

ANOTHER LOT

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PRICE IS RIGHT.
J. J. ROSSITER,**

Our Motto: "Suum Cuique."



("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MARCH 28, 1916

MR. HICKMAN EXONERATED

The Grand Jury yesterday met to consider the Bill sent up by Magistrate Squarey committing Mr. Hickman, and after a short session found "No Bill" against Mr. Hickman; the decision was unanimous.

This is the highest test of Mr. Hickman's innocence. The whole Jury acknowledged Mr. Hickman's innocence and asserted there was no grounds for any charge against him.

The evidence put in by the Crown against Mr. Hickman at the Squarey enquiry was the most trivial and frivolous imaginable—not a shred of evidence was obtained against him, but it was left to a Grand Jury of 20 fellow citizens to prove to the world that Mr. Hickman was an innocent man, and had been dragged before the Courts through the machinations of a member of the Bar, who knew he was innocent, but who cared not for the effect of his intrigue as long as he might in some way gain some advantage for his clients.

The outrage committed against Mr. Hickman is a barefaced as the country ever beheld. Here was a man absolutely innocent of any wrong doing dragged before the Courts as a criminal without a shadow of any proof. The Crown knew absolutely that it could not prove any wrong doing on the part of Mr. Hickman, yet it persisted in an attempt to ruin the reputation of an innocent man. Why?

Had there been a strong man at the Head of the Justice Department would this outrage have been permitted? That is the question thousands are asking.

Let it be remembered that this wife intrigue was fathered by one member of the House of Assembly against another member of the House of Assembly, not because the one could prove any wrongdoing against the other; but for the purpose of making an appeal on behalf of his clients to the Jury. The more one considers this black outrage to compass the ruin of an innocent man, the blacker and more contemptible it appears.

Mr. Hickman deserves the sympathy of every reasonable man; and those connected with the attempt to ruin an innocent man will forever be remembered with that feeling of disdain that such unpardonable conduct merits.

Mr. Hickman will occupy his seat in the House this afternoon, free from all aspersion, and those who endeavoured to make him a criminal will, if they have anything human about them, hang their heads and in future endeavour to be more circumspect.

Poetic license is all right, and optimism is beautiful, but it would take a lemon squeezer to get anything sentimental out of a March wind.

AT THE HOUSE

The proceedings of the House yesterday were rather lively and interesting.

Dr. Lloyd delivered his first speech as Leader of the Liberal-Union Party and reviewed the estimates for 1915-17. He was congratulated warmly by the Premier who said he had always regarded Dr. Lloyd as a honest, straight debater and had always regarded his ability as of a superior quality.

Mr. Cashin replied to Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Coaker replied to Mr. Cashin and the Premier replied to Mr. Coaker. Those speeches were of a high order and worthy of the House and occupied two and a half hours.

To-day the Consolidated Education Act will be considered. Dr. Lloyd's Bill to establish the Union Power and Light Co. will be read the second time.

The speeches of Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Coaker will be published by us in a day or two.

THE DIME NOVEL

OUR bookstores are filled with literature of all sorts. Books, if properly used are, of course, one of the world's greatest blessings; but we fancy that a good deal of the stuff peddled out these days were better if it were relegated to the rubbish heap.

Sometime ago we met a friend who has several boys and he felt quite elated over the fact that they were "wonderful readers." We met him at a later date; and he did not feel so enthusiastic about his reading progeny, as none of the boys had made good at school. He was regularly receiving poor reports from the school. One of the fraternity especially had fallen very low in his scholarship—the most "wonderful reader" of all.

We then suggested that he read the following little story which had just then appeared in a newspaper which we had just received:

"Son," said the father, "you've fallen behind pretty badly this month, haven't you?" "Yes sir," replied the hopeful. "Well, how does this happen?" "Don't know, sir." The father had by this time discovered that the "dime novel" and the "penny dreadful" formed quite a stack in the son's literary possessions.

A basket of apples stood upon the floor, and the father said: "Empty out those apples and take the basket and bring it to me half full of chips." Suspecting nothing, the son obeyed very promptly.

"And now," said the father, "put those apples back in the basket." When half the apples were replaced, the boy said: "Father, they roll off. I can't put any more in." "Put them in, I tell you," continued the irate father. "But I can't, sir."

"Put them in? No, of course you can't. You said you didn't know why you have been falling behind at school; I will tell you why. Your mind is like that basket; it will not hold more than so much; and there you've been for months filling it up with cheap dirt—dime novels and 'Nick Carters'."

The boy turned on his heels, whistled, and said: "Whew! I see the point!"

Not a dime novel has been seen in that house since.

We fear there is a lamentable waste of brain tissue going on amongst our young people. They are filling their minds with rubbish, while matters that are of lasting interest are passed by. But all the sinners are not amongst the very young folk. There are older fry—mothers even, who waste a lot of very valuable time wallowing in questionable literary pools to their own undoing and the undoing of their charges.

Reading is a very useful occupation; but if misdirected, it is a very pernicious habit. If the young folk wish to read; let them have something which will be useful and instructive. Keep the dime commodity out of the household, and introduce something that is worth while.

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

MARCH 28

FIRST Savings' Bank Bill introduced in Legislative Council by James Spearman, 1833.

Sir R. Thorburn born, Scotland, 1836.

First steamer from the ice, Eagle, Capt. W. Jackman, with 23,800 seals, 1874.

William Tobin, late of St. John's, died at New York, 1884.

First sealer arrived, S.S. Proteus, Capt. Pike, with 11,340 seals, 1879.

First sealer arrived, S.S. Aurora, Capt. J. Fairweather, with 26,534 seals, 1884.

James Egan, Keels, died, aged 78, 1884.

Duke of Albany died, 1884.

First steamer in from the ice, Leopard, Capt. H. Dawe, with 15,654 seals, 1886.

First steamer in, Newfoundland, Capt. Farquhar, with 17,000 seals, 1898.

Two men lost while seal hunting off Bonavista, 1899.

Major Wright, Royal Artillery, buried—a very large funeral, 1867.

John Canning, H.M.C., died, aged 87, 1882.

DANNY BOY

By F. E. WEATHERLY

OH, Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling,

From glen to glen, and down the mountain side,

The Summer's gone, and all the roses fallin',

It's you, it's you, must go and I must hide,

But come ye back when Summer's in the meadow

Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow,

It's I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,

Oh, Danny dear, oh, Danny dear, I love you so.

But when ye come, and all the flowers are dyin',

If I am dead, as dead I well may be,

Ye'll come and find the place where I am lying,

And kneel and say an Ave there for me,

And I shall hear, though soft you tread above me,

And all my grave, will warmer, sweeter be,

For you will bend and tell me that you love me,

And I shall sleep in peace until you come to me!

DECAYED VEGETABLES

WE have seen some vegetables offered for sale by our city grocery stores that were certainly "off color"; and whilst they might not be considered as unfit for consumption, they certainly were far from being fresh. Housekeepers do not seem to be careful enough regarding the vegetable supply; and this also applies to the fruit supply which we receive these days from the United States. We have seen samples in certain windows which should have long been related to the manure heap. But, as long as customers are satisfied with an inferior article, just so long will dealers be ready to supply it.

YESTERDAY AT THE HOUSE.

The House met at 3 p.m. last evening and proved to be an Opposition day from start to finish. It was by far the liveliest session since the opening. The splendid speeches by the Leader of the Opposition Dr. Lloyd, and President Coaker were the events of the evening. Both gentlemen gave the Morris Government a great thrashing for their political misconduct. Vain efforts were made by the Premier, Minister of Finance and Colonial Secretary to defend, but their arguments were knocked to pieces by the grueling fire of the Opposition guns.

MR. PICCOTT presented a petition on the matter of Labrador mail service and stated the inconvenience suffered by fishermen since the S. S. Kyle was taken off the coast. This petition was heartily supported by Mr. Jennings, who explained the hardships which shipwrecked crews was forced to undergo owing to lack of efficient service.

MR. ABBOTT presented a petition from Newman's Cove and Birch Cove, Bonavista District, asking for a telephone service, which was only seven miles to connect, and would be of great benefit to the people of these localities.

MR. ABBOTT also presented a petition from Summerville, asking that Southern Bay be connected with Princeton and Summerville by telephone. He strongly advocated that this be done as same would facilitate the business of these settlements by direct communication.

MR. PICCOTT presented a petition from Sheestown on mail matters.

MR. CLIFF presented a petition from Long Island on the subject of motor boats being prohibited from securing trap berths.

MR. CLAPP presented a petition from Groais Island, District of St. Barbe, asking that the Prospero make this important place a port of call, and put up a strong plea for his constituents in this connection.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES supported Mr. Clapp and said either the Earl of Devon or Prospero should be ordered to call there.

MR. COAKER also supported the prayer of the petitioners and said for the last two years similar petitions were presented at the House.

By Mr. Clapp and said that Bowring Bros. would have the Prospero call at Groais Islands but the Captain said there was not water enough, and if this was so then why not allow the Earl of Devon to call there.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, Mr. Bennett, stated he had written Bowring Bros re the matter and hoped arrangements would be made. He stated that Mr. Clapp had repeatedly called on him in connection with the matter and said the excuse put up by Captain Kean was that there was not water enough for the ship.

Certain questions asked by the Opposition members were tabled.

MR. HALFYARD reminded the Col. Secretary that a question asked by him some days ago was still unanswered. Mr. Bennett said the same was in course of preparation.

Notice of Motion.

DR. LLOYD asked leave to introduce a bill to incorporate the Union Electric Light and Power Company, and for other purposes. The same was read a first time.

Order of the Day

An act to amend the law respecting the Naturalization of Aliens passed its 3rd reading. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS in rising congratulated the Hon. Leader of Opposition, Dr. Lloyd, in his appointment to the leadership of that body and spoke highly of the learned Doctor's great debating powers and his fairness at all times in criticizing the Government and congratulating the Opposition on their choice. He then turned to the estimates and pointed out that the total increase this year including the interest on war loans would be \$128,000.

DR. LLOYD, leader of the Opposition, was the next speaker. He fully appreciated the honour conferred upon him and thanked the previous speaker for the compliments paid him. He said he was struck by the Right Hon the Premier and Minister of Finance, who wished that his tenure of office would be a long one, but had every reason to believe that before two years had elapsed the Opposition would occupy the seats now held by the Government, and the learned Doctor said, you on the Government side are doing your best to bring this about. Your lack of economy and general extravagance are levers which will transfer the Opposition to that side of the House.

Our financial burden to day is great indeed, said Dr. Lloyd, and by next year we will have to increase this considerably, as another war loan would have to be raised, and while he found no fault with the Government for what they spent on account of the war, he had every fault to find for the increased obligations outside of the war, the result of extravagance of the policy of the Government and the people of the Colony would not cheerfully shoulder this responsibility; therefore the Government, repeated the Doctor, is doing its best, though not intentionally to transfer the Opposition to the Government seats.

He questioned the Minister of Finance estimated on some matters, particularly in the cost on coal supply for the different institutions and showed that the supply of coal for the General Hospital alone would likely amount to \$5,000 more than the Minister estimated. It would, Coals had increased from \$8.50 to \$10.50 per ton and the Minister still estimates the cost of furnishing fuel for the different institutions the same as last. This was poor reasoning.

Your great problem, said Doctor Lloyd, is keeping up the service in relation to Roads, Bridges, Wharves, etc., for which you always rely upon the surplus when same is available, but you have not been fortunate enough to possess a surplus since the two years, but have had to go back to the next egg on each occasion in order to raise money for these services. Whenever he called upon the Department of Public Works for a grant for his District he invariably found all the money exhausted. Now, he thought the Government should do something more than was being done, and he endorsed Mr. Cliff's suggestions to the Premier last week to practice a retrenchment.

Doctor Lloyd referred to the political game of giving sops to party supporters and told the House that the permanent and not the political heads of Departments should have the expenditure of all money under these departments. These are men of experience and such a reform would be of inestimable benefit to the country.

He also referred to the matter of purchasing supplies for the Government institutions and showed the best bargains were not always made, when the matter was manipulated, so that political friends always received the patronage.

Dr. Lloyd closed his remarks by telling the Government that very little value was got out of the road grants owing to the way it was distributed as sops to supporters. But now that we have the Local Affairs value would be given for motives expended. He hoped that in future the Representatives would not interfere in the expenditure of road grants outside of recommending allocation.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS, who followed, said the Doctor was a very keen critic and he was glad more fault was not found, and apparently forgetting that discretion was the better part of valour, the Minister started to get off one of those windy diatribes of his, but he attempted to give the Premier credit for saving the country from a coal, salt and sundry famine.

If Mr. Cashin proved anything by his remarks, it was that he is a little prone to twist and elaborate in order to boost the chief, and his administration. The Minister said he thought nobody wanted to find fault

with the Premier. Whereupon Mr. Coaker asked what the Minister was talking about. Then Mr. Cashin in affect said that as Sir Edward's stock was fast going down someone had to boost him, and since Mr. Coaker would not do so in his paper he, Cashin, was going to try it. He was in hopes that some unforeseen event would occur which would compel the vessel owners to go around looking for charters which they would not get, then of course we would have cheaper coals.

MR. COAKER said on rising that if the Finance Minister had stayed by the estimates he would be inclined to let him down a little easier, but when he was indiscreet enough to attempt the boosting business, we on this side of the House could talk a little too. You want to shout a proclamation from the House top, the great work the Premier has done, but has he done more than his duty. What, said Mr. Coaker, would the Premier be spending his time at if he was not doing something along those lines. Did the Minister want Dr. Lloyd or myself to do his work for him. What was there to boast about. We expect a man to do his duty and no great credit can be given when a man who merely does it, but he would like to see a man in the Premier's or Finance Minister's place trying to do a little more than the regular routine work, then he was prepared to say well done.

The A. N. D. Co. did, it is true, help us out a little by the Alconda bringing a load of coal, but is it not only what should be expected from them. Have we not treated them well since coming here and is it surprising that they reciprocate when the chance offered. You are, said Mr. Coaker, quite ready to shout the Premier's praises for any little he may do but you forgot to tell us about the expenditure of some thousands of dollars in putting a wharf at Heart's Content for the convenience of the A. N. D. Co. exclusively. Will the Premier please state if this is true?

THE PREMIER admitted spending about \$10,000 on said wharf as a winter terminus for the Grand Falls people.

MR. COAKER said he did not find so much fault with him in connection with the wharf, but he feared it would prove another white elephant, as did the Lewisporte wharf, but, said Mr. Coaker, the Government should consider the matter of putting a similar structure at Catalina where the need was much greater, as the benefit would be general and not confined to any one company, as in the case of the A. N. D. Co. wharf at Heart's Content.

In reference to tenders for supporting the different institutions, Mr. Coaker proved to the House that the Government had not done their best and much better bargains could be made, which would mean the saving of many thousands of dollars to the Colony. If you only practised the ordinary rules of business a great saving would result.

Mr. Coaker next referred to the paying of salaries and pensions without Legislative Authority, and said the Auditor General did not congratulate the Government upon their conduct in relation to this. You promised us last year that you would do better in the future, but in that as well as other things you have again broken your promises.

Here Mr. Coaker read from the Auditor's report a long list of salaries and pensions which the Morris Government had again voted without Legislative Authority, and slated the Government for this very questionable procedure. He also objected to the increase of \$120.00 on the salary of one Hennebury of Beaverton, who has been receiving \$600.00 per annum as operator and repairs. The man has assistants, and considering the many other little sops on the side his total salary must be about \$1,000 per year, and this is the man, said Mr. Coaker, who held up the entire line last year for 14 days and refused to do his duty, and of course the Government should do something to reward him for that conduct, and they increased his salary by \$120.00.

Mr. Coaker asked the Colonial Secretary if this was the way he allowed this fellow to run his Department. No doubt Hennebury expected soon to be pensioned because he makes him self so objectionable to the North that 10,000 men could petition against his holding any position. But this man was not only an operator and repairer but he was also a great political heeler and agitator, and that, no doubt is why his services are so acceptable to the Government.

The Colonial Secretary tried hard to excuse his department over the Hennebury case, but the President

would hear no excuses, and trusted that the Premier was not a party to the miserable transaction.

In reference to the war, Mr. Coaker was afraid all the expenditure under War Heading could not get his support and instanced the case of the Fogota and Petrol, which were sent around the coast to look out for submarines. He thought the expense could be greatly reduced and a more safe and effective service performed by motor boats, which would give the alarm as quick without the danger of being destroyed if submarines should appear.

Mr. Coaker was sorry that a greater response was not made to the call for recruits and paid a glowing tribute to those heroes who offered their lives and all for the Empire. There was nothing good enough for us to do for those men, who were the nobility on God's earth, men who voluntarily came forward to offer their services and lives, if need be, for us who lie in our comfortable beds. I am, said Mr. Coaker, prepared to support Conscription in the sense that every able-bodied man physically fit should shoulder his share of the Empire's responsibilities and not depend upon the few young men to come along to do our fighting for us, while we stay at home and live on the fat of the land. He outlined some of the outrages of German rule and said that the war had to be won, and before we could be subjected to such humiliations we should die to a man.

In reference to the condition of the country he could not agree with Mr. Currie, who, in his address, would have us believe that the land was flowing with milk and honey. Such was far from being the case, and he thought the Minister of Finance would bear him out that if the country was prosperous to-day with all your increased taxation you would be collected a revenue of \$6,000,000 instead of \$4,000,000.

Referring to the expenditure of Road Money he was sorry that all the country did not avail of the Elective System of Boards, but this was in many cases due to the fact that the existing chairman did not want to lose the job and where no magistrate or J. P. was available that they would not hold elections. He hoped, however, that the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Woodford, who they had no reason to find fault with in this connection, would still live up to that record and that the letter and spirit of the act would be lived up to in dealing with expenditure on Public Works.

In reference to retrenchment, if the Premier would put the scheme into effect, he would show him how he could dispose of at least 12 useless officials in Green Bay and showed how the Government could save \$50,000 by practising a retrenchment scheme. He complained of the fact that in Botwood and other places men were sent from other places to fill offices which could be just as capably filled by at least 40 men at Botwood, and at least 500 men just as able in Green Bay.

Mr. Coaker concluded by telling the Government if you continue as you have for the last seven years you will add to your unpopularity in such a way as to make Mr. Cliff, Mr. Jennings and my own majority still greater in 1917.

MR. HALFYARD desired to support Mr. Coaker in what he had said of the condition at Change Islands, and could not believe the Head of realized the true condition of affairs the Colonial Secretary told him last year that there was an office at Fogota, this was only adding insult to injury. The Government can allow trivial matters to engage their attention and interfere with matters of paramount importance.

Mr. Halfyard also severely censured the Colonial Secretary over the case of this man Hennebury whose neglect had entailed so much inconvenience to the general public.

Mr. Halfyard referred to the telegraph line which was to be erected from Gambo to Carmanville and for which everything was ready, such as poles and wire, and because a candidate unfavorable to the Government was elected the work was postponed indefinitely, and he understood the Government was paying storage to the tune of about \$20.00 per year on the wire in a supporter's store.

He had heard Sir Edward state with some noise that the 'country at large should not be saddled with any part of the cost of coals for St. John's, but the Premier was not always so particular to see that each District received what it was entitled to. However he did not expect the present Government was going to be fair to his district. He was sorry to have to tell his constituents he had lost faith in the Government in his particular.

MR. COAKER said he did not think the Premier would go down to Fogota again, as he got too great a hustling the last time he tried it, and upon the Premier stating he would go to Fogota when occasion arose, Mr.

(Continued on Page 6.)

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