

Toilers Final Fight For Liberty

F.P.U. Fight Now Against Bowings, Whose Word Is No Longer Their Bond, History of Trickery and Dishonor Exposed. Munn and Eric Bowring Responsible.

The Bowings' Type of Philanthropy

Clearing About \$5,000,000 and Gave St. John's \$50,000 For a Park—Forgot Their Thanks were Due the Fishermen—No Pension For Life-Long Planters or Fishermen Who Gave Them All They Earned and Wore Themselves Out as Dealers of the Firm

IT WILL PROVE ONE OF THE GREATEST CURSES THAT EVER BEFELL ST. JOHN'S AND WILL DIE THE DEATH OF ALL PLACES OF QUESTIONABLE RESORT

They Have None to Aid the Poor and Destitute in the Colony or at St. John's Who Have Become Needy Because of War Conditions—They Have None to Improve the Hospital Grounds Where Suffering Humanity is Compelled to Exist Anyway During the Beautiful Summer Days

IMPROVEMENT OF GROUND AND A FEW FLOWER PLOTS WOULD BRING GLADNESS AND PLEASURE TO THOSE WHO PASSED THROUGH THE SHADOW OF DEATH

They Were Not Free With Their Money When Green Bay Forest Fire Raged When Hundreds of Poor Fishermen Lost Their Homes—Were Driven to the Water Front to Save Their Lives From Destruction From Fire and Were Appalled by the Awful Position They Were Driven to—Having Fire Behind Them and the Sea at Their Feet

BOWINGS have been praised as public spirited, because after 100 years carrying on business and clearing about Five Million Dollars—they gave St. John's West \$50,000 for a park.

They forgot that their thanks were due the fishermen who enabled them to make this large sum of money. There was no pension for life-long planters or fishermen who gave them all they earned and wore themselves out as dealers of the firm.

They wanted to make a big show and make St. John's talk and without much consideration they offered \$50,000 for a park three miles from town. They forgot that the whole Waterford Valley was a Natural Park, such as few cities in the world possessed. They failed to see that their action would prove a glaring curse to the city rather than a blessing to the poor.

Waterford Valley A Natural Park

That park has turned out to be a hotbed of immorality, and already people visiting it in the evening hours are apt to be classed as degenerates. The walks amongst the trees are in summer crowded even at the midnight hours, and those in charge of the park find it beyond their power to clear the grounds of loose characters at proper hours.

It will prove one of the greatest curses that ever befell St. John's, and it won't be long before it will die the death of all places of questionable resort that has been provided by money wrung from the sweat of the Toilers' brows.

The curse of the god of morality is upon that dark area in Waterford Valley. This is what Bowings established to commemorate the 100th year of the firm's existence.

Bowings also gave \$11,000 to pay off obligations incurred by a few Water Street men a few years ago in purchasing property around Quidi Vidi Pond.

They had enough money to relieve other rich men from their obligations in this respect, but we have not heard that they could find a few thousand to aid the poor and destitute in the Colony or at St. John's who have become needy because of war conditions.

To Aid the Poor and Destitute in the Colony

We have not heard of their giving a few thousands to improve the Hospital grounds where suffering humanity is compelled to exist anyway, during the beautiful summer days, while a few thousand dollars properly expended on the improvements of the grounds and a few

flower plots would bring gladness and pleasure to those who have passed through the shadows of death and are longing for some little change in the monotony of their existence in the time of suffering and death.

No, thousands could be found to provide pleasure grounds for those who could use the rural walks in the city suburbs, which were prepared by Nature in such a manner as to scorn any human attempts for the improvement of them, but that bleak, disgusting, dreary, and monotonous space surrounding the General Hospital was passed by, because to improve them would be spending money for the pleasure of the sufferers, who are few as compared with the crowd—and Bowings object was to attract the public attention with their liberality and their wealth, which may eventually bring to them a blue ribbon if nothing better.

Were Driven to the Water Front by Flames

They were not so free with their money when Green Bay forest fires raged a few years ago, when hundreds of poor fishermen lost their homes, and were driven to the water front, by the flames in order to save their lives from destruction by fire, but who were appalled by the awful position they were driven to, having fire behind them and the sea at their feet.

Bowings at the request of the Government sent the Portia to embark the women and children, and remove them from danger, until the worst was over. What was the result?

Did Bowings consider that it was their duty to do all in their power to save the lives of those people?

Did they consider it a pleasure to be afforded the opportunity to do something to aid those poor settlers whose homes had been destroyed and who were without shelter or food of any sort?

No! They were greedy, uncharitable and inhuman enough to bill the Colony for the payment of One Dollar per day for each woman and child they took on board of the Prospero, and the Colony paid the bill when Bond was Premier.

Was Open To Trial For Manslaughter

They admit Kean guilty of an error of judgment. Yet they consider he did nothing to deserve losing the command of a sealing steamer.

They are too pig-headed to recognize that if Kean's error of judgment was responsible for the loss of 78 sealers and the maiming for life of 11 others, that he was open to trial for manslaughter after.

That error of judgment caused the death of 78 brave men, many of whom

left wives, children, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters to mourn their awful massacre.

Yet Munn and the Bowring feather-weight boy consider such an error of judgment as that but mud and dust, and go on to defend it in conversation, and argue that it amounts to nothing.

If Kean's error of judgment caused the loss of the *Stephano* or the *Prospero* would they or the insurance companies or the Board of Trade consider such as of no importance, or would he be at once subject to a searching enquiry and punished by losing the command of a ship?

Of course he would. Why? Because money value was in consideration. Someone's gold would have to go to pay for the error of judgment.

Creates the Guilty a Hero And Adored by Water Street

Yet in the sealing disaster case he is in Munn's estimation innocent of having done any wrong, because his error of judgment only caused the speedy death of 78 sealers and gave 11 others the chance of enduring a living death a few months or years.

The one error of judgment that caused the loss of property would bring swift punishment; but the other error of judgment—which Munn admits it only was—creates the guilty Kean a hero, and one that must be adored by Water Street's legalized robbers, because it only entailed the loss of 78 Underdogs—outport fishermen.

But as there is a God of Right and if the fishermen have not become cowards and gutless, this crime of Kean's and this dishonourable conduct of Munn's will not be passed over with impunity.

If Kean goes to the ice as captain of *Florizel*, just as sure as he does, he will at no distant day stand charged before the Bar of Justice with the result of his error of judgment that sent 78 men into eternity, and Bowings will wish Jack Munn and the other thing that represents a director had been born with more sense and brains and less impudence, cheek, vanity, conceit and puppyism.

Coaker More Popular With St. John's Masses

Their far-seeing ability and great intuition might have been better exercised a few years ago in preventing some of their employees, who became famous, from growing fat in pocket and thriving so sumptuously. Those scandals did not create a wonderful confidence in the ability of the genius to discover wrongdoing. Probably this little experience with the people will sharpen their appetite for knowledge.

We promised Munn something when this agitation started, and he smiled at the thought of us being able to deliver the goods, and we are safe in stating that not in the history of this Colony has any matter so aroused the people and provoked more sympathy for the cause of the people than this Bowring-Kean matter, and we have but touched the fringe of the subject yet.

Wherever one sees two men conversing it is about this matter of Bowings' old house being dishonoured through this Kean matter, and generally the conduct of Jack Munn is condemned, while Coaker has become more popular with St. John's masses than he has ever been.

The public are astonished over the manner in which Coaker has handled this matter and the grasp of affairs this discussion has shown him to possess.

That Coaker has proven his case conclusively and delivered the goods he promised, Bowings of Liverpool and Munn here, everyone admits.

From Conception Come Angry Words of Protest

From all parts of Conception Bay where the paper of last week has reached come angry worded protests, and when the Convention of Wednesday holds its sessions there will be very few delegates that will hesitate in handling

those disturbers of the public mind—Munn and Kean—without gloves.

The sealers who are to sign on for the wooden fleet, bound for the Gulf, must not agree to take \$3.75 for fat. They must object to any figure being placed in the agreement they are asked to sign, for more than \$3.75 will have to be paid for fat.

The *Craballs* met and fixed \$3.75 without consulting anyone on behalf of the men, and before the men will sign for \$3.75, conclusive proof of poor prices for oil and skins will have to be laid before Mr. Coaker.

Seal oil has advanced in price the last two months. Seal skins are more valuable and in greater demand than ever since the war opened. Cod oil has advanced \$30 per tun since the New Year, and seal oil is of greater value than for two years.

America is more eager to purchase seal skins than ever before, for the demands of the war have sent all sorts of leather to the highest prices known for many years, yet the Merchant Princes here say the highest value they should pay for fat is \$3.50, but they have fixed \$3.75 because they want to do all possible to help the poor.

White Coat Skin Dressed Sell in New York for \$25

We boldly state that seal oil and seal skins are worth more than they were this time last year, and no sealer will accept anything less than \$4.75—last year's price—for this year's fat.

We defy anyone in the Colony to contradict our statement.

We have already exposed the lie about New York Agents having the seal skins from 1914 catch on hand—for the *New York Fishery Gazette* clearly denies that statement.

We are informed that a white coat skin when dressed sells at New York for \$25. How comes it then that a skin and its fat is only worth \$2 when in its prime here.

The seal manufacturing firms of Job and Bowings—who now control the whole output—have cleared over One Million Dollars during the last ten years in the manufacture of seal oil and on the skins.

They sold their skins of last year before the war opened and were paid for them. If they had to hold the skins for a year it would be only what they ought to do—in view of the big profits brought about by the war in this Country, but they won't have to hold anything, and what they expect to do is to get the skins and fat for one dollar less than they paid last year and then sell at big prices, which war conditions have brought about owing to the big demand for leather for the armies.

Reckoned Without F.P.U. And Fisherman's Paper

Their Patriotism consists in crushing the life out of the poor during a war period and making big profits out of the miseries of war—because bad times take the independence and spirits out of the people—but they have reckoned without deep thinking and without giving due allowance to the great influence of the F.P.U. and the existence of a fisherman's paper.

They have stirred up a nest of hornets about their ears and before the hornets are satisfied to desist from buzzing and stinging some of them will have all they want of defying the people's wishes.

How dare a flip like Munn or a shrimp like the Bowring Boy, or a swollen-headed and conceited fool like Abraham Kean to take upon them the outrage of defying the public of Newfoundland, when matters of life and death importance, for the fishermen are at stake.

How dare five or six Water Street lords meet and take it upon themselves to cut fat one dollar per cwt. without proving to the sealers that such was absolutely necessary?

They would reply that their word so stated; that their word was their honour

and should be accepted.

Well, Bowings' firm, whose word was always their bond, said "yes" one day and afterwards cabled saying their "yes was NO," and they thereby sent their honour to the place the Germans sent the "scrap of paper" that contained their solemn guarantee, never to do what it suited their convenience to do as soon as war broke out.

Bowings' honor is—gone never more to return—and all because Munn by trickery secretly managed to stand by Kean, although he pretended he had submitted the matter of Kean's withdrawal to the managing Directors at Liverpool.

Munn's Action and Conduct Will be National Calamity

Munn's word will never again be trusted by high or low.

Munn's action will cost Bowings dearly, and if Spaniard's Bay Convention to-morrow treat Munn's trickery and Bowings' dishonourable conduct and the steamer owners' brazen impudence in attempting to reduce seals to 20 per cent of last year's value, and crush the poor during times of war, at their proper value, then Munn's action and conduct will prove a national calamity, and God only knows where it will end, for if trouble takes place at St. John's over this vile conduct of Water Street, there will be trouble at more than one outport.

At scores of places to-day the people are fomenting with indignation and hunger is striding over the land.

It won't take much to light a match here that will spread all over the North. The people North for 18 months have been insulted repeatedly by the Government and their blood has been brought to boiling point over the sealing disaster and Morris' refusal to open the House of Assembly to pass the amendments to safeguard the sealers' lives.

The Sealing Disaster Commission business added fuel to the flame, now comes the merchants' decision to cut seals one dollar and force flour that cost some of them \$5 up to \$9—and on the top of all comes Bowings' decision to withdraw Kean one day and their word dishonoured the next, because two young boys like Munn and Eric Bowring had not sense enough to grant the people's request to punish Kean by living up to the decision cabled by the Managing Directors of the *Florizel*.

Scorned Verdicts of Guilty And Decision of Principals

Kean was tried by 50 planters of Conception Bay at Coley's Point Convention and found "guilty."

He was tried by 150 planters of the North—many of them his life-long friends and neighbours—and the verdict was GUILTY, and the sentence "LOSS OF COMMAND."

Munn—that combination of all that was unholy in the old taskmasters and all that is sily in the younger taskmasters—scorned those verdicts of "Guilty," and scorned the decision of his "principals" at Liverpool, who are responsible for the management of the *Florizel*, and threatened to resign as local director if he did not get his way.

We have yet to learn what part Mr. Edgar Bowring played in this game. We know what part he played in another game a few years ago—but if Munn is correct—Edgar Bowring backed his demands from London.

We will learn sooner or later and perhaps he will be willing to state his reasons.

He is a public man and the Legislature will be the place to call him to proper account, if he ever shows his face there again.

One thing is certain, if he has backed Munn's tricks to insult the F.P.U., he will feel better in England in future than he will here—for come when he will, he will have to face the music composed by his actions in defying the universally expressed wishes of the people.

(To be continued from day to day)