

The Portuguese Agreement.

Mr. Morine Exposes Its Fallacy.

Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir—The "Boss" himself has been heard from. Up from his hiding place in Port Union has come a blast of other news but his could blow. The Portuguese yesterday contained an editorial easily identifiable as Mr. Coaker's own writing. It has his "ear-ache" all over it, and his ears are as long as to be easily visible. The majority of the many abusive personal references to me are about nothing ancient that I do not need to notice. Their repetition at this time is indeed rather gratifying to me as a controversialist, for it is cogent evidence that my arguments concerning the notorious Portuguese agreement have pierced the skin of its co-author. All of his abuse of me is because he fears me, and of that I am very proud, for I have no harder things of me than he has of Cashin, Crosbie and Squires, and yet he has afterwards eaten out of the hand of each of them.

There are, however, one or two references to personal matters which I cannot bear to pass wholly unnoticed. One is, that I "advised Hickman to slash honor and break the laws of the land by sending fish into Italy last December, which action was the chief cause of the destruction of the Fishery Regulations." I gave no such advice. Mr. Hickman did not need to be told what to do with his fish, but I did advise that there was a law in the land to prevent him sending his fish where and when he would, and told him that Coaker's Regulations were an impudent fraud, which no court would uphold, and if his action resulted from that advice, I am the greatest benefactor this Colony has ever known. Another personal reference to which I wish to reply is, that in 1898 I "gave the whole country," which, I suppose, is a characteristic Coaker way of referring to the Railway Contract. Well, Sir, as one of the authors of that measure, I am very proud of it, and I should be very glad to take the sole credit for a bargain so favorable for the Colony that the contractors have broken down under it, and Mr. Coaker's Government is this year giving them \$1,500,000 for twelve months' operation, in addition to all "I" gave them. "I" gave them, too much, why does Coaker give them less? How does the Chairman (3) of last year's Railway Commission, who involved the Colony in the loss of millions, dare to talk of what he says I gave the Reids in 1898?

Mr. Coaker challenges me to say he "grafted" by the Portuguese agreement, or that he intended to graft. As the agreement never came into force, it is obvious that he did not graft under it. What his "intentions" were I do not know. What he would have done if the agreement had become law, I can only guess. What I did say was this, "that the agreement would have given unlimited scope for Coaker, Araujo and Smith to 'graft,' and that this is true is evident to any intelligent critic. Whether the gentlemen referred to would have used the opportunities to graft is a matter of surmise, and for those who know them or of them for their own opinions. It would obviously have been an unbusiness-like thing to have confided to anybody such arbitrary powers. I doubt if Mr. Coaker himself would have confided them even to me, in whose integrity he has so much faith. And by the way, I am credibly informed that the Araujo who signed the Portuguese agreement—Mr. Coaker's colleague, who he, indeed, the same Araujo who has been arrested in Portugal, with other bankers, for alleged financial frauds. The Advocate seeks to throw doubt upon his identity. Of course, I know nothing about the truth or otherwise of the charges against Araujo.

But putting personal matters aside, let me get to the "milk in the coconut." Coaker repeats (1) that in January last he "sold 300,000 quintals in Oporto, at a price fixed by the Export Board," and (2) that by the repeal of the Fishery Regulations, \$5,000,000 have been lost to this country. These assertions have been made so often, without evidence; they are so grossly and completely false; the impudence with which they are re-asserted is so glaring, that it is evident Coaker relies upon belief in them on the part of the fishermen to maintain him in their favor. It is my duty, then, as it is the duty of every intelligent man in the Colony, to denounce, expose and refute these false assertions whenever they are made.

And first: Coaker did not sell one quintal in Oporto last January, apart from any sale he may have made of Union Export Co.'s fish. The Exportation Board fixed no price for fish sold by Coaker in Oporto last January! The claim is a falsehood through and through, in letter and spirit, in detail and in effect, and

those who make it and repeat it are wilfully lying. And, secondly, Coaker's latest argument (7) that \$5,000,000 were lost by the repeal of the Fishery Regulations is made in this way: (A) the shore catch this year is about 1,100,000 qts.; (b) the average prevailing price locally is \$5 per quintal; (c) if the Regulations were in force, the prevailing price would be \$11 per qtl.; ergo, there is a loss of \$5 per qtl., or \$5,000,000 in all. Granting, for argument's sake only, that propositions (a) and (b) are true, the conclusion falls to the ground because proposition (c) is an impudent falsehood, a wilfully deceptive assertion by Coaker to save his credit with the fishermen. There was not a word in the Portuguese agreement fixing a price. In the conditional offer which Araujo made to buy the United States cargo on ships in the River Douro, 40¢ per qtl. was the price fixed—or, say, \$3 per qtl.—for large and medium, and that price had to cover freight, expenses and profits, leaving very little indeed for the purchase price here. Even these prices had no application to future cargoes. "The price prevailing in Portugal," says Coaker himself, in the very article to which I am replying, "is the keystone to local prices." With the competition from foreign fish prevailing in Oporto this year, how could the price here be higher than it is? If the Regulation prices last year were never got, how could Regulations this year increase the price?

Speaking of the repeal of the Regulations, by the Government of which he was a member at the time, Mr. Coaker says he "could not save them if he gave his life for them." He might at least have given his office for them if they were worth it. He wielded a majority in the Government. He was at one time the Master of the Cabinet. He can break it when he likes. But he prefers, apparently, to keep an office the duties of which he does not perform, grab a salary he does not earn, hold a seat in a Government which ignores and despises him, rather than resign in support of his Regulations. If their repeal has done harm to this Colony, no man in it is so responsible and so despicable as their cowardly author and repealer.

With regard to Mr. Coaker's references to myself as coming from "the wigwagged slopes of Nova Scotia," might I be permitted to remind the President of the F.P.U. that his guide, philosopher and dear friend, Mr. E. Collishaw, hails from the fertile fields of Lunenburg County.

Yours truly,
ALFRED B. MORINE.

Oct. 22, 1921.

The Cheque Case.

The further hearing of the Burnstein Cheque Case was resumed in the Supreme Court this morning before Mr. Justice Johnson. The examination of Mr. Joseph Burnstein occupied the whole session, the witness being examined by the trial judge. The undated cheque payable to cash or order, which was presented on December 24, was again put in evidence and the witness questioned as to whether he could recognize the writing on the back of the cheque. He stated that as far as he knew he did not recognize the writing as that of any of his employees. The stubs for the latter part of 1920 could not be found, owing to a fire at his premises, the witness said, but those up to July, 1920 were put in evidence. The record of the \$140 cheque did not appear in those stubs. On being shown the cheque the witness swore that he could not recognize the writing nor the figures. He also declared it was not his rule to make cheques to cash or order, but he had done so occasionally and they were cashed by the bank. The further hearing was adjourned until Nov. 5th at 10 o'clock.

Personal.

Mr. Justice Johnson leaves to-morrow by express on circuit, and will hold Court at Curling and St. George's.

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TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

CHICAGO, Oct. 21.

The United States Government today moved to prevent a railroad strike and to enforce obedience by both Unions and roads of the decrees of United States Railroad Labor Board, formally announcing that it had assumed full jurisdiction in the rail crisis and ordering workers not to strike, pending a Conference of Union heads and rail chiefs, which it called for Oct. 26. The decision, from this Conference, will not be announced until after Oct. 30, the scheduled strike date. Board members said, declaring that in this way a walkout would be averted, unless the Union defied the Board's orders not to strike, pending a ruling. While both carters and unions promptly announced they would comply with the order citing them to appear before the Board next Wednesday, W. G. Lee, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, in a statement given out in Cleveland, asked by what authority anyone could compel a man to work, and pointed out that the right to strike had been upheld by United States Supreme Court. At the same time trainmen of the International and Great Northern, a Texas Road, prepared to carry out their plans to strike, to-morrow and maintenance of way and firemen's Union, representing 400,000 railworkers announced here that they would join the proposed walkout on Oct. 30. If Unions choose to carry through strike plans, which the Board asked them to defer, members of the Board said that the next move would have to come from Washington.

LIGHTER MEN WILL STICK.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21.

The Lighter Captain's Union of 2000 members have voted to remain at work in the event of a railway strike, and do railway lighters.

PROTEST COMES TOO LATE.

LISBON, Oct. 21.

Antonio Granjo, Premier and Minister of the Interior, Jos Carlos Maia, former Minister of Marine and Colonies, were assassinated during the military outbreak against the Government on Wednesday, which resulted in the establishment of a new Administration. The Junta, which placed the new Government in power, has issued a note vehemently protesting against the assassination of these officials and other Republicans.

SILVIA ON THE JOB.

LONDON, Oct. 21.

A demonstration is being organized to take place on Sunday outside the United States Embassy in London, in a protest against the conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti in United States, it developed to-day. The proposed demonstration for Sunday, it is understood, is being planned with the aid of communistic organ workers, dreadnought, with which Silvia Pankhurst is identified.

CRIEFS SURRENDERED.

MADRID, Oct. 21.

Twenty chiefs of Beni Sidel Tribes have surrendered to Spanish troops there.

PRESIDENT STUDYING STRIKE SITUATION.

CHICAGO, Oct. 21.

The Railway Labor Board having failed to prevent a strike, labor chiefs were to-day pushing a plan for a general walkout on October 30. President Harding is studying the situation, and some hope is yet entertained that he may propose some means of alleviating the crisis. Railway men were saying to-day that it looked as if only the Government could prevent a walkout.

ON HONEYMOON TOUR.

NEW YORK, Oct. 22.

Former Premier Venizelos of Greece arrived yesterday on the Aquitania for a honeymoon tour of the United States, with his young bride.

AS DISCUSSED IN ROME.

LONDON, Oct. 22.

A high official of the Vatican is quoted by the Daily Mail's Rome correspondent as saying that Pope Benedict "is much grieved over the evident mistrust between Great Britain and Ireland, of which Eamon De Valera's letter is additional proof." The same official is also given as an authority for a statement that the Pope is convinced that if "both parties could forget the past, and approach the Irish question with unbiased minds, a solution would be forthcoming." Mr. De Valera's letter, says the correspondent, is being widely discussed in Rome, where it is generally felt that the Republican leader was guilty of an indiscrete act in referring to ambiguities in King George's message to the Pope.

PRESS COMMENT.

LONDON, Oct. 22.

A possible rupture of the Irish Conference, a general political crisis in Great Britain, and the cancellation of Premier Lloyd George's visit to Washington were featured by London newspapers this morning. It appeared that the telegram sent to Pope Benedict by Eamon De Valera, in which there was adverse criticism of King George's recent message to the Pontiff, appeared to be considered as a phase of the situation threatening the disruption

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of negotiations. With one exception the action of Mr. De Valera was condemned by newspapers here to-day, editorials varying from hot denunciation to sorrowful regret. Some comments charged him with "insulting the King, the Pope and his own delegates," and said he had "torpedoed chances of peace." The Central News said, "there is danger of a rupture on Monday, unless Sinn Fein delegates disown the action of Mr. De Valera, and the extremists, for whom he speaks. In that case a general election would be precipitated, in order for the Government to secure a new mandate for its future course."

ABORTIVE ATTEMPT.

HAVRE, Oct. 22.

An attempt of Communists to make a demonstration before the American Consulate last night was broken up by police, both sides sustaining injuries in the scuffle.

SENTIMENT GROWING.

TORONTO, Oct. 22.

A joint Union Committee of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches have authorized the drawing up of Legislative Bills necessary for the consummation of the proposed Union, and have devised a system of co-operation pending organic Union.

School Football.

The first game of the second round of the Inter-Collegiate football series will be played this afternoon on St. George's Field. The Felldians and Methodist College will be the competing teams. If the latter are to accomplish anything this season, they must win to-day's game and as the Felldians are after the championship, an exciting game should result.

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tem of co-operation pending organic Union.

G. E. AND U. S. TOGETHER.

MANILLA, Oct. 22.

United States and Britain would stand together if trouble develops in the Far East, Lord Northcliffe declared on his arrival here from Australia.

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