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("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.D., APRIL 26, 1916

AT THE HOUSE

YESTERDAY'S proceedings of the House caused a sensation. Our pages to-day contain matter submitted by Mr. Halfyard that is beyond doubt, and is such a matter of grave concern to the House. Mr. Halfyard moved an adjournment in order to deal with such a matter of urgent public importance and read the Auditor-General's Report upon the conduct of Mr. Goodison, M.H.A., and others in connection with the expenditure of Public monies in 1914-1915 at Victoria Village. The evidence published elsewhere was also read.

Mr. Grimes seconded Mr. Halfyard's motion to adjourn and briefly dealt with the serious nature of the report and the evidence respecting the Member for Carbonear. Mr. Clift followed and also pointed out the serious nature of the disclosures and the report thereon by the "watch dog" of the Treasury—the Auditor-General. Dr. Lloyd also briefly referred to the serious nature of the report and the grave position it placed the Member of Carbonear in, and asked that the House go into Committee in order to allow Mr. Goodison to defend himself and explain.

The Premier promised to deal with Dr. Lloyd's suggestions at the adjournment and at 6.30 when the House adjourned he promised to deal with the matter when the House assembled to-day.

We refrain from commenting upon the report and evidence until the House enables Mr. Goodison to explain, and has taken action upon the matter. The public will find the facts fully covered in the evidence and in the meantime will no doubt form its own opinion.

That the disclosures places the Member for Carbonear—who is the Speaker of the House—in a very grave position, is indeed clear. That the matter is of the highest importance to the House in view of the high position occupied by Mr. Goodison is very apparent. That action must be taken in view of the carefully worded and severe condemnation of the Auditor-General, who investigated this matter last February, is an absolute necessity.

REBELLION IN IRELAND

EVERY lover of Ireland will regret to learn of what transpired at Dublin yesterday. That there can be found citizens of our Empire who would willingly become the tool of the Huns, all who love liberty and freedom will exceedingly regret. That a number of such exist at Dublin cannot longer be doubted. Our readers must not blame Ireland as a whole for what some at

Dublin has been guilty of. Had Redmond been Prime Minister of Ireland, he would have done for Ireland what General Botha has done for South Africa. The chief regret is that Ireland is not being ruled by its own Parliament, for if such were the case Redmond would have been able to reconcile all differences or put down disloyalty with a strong hand. The sad occurrence of yesterday will cause unfavorable reflection against Ireland and may mean a long delay in establishing Home Rule. That the Huns have been active in creating disloyalty in Ireland is without doubt. That Sir Roger Casement was caught red-handed smuggling fire-arms is an indication of what some men will dare for gold. That his despicable adventure turned out a failure all lovers of the Empire will rejoice over. Had he succeeded in landing the fire-arms, there might have been thousands slaughtered yesterday instead of scores.

God often moves in mysterious ways to protect a people from itself and the destruction of the Hun warship that attempted to smuggle fire-arms into Ireland to provide a few traitors to disgrace a nation—a large majority of which we believe are loyal to the Flag—is indeed an intervention of Providence, intended to protect that long suffering and unfortunate country.

Let us hope that the worse has been told in to-day's messages and that common sense will prevail in Ireland and the traitors who stabbed her in the back will suffer for their crimes.

WHY THE MAILS ARE EXAMINED

TO many, the drastic methods employed by Great Britain in dealing with the post looks as if it were a high-handed proceeding; but when we examine the methods employed by Germany to hoodwink the world, and especially Great Britain, we shall find that Great Britain's action in this matter is entirely justifiable, and necessary.

Lord Newton throws light upon the subject in a statement which he has made for the New York Times. He says, that mails may be parcels, or letter mails; and that at the Hague Conference to which Germany subscribed (during the fourth commission, dealing with postal correspondence) there was no intention of extending to parcels the proposed immunity of letter mails. Consequently, parcels are covered by no convention and can be treated in the same way as ordinary cargo. This is a view accepted by the United States.

On September 23, 1915, the British Government informed the neutral powers that the attention of the Allied Governments had been drawn to the extent to which goods were being sent to and from enemy countries, and that if the practice continued, they would have to exercise their undoubted right of seizing goods in parcels mails which were liable to capture. Thus every opportunity was given to neutrals, if they wished to avoid interference with parcel mails, to take steps to prevent goods being sent by them which would render it necessary for the Allied Governments to interfere.

Lord Newton quotes several instances where contraband of war was forwarded by parcel post. The steamer Gelria carried no less than 69 parcels which contained 400 revolvers destined for Germany via Amsterdam. In 8 ships destined for Hamburg, there were discovered no less than 1,320 parcels containing 437,510 kilograms of raw rubber (a kilogram equals 2 and 1-5 pounds, approximately). In the steamship United States, bound for Scandinavia, it was discovered that the parcel mails contained 1,594 packages of furskins, 22 parcels of strip iron, 418 parcels of military boots, and 80 parcels of ferro-vanadium; in the mails on the Oscar II, were found 21 packages of machinery tools; in the Bergensjord, 2 packages of iron pyrites and 6 of machinery parts—all destined for Germany.

Passing to the question of mails, Lord Newton divided these in two subdivisions. First—there are the mails from England and France to the United States, or from the United States to England or France, and the mails which, coming from another country, are unshipped at English or French ports and pass in transit under English or French jurisdiction. There can be no doubt that such mail is liable to censorship, which forms part of the sovereign rights of the country through which the mail passes. This has been employed in all wars since Government-carried mail has ex-

isted; the Spanish-American War and the Russo-Turkish War, to mention only two of these in recent history.

What is that censorship of this class finds? Many important matters regarding the conditions in enemy countries. Lord Newton makes it quite plain that this censorship has aroused a good deal of feeling in the United States against what is termed the "arbitrariness" of Great Britain, and it has been warped by Americans as being a manifestation of hostility to American trade. The accusation is without a particle of truth. Second—The other division of letter-mail is that which is carried on neutral ships and which, in the ordinary course of business, will not pass through the belligerent countries or enjoy the postal facilities of the belligerent powers. In this the Allied Governments do not depart from the principle which was initiated during the American Civil War, and laid down by Convention II of the Hague Conference, in 1907.

Great Britain has held up such mail matter because she discovered that the mails were being diverted from their legitimate purpose; and that regular traffic was being carried in the transportation of contraband merchandise, by letters.

The true mail is not delayed in transmission. It is picked out by the censors and forwarded as quickly as possible to destination by special officers charged with its despatch, and only mail which is found to contain merchandise is retained for further examination. Injury to neutrals using the post for legitimate purposes is therefore reduced to a minimum. The clash of the desire of the Allied Powers to avoid inconvenience to neutrals with their determination to submit the Central Powers to every possible rigor of blockade can be seen in the twofold assurances of the Allied Governments to the neutral powers. They deny that the inviolability of postal correspondence, stipulated for in the Eleventh Convention of the Hague, in 1907, restricts the Allied Governments from visiting and if necessary stopping and seizing such merchandise as is disguised in covers, envelopes, or letters contained in mail bags. Nevertheless, they promise that they will scrupulously regard their engagements respecting genuine correspondence, and will undertake the most rapid transmission of such correspondence to destination.

The Canadian Government has recently introduced a mail censorship, evidently at the instance of the Imperial Government, with a view doubtless to stop the "frightfulness" program which Germany has outlined for its spies in the British colonies. This new move seems to be outlined in the following extract from Lord Newton's lengthy statement:—"The ramifications of the German spy system, all-embracing in its clutches and tending to decentralize to other countries as the nearer ones become too hot to hold them, this we should be all but powerless to check but for the censorship we exercise upon the mail."

"Another undesirable element was found in this report," said the Leader of the Opposition, "and it was this, that you have entrenched the truck system in Carbonear District, an evil which has been denounced in this House and throughout the Public Press for years."

"I have listened carefully to the Hon. Member for Fogo, Mr. Halfyard, as he read those sworn statements, and I have no hesitation in agreeing with Mr. Grimes that this matter is one which this House should, for its own protection, immediately deal with."

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS APRIL 26

THE Bank of England founded, 1694. General Grant born, 1822. Nomination day in St. John's, after dismissal of Kent ministry, 1861.

Big fire at Philip Hutchings', Water Street, 1866. James Stephens, head of Fenian organization, arrived in St. John's, en route to New York. There was \$5,000 reward offered for him at the time, but he escaped the vigilance of the British police, and reached New York safely. Only four men in St. John's knew of Stephens being here, and only one of these saw him while the steamer was in port, 1866. William Galloway died suddenly, at his residence, Water Street, 1866.

John Delaney, P.M.G., died, 1883. Foundation stone of Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel laid by Bishop Power, 1891.

Edward M. Jackman, tailor, moved into Arcade building, 1897. Miss Carbery opened business in Atlantic building, 1887.

Hard Worked Champion.

"Johnny, how many times have I told you not to fight?" "I don't know ma." "I stop every day ma, but the fellers I whip keep comin' back for more."

YESTERDAY AT THE HOUSE.

The House met shortly after 3 o'clock. Petitions were presented by Messrs Stone and Targett from residents of Trinity District on public matters, and were referred to the department to which they relate. Notice of questions were tabled by Mr. Stone.

MR. HALFYARD—Before proceeding with the regular order of business of the day Mr. Halfyard moved an adjournment of the House to consider what he termed a very serious matter of public moment. This had reference to the expenditure of public moneys at Victoria Village in the District of Carbonear. Mr. Halfyard read the Auditor General's report thereon as well as numerous affidavits of those who received moneys on account of these expenditures to which they performed no work whatever; nor were even asked to do so. Mr. Halfyard's speech as well as the evidence in the case appears elsewhere in this issue.

MR. GRIMES, member for Port de Grave, seconded Mr. Halfyard's motion and in a fluent speech of half an hour dealt with this matter, which he said "was one that concerned every member of this House." "What is the use," said Mr. Grimes, "of us coming here and passing laws for the safeguarding of the Public interests year after year, if the law is to be broken by one of ourselves as it is admitted in this case of Victoria Village expenditure." "The Speaker of the this House," said Mr. Grimes, "was in a very embarrassing position over this matter and he hoped every means would be given him to make himself right with this House and the country."

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, Dr. Lloyd, then addressed the House and in his usual clear logical manner pointed out the gravity of the charges as contained in the Auditor General's report. "Not alone," said Dr. Lloyd, "was the manner adopted by the member for the District illegal; but it was even worse for it can be seen from the sworn evidence of the various witnesses that outside people have been given the spending of public moneys who had no authority or business to handle same whatever."

"Another undesirable element was found in this report," said the Leader of the Opposition, "and it was this, that you have entrenched the truck system in Carbonear District, an evil which has been denounced in this House and throughout the Public Press for years."

"I have listened carefully to the Hon. Member for Fogo, Mr. Halfyard, as he read those sworn statements, and I have no hesitation in agreeing with Mr. Grimes that this matter is one which this House should, for its own protection, immediately deal with."

MR. CLIFT, following Dr. Lloyd, said he had followed Mr. Halfyard very closely and was struck with that passage in the evidence of J. R. Goodison, in which he said that "he had followed the usual customs of the country." "He, Mr. Clift, desired to say that during his whole career of public life he never knew of such a custom being in force. "He had never in his time allocated one cent for public works without first going to the department, under whose control the particular grant was, and having the money sent out in the usual way."

"This was a very serious matter, said Mr. Clift, and one which this House should lose no time in dealing with. He also expressed the hope that the House would enable the Speaker to make full explanation of the matter so that any misunderstanding, if there be any existing, will be immediately removed."

The Premier then promised Dr. Lloyd that an opportunity would be given the House before recess to deal with the matter, and further debate on this matter ceased for the present.

The regular order paper of the day was then taken up and on motion of the Finance Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

DR. LLOYD immediately took the floor and got after the Finance Minister in a sharp but brief speech, in which he told the House that the one redeeming feature of this year's Budget was that the Government were not asking for increased taxation. There was very little in the resolutions now before the House, said the learned Doctor, to be alarmed over; but nevertheless the fact remained that although the Government says they will have a surplus on the 30th of June they still keep their extra taxation scale in force. "Extraordinary" revenues as the Leader of the Opposition called it. Dr. Lloyd showed clearly how far out the Finance Minister was in previous Budgets. He

told the Finance Minister that in 1914 he had to face a deficit of \$350,000.00 after his juggling with the tariff during the election of 1913, and he showed where the Minister was compelled to come into the House in 1914 and ask for additional taxation of some \$750,000.00 to balance his accounts.

Here the Premier tried to sidetrack the Leader of the Opposition, but there was "nothing doing," as Doctor Lloyd was determined to stick to his statement, and the Premier seeing that he could make no impression on the House gave up any further attempts at interrupting the Opposition Leader who continued to show the Government the error of their ways. In many fashion Dr. Lloyd showed how the Government, who of course are known as the Peoples Party (not the common people) have failed to avail of a source of revenue known as war taxation as it now raised in Canada and the United Kingdom. He pointed out how our fleet of steel ships have been sold at enormous profits to the Russian Government and their owners have been allowed to escape paying any taxation on those profits whatever. "If these profits were taxed as they are being taxed in other centres, said the Leader of the Opposition, the Government would be enabled to reduce the burden of taxation now resting so heavily on the labouring classes in the Colony."

Mr. Cashin at the conclusion of Dr. Lloyd's rose and said he had little to say to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, as he thought them generally correct; but he took exception, and strong exception too, (and many wondered why he grew so eloquent in his defence of the merchant princes) to any such measure as a tax on war profits. The only excuse advanced by the Ministry was that those "hard working gentry" had not always made a profit on those ships, a remark which was greeted with kindly smiles from the Government benches, the members of the "Pie-Nie" Party, being of course in deep sympathy with these hard working ship owners who generally threw up their dividends in scrambles to the man on the street.

Mr. Cashin took exception to a remark of Dr. Lloyd's that his estimate

of the amount of revenue to be derived from the export of pit props would be over \$150,000. In this connection the Minister got befogged and the House was treated to a humorous passage between the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, in which the latter clearly proved that the Minister was unable to define what the word conservative meant. A few sharp passages were interjected at this point, the Minister of Finance as per usual getting the worst of it.

However, Mr. Cashin deplored the idea of taxing any war profits, as he felt sure our merchant princes were losing money hand over fist and they would soon be compelled to seek financial aid. "Find out first, said the Minister, if they have made any money and then talk about taxing them." Of course he made it clear he would not attempt to find out if they did in case he may have to do something towards making them "cough up" a little to help the Colony along. Oh! No! He would prefer to let things go as they are and make the labouring man and the fisherman and farmer meet the burden of taxation as imposed by the Morris Government and the merchants, the "real friends" of the people, should be protected. Look how they helped out the poor of the city by selling them coal for \$10.80 per ton.

Howbeit, the Minister made it clear that the people need expect no reduction in taxation while the present happy-go-lucky bunch sit on the Government side of the House. That he meant this in earnest no one dare deny for he said "If ever the time comes when the Government finds itself with more money that it can find to spend we will consider reducing taxation."

With their record for boodling before us we feel safe in saying that the time WILL NEVER come when the Morris Party will find themselves with more money that they can find time to spend.

MR. CLIFT closed the debate with a well worded speech, in which he scored point after point against the Finance Minister who grew restless as Mr. Clift got under his skin. Mr. Clift showed that while the Finance Minister took delight year after year in telling the House what faults the

Bond Government possessed he forgot that he (Cashin) was for years a member of that Government and should shoulder his share of the responsibility for any short comings as any other member of it. This rattled the Minister and he attempted to do the "butting-in stunt" again, but after being warned by Mr. Clift that if he wanted to know what the Bond Government had accomplished he would let him know just what the Bond Government did for the fishermen of this country in the way of building lighthouses and constructing roads and bridges, a fact well known to the country. "If you want to know what the Bond Government did," said Mr. Clift, "I will give it to you and give it to you good."

Mr. Clift regretted that we are making no provision for the days of stress which will surely come after this great war is over. "We are spending money and collecting revenue just the same as we did under normal times," said Mr. Clift, and he hoped the Government would pause in their haste and make some provision to safeguard the country when the hour of trial comes, which come it will. He took exception to the remarks of the Finance Minister that the pendulum had swung back. He showed how the Finance Minister "made" it swing back, but the swinging was not done to the advantage of the people of the country who were now paying more taxation than ever in the history of the Colony.

Mr. Clift's remarks impressed the House and the Finance Minister was unable to refute his statements. The only thing he did was to make a few (unfortunate for himself) references to the Bond Administration, for which Mr. Clift quickly took him to task. When Mr. Clift had finished the hour was 6.30. The Committee rose and will sit again this afternoon at 6 o'clock, when an interesting debate is expected.

The Assembly yesterday was graced by the visit of several of the fair sex. They evidently enjoyed the proceedings as they followed the various speakers with interest, until the Finance Minister rose, and evidently not liking his rasping voice they decided to retire.

The debates from the Opposition side of the House were of a high order and even the Government members who appeared to be bored to death were listening, drinking in every word. "The young man of the East" was busy for a time sending notes to "Uncle Ned"; while the "cute man from the West" continued to be closely studying the columns of The Mail and Advocate.

Reid Newfoundland Co.

Notre Dame Bay Service, 1916.

S.S. CLYDE

Leaving Lewisporte MONDAYS Campbellton Comfort Cove Farmer's Arm Moreton's Harbor Twillingate Herring Neck Change Islands. Fogo.

RETURNING

Change Islands Horwood Beaverton Boyd's Cove Herring Neck Twillingate Tizzard's Harbor Moreton's Harbor Exploits Botwood Kite Cove Brown's Arm Scissor's Cove Campbellton Lewisporte.

Leaving Lewisporte FRIDAYS

Campbellton Scissor's Cove Brown's Arm Kite Cove Botwood Exploits Moreton's Harbor Tizzard's Harbor Twillingate Herring Neck Beaverton Beaver Cove Horwood Change Islands Fogo.

RETURNING

Change Islands Herring Neck Twillingate Moreton's Harbor Farmer's Arm Comfort Cove Campbellton Lewisporte.

S.S. HOME

Leaving Lewisporte MONDAYS Exploits Fortune Harbor Fortune Harbor Exploits Lewisporte

RETURNING CALL AT

Harry's Harbor Three Arms Little Bay Little Bay Islands Lush's Bight Springdale Boot Harbor Port Anson Pilleys Island Triton West Leading Tickles West Point Leamington Cottle's Cove Fortune Harbor Exploits Lewisporte.

Leaving Lewisporte FRIDAYS

Exploits Fortune Harbor Cottle's Cove Point Leamington Leading Tickles East Triton East Pilleys Island Cutwell Harbor Little Bay Islands Three Arms Jackson's Cove King's Point Rattling Brook Burlington Nipper's Harbor.

RETURNING CALL AT

Snook's Arm Indian Burying Place Nipper's Harbor Burlington Rattling Brook King's Point Jackson's Cove Three Arms Little Bay Little Bay Islands Cutwell Harbor Pilleys Island

Sailing Dates

to be announced later.