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J. P. HOOD, Business Manager.

THE MORNING GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1900.

OUR TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

A few days ago the matter of voting \$2,000 to continue the telegraph service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland came up in the House of Commons. It seems that at the moment when this item was reached all the Island members were temporarily absent from the House, not knowing the precisetime when it would come up. As is pretty generally known Sir Louis Davis has been endeavoring for some years to bring about a better arrangement, and all our Island representatives are united in their advocacy of an improved service. In the course of the discussion Hon. Mr. Fielding made the statement that the Anglo-American Company have a monopoly of the cable landing on the Island, which has four or five years yet to run, and until that time expires the Government are not in a position to do anything except by friendly arrangement.

Mr. J. V. Ellis of St. John, the well-known Editor of the Globe newspaper, spoke out manfully for Island rights in the matter, and his remarks were at once so just and vigorous that we feel sure they will be read with great interest here. Mr. Ellis among other things said:

Mr. Ellis—I do not see any of the Prince Edward Island members here, but I have to say that this is the very worst possible telegraph service in the country and something should be done to improve it. If there is a contract binding on the Government to give this subsidy, then there ought to be some power in the Government to make the company give the public a fair and reasonable service. At this time particularly, when the whole country is anxious over news and when those connected with its transmission should be on the alert particularly in connected with the South African war, these people who have charge of the telegraph cable between the mainland and Prince Edward Island pay no attention whatever to the public demands. They close their offices sometimes about dark, and you cannot get any communication with them after that. They carry on their service without the slightest regard to public needs. I do not wish to take up time in talking about it, but every person who has in any way to do with the telegraph system in Prince Edward Island knows that the service is so far behind the age that it is a disgrace to the country. It seems to me that it is the clear duty of the Government under the circumstances to insist that this company shall render some service commensurate with the money that is paid them. Whatever may have been the facts of the case, when the grant was originally made, the conditions in this country have so entirely changed that the telegraph company should be compelled to meet them. I would not hesitate a moment to vote in this House to confiscate that company. I would consider that in doing so I would be only doing my duty to my country. I think I have some regard for honesty, and I can say that a company that does not discharge its duty—a company that falls utterly to discharge its duty as this company does—ought to be compelled in some way to do it. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) I regret is not here, but I understood there was some correspondence going on between the government and the authorities connected with this cable company, to get if possible a better telegraph service.

Wheat is going up in price. It is already quoted in the eighties and there is already some talk of dollar wheat. The speculators may send the price up to a dollar, but the pretext—the admitted failure of the Manitoba crop—is quite an insufficient one. The prairie wheat crop, large as it has been, is but a fraction of what the West produces, and the promise of the yield in many great wheat-producing countries is good. In the meantime for some time to come the price of flour will be high, but look out for a "slump" later on.

McIntreal Herald calls for a public monument to Lord Strathcona, to be erected during his lifetime, and the Grand Old Man deserves it. By the blessing of Heaven on a long life of arduous work he grew rich, and he has spent his money for worthy public uses like a prince. To crown it all he has, at his own cost placed at the command of the Imperial authorities a regiment of mounted Canadians. In doing this he has rendered a great and unprecedented service to the Empire, and has strengthened the bonds between Canada and the Mother Country. There thousands throughout the Dominion who would gladly know that a public monument to be erected in his honor.

Already there is a good deal of speculation as to the sort of tariff that will be adopted by the new Commonwealth of Australia. From a series of interviews with the delegates now in London, published by the London Commercial Intelligencer, the probability would seem to be that the first tariff will be pretty strongly protective. The idea of a preference for the Mother Country such as the Canadian tariff gives, one delegate says is yet in its infancy in Australia. It may come later but not now. Australia is a wine-producing country and wine is among the few articles upon which the United Kingdom imposes an import duty. The Australians feel that if they give Britain a tariff preference Britain ought to admit their wines at a lower rate of duty than for foreign wines.

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Mail Bags Captured.

At the recent fight at Zand River it is reported the Boers captured 2,000 mail bags containing a three week's accumulation of letters for Lord Roberts' army and \$4,000 worth of stamps intended for the use of the troops.

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Is the cry you hear from your correspondents? We suspect the reason why you don't answer them is because you are a

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"A fair weather friend changes with the wind" asserts another—Yes, most things change, but the housekeeper has a remedy—Pin your faith to the unchangeable (clapsed hands) Trade Mark.

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Characters impersonated by Mr. Conlon. PROGRAMME, PART I.

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- Jack Chivy..... Ingot's Nephew, and a Business Dude.
- David Garrick..... The great English Actor.
- Mr. Smith..... Friends of Ingot.
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- John..... Ingot's Servant.
- George..... Garrick's Tale.
- Ida Ingot..... Daughter of Simon Ingot.
- Mrs. Smith..... Wife of Mr. Smith.
- Araminta Brown..... Daughter of Mr. Brown.

PART II.

- 1. Solo—Russian Nightingale Song..... ALABETTA.
- Miss Minnie Moore
- 2. Reading..... The Convicts Escape
- 3. Reading..... Selection from "Widow Bedou"..... BOSTON.
- 4. Reading..... Selection from "Widow Bedou"..... BOSTON.
- 5. Solo—II Placer—Walzer Aria—BOSTON.
- Miss Minnie Moore
- 6. Reading..... How We Hunted a Mouse
- 7. Reading..... School Boy's Composition
- Doors open at 7.30. Entertainment at 8.15. Tickets 25 and 35 cents.
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1 quart \$1.25
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June 21 ex journal