

NOTICE

THE First Annual Convention of the Conception Bay District Council of the F.P.U. will be held at BAY ROBERTS on MONDAY, the 18th instant. The Convention will open at 4 p.m. at the F.P.U. Hall. All Officers of District Councils and Local Councils of the F.P.U. in the Districts of Harbor Main, Port-de-Grave, Harbor Grace, Carbonear and Bay-de-Verde are members of the Conception Bay District Council and should be present at the Convention. Any such Council through its Delegates, may by resolution bring any matter before the Convention. A Permanent Official, to attend to Union matters in Conception Bay will be selected.

W. F. COAKER,
Chairman C.B.D.C.

St. John's, January 3rd, 1916.

UNION SPIRIT GROWING AT GRAND BANK

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir.—You will be glad to hear how our Union is getting along at Grand Bank. A bright idea struck Bro. John W. Matthews and he has built us a hall over his work-shop. Last week we had our first tea and entertainment, which was a great success. Invitations were sent to Rev. Mr. Lench and Adjutant Harding, S.A. and both gentlemen kindly accepted and consented to address the after-meeting.

The Adjutant who has seen a lot of Union work in different places of the North, gave us a good Union speech. He spoke of improvements in the lumber camps and the better conditions in the sealing steamers and other matters. He said "Why Wouldn't I like the Union? When I was in Bonavista I saved \$22.50 on one year's coal bill by buying from the Union Store."

Parson Lench confessed that he didn't know much about the Union at first sight, but Union was a good word. That the Union, he thought,

ought not to exist, to make a bad feeling between merchant and fisherman or to make a great gulf between them, but to bring about better relations and to bridge over little misunderstandings, that both might live together and carry on the business of the country in perfect love and good will.

Parson Lench kept us interested for more than an hour with his address and solos. Votes of thanks were passed to our President, Benjamin Parry, to the Rev. C. Lench and Adjutant Harding and to the ladies. When our principles are better understood our roll will increase more and more. A visit from President Coaker would do us a world of good and we are looking forward to it with great pleasure.

Thanking you, Mr. President, for the help you gave to the Prohibition fight,
I remain yours in love and duty,
ONE OF THE NUMBER,
Grand Bank, Dec. 28, 1915.

"Within the Law"

"Within the Law" the opening play of the Klark-Urban Company has been a success from the initial performance. It caught the fancy of the crowd from the outset, held the audiences in tense interest, won a fusillade of

laughter by its comedy, and finally has swept on, to the longest run in New York City's theatrical history. "Within the Law" will be presented at the Casino Theatre on Monday evening with all special scenery and electrical effects, the same as the original production. Seats on sale at Atlantic Bookstore.

The Direct Agencies, Limited

beg to announce that the Thos. Davidson Mfg. Co., Montreal, have established a branch in St. John's, and are prepared to fill orders promptly for all lines of Colonial and Cherrystone enamel-ware at lowest factory prices. Send for our Price List.

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The Cold-Blooded Coal Dealers and Their Clever Planned Robbery

(To Editor of the Mail and Advocate.)
Dear Sir.—Allow me to offer you my most heartfelt congratulations on the rattling, scorching editorial upon the coal crisis, as published in your issue of Tuesday.

Permit me to add that my sentiments are also expressive of the sentiments of the suffering masses of St. John's who are confronted with a situation the most brutal, the most horrible, and the most intolerable within our living memories.

You have thrown a searchlight of vast power from a brilliant intellect upon this terrible calamity, and you have displayed, moreover, a compassionate heart that has won for Mr. Coaker the eternal gratitude of every man, woman and child in this suffering community.

All of this sir, affords a most striking proof that the heart of President Coaker, the great friend of the fishermen, beats in unison with the hearts of us all, and that when the occasion seeks the man Mr. Coaker is ever ready, generous and willing, to be also the friend and defender of the suffering toilers of St. John's.

How different is this noble, true-hearted attitude of President Coaker to the ignoble, contemptible plea put forward by John Alexander Robinson in the "News." To one, the outpouring of a genuine friend of the people, in defence of the people's rights; whilst the other displays the tactics of a puppet, whose strings are pulled by the hand of monopoly, in a clownish act to distract the people from their tortures.

Then look at the "Herald" also with its load of overbearing insults in the shape of interviews, piled on top of all the crucifying injuries inflicted on the people; interviews that reek with the stinking outpourings of a brood of blood suckers whose presence for the future should never be tolerated in our midst.

Let McGrath go into the homes of the sufferers to-day and let him print their feelings on the coal crisis, so that the country and the world may get the side of the situation that is calling aloud to the God of Justice in the Heavens for relief from a wickedness unparalleled in its ravages. Let McGrath tell the coal dealers to practise economy themselves instead of suggesting it to people whose very lives from beginning to end are subject to the most rigid principles of the strictest possible economy. What nonsense to talk about economy to the labourer, the clerk or mechanic, with their sweat shop earnings scarcely half enough sufficient to keep body and soul together.

The whole city is waiting to join Mr. Coaker in a mass meeting to denounce this robbery and rascality for all barriers of political division have been swept aside to clear the field for an open fight against the foe that now confronts us. You have bravely raised aloft the people's flag by the vindication of the people's rights and in defiance of the pirate's flag raised by the coal dealers of St. John's; and you have said to Premier Morris do what the people by the law of right demands.

There is but one right and proper answer expected to your challenge sir, and unless that right and proper answer is returned then the law of common sense, the law of self-protection, must be invoked to obtain the right to the ordinary necessities of life, to the enjoyment of a shred of liberty, and to the possession of even a shadow of happiness which the coal pirates now dare to refuse us.

To-day in this city of St. John's the amount of suffering has already reached a degree terrible in its intensity, and holds out for the future in its ravages and desolation a sight too horrible and appalling to think of. And who are the cause of it all? And who are the men that having the power to prevent it, failed to do so?

I am told that in cold-blooded meeting, there assembled in this city on New Year's Eve, a gang of men called Coal Merchants; that it was upon that day and at that meeting the robbery was planned; a highway outrage which, in a few short hours of what should be a bright New Year, has blighted the homes of our honest, industrious people; an outrage, sir, that will leave its trace for ever in the annals of Newfoundland; an outrage that will leave its withering impress on the homes of the workers and cause a wreckage of broken happiness from distress and physical infirmities as gruesome as any ravages of war.

The whole world stood aghast and justly so at the atrocities committed by the Huns in Belgium, and another thrill of horror was felt when the Lusitania's passengers went to the bottom, but I claim that the outrage

of the coal sharks is in a sense worse indeed than either of the others. I say this because those who lost their lives in the other instances were not, at least, subjected to a slow and lingering death amidst the frosts and snows of a rigid arctic winter as many a poor honest unfortunate creature will have to endure this season in St. John's unless a remedy be provided.

I know there is many a home to-day whose bread winner has been forced by the coal dealers to accept the choice of seeing his family starve or freeze to death; there are many poor innocent children in their ill-protected homes to-day contracting chills and sickness that will either send their bodies to premature graves or cripple for ever their intellects and limbs. And all of this suffering will ensue because of the relentless robbery of the coal sharks.

Is Harvey's home to-night practising economy or is he without a tub of coal to give warmth to little suffering children who are shivering in their shivering mother's arms?

Are the Morey habits without the spark of fuel that is lacking to-day in the home of many a bread-winner? Is Crosbie's stomach any slacker or his furnace fires less glowing from the practise of economy? Not likely, whilst coal profits can be grabbed from the pockets of the toilers.

Let the coal dealers go into the homes of the poor to-night and witness the abomination of desolation they have caused and then let them seek from their conscience their obvious duty towards those whose lives they are despoiling.

And what of the members of the Government who permit this outrage? They too must be called to a strict account and will not be permitted to escape from their share of guilt in not promptly jumping on the outrage. Public opinion is now beyond the boiling point and unless the situation is at once relieved the consequences will be alarming and appalling.

To Mr. Coaker all eyes are now turned in this, our darkest hour, but we have implicit faith that he will stand to his guns on our behalf, that he will wrench the horns, so to speak, from this bull of iniquity, and consign its carcass to the dungeon of the deep.

Come on then, Mr. Coaker and lead the army of the people whithersoever you may wish, for we know that with you in the lead we are sure to win this fight. True, we were not always with you, but you have gone so often through the crucible of danger and of trouble and proved yourself of such sterling worth, that we are now only too eager to join you in any undertaking you desire. You have the ring of true sincerity, Mr. Coaker, in all your actions and you have the courage that fears no danger.

Lead off then, sir, in the championship and defence of the toilers of St. John's against the depredations of the coal dealers. Drive the Government also to its proper duty in the matter and you will speedily find we are with you to a man, aye, even the women and children too. We shall all rally determinedly around you and once the battle is begun we shall not cease to follow in your struggle to defeat the most infamous brood of vampires that ever infested this native land of our.

REFORMER.
St. John's, N.F., Jan. 6, 1915.

The weather at Bay of Islands has been intensely frosty the past week or so and ice is rapidly forming there. The herring catchers have all left there, as herrings are scarce and the catch is thousands of barrels short of other seasons, while Bonne Bay records a record catch.

EUGENE SANDOW IS SHOT AS SPY?

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 1.—Eugene Sandow, renowned athlete, reputed to be the strongest man in the world, has been executed in London Tower, after facing a military court on the charge of being a German spy, according to Mrs. M. A. Harper, head of the Harper Institute of London, who is a visitor here.

"There can be no doubt that Sandow was shot," said Mrs. Harper. "I know all the leading physical culturists of London, many of them close friends of the athlete, and despite the silence of the authorities and the censorship, we have obtained indisputable evidence of the execution last June."

Sandow formerly conducted a great physical culture establishment in London. When rumors that he was a sympathizer with the German began to spread, he suddenly dropped from sight.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND PARTNERSHIP!

Hon. R. A. Squires, K.C., LL.B. ANNOUNCES the removal of his LAW OFFICES to the New BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA Building at the corner of Beck's Cove and Water Street, and the formation of a PARTNERSHIP for general practice as Barristers, Solicitors and Notaries, with MR. J. A. WINTER, eldest son of the late Sir James S. Winter, K.C., under the firm name of Squires & Winter.
Address: Bank of Nova Scotia Building,
January 3rd, 1916. St. John's.

Hon. R. A. Squires, K.C., LL.B. Mr. J. A. Winter

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