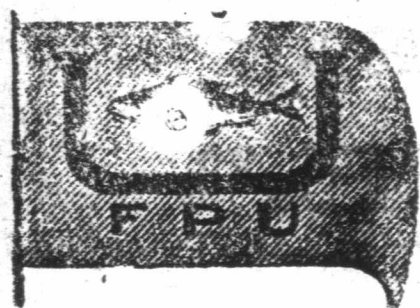


For Sale**\$3,000
Government
Bonds.****J. J. ROSSITER
Real Estate Agent**

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE."



("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate
Issued every day from the office of
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JOHN J. ST. JOHN

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., DEC. 29th., 1915.

Steel Ships

ONE result of the war, so far as Newfoundland is concerned, will be the loss of the fleet of steel steamers which were built expressly for prosecuting the seal fishery. The Bonaventure, Bella-venture, Adventure, Beothic, Nascope and Iceland—six powerful icebreakers—have passed into foreign hands and will not be likely to return to Newfoundland owners again. The Nascope was owned in equal parts by the Hudson Bay Co. and Job Bros—Jobs recently sold their interest in the ship to the Hudson Bay Co. and the Nascope has virtually passed out of Newfoundland control. The foreign shipping of this Colony will immensely suffer by these changes, but it is just likely the sealing industry will immensely profit by the change. The result will be that a new fleet of auxiliary vessels about the size of the Neptune will be built to prosecute the seal fishery and those ships will make capital foreign carriers and will solve the problem of how to make medium sized sealing vessels paying adventures during the whole year round.

The Government should during the coming session of the Legislature pass a law guaranteeing 10 per cent. dividends for ship-building docks under proper supervision, and also pay a bonus of say \$20 per ton for all vessels constructed as auxiliary foreign or coasting vessels from 100 tons to 500—such a bonus to hold good for ten years. A bonus of \$10 per ton per year should be paid to owners of auxiliary vessels who prosecute the seal fishery, such bonus should be payable for ten years.

The result of such a policy would be to (a) establish three or more ship-building yards, employing 100 men each; (b) the establishment of a fleet of auxiliary sealing vessels as large as the largest wooden steamer which being available for coasting and foreign shipping would be a splendid paying investment; (c) the establishment of a fleet of vessels absolutely necessary in order to market the produce of the fisheries, and thus remove the menace to the trade of the Colony which has been brought about by the withdrawal of the fleet of steel steamers; any of such vessels would carry as many seals as the larger wooden steamers and would be large enough to carry 10,000 qtls. of dry fish.

We venture to state that if such a policy is adopted by the Government that within ten years the whole seal fishery and foreign shipping situation would be changed, and any amount of capital would be forthcoming for such a purpose. The Colony would be called upon to spend \$100,000 per year for ten years in order to establish the change, but \$150,000 would be expended yearly in labor, while the great expense of operating steamers that are unprofitable except while engaged in the seal fishery would be saved and immense commercial advantages would be derived from such a policy.

Action is now essential. The coming session of the Legislature must behold some such action or fatal consequences must follow. The first essential step, is to prohibit the use of large steel steamers in the seal fishery. That law being enacted the Government should then encourage ship-building docks, the building of superior vessels of large tonnage, and the introduction of such vessels as sealing ships and freight carriers.

We appeal to the Premier, today, to consider such action as outlined above, and do something to carry out such a policy during the coming session of the Legislature. Such a policy would receive the unanimous support of the House of Assembly and be backed by a solid people. Will Sir Edward be equal to the task?

Our Views Endorsed

WE have several times discussed the necessity of affording the people in our outports better educational facilities, and we have made suggestions which, if taken up by the educational authorities, would certainly have the desired result. Of course, we lay no claim to being educational experts; but we do claim that a long experience of outport life has taught us lessons which are not learned in ordinary schools. Possibly, our tinsel-titled Inspectors imagine that they are the only people whose opinions in this connection are the only ones worth while. The Inspectors are very worthy men in their own way; but judging from their annual reports—hardly stereotyped annuals—they even have a good deal to learn. We have just been examining some of these Reports, and have taken a ten years' period; and candidly, with an occasional variation, such as a discussion of the Montessori system, and Domestic Science fads, the Reports' whole decennial period are precisely of the same texture and form. There is the usual wail of "inability to reach certain sections owing to the lateness of the season," etc., etc. If our Inspectors lack the time for their official duties, we insist that they should not engage in side shows. There are others who could fill positions and discharge self-imposed obligations. We trust that during the coming year we shall find these gentlemen doing, and doing solely, the work for which they are being handsomely paid.

In a recent number of the "Journal of Commerce" there is an endorsement of our views regarding the importance of night schools and the using of schools as a medium of instruction in the outports. It may even be tried out in the city; but there is not such a necessity here, as Rev. Dr. Greene and his helpers are doing commendable work in teaching those who are unable to attend day classes. We would like to see several such men as Dr. Greene in the city.

The article in the "Journal of Commerce" is from the pen of the Manager of the "Educational and Industrial Press." Mr. Harpell, who recently visited Newfoundland. Mr. Harpell is, so we are informed by a personal friend, a graduate of Queen's University, and is recognized as an economist and educationalist of high standing; and he taught in Ontario for

many years. So his suggestions and observations are worthy of consideration. They are especially applicable to Newfoundland. His visit to the Colony was purely educational; and we understand he was very highly impressed with things here. He says:

"After several year's experience in public school, high school and University work in the Province of Ontario, the writer has some idea of the difficulties that confront the teacher who is anxious to give the maximum service to the district in which he or she is engaged. The work done by the pupils in the school depends so much upon the interests, ideas and general environment of the section, and particularly of the home from which the pupils come, that the best results can be obtained only where the teacher's interests are not confined to the routine of the work during school hours, or where his or her reading extends beyond the theoretical study of text books.

"Every school district, no matter how large or small, prosperous or otherwise, has latent possibilities capable of contributing much to the general betterment. Nothing converts these latent possibilities into actualities, like new ideas. New ideas on anything—anything that will interest and start a person thinking and hence reading along useful lines.

"Everyone's experience is worth something to others, and this conviction encourages the writer to say, that as a school teacher, his best work was done in the school only after he had succeeded in convincing the section that the school house afforded opportunities for everyone, young and old. This was most successfully accomplished by the formation of a literary society which, in its nature, particularly during the winter months, was little else than a night school. The meetings were held from half-past seven to ten on such evenings as best suited the convenience of the largest number in the section. One evening was devoted to reading, another to writing, and another to a combination of all three, blended with a little music and some into the programme for social entertainment. Often, this programme was varied by a debate or an address.

"These exercises in reading, writing, and arithmetic can be made sufficiently wide and practical, to reach and interest all classes, from the person who can do little of either to those possessing a fairly good education. One helps the other. It requires some courage to make the start; but every section possesses one or more persons with the necessary confidence and resourcefulness. Once started along right lines, the movement gathers momentum and carries itself.

"In one poor school section, in which the writer taught for a fall term, where the average attendance of day scholars was about ten little ones, whose progress from week to week, or even from month to month, was difficult to detect, the average attendance at the literary society or night class was over thirty, and the progress, even from day to day, was perceptible. His experience in a village school with an average attendance of over eighty day scholars was that the comparative progress of those attending the literary classes was equally satisfactory.

"In some such way as this, every person in the section can be made to feel the value of continuing to apply the keys to knowledge received during his or her early years in the common school. It creates a new and interesting life in the section, for the teacher as well as others. It arouses a general interest in education throughout the section and in each home. This encourages the day scholars, who make greater progress in their work. It keeps the young people in the district, and encourages the big boys and girls to re-

main at school, particularly during the winter months, longer than they otherwise would.

"The great handicap in the writer's experience, in the part he took in this work as a school teacher, was his lack of general knowledge concerning the industry, commerce, finance and other activities of the people of this and other countries.

"The main purpose of our movement—the publishing of Educational Supplements—is to fill this need. In addition to supplying useful and interesting reading on practical subjects, at a price within the reach of all, we will be glad to assist in any other way that we can. We desire to encourage some one in every school section, and, as far as possible, in every home to get into communication with us and see if we cannot be of some assistance to them in their work. . . . Education and industry stand in close relation to each other; and this movement can be made the link that binds them together."

An Educational Supplement dealing with the history, life, and industries of our people will be issued shortly; and it will be a very comprehensive study. It is being compiled for Mr. Harpell by one who is thoroughly conversant with the Colony, so this Supplement will have the effect of advertising Newfoundland where even its existence has hardly been known. We have suffered a good deal in the past from the writings of irresponsible penny-a-liners who have come to our shores, and after a sojourn of a week or two have written columns of rubbish about us.

We trust that Mr. Harpell's efforts will meet the success that they deserve.

We notice that "The Canadian Fisherman" has now on its title page "The Commercial Fisheries of Canada and Newfoundland." This is a sign that we are becoming more widely known; and readers of this periodical must have noticed that every number of it contains splendid articles dealing with our great industry. These are being widely read, and must be valuable to the trade. We reproduce many of these articles in our columns, and we have had several communications from readers telling us how they appreciate them.

**GLEANINGS OF
GONE BY DAYS**

December 29

WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE born 1809.

Funeral of Weston Carter, attended by thousands of citizens, 1869.

Martin Grinslet drowned in harbor, 1882.

John S. Keating appointed treasury clerk, Custom House, 1889.

Rev. J. H. Bull, married, 1887.

The old fever hospital at Riverhead, situated in present park grounds, burnt at 4 a.m. to-day, by order of the City Council; the fire company was present to confine fire to the building, 1888.

Bishop Howley (late Archbishop) paid first visit, after his installation in St. John's diocese, to Star of the Sea Hall, 1895.

Judge Prowse received autograph and portrait from Her Majesty the Queen, 1895.

**OCHRE PIT COVE
NEW ROAD BOARD**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—On the 16th inst., in the Orange Hall at Western Bay, the election for a new Road Board took place, their being a goodly number present. At the appointed hour, ten in the forenoon, John J. Perry, convenor of the meeting, took the chair and appointed Levi Butt, Secretary. After reading and explaining according to instructions the main features of the Act and the regulations governing the proceedings, he asked the meeting to fix the number of members to constitute the Board; the number was five. The nomination then took place when sixteen candi-

dates were nominated; there were five Union candidates elected, their names are as follows: Albert Tuff, Jonathan Sellars, George Kennel, James M. Crowley and Wm. J. Whalen.

Yours truly,

UNIONIST.

Ochre Pit Cove, Dec. 24, '15.

OUR MOTHER

How oft some passing word will tend
In visions to recall
Our truest, dearest, fondest friend—
That earliest friend of all.

Who tended on our childish years,
Those years that pass as hours,
When all earth's dewy, trembling tears
Lie hid within her flowers.

Thou star that shines in darkest night,
When most we need thy aid,
Nor changes but to beam more bright
When others coldly fade.

Oh, Mother! round thy hallowed name
Such blissful memory springs.
The heart in all but years the same,
With reverent worship clings.

Thy voice was first to greet us,
When
Bright fortune smiling o'er us,
And thine the hand that readiest
To lift the veil before us.

Or if dark clouds close round our head

And care steals o'er the brow,
While hope's fair flowers fall
Crushed and dead,
Unchanged still art thou.

—Heart Throbs, Vol. I.

Philadelphia Press:—It was the panic on the Ancona that caused the loss of life, according to the statement of the Austrian submarine commander, who ignores what caused the panic.

ADVERTISE IN

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

NOTICE

ALL Trinity District Assessments for the District Council should be sent to the Treasurer, MR. GEORGE FOWLOW, of Phillip, Trinity East.

J. G. STONE, D.C.

dec24,2m,d&w

We advise trappers to send their Furs to Nfld. Fox Exchange, 276 Water Street.—nov23

**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 enamelware at lowest factory prices. Send for our Price List.

**The Direct Agencies,
Limited.****BIG BARGAINS
IN FURS**

We are clearing out some lines of FUR COLLARS and STOLEs, that are left over, at a GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE, some less than HALF PRICE.



Brown Marmot Collars that were \$10.00. Selling now for . . . \$ 3.00.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$16.00. Selling now for . . . 6.00.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$15.00. Selling now for . . . 7.50.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$18.00. Selling now for . . . 9.00.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$30.00. Selling now for . . . 15.00.

Brown Marmot Stoles that were \$10.00. Selling now for . . . \$ 6.00.

Brown Marmot Stoles that were \$ 9.00. Selling now for . . . 6.60.

Brown Opposom Stoles that were \$15.00. Selling now for . . . 11.00.

Brown Opposom Stoles that were \$20.00. Selling now for . . . 12.00.

Brown Opposom Stoles that were \$26.00. Selling now for . . . 18.00.

Mole Squirrel Stoles that were \$3.00. Selling now for . . . 2.00.

Black Coney Seal Collars that were \$6.00. Selling now for . . . 3.50.

Brown Coney Seal Collars that were \$6.00. Selling now for . . . 3.00.

STEER BROTHERS**Reid-Newfoundland Co.****NEW YEAR'S EXCURSION.**

Return Tickets at one rate first class fare, good going December 30th, 31st and January 1st, and good returning January 3rd.