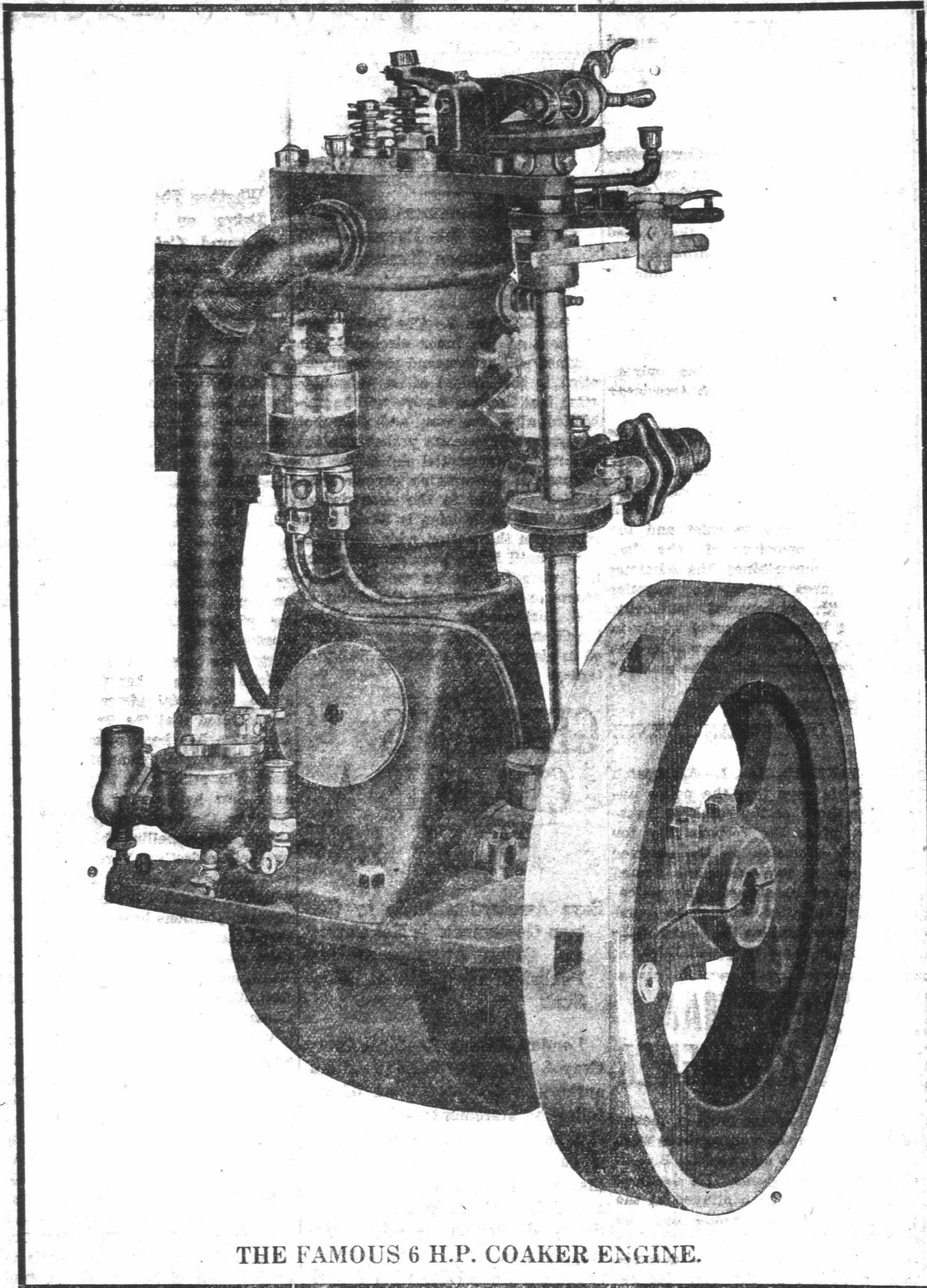


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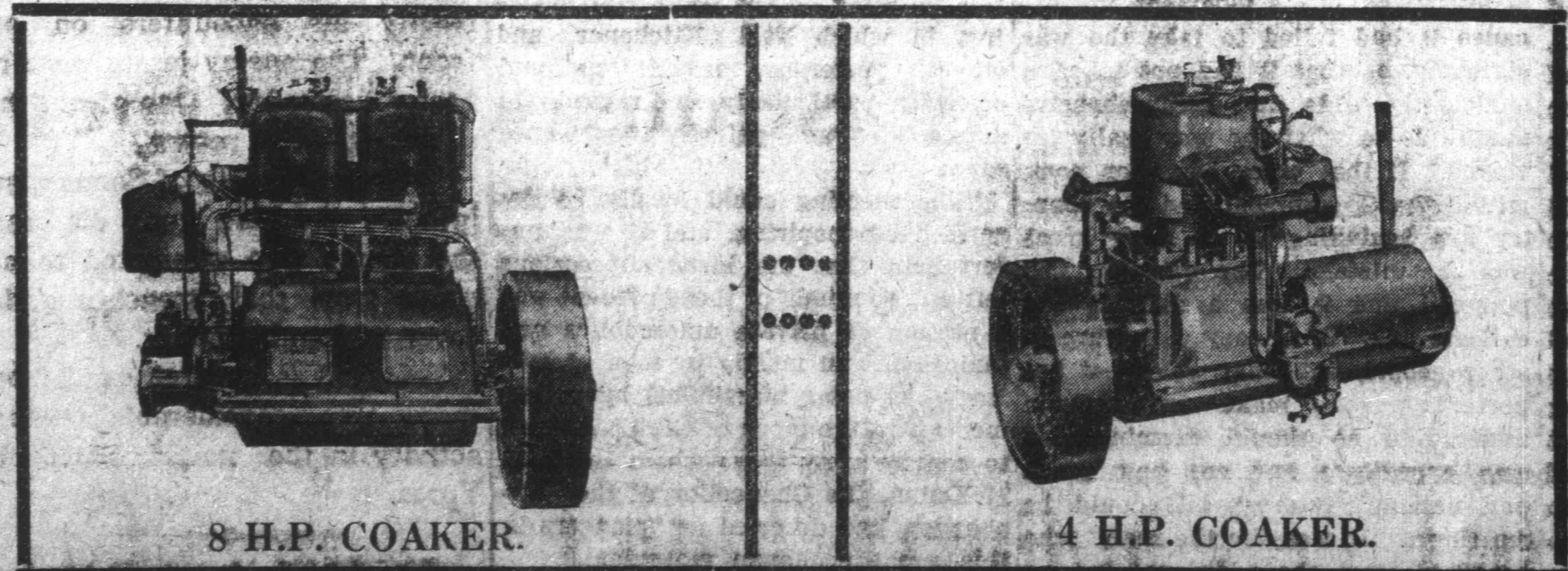
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Fishermen's Union Trading Co., Ltd.

Morris Has Humbugged the People

He Has Played the Game, and Lost.

He Represents the Monied Interests, and He Dare Not Move to Help Those Who are Overburdened with Taxation.

(To the Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir.—The Morris Government have been struggling with a financial problem for some time, and shout as they may as to the "prosperity" of the Colony, the bald fact remains that we are getting into deeper water every day. To increase the revenue, additional burdens have been heaped upon the shoulders of the fishermen. Fishing supplies have been taxed beyond reason, and the great instruments for securing larger and more productive harvests—motor engines—have been put almost out of reach of the smaller fishermen. Food stuffs, in fact all the commodities which people use so generally have been taxed to the limit, while the people higher up have been less rigidly dealt with. Why is this? Because Morris and the people behind him dare not tax the monied interests. Nearly everybody connected with the Administration has some interest in the large corporations; and those who have not such interest are hangers-on, and drawing salaries from the Treasury.

Should anybody doubt this, we ask the party to get a list of the shareholders in the larger corporations in this city, and we feel assured that no one will disagree with us. Take the Banks doing business in this city. We ask what are they paying into the local Treasury beyond the municipal tax? Take other institutions, and we ask, what are they paying? We shall be met with the answer doubtless that these organizations are giving labor to several people; but we cannot say that it is of a very remunerative kind. The labor benefits the city trade; but the tax-payer in the outports is really footing the bill by paying the additional cost of necessities. These corporations have been reaping an unusually rich harvest since the outbreak of the war, whereas the humbler class are being burdened with greater responsibilities than ever.

Some time ago, one of the obsequious editors of this city, who has been fed with Government pap for years, pointed to the wonderful results Morris had achieved in securing a royalty of SEVEN CENTS PER TON from the Mining Companies doing business at Bell Island. The Bell Island ore is now being largely used by the Nova Scotia Shell Company in the manufacture of munitions, and we give the following interesting item to emphasize the contention that we are not getting results commensurate with our output.

The "Ottawa Citizen" thus refers to the huge gains of the Colony for the year just ended: "The statement of the company shows war profits of over \$2,000,000, though it is said that the actual profits exceeded \$3,000,000, but in view of the present state of public opinion IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR THE DIRECTORS TO PUBLISH THE LATTER FIGURE. The gross profits for the previous year were \$236,000. The statement shows also that \$1,500,000 of new stock was issued and sold during the year. Possibly the shareholders will be told as to who bought the stock, and at what price it was sold by the Company. On the other hand the probabilities are that the shareholders will be told nothing of the kind." Certain banks doing business in this city have declared a 12% dividend. We have no knowledge (nor has anybody in this Colony, except the officials) of the amount of business done here, so we presume that our trade has been a factor in the earning of this dividend. What returns are we getting? Nothing, absolutely nothing. It is true that the Banks have subscribed a few thousand to the Patriotic Fund; but this is a national duty, and we have no bouquets to offer for their generosity?

Again, certain ships were sold recently by several monied people in this city, and we are creditable informed that the deal meant a 50% (Ninety per cent) dividend on the investment. What have these gentlemen done, for the well-being of the Colony? We know, and the public know, that one of the largest stock-holders contributed the munificent sum of \$250 to the Patriotic Fund, and a similar amount to the Aeroplane Fund! This man is rated at considerably over half a million and he is one of the Morris Combination!

There are other protected industries yielding from 15 to 20%, and we ask what are they doing? The time has come when the people should insist on the adjustment of

the burdens being placed upon their shoulders. Morris represents the monied interests; and he dare not move. It is time to clear out the media-type politicians. We are being taxed out of existence in order to enrich men who are keeping Morris in the position he occupies. He has humbugged the people for several years and the sooner he realizes the gravity of the situation the better. He has played the game—and lost!

The Canadian Finance Minister surprised the Canadian public a few days ago when he introduced his Budget. It was surmised that there would be additional taxation, but Sir Thomas White is a Statesman. There will be no further taxation of the masses; but the monied interests must bear their share of the burdens of the War. Agriculture—which is the chief industry of the Dominion (as Fishing is of Newfoundland) will bear no further burdens. This is a lesson for M. P. Cashin who will have to raise the sinews of war within the next few months. Will he rise to the occasion? We fear not. "M. P." has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. He has assereverated many a time and oft that he represents the fishing interests? How are you doing it Mr. Cashin? Your representation has been the veriest fake; and you, with your fellow members of the Executive, have been absolutely callous as regards the interests of the fishing class. You were asleep all summer when we were agitating for the opening of the French market. We had great difficulty in waking you up when we were shut out of the Aegean; and you are still somnolent in the matter of making adequate provision for the crying needs of the Colony. Associated with you are men who have been bleeding the Country for years; and seemingly the end is not yet. There will be a further cry for subsidies for service which is ill performed or not performed at all. And you will be a party to the granting to these cormorants just what they need. Try and wake up Mr. Finance Minister and understand that we are a fishing people and that we are carrying more burdens than we can bear.

Discussing the Budget, the Canadian Press says that by last year's Budget all classes were affected; but now the levy is to be made on the Corporations and individuals who have money. The Finance Minister is in possession of the Reports of the Companies and knows what dividends they have paid (Mr. Cashin presumably should have all the data regarding our local companies.) These organizations cannot now adopt any evasive measures by way of reducing their apparent earnings, and the new law regarding the taxation of Companies is retroactive. Railway companies, banks, utility companies, and individuals come under the law. It is currently asserted that the Canadian Pacific Railway will have to pay a million and a half dollars or more as a result of the new taxes; and other similar institutions will pay amounts varying from \$50,000 to \$10,000. Business concerns are likewise affected; and some of the Departmental stores will have to put up from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The Canadian Minister estimates that fully \$30,000,000 will come into the Treasury as a result of the new taxes.

The Canadian money bags are of course feeling quite grumpy over the situation; and protest are coming in as fast as the mails can carry them. If Minister Cashin would get busy if he had the courage to do so, we could easily get fully half a million dollars from Corporations and individuals in this Colony. These have gathered the earnings of our industrial population for many decades; and we have never had any returns from the golden harvests. We know, of course, that Mr. Cashin will not have the courage to do any such thing. He may feel that it would be a very desirable thing to do; but HE WILL NOT RISK IT, as he is too closely allied with the vested interests.

of firms, individuals, partnerships and associations engaged in any line of business in excess of ten per cent. Agriculture exempt from taxation. All taxes retroactive to date from the beginning of the war. Companies and firms with a capitalization under \$50,000 are exempt from taxation, unless engaged in making munitions or on war orders. Duration of the measure, August, 1917.

ember 1, 1915. Provision is made to prevent evasion of taxes by stock-watering, etc. Companies already paying taxes for war will be exempt to the amount of these taxes under the new taxation. This applies to banks, loan companies, etc., taxed last year. An income tax would be the most feasible method of getting after the rich men in Newfoundland.—I am, etc.

FINANCE.

St. John's, Feb. 26, 1915.

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