended Bill, and he complimented them on that score.

The Premier had stated that the Product Corporation were entitled to Tax Exemption for ever on their machinery because every machine meant labour etc., and therefore ought to be free. Well in that connection, Mr. Morine thought that while it might apply to the country at the present time, what of the future, and the monopoly that such exemption would create. We have no right whatever to legislate for unlimited time in advance at the expense of future generations. Twenty years was quite long enough, and as most of us would be gone by that time, let us leave the question of renewal or otherwise to the Legislature then existing.

Another superficial remark of the Premier's to which he would allude was, all the talk of our great resources and nothing coming of it etc. Well, electricity is really only a thing of yesterday, said Mr. Morine, and still outside of this Colony it was almost impossible to buy water powers.

How much said Mr. Morine would the city of St. John's be prepared to pay to-day for the water power

hawked around for subscriptions. Will crush out all projected industries. Nobody in affected area will proceed with projects.

He was willing to help create greater powers on Humber provided:

- (1) Area strictly defined.
- (2) Capital subscribed and partly paid up.
- (3) Vested rights purchased.
- (4) Use surplus power by public.

He would give:

- (1) Ungranted water powers.
- (2) Freedom.
- (a) Customs duties.
- (b) Taxation.

(For twenty years) Would provide for fair arbitration all rights not acquired in limited time by private sale.

Would provide till 1 Jan. '17 for Company to provide:

- (1) Capital.
- (2) Purchase.

And give 5 years longer to complete construction. Would provide for lapse to Colony if and when substantial operation ceased.

Those who were privileged to hear Mr. Morine's speech will no doubt cherish it in after years as one of the greatest efforts made by any man in our Assembly Chambers, for whether his hearers agreed or disagreed with his deductions, all must have been greatly impressed by the use he made of the English language to expose the weak points in the resolutions and masterly manner in which he rattled his arguments.

ers at Petty Harbor, that was given to the Reids for a mere song when we didn't know their value, and now the Government proposes to give a hungry concern everything they ask and no security as to returns whatever.

One of the things in particular that Mr. Morine objected to was the decided absence of information relative to any existing claims which he contended, was a standing disgrace to the Crown Lands Department. Here we are, 36 members of this House, asked to vote away the water powers of half the Island, and not one of us know anything at all about what the Humber area meant, and it is impossible for us to comprehend the magnitude of the contract without the cutest information.

The Premier had asserted that section 1 gives nothing away, and in doing so he errs inexcusably and Mr. Morine quoted from the section as evidence of giving away vested rights that exist, and using the power of the Legislature to steal or commit an act of piracy that we would rue, because we would simply be announcing to the outside world that this is a country that's no good for investments of any kind. After reviewing the contract in its present form from the various standpoints, legal and otherwise and scoring the Government for their gross neglect in making provision for adequate results that should follow an undertaking of such magnitude, Mr. Morine suggested some new features that should be introduced and included in the contract, such as provision that should be made compelling the company to satisfy the Government within a given time as to their status, and that they should have a certain amount of subscribed capital, also that in the same period of time they should also be compelled to put up, say, one million dollars, as a trust fund in the hands of the Government for compensation to parties who might be injured by the contract.

Mr. Morine strongly objected to the system of appointing Boards of Arbitration which should be amended, and in summarizing the whole contract he said that he had not sufficient information on the subject and didn't really know what water powers we have to dispose of and the effect it would have on those who already have vested rights in connection with these water powers.

As to the real value of the project before us, what do we really know. Only what the promoter states, and that was a person who didn't have at the present moment one cent invested. Governments of the past had attempted to put measures through by force, but in the case before us the Government had listened to reason, and had brought in certain amendments, it thought, however that calm reflection would lead to other necessary amendments and asked for a further postponement, or a special session if necessary, in order to give the whole matter the consideration it merits and not to participate in what he predicted to be a tragedy for future generations.

Mr. Morine's speech was another of his brilliant efforts which occupied 1 3/4 hours in delivery.

THE PRIME MINISTER stated that he had expected some other speakers who had not yet taken part in the debate to have followed the Hon. Member for Bonavista, and that he didn't intend to occupy the attention of the House for any length of time.

He wanted, however, first of all, to disabuse the mind of His Hon. Friend, Mr. Morine of the idea that the Government had any inclination to make further changes. The amendments had been made where a supposed doubt existed, said the Premier, and he vainly endeavored to prove that the amendments had not been made in order to strengthen the position of the government, some members of which had been weakened by the arguments put forth by the opposition. The Premier alluded to cases where it had been pointed out that sections or clauses contained objectionable features, that could be construed differently, the Government had altered them and that was their present position.

In the course of his remarks the Premier only touched on one or two of the points raised by Mr. Morine, and in his replies to same was not at all at home. In his allusion to Mr. Morine's suggestion of a certain amount of capital being subscribed in a given time, the Premier's reply was that he had no doubt, but that if it had been asked for it would have

(Continued on page 5)