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J. J. ROSSITER
Real Estate Agent

The Mail and Advocate

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Editor and Business Manager
JOHN J. ST. JOHN

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JAN. 12th., 1916.

WHERE WAS

"THE STAR?"

THE STAR man was in awful bad humor yesterday over the manner in which the Government and Opposition dealt with the Coal Crisis. Although this paper some time ago drew public attention to the fact that there would be a coal shortage facing this City and the OUTPORTS as well, The Star was silent. Now when the matter is adjusted, thanks to the forcible action of this paper, backed by The Evening Telegram, Mosdell, the Coal Barons' stool-rushes in, and in a three-column article takes exception to the arrangements made by both parties to deal with the matter.

Not a word was heard from The Star against the action of the Coal Barons in fleeing the poor of this City of \$2.80 per ton on coal. On the other hand it labored some few days ago in a vain effort to uphold the Coal Barons in their devilish trick. Little did Mosdell, then or now, care for the welfare of the laboring people. He has had to do what he is told by the monied gentry who unfortunately for themselves have invested their "hard earned" dollars in the newest addition to the official Trust Press.

Not ten people (excluding of course the Water Street Czars and their small following) take this man Mosdell seriously. He has as much influence on public opinion as a Democrat delegate at a Republican National Convention. He has remained silent regarding our remarks of the famous W. D. Reid's connection with his comic paper, evidently believing that "discretion is the better part of valour."

We again repeat our challenge of last week:

"We challenge Mosdell to deny that the money to establish The Star was given him by J. C. Crosbie, R. A. Squires and W. D. Reid, through R. A. Squires—the largest slice being given by the Reids."

"We challenge him to deny that Sir Edgar Bowring was approached for money to aid the project, but he refused to have anything to do with such a mad proposal; but that Mr. J. S. Munn came to the rescue and threw in a couple of thousands dollars."

"We challenge him to deny that he was prohibited from speaking of the coal situation by his Coal Baron masters and had to keep silent."

The laboring people of this City, like the Outport fishermen, have sized Mosdell up in quick fashion, and we are not exaggerating things one iota when we say that the support given the Coal Barons by The Star will not be soon forgotten by the people of St. John's.

Mosdell seems to have Coalition on the brain. For months his sheet has been talking Coalition: Coalition!! Coalition!!! The Knight of the "pen" who styles himself R.U. Right has been using up good ink and valuable time telling the public that the Bondies, Coakerites and Morrisites are about to sell the Country. All kinds of fairy tales are dished up in order to create a sensation. These little dodges have failed just like the birth flash of The Star failed to stampede the City.

The F.P.U. in its late Convention held in the Mechanics' Hall last fall fixed Coalition; Confederation and all other "ions," so The Star man ought spare himself those "brain storms" which he is daily dishing up to an uninterested public. The latter when they want reliable news on public matters will look to The Mail and Advocate for such and not to a paper controlled as The Star is by the money bags of Water Street.

THE COAL SITUATION

YESTERDAY offices for taking orders for \$8 coal was opened in the East and West Ends by the Distributing Committee appointed by the conference on Monday. All who badly need coal can now secure it at the old prices. The coal dealers are delivering the coal as the orders are passed by the Committee.

The Committee will take charge of the coal now on hand. When present stocks are sold and the "Alconda" arrives it is likely the coal dealers will take the load over from the Government and sell it out at a price to be agreed on with the Government.

The Chartering Committee met yesterday and decided on chartering a steamer capable of bringing a load of 3300 tons. It is hoped to arrange for the freighting of about 16,000 tons by this special steamer. This, in addition to the 6000 tons by the "Alconda," will suffice to supply all demands; and if Conception Bay remains ice free a load may be sent to the Bay and landed at Harbor Grace and Bay Roberts, or where required most urgently. The coal situation is now well in hand, and all fears of a coal famine dispersed. It is another instance of the influence of the Opposition Party and the eagerness of the Government to escape from critical positions when compelled by public opinion.

The question of providing tonnage for the export of fish to Europe and the importation of salt for next spring is engaging the Government's attention and was discussed yesterday with Mr. Coaker and Mr. R. B. Job; and the trade has any suggestion or proposals to make to the Government respecting those matters, it will now be in order to bring the same to the notice of the Government. Mr. Coaker and Mr. Job that the Government is ready to assist to the fullest extent any reasonable proposals. The trade will therefore be to blame if they fail to avail of the Premier's offer.

The next matter of importance is the opening of the Legislature at the earliest possible date in order to get the work of the session over as soon as possible and to dispose of several important matters which now agitate the public. We trust the Government will see its way to open the House not later than the second week in February, and a proclamation fixing a date for the opening should at once be decided upon.

MR. O'MARA'S LETTER

In yesterday's News, Mr. M. J. O'Mara, Inspector of Weights and Measures, formerly partner in the printing firm of Devine and O'Mara, draws public attention to the fact that two of the City dailies have been publishing in their columns under different headings a series of local and other incidents copied from "Notable Events" compiled by Devine and O'Mara.

As far as this paper goes we can assure Mr. O'Mara that we have no desire to take credit for this work, and if we have previously omitted to give credit "where credit is due" it was purely an oversight and one we regret very much indeed.

We agree with Mr. O'Mara that this work took time and labor and we think that the reading public of Newfoundland, particularly the older folk, are under a debt of gratitude to the publishers for placing before us these reminders of days gone by. Our idea in reproducing them in The Mail and Advocate was to recall to public mind many events in the past life of our Country now forgotten, and to give the younger generation a brief outline of men and happenings of former days.

We honestly understood that our "Gleanings of Gone-by-Days" were known by the general public to be taken from this work. In conversation with many of our friends who from time to time made references to the many interesting events which we have portrayed day by day, we have always been known the fact that we took them from the book published by Devine and O'Mara. However, we now have pleasure

OUR SCHOOLS

WE think it high time for somebody in authority to call halt to such extravagances, as we cannot afford to squander "public monies" in such fads; and we also think that we have more educational empiricists than we have actual educators. If these faddists wish to continue along the lines of present effort, let them insist that payment be made by those for whom the new-fangled institutions are maintained. The people want none of them.

Even some of our Superintendents have become "buggy" on the fringe side of educational work; and we have read so many suggestions and programmes of improved methods, that we have decided that even these academicians have not the correct purview of our educational needs. These gentlemen should not forget that they are simply stewards of the public funds, and that jejune recommendations should not necessarily be adopted in an educational curriculum without the endorsement of wiser people. Whilst we have great respect for these officials we believe that the time has come when we need a department to which they should be directly responsible. The present educational machinery is decidedly unsatisfactory; and the Department of the Colonial Secretary is neither competent nor capable to deal with such a vast amount of business as it is burdened with.

Amongst other existing anomalies in the educational domain we notice by the Reports that though our educational grant has been increased more than 90 per cent. within the last decade, the amounts under the actual control of the School Boards have not increased 10 per cent. The major part of the increased grants is under the direct control of the respective Superintendents who allocate this increase under such headings as "augmentation" and "supplemental" allowances to teachers.

We ask, why should there be either augmentation or supplemental grants, at all? The Chairman of the Boards are the men most deeply interested in educational progress, and to them, and not to the Superintendents, is due chiefly the efficiency of certain outport schools, though the kudos is usually appropriated (if we may use the term) by the Superintendents, whose visits to the schools, in some instances, at least, are like the inhabitants of another sphere, "few and far between."

We are spending money enough to have better results; but we shall not have better results until teachers are better equipped for the profession. The country is being flooded by successful C.H.E. candidates who enter upon their work with little or no pedagogical training, and with, in some cases, no knowledge of subjects which in this country are essential.

The fact is that we had better teaching and far better results twenty-five years ago than we have to-day in our outport schools. Navigation was then considered a sine qua non, and the old fashioned "Rule of Three" was taught efficiently and effectively.

Geography had not yet become a lost art; and even junior pupils knew the difference between a liquid tun and a solid tun. They knew something about Newfoundland History, and had some acquaintance with the nature of our staple industry.

If the \$10,000 and other sums now being wasted in so-called schools in Newfoundland, we again insist upon the establishment of night schools where our young men may acquire at least rudimentary knowledge of Navigation and the development of the fishing industry. There must be in most of our larger outports a

Higher Education were spent in the training of competent teachers and the rewarding of pupils in proficiency of necessary subjects we should have fewer misfits socially and economically.

We have been informed that there is likely to be a further demand for development along the fringe line; but we sincerely trust that we are not going to witness any further spoliation from educational grants.

We need better education for our outport youth; and we shall let nothing arrest our plea for this; for we believe that educationally we are simply grasping at the shadows and losing sight of the substance, like the dog in the fable. We are destined by Providence to be first and above all a fishing people; and we should direct educational efforts towards improving present conditions.

One of the most important planks in the platform of the F.P.U. is the raising of the fishermen's status by education; and we shall carry out our program in due time. It should not be necessary to compel any Government to make efforts for the amelioration of the conditions of our greatest economic factors: self-preservation should make our law-makers understand the importance of the issue.

We get hysterical over a London University success, and jubilate hilariously over a Rhodes scholarship. These are all very well in their turn; but we would like to know how many Newfoundland Rhodes scholars have "made good"? Is there an Oxonian who has ever become a producer of wealth in this Colony? Is there one who has ever been a leader in anything worth while? Should there be any such we would like to know just where he is, or what he has done. We do know that nearly every Rhodes scholar that Newfoundland has sent to Oxford has returned either a prig or a drone in the social hive.

We believe in the development of "the Imperial idea"; but this necessarily implies colonial development, not in a Utopian but in an economic sense. Development depends upon intelligent and capable economic factors; and we say that an intelligent and capable fisherman is worth a dozen academic ninnies.

The December issue of "Conservation" has an interesting editorial note which is just as applicable to conditions here as to conditions elsewhere; in fact more so, as Canada is not in the true sense of the term a maritime country, though it has provinces which are. The note refers to a recently delivered address by Professor Robertson who sometime visited Newfoundland in an advisory capacity to the Governor. We may say that we shall have the privilege of reproducing Professor Robertson's entire address shortly. "Conservation" says:

"Education was the key note of the recent conference on Fisheries held by the Fisheries Committee of the Conservation at Ottawa. Dr. J. W. Robertson urged the necessity of supporting maritime districts with schools to train boys and young men for the fisherman's vocation. He pointed out that Great Britain, France, Holland, and Germany have schools where fishermen are taught not only the arts of Navigation but the best methods of curing and preparing fish for market; and he advocated the establishment of such schools in Canada."

Pending the establishment of schools in Newfoundland, we again insist upon the establishment of night schools where our young men may acquire at least rudimentary knowledge of Navigation and the development of the fishing industry. There must be in most of our larger outports a

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

JANUARY 12

HON. JAMES ANGEL born in Halifax, N.S., 1838. Laurence O'Brien Furlong born 1856.

Harbor Grace gas works burnt, 1860.

F. J. Wyatt appointed agent Inman line steamers, 1870.

Michael Carroll, Bonavista, lectured on seals and their habits, T. A. Hall, 1873.

Late Sir Ambrose Sea elected for Harbor Grace by acclamation, 1874.

Thomas Dwyer (Halifax) and Miss M. Parker married, 1886.

Capt. W. Taylor of Munn & Co.'s brig, Kestrel, presented with binocular glass, by Danish Government, for rescuing two seamen in mid-ocean, 1894.

A large butterfly caught on W. & G. Rendell's wharf, 1894.

THE BALLAD OF BETHLEHEM STEEL
—OR—
THE NEED FOR PREPAREDNESS

A Tale of the Ticker

By Grace Isabel Colbron

In The Public

A PORT is taken, the papers say, Five thousand dead in the murderous deal.

A victory? No, just another grim day.

But . . . up to five hundred goes Bethlehem Steel.

A whisper, a rumor, one knows not where . . .

A sigh, a prayer from a torn heart . . .

A murmur of Peace on the death-laden air . . .

But . . . Bethlehem Steel drops thirty per cent.

"We'll fight to the death" the diplomats cry . . .

"We'll fight to the death" sigh the weary men . . .

As the battle roars to the shuddering sky . . .

And . . . Bethlehem Steel has a rise of ten.

What matters the loss of a million men?

What matters the waste of blossoming lands?

The children's cry or the women's pain?

If Bethlehem Steel at six hundred stands?

And so WE must join in the slaughter-mill.

WE must arm ourselves for a senseless hate.

WE must waste our youths in the murder drill . . .

That Bethlehem Steel may hold its state.

number of men competent to instruct the younger people, at least in Navigation. This would not be purely experimental, as we have already seen such work being done by private initiative. We hope the "powers that be" will wake up to the crying demand for such work as this.

Where are the night schools Morris promised in the Governor's opening speech in 1913? When will he do anything to aid the working men to secure an improved education. Let it be remembered, that the F.P.U. Bonavista platform contains a plank to establish night schools in all the larger settlements.

FISH For Sale!

We have a quantity of large Eating Fish, suitable for retailers. Price very reasonable. This is a splendid chance for Shopkeepers to secure supplies at Two Dollars per qtl. less than usual price.

Fishermen's Union Trading Co.,
Provision Department.

Notice!

THE Third Annual Meeting of Harbor Grace District Council will be held at BAY ROBERTS on the 18th instant at 11 a.m. Prior to the Meetings of the Convention all Local Councils will please send Delegates.

A. MORGAN,
Chairman.

Notice!

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of Port-de-Grave District Council will be held on the AFTERNOON of MONDAY, the 17th instant, at 2.30 p.m., at Brigus. All Local Councils will please send Delegates and prepare any resolutions to be submitted to the Meeting or the Convention which meets at Bay Roberts the following day.

GEO. GRIMES,
Dis. Chairman.

Notice!

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of Bay-de-Verde District Council of the F.P.U. will be held at JOB'S COVE on the 18th instant, after the arrival of the train from Carbonear. All Councils will please send Delegates and prepare any resolutions to be submitted to the meeting.

A. G. HUDSON,
Chairman.

Reid-Newfoundland Co.

Columbia Ignitor Cells.

We have just received a shipment of the world-celebrated No. 6 DRY CELLS.

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