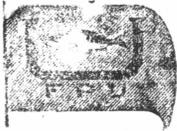


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**The Mail and Advocate**

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Editor and Business Manager  
**JOHN J. ST. JOHN**

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., DEC. 10th., 1915

**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

**The Coal Shortage**

THE HERALD—The Official Organ of the Morris Government—as usual replied yesterday to our comments re the Premier's coal circular by abusing Coaker and attacking the Trading Company's business.

We wish McGrath to understand once and for always, that if he wants to insult and interfere with private matters that are not public concern, that he will get all he wants of that from us. We do not intend to indulge in mud-slinging to-day, but let Mr. McGrath indulge to-morrow, as he did yesterday, and we will give him a week's job.

Now as to the facts: The Premier is a public man—the Head of a Government possessing all the power and influence connected with such a high office. It is his duty to attend to the public requirements of the people that has for 30 years sustained him at the polls.

He has been false to the trust reposed in him, as had he been alive to the interests of the city and his constituents, he would have realized the shortage in coal two months ago. He is false to the trust, for he should have seen to the engagement of coal steamers at least two months ago, and not at the close of navigation.

The City has no claim on Coaker, good, bad or indifferent in any respect; Mr. Coaker has no connection with the city, but if he was Premier he would see that the City received proper consideration or he would be false to his trust as Premier of the Colony. Mr. Coaker has not even a branch of the F.P.U. here.

As for coal, Mr. Coaker did bring a load of coal to St. John's this summer and advertised it, and sold it 70 cents per ton under regular prices. He never undertook in any way to supply coal for St. John's; and as for Outports, he did deliver two steamer loads this year to Outports and was ready to deliver more if orders offered.

In addition to the two steamer loads, he has delivered seven schooner loads from Sydney and sent 300 tons from here; and he offered two loads to certain ports North last month which were not accepted.

The "Can't Lose" did not lose any money in supplying coal to Outports, and she was sold because the Company decided to

have two motor schooners to be used as freighters, which would be more convenient for the Company's interests. A good offer was made for the ship by a Cardiff firm and the ship was sold at a figure in advance of the amount paid for the ship.

The Trading Company have not abandoned the supplying of coal North, as may be seen by the above explanation, and Mr. Coaker intends to continue supplying coal to Union harbours.

As for pit props, the wage offered was not refused, there was no hang up. The men did not delay the ship one hour. The wages offered were 20 per cent higher than those paid by the Reid-Nfld. Co. to men discharging their coal ships, which work should command at least 20 cents per hour, instead of 13½ cents, which they have been paying.

The Premier's duty as Premier and as the representative for St. John's, which city returned four of his supporters last election, was to see that everything possible was done to provide tonnage for coal to meet the city's requirements; not now, but two months ago.

Where was P. T. McGrath? Why did he not give proper consideration to such a matter and use his paper to get life into the dying Premier that he so warmly supported? Why was he so silent? As a Citizen, as a member of the Legislative Council, as a supporter of the Premier, how is it he did not use his influence to urge the Premier to take action?

Our article, at any rate, cut deep into some one's acts of negligence, or P.T. Would not have been so sore as to reveal the old Patsy as clearly as he did last night in The Official Organ of the Morris Government in discussing this matter.

We repeat: the Premier has attempted another odd and the people know it well.

Will P. T. explain why the Reid-Nfld. Co., who have captured so many millions of the people's dollars by arbitrations, railway construction, street cars, electric power, subsidies and Russian Government money by selling steamers, at the expense of their public obligations, should not have been called upon by him to supply coals for the City trade, before blaming a Northern man for not supplying St. John's with its coal requirements?

**The People's Party**

In his Manifesto to the public of Newfoundland, issued in October 1913, Sir Tax Morris said: "I respectfully submit that never at any time was there in this Country, or any Country, a more striking instance of a policy of great progress being more abundantly and completely justified than in the case of Newfoundland the past four years."

At the election of 1913 the year of this "dope" document was issued the majority of our countrymen plainly showed this man of "many faces" that they thought otherwise and in proof of their convictions that majority voted for the Liberal-Union Party and the policy platform on which it was founded. But owing to the manner in which district representation is at present and was then made up, the "People's Party" led by Sir Tax Morris although they secured a minority vote, were enabled to again control the political destinies of our Island.

In the 1913 election Morris was beaten; two of his Cabinet Ministers were hurled by an outraged electorate into political oblivion. Bonavista District, which was for a quarter of a century a stronghold of Toryism, put Coaker, Abbott and Winsor at the head of the poll and placed Morison of "Forget-me-not" fame at the foot—a bad last—and showed him and Morris that our Fishermen Tilers repudiated as strongly as it was possible to do so, the claim of Morris that the previous four years "was a striking instance of a policy of great progress."

The record of waste, boodle and glaring mismanagement of our Country's affairs from 1909-1913, black as it was, cannot in any way compare with the record of this same bunch of political knaves for the past three years. No where in the vast British Empire can such a dark showing of political debauchery be witnessed as we see here in Newfoundland to-day.

The rank and file of the Morris Party have degenerated into political vultures, whose only aim in public life is to secure for themselves and their friends the fruits of our peoples' labour. There has not been during the whole period of six years that Morris and the People's Party have been in power one single act enacted by them for the social or commercial benefit of our people. Scandalous transgressions against our Constitutional rights have been permitted to go unchecked. Our public departments are honeycombed to the core and the Heads of the Civil Departments are dead to a sense of their public duty.

Our Treasury is empty, and our Toiling Masses now recognize that it will remain in this deplorable condition as long as Morris and his gang of self-seeking noodies are left in charge. Both the spirit and letter of our Constitution have been outraged whenever the necessity arose to do so. Men who entered public life, as poor men, candidates of the People's Party, will retire "fixed" for life, while thousands of our Toilers must still be forced to "bend the back" and work from sunrise until sunset to secure a bare living for themselves and their families.

When the record of Sir Tax Morris is written by some future historian it will prove one black chapter from beginning to end. Newfoundland has indeed paid a heavy price for parrot politicians and future generations will ask themselves why we in our time handed the destinies of our Country over to such colossal bluffs as E. P. Morris. During the past six years he seems to have faithfully carried out the following:

"Unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away, even that which he hath."

**Stung!**

THE unsavoury—if "Honourable"—editor of The Herald (The Official Organ of the Morris Government), P. T. McGrath, comes to the rescue of his "guide, philosopher and friend," E. P. Morris, Premier, &c., in yesterday's issue of his decadent daily—The Herald—in an effort to save him from the contumely which is his, and which he well deserves in re the famine in coal now imminent in this Colony.

And how does the little "twister" of Prescott Street go about it? Why as per usual: He draws the red herring over the trail of his patron but in this case at least, it does not obliterate the offensive odor of apathy and contempt for the public interests which follow in the wake of E.P.'s "pilgrim's progress" in politics.

And the brilliant logic used by the little sycophant! He asks Coaker what has he done to remedy the coal shortage? What has Coaker ever promised to do? No body has yet seen a Manifesto from Coaker to the electorate of Newfoundland in which is solemnly promised immediate development of our coal areas and the consequent enlarged supply and cheapening of an indispensable article to our people.

Was the promise kept? Let the Fisherman and Labourer who see a hard winter with a coal famine in sight answer. This promise of Morris is not once referred to in The Official Organ of the Morris Government's article but in a frantic effort to divert the public gaze from Morris's delinquencies, coal and pit props are mixed and any subject is nervously grasped at by this "honourable" creature to protect Morris from the penalty which the people will make him pay for gross carelessness, extravagance and criminal neglect.

The "Honourable" Patsy also gives a resume of the heroic measures taken by his master to secure coal for the people, for which the big hearts of both master and servant bleed in this emergency.

Well, considering that the city with a severe winter now upon it is short by about 25,000 tons of coal, his great efforts would appear not to have amounted to a signal success.

Coaker does not pretend to be omnipotent; but we feel safe in asserting that had Coaker placed his name on a manifesto guaranteeing more and cheaper coal to the country, an effort would have been made to live up to the promise. But Morris made no effort nor had he intended to do so when he made that promise to the people.

We reiterate our assertion that he was then coddling the public as he has so often done before and that the Mackinson and other codds were not a circumstance to this colossal "joke" of the Premier's. Why Patsy's "Canadian Bar" is nothing to this odd. The little scribe of The Official Organ can well be designated the scavenger of the press.

Any dirty work repellent to many men, Morris knows, will be undertaken with pleasure by his little henchman of Prescott Street at so much per and hence for his usefulness, not for the love of him E.P. keeps the little fellow on the job.

His disinterestedness in this instance is as evident as it was in his recent sectarian outburst when despite the danger of setting man against man, he ran the risk, and incidentally tried to defeat Prohibition purely to conserve the paltry few dollars represented by some shares in a brewery; and his manliness is as evident in this, as it was by his backdown before the Patriotic Committee and his failure to resign from it when the floor was literally wiped up with him at that meeting.

Patsy, in conclusion, is at a congenial task licking the boots of the very man who a few short years ago no inuendo was keen

**The Labrador Fishery.**

(From Our Own Correspondent)

THE codfishery on the east and north coasts is practically over, the season being in a sense fairly successful. On the southern sections of the Island fishermen fared well, but North of Bonavista Bay some of the fishermen fared rather badly. The extraordinary prices paid for "soft cure" fish helped the fishermen enormously. Fishery operations on the east coast usually wind up at the beginning of this month, but now that there is such a demand for herring the fishermen are keeping out their gear later than usual.

The fishery on the south coast is now beginning, the harvest time for the South Coast people extends from November up to February.

They reap their gains chiefly in the prosecution of the halibut and codfishery. Halibut is readily bought up by local dealers and the demand even locally is fairly good. Of late quite a large quantity of halibut finds its way to St. John's, being shipped usually by the Coastal Company's steamer "Portia." The Reid Company's boats carry a small quantity, but the other vessels bring the fish directly to St. John's and it arrives more promptly and in a better condition than when the transshipment is made at Placentia.

The herring fishery is opening well on the West Coast and it looks as if the fishermen were going to reap a rich harvest. Higher prices are being paid this year than ever before, and it is claimed that the days of low prices for herring are passed for good and all.

This is a consummation devoutly to be wished for, as we have never really received anything like the value of our products.

The fact is that we have been largely to blame for low prices, as some of our fishermen have not been so careful as they should have been putting up herring. They simply followed the methods used by their grandfathers and seemed quite satisfied that they knew just what the markets outside required. They did not seem to realize the fact that the purchaser was the person who knew just what he needed. This unfortunately has been the bane of Newfoundland; we always seemed to be content with "doing as our fathers did" regardless of new demands or new conditions. In fact anybody who suggested new means of putting up fish products was regarded as a "revolutionary." This may be accounted for when one considers the conditions of the

enough or no blackguard phrase was low enough for this artist in vituperation to hurl at.

How long will Morris tolerate adulation from such a source? When will the effluvia from such a presence become too much for even Morris's hardy sensibilities? He must be pretty sorely stung when he retains the redoubtable McGrath as an apologist and defender.

old business arrangements, when the fisherman was regarded as simply a bled with very small capacity for anything except hauling fish out of the water or helping to swell the merchant's bank account annually. Within the last few years, notably since the establishment of the organization of which Mr. Coaker is the President, viz.—The Fishermen's Protective Union, things have changed materially, and the fishermen are becoming more self-assertive, and this is just as it should be.

We believe that we shall now get busy and relegate the old grandfathers' day methods in the fish business to the limbo of things that were. The "Canadian Fisherman" is helping to effect this desired change, and as the days go by it will be still more helpful. Our people are simply awaiting direct education in fishery affairs. They are full of enthusiasm, and they will rise to the occasion.

War conditions have somewhat handicapped our fishery relations with Greece which for many years has been a good customer for Labrador fish. Patras, Zante and Piraeus have been favorite markets, and during the season some good sales were made in the country which is now causing us such anxiety. We understand, however, that the exchange problem has been somewhat annoying. Of course we all know that Greece normally is not flush with money, yet our fish shippers have always managed to get satisfactory returns from the consignees. The sales are made ordinarily through London brokers, but there are some Newfoundland firms who have direct connection with the Greek commission men.

**A Problem**

The problem of dealing with Labrador has now reached a stage of development when something must be done to solve it. For many years the Labrador fishery has been a very extraordinary one. This year it has been practically a failure, though the large prices paid for fish have relieved the situation somewhat.

Few people really understand the Labrador situation except those who have had close contact with it. No such situation, as far as we are aware exists elsewhere. Whilst some merchants have made a good deal of money in handling Labrador fish, others have lost heavily. Labrador business to-day is practically a gamble, and the chances are against a successful wind-up.

The crews that go down to the coast are generally "supplied" by some merchant, either at St. John's or elsewhere. There is of course a tacit agreement that the supplier gets the fish caught by the supplied crew. The merchant who supplies the crew becomes responsible for the wages of any help the crew may have: the help may be a domestic, or young boys. Usually the crew are on "shares." Should they fail to get fish enough to pay their expenses, the merchant usually has to meet demands not only of the shermen but of their families.

Then there is another situation which is rather undesirable. The crews sometimes fail to realize the obligation existing between them and the merchant who depends upon their catch to load a vessel for a foreign market, and dispose of their fish surreptitiously to some other shipper and thus leave the merchant who supplied them "in the hole."

This of course is reprehensible; but there are often circumstances which will really exonerate the fishermen. The supplier deals them a rather bad hand by charging them fully thirty to forty per cent more for their outfit than the current market price, and really gives them a correspondingly low amount for their fish.

If our Labrador fishery is to

continue, it must be conducted on a different basis, and fisherman will have to realize their obligations and discharge them, and merchants will have to understand that they can conduct this business only on legitimate lines by giving the fishermen a square deal. Unless confidence between the supplier and the supplied is restored, this great fishery is doomed.—Canadian Fisherman.

**THE WORLD'S PRESS**

**For the Spirit of Mercy**

The Spectator:—We shall fight to the last remnant of our resources in money and men in order that a principle of government which is without mercy may not prevail to direct this world. We could not have a better illustration of what we oppose than the spirit which justifies the death of Miss Cavell. Admit to the extreme point of legal nicety that she did wrong, and one must still feel with the old Jacobite, who, when told that he had lost his soul by swearing to a lie in declaring that he harbored no fugitive retorted: "I'd rather trust my soul to God than the laird to you bloody-minded men." Every man would have yearned to save Miss Cavell from a severe punishment for her acts of mercy if he himself had been capable of mercy.



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