

Mr. James Murphy Writes Regarding Civic Matters

Sir,—Housing of the poor was to be the ideal act in Gosling's programme a short twelve months ago. It was proclaimed from hill top and valley. How he has fulfilled that promise may be seen without the aid of a spy glass. To use a scriptural phrase, "Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee."

Fellow citizens, those tenements mooted by Gosling for the shelter of the poor, still remain sine dine: they remain as he placed them, on paper, and I am inclined to think, and seriously so, that on paper they will remain, at any rate, so far as Gosling is concerned. Had I Philoctetes's gall-stepped arrow, the Simoons' breath or Ithical's spear I would belabor Gosling in such a manner that his best friend in the Current Events Club would not know him. Codding the poor and helping to shorten their days would be the most appropriate terms to apply to Gosling's promises.

Twenty-six years ago the late Councillor Carnell was very pronounced on what he termed "rats' nests," which then existed at Dogs' Town, old and dilapidated rookeries, pest-houses in which hundreds of poor people were herded like cattle. The same sort of shacks, or "rats' nests" exist to-day in St. John's West. Those at Dogs' Town were burned at the time of the big fire of 1862, and I am very much afraid, as the saying goes that Heaven will have to intervene in ridding the "rats' nests" from St. John's West. If our poor are to be better housed and a spirit of cleanliness inculcated in them it won't be a Gosling who'll do it; a more large-hearted bird will have to enlarge the suffrage of the honest and humble taxpayers.

When St. John's contained a population of 25,000, it was said that 150 deaths occurred here yearly, greater than among a like population in London, the metropolis of the world. I have this on the undisputed authority of one who, in his day, was second to none as a writer and a lover of Newfoundland. This gentleman said, "if our people were taken out and shot, a hue and cry would be raised against the crime, but what about us, allowing them to die a living death?"

This is the policy, seemingly, which Gosling pursues, allowing the poor to die a living death. He has neglected to foster measures of a sanitary nature, to preserve the lives of the citizens. A man who has neglected his pledges, as he has done, after the public put him in the way to hobnob with Royalty—is not worthy of the name of a man. He has applied the balm of unkindness to their ills. We have hundreds of homes unfit for human habitation, disease incubators, germ breeders. The owners who derive rent from them must have hearts like the Valentine McClutcheys, of Ireland, of a past age, when they extracted from the peasantry the proverbial pound of flesh for mud cabins, at the bayonet's point. Why doesn't Gosling bestir himself and enforce the owners of these pig sties to rebuild or to destroy them. If a citizen should be located with a can of ashes capsize before his dwelling, he would be, in all probability, summoned before Court for committing a breach of the Nuisance Act. But here we have hovels, sheltering human beings, fashioned in the likeness of a Divine Saviour, permitted to live and end their days and

no hand put out to save them. It would melt the heart of a stone to see the habitations in which the poor of this city reside where they "do not die by the act of God, but by the act of man." Shakespeare tells us that, "Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie Which we ascribe to Heaven."

I ask a plain unvarnished question, and one which interests every man, woman and child in this community: "What are we going to do about it?" What we need first of all are public men, who, as the late President Garfield remarked "can look the devil in the face and tell him that he is the devil."

Gosling, nor those who surround him at the Council Board are not the type of men to take an interest in the poor man. Their Shylock policy never was, nor never will be tolerated in this country while men have the use of a conscience which God gives them as free as the salt sea waves.

The health of the infidel Jap is cared for in a way that should make us blush with shame. The Japs are noted for their personal cleanliness. At Tokio a bath costs one penny, at St. John's a workman could not procure a bath for love nor money.

Not a place to have one is fostered by our local philanthropists? (God save the mark). No one seems to care three straws about the poor. Grind them, make them hewers of wood, and drawers of water, take every opportunity which the mind of Satan can offer "to squeeze the life blood out of the beggars." Now, isn't that the motto of the man of the Gosling stamp. Not contented to leave the poor to rot in filthy houses, and lanes as filthy, we find them adopting a principle bordering on the policy of Malthus, they want to starve them also. Not a day's work will they offer them, though in cities elsewhere the first thing which a Council does, and is doing just now, is to spend money on public works to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. But Gosling says, "Help the rich, the poor can beg." But never mind, a day of reckoning is at hand when their sins will find them out. Gosling is a servant of Mammon, and to this God he caters. It is his idol and ideal as well. Root, hog or die is the maxim he hands out to you, the soft-hearted, poor and honest, working-men of St. John's.

Snugly esconced and faring sumptuously arrayed in luxury in his mansion, Gosling looks on with a heart of adamant and refuses to give work to the poor man, who clamours for it to keep the wolf from the door. He tells them that the Council is not supposed to find it, it is not a rule to do so.

Even if this be true can he not for the time being break that rule. Our Lord tells us that when King David was poor and hungry he went into the tabernacle, when Abiathar was the high priest there, and ate the shew bread which none but the priests might eat, and give it also to his followers, and no one has ever blamed King David for breaking a little rule to feed his starving men.

JAMES MURPHY, St. John's, Feb. 23, 1915.

Wallace & Co. Chocolates are "Candies of Character." They Sweeten Life.

The S. S. Portia will leave the wharf of Bowring Brothers, Ltd.

THURSDAY, 25th February, at 10 a.m. calling at the following places:

- Cape Broyle, Ferryland, Fermeuse, Trapassey, St. Mary's, Salmonier, Precasia, Marystown, Burin, St. Lawrence, Lamaline, Fortune, Grand Bank, Belleoram, St. Jacques, Harbor Breton, Pass Island, Hermitage, Gaultois, Pushthrough, Richard's Hr., Francois, Cape LaFune, Ramea, Burgeo, Rose Blanche, Channel

WEATHER AND ICE PERMITTING. Freight received until noon WEDNESDAY. For freight or passage apply to the Coastal Office of

Bowring Brothers, Ltd. TELEPHONE 300

To THE GULF SEALERS!

DON'T SIGN any Agreement that contains a clause fixing \$3.75 per cwt. for Seals. Before Sealers will accept \$3.75 the owners of ships will have to prove to the President of the F.P.U. that Seals are not worth more.

STIRRING LETTER FROM HARBOR MAIN Protests Against Kean Prosecuting The Sealfishery

(Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir,—Please allow me space in your valuable paper to say a word or two about "the Kean affair," which is occupying so much of the attention of the fishermen at present. To say that we were astonished on reading yesterday's Daily Mail would be putting it mildly. Every fisherman in the District, with the exception of a very few political parasites, is indignant over the mean and dishonourable tactics of Bowring Bros. in giving Abram Kean command of the Florizel this spring, when only a few days ago the Liverpool Directors cabled to say Kean should not go. Undoubtedly the wires have been pulled by Jack Munn and in consequence, the order has been rescinded. But President Coaker's ultimatum is that Kean shall not go and in that ultimatum he is backed by every Union man, and several non-Union men as well, in Hr. Main District.

Who have made the firm of Bowring Bros. what it is to-day? The colliers of Terra Nova. Who have brought their richly laden vessels to that firm, thereby enriching it and making its members powers in the land? The tollers of Terra Nova.

And are those hardy fishermen, those brave heroes of our sea-girth home, whose daily calling is to face the stormy Atlantic, "where Death rides on every passing breeze," in order to eke out a miserable existence—going to be dominated by a couple of insignificant nonentities? Are they going to allow Kean, whose ship so many of our hardy fishermen left last spring to suffer pains incomparably greater than we can imagine, and at last to be frozen to death—to go to the icefields again? No, I cannot believe that they will be renegades to their fellow toilers. I cannot believe that a crew will be found to sail with him, for by so doing, they would be stigmatizing themselves as heartless Huns and degenerate sons of their courageous forefathers, who came from Devon, Bonny Scotland and The

A FINE SHIP SAYS GEO. MILLS

Liverpool, Jan. 28, 1915.

Dear Mother,—I received your letter yesterday, and was more than glad to hear from you.

I am well and hope this will reach you the same. I am enjoying myself fine, we came in here yesterday, after being out at sea for a month, there is twenty-eight of us here in this ship, and nearly all belong to Trinity Bay. We haven't had any snow yet.

When you write, tell me where the boys from our place are, too. Get their addresses and send them to me, also the names of those who have joined the Navy.

I couldn't send any cards at Christmas, because we were out at sea.

Our fleet had a great battle on the sea yesterday where we came from. There was one sunk and two more badly damaged of the German fleet.

We are here for a week now. We got 3 days' leave each and a free pass wherever we want to go.

When you write tell me if Eph. is married. We have got a very good ship. She is the best rough water boat ever I saw. Give my love to all the people, and tell Edgar Hart to write me. My address is "H.M.S. Orpheus, G.P.O. London, Eng." I am writing him. Tell Bob not to work too hard in the woods. Good bye.

Your loving son,

GEORGE MILLS.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

SWEET CHARITY

As may be seen by a look over our advertising columns to-day, the F.P.U. is determined to do its share for the relief of the poor.

One hundred barrels of excellent partridge berries are being offered for sale, at four dollars a barrel. For every barrel of these sold the Salvation Army is to receive two dollars, or half the sum realized by the sale, to be used by them in the manner they think best, for the relief of the needy.

A CRUEL HUMBUG

At the meeting held by Gosling, and a few social lights in the Board of Trade building on Monday afternoon it was decided to table the objection of the meeting till a future date. As far as the activity of Monday's gathering was concerned, and we speak now of the working activity the whole thing was a sorry farce.

But not a thing has been done, not one resolution was moved, and not one of benefit has come of the gathering. It was thought when Gosling called this meeting that the whole question of the actual deprivation and want in the city was to be, if not settled, at least placed in a channel of settlement, and the poor of the city who forswore great things to come of the whole gathering, already had bid defiance to the demon Destitution.

Imagine an emergency meeting such as the one in the Board of Trade Building on Monday last might be considered, being held almost behind closed doors.

Imagine the rotten idea of Issuing invitation for such an event, as if it were an evening dress circle or fancy ball. Wonder it was that the Hall was not dressed in all the frippery of flags and banners, with brass band to salute The Guests.

God help the poor and the needy that they have to depend on the wishes and the frivolous actions of such a coterie.

There will be many a cold hearth and many an empty larder, if the needs of our people must wait on the decision of pride and arrogance and whilst blue-blooded ladies and gentlemen form themselves and resolve on all kinds of accomplished movements, and have their names printed in gold on cards of office.

Justice.—The poor may call aloud for succor and for help, and there will be no one to hear.

Gaming House

Complaints are made of a certain store on Water Street not a mile from the Post Office, where a continual gambling goes on. Young men of the city are detained there night after night, and both smoking and card playing go on.

This kind of thing ought to be put a stop to, especially now when youths cannot afford to spend money so badly needed at home.

MIRTH PROVOKING

There are three good subjects on the tapis just now—three interesting subjects which the people never tire of discussing:

First—"The fiasco of the meeting to discuss ways and means to help the poor of St. John's." At this the people laugh.

Second—"The Coaker-Bowring-Kean question." The question which the F.P.U. are fighting for home, liberty, and life. At this the people rejoice.

Third—"The query, 'What is Morris going to think of his new title 'Kaiser Morris,' and how he is going to meet the people who gave to him all that he has?" At this the people roar, so amusing is the conjecture.

VERITAS.

Capt. Dan Martin

Capt. Dan Martin, who will command the Erik at this season's seal fishery, is in the city. The Erik's crew were high liver last Spring.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

W. E. BEARNS Haymarket Square. Telephone 379.

Reids' Patriotism Put To The Test

Offers Laborers Fifteen Cents An Hour To Handle Dangerous Cargo of the "Desola"

Laborers have refused to work unloading the S.S. Desola, now at the dock, for 15c per hour.

The Desola, it will be remembered, put back to port Sunday week last, on account of her cargo being in bad condition.

It was found necessary to land her 7000 packages of acid, which will be stored near Irvin's Station, on the railway line.

The handling of this kind of cargo, is attended by great risk to workmen, and when Reid generously offers 15c per hour, against 25c which was paid a little while ago, and which is moreover the laborer's hire, he shows a test of his patriotism, his generosity, and his interest in the poor of the city at the same time.

Mr. McGrath, President of the Laborers' Union, in speaking to our representative last evening, was very emphatic regarding the due to the laboring classes of full, hard earned wage, and his men have refused to touch the cargo of the Desola for the paltry wage given.

As a result, the ship has not yet been discharged of any of her freight, nor is it likely that anything will be done, save some more satisfactory understanding is arrived at.

The whole proceedings exposes the Reids and those of their kind, and the laboring classes of St. John's shall remember it, and in the future act accordingly.

ICE SPORTS

Bandmaster Bulley, of the C.C.C. Band, and several prominent citizens, are arranging for a night of Ice Sports consisting of short period hockey matches, skating races, etc., interspersed with musical selections by the C.C.C. Band—to be held in the Prince's Rink, the net proceeds of which will be devoted to the various charitable societies in the city.

The rink has been secured from manager Donnelly for such a purpose, and we understand that the necessary arrangements are being made to hold the event during the second week in March—ice permitting.

LOCAL ITEMS

It is calm and fine along the railway to-day.

Fr. Cox, of the Jesuit Mission, will preach at the R. C. Cathedral to-night.

The steamers Bruce, Home and Feige are still detained at St. Lawrence by ice, and from reports received by the Reid Coy., we learn that the whole of Placentia Bay, and extending outside as far as St. Lawrence, is blocked.

A prominent West End M.H.A. is at present very busy in voicing his opinion that there is no poverty in his district.

If the same honorable member would expend a title of the energy displayed in soliciting votes at the last General Election, he might get an eye-opener that would help him out in qualifying for membership amongst the Labor Problem Solvers.

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Manufacturers, at right prices, of Bolts and Nuts, Horse Shoes, Railway Spikes, Bar Iron, Barbed Wire and Staples, Mild Steel, Galva. Telegraph Wire, Galva. Bar Iron, Pig Iron, Lead and Waste Pipes, Iron Pipes, Fence Wire, Tacks of all kinds, Shot and Putty.

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Feb 20, 15



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M. CONNOLLY, Phone 420. Duckworth St. Jan 21, eod

LECTURE!

Under the auspices of the United Societies of Wesley Circuit, a Lecture will be delivered by CAPT. A. KEAN

in Wesley Church Basement on Wednesday, Feb. 24th. Subject: "MOTIVES OF GREAT MEN." Excellent programme. Candy for sale. Doors open 7.15 p.m. Lecture at 8.15. General admission 10 cents. Pay on the door.

J. S. TAYLOR, Secretary. Feb 22, 24

Advertisement for FALL HERRING and LARGE CODFISH SUITABLE FOR RETAILING, SMITH Co. Ltd.

Advertisement for FIRE insurance, featuring an illustration of a fire and the text 'FIRE IS OFTEN CAUSED by negligence. And who is there that is not negligent at times? Would you have the work of a lifetime lost in a few minutes? WHY NOT INSURE and then the loss of your treasures is made good as far as money is able to replace a loss. Inquire of me for low rates. PERCIE JOHNSON, Insurance Agent. Globe-Wernicke. We Aim To Please. And we hit the mark every time with good work at honest prices. C. M. HALL, Genuine Tailor and Renovator. 213 THEATRE HILL. Don't tear your old roof off because it is old, worn out or leaky. Use Kinste Roofing Paper, T. H. COWAN, Agent. ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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