

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE."



(To Every Man His Own.)

**The Mail and Advocate**

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., DEC. 3, 1914.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

**What About It?**

THE proudest man in the Colony to-day ought to be President Coaker for his estimate of the catch of fish and opinions as to conditions which would prevail in the latter part of the season have been fully borne out by facts and conditions to a marvellous degree.

The price of dry talqual shore fish to-day here is \$7.20 and the price will probably go to \$7.50, while the price of cod oil is \$80 per ton.

The stock of fish carried here is the smallest known to the trade for at least fifty years.

President Coaker estimated the shore catch to be 250,000 qtls. less than an average year, and to-day no one doubts his estimate. He stated during August and September that fish would advance to a high figure in the fall, but every buyer ridiculed his statement and fishermen even hastened to dispose of their fish at prices lower than those fixed from day to day.

The President's proposals to the Government were solid and well founded, and had the Government purchased thirty or forty thousand quintals of fish at \$6 and \$4 at the time the buyers endeavoured to slump prices in October, the Colony to-day would be able to sell the fish to local buyers at a profit of \$1.00 to \$1.50 per qtl, and Mr. Cashin would have had \$50,000 to add to the revenue, while the fishermen would be in pocket the \$200,000 lost through the slump in prices under \$6 and \$4.

The Government were frightened, when President Coaker proposed that they should buy fish and store it, and claimed that if they started buying they would have to handle 1,000,000 quintals.

They ridiculed Mr. Coaker's statement that only 30 per cent. of the shore fish was then held by the fishermen. Some of them began to reckon some 80,000 qtls. of fish still in the hands of the fishermen in St. Barbe District, while Mr. Coaker claimed that 80,000 qtls. was as much as remained to be sold in the whole North.

Some merchants were so impressed by the action of the Government in refusing to support the F.P.U. proposals as to become fully convinced that there would be a slump in prices right through the fall and sold thousands of quintals of shore fish in advance upon which they are to-day losing one dollar per quintal.

It was bad enough to have a Government of lawyers and Legislative Council Dummy Ministers, talking low prices, but that practical fish exporters should be so ill-informed as to sell thousands of quintals of shore fish that they had to purchase, at slump prices, is beyond the imagination of reasonable men.

The one remarkable feature of the slump in October was the action of two members of the Executive who refused to buy a fish's tail at \$6 but purchased all they could lay hands on when they could buy at \$5.75. Had those two men started buying when the price was \$6, there would have been no slump, and shore fish would not have fallen below \$6.

They bought about 30,000 qtls. and on the bulk of it they can to-day clear \$1.50 per qtl.

The fishermen can never forgive Sir E. P. Morris for his cowardly neglect to take measures to prevent a slump in prices in October, for he was plainly told that the crisis would be over, if arrangements were made to assist the fishermen, during the two weeks in October, when the great bulk of fish would be offering here.

Many a fisherman is sorry to-day that he did not heed the advice of President Coaker, for if Councils of the F.P.U. will look over the President's circulars sent out since the war opened they will realize that just what the President stated as his opinion is what has taken place.

The fishermen may safely say that they have lost a half million dollars by not heeding more closely President Coaker's advice.

The "great impossible" has become possible. A miracle has taken place, for not one merchant in the Country believed in August, September or Oc-

tober that the voyage was so short or that in spite of the war \$7 per qtl. would be paid for talqual shore fish.

We know of fish buyers, in August, who stated at the Board of Trade meeting of fish buyers that \$4 should be paid for dry fish and no more and, what is more, that opinion was backed by the buyers in a body. Subsequently the F.P.U. began buying at \$6 and the Council of the Board of Trade asked the Government to guarantee the buyers against loss if \$5.25 were paid.

President Coaker offered fish at \$6 in September and October and those buyers refused to purchase, stating they would buy all they wanted later at \$5.25 and \$5. One of the greatest crimes ever committed by a Government against the people is that in respect to the fish business this fall in Newfoundland and the Sinner-in-Chief is the Premier of Newfoundland to-day.

Lloyd George by his fearless stand to protect the finances of the Empire and the world since the war opened has earned a reputation that will stamp him as the greatest financial genius that ever lived and probably that ever will live, and the whole world is blessing him hourly.

Here in Newfoundland the Premier had an opportunity to utilize all the real constructive ability he possessed and he did no more to help the Country through the awful crisis than a man at the North Pole. He listened entirely to Water Street fish merchants and he absolutely refused to listen to anything proposed by the only man in the Country who knew the real conditions and whose sole aim was to help the whole Country.

The Premier lost the opportunity of his life when he turned down the proposals made and advocated by the President of the F.P.U.

The crisis in October and September called for fearless action, and such action could only be taken by a fearless man ready to consider nothing but the question of protecting the people and country.

That there has not been a revolution in the country is due to the action of this paper and President Coaker who refrained from no action that tended to keep the fish buyers alive and who fearlessly advocated measures that the great majority of men would refuse to consider.

Fancy, you Sons of Toil what would be your state to-day had you been forced to sell your shore fish at \$4 and Labrador at \$2. Those prices were actually decided upon, and had things been as they were in 1908, those prices would have been paid on this year.

Remember 1908, when you sold Labrador soft at \$1.80 for truck and \$2.40 for shore. There was no war, no nine great nations at war, no 20,000,000 soldiers facing each other on battlefields—yet this year while Armageddon is being fought and 3,000,000 soldiers are laid low by death, or illness, occasioned by war in Europe, you sold your fish at prices that gave you from 100 to 200 per cent. higher prices than prevailed in the year before the Union started and when European trade conditions were normal.

**Mob Rule**

ON Tuesday night, about 40 men, headed by Mr. Canning, of the firm of the G. M. Barr, boarded the schooner J. S. Munn, at Smith & Co.'s Wharf and took possession of her. No Sheriff was present and no writ had been issued by the Court.

Two of the schooner's crew were on board, but were overpowered. The Captain arrived on the scene, just as the lines were being slipped from Smith Co.'s Wharf and he was told that G. M. Barr's men were there to take charge of G. M. Barr's property. They, of course, overpowered the Captain, who is Edwin Kean, the fish-killer of Brookfield.

The schooner had about 1000 qtls. of fish, which belong to the Captain and men on board.

The capture was made about 9 p.m. while eight of the crew were ashore. Barr's men had motor boats to tow away the vessel and they placed her high and dry in Barr's dock.

The trouble seems to be that the schooner was registered in Barr's name and he held a Bill of Sale for her. He sold her to a man named Nash, belonging to the West Coast. Nash paid some money on her and did business with Barr, but having fallen out a year or two ago over charges in his account, he left Barr and did business with Smith & Co.

Last fall he sold the schooner to Smith & Co., who in turn sold to Captain Edwin Kean. Barr claims Nash owes him \$1700—Nash claims Barr owes him \$1000. Barr, because he holds the register and made no legal transfer, set to work on Tuesday, when Capt. Kean arrived, to capture the schooner and did so in the manner outlined.

Had Captain Kean's crew been on board it is likely some one would have been killed or shot. Then half a dozen trials would have to take place in the Supreme Court, and the country have to find \$10,000 to punish criminal

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wrongs occasioned by the action of Barr in taking charge of this schooner in the manner stated.

The crew are furious over the taking away of their 1000 qtls. of fish, which they claim was as good as stolen, as they were not aware of any trouble. They wanted to have Barr arrested yesterday for taking their fish, but wiser counsels prevailed.

What Captain Kean should have done on Tuesday night when he got his crew on board, was to send for half a dozen crews of Bonavista Bay schooners and taken the vessel from Barr's Wharf, even if he had broken a dozen heads in so doing, which would have taught a lesson to all business men who endeavor to settle their troubles by the aid of mob rule.

"Might is Right," says him of the German mailed fist—and "Might is Right" says Mr. G. M. Barr, "for if I can't get the schooner back by fair means, I will by the mob rule of Might, and Might conquers, while Right would have had to wait for weeks in order to allow the Court to decide."

This is a serious matter for the fishermen and unless stopped the planters will often look for their schooners after their evening's cruise in Water Street, where they led them on during the day, but will find them, fish and all, in the possession of some business man who had a dispute over an account with the man the planter bought his schooner from and have to hire a dozen lawyers to get his own fish back and the good money he paid for the schooner he thought was his own.

We presume Barr will now sue Captain Kean for the hire of the schooner the past summer. Why not do so, Mr. Barr, and cover yourself with the glory and the curses of 40,000 fishermen of your adopted country?

**Nothing Done Yet**

ON Monday last we made reference in these columns to the plight of two poor women on Bannerman Street, and said if something were not done very soon, that we should take her matter up again.

Up to last night nothing had been done. We did not expect that there would, but when we went there last night, we confess to a shock on beholding the poor creatures in exactly the same condition of neglect.

We want the public to pay attention to what we are about to say, and then ask themselves if it is not about time that officialdom in this town got a rude awakening. We gave all concerned in the continuance of this crime of official indifference a chance to do something to save their faces and they have been too supine or lazy or indifferent to make a move. Well, perhaps, we can move them, and move them much farther than they may regard as comfortable. On the fifth of October last a gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of the hotel referred to, moved by the suffering of those two poor human beings, addressed a letter to Inspector-General Sullivan, calling his attention to the sad case, and asking that something be done.

Something was done. Sullivan sent Sergt. Dawe to make enquiry. Sergt.

Dawe discovered a defective chimney, and made his report. So ended the matter as far as the police are concerned. They have done nothing more.

The attention of the Board of Health was called to the filthy conditions surrounding the residence of those two wretched human beings. The Health Inspector was sent. What report he made to the Board we do not know, but, are we correct in surmising that his report was favorable to the perpetuation of the evil. It must have been, for the crime against decency and sanitation is still going on. The menace to public health is still festering in that abode of misery.

If there were no other thought in the public mind, but one of self-protection, surely it were enough if applied to have the evil abated. So on selfish grounds alone there is ample reason for action. There is also another reason which affects the comfort of the neighbourhood, and that is the disturbance of rest occasioned by the loud barking noise which the sick girl gives out at all hours of the night and day.

Anyone can hear the noise of this girl's coughing as far as Carew St., on Military Road. We heard it that far last night, a blood-curdling, heart-rending noise, when one knows the painful source.

We are at a loss to understand the attitude of the Government officials towards this case. Neither the police nor the Health authorities consider it their duty to interfere. All we have to say is this, that it is time that some one took upon himself the duty of seeing to it, and if red-tape interferes to have the courage to defy such paltry considerations, and be a man.

We invite the public to go down to that pestilential hovel on Bannerman St., and see for themselves and hear for themselves, whether this paper is right or wrong, and finding we are right, to insist at once on some course of action.

Come, Inspector-General, wake up. Wake up, Dr. Brehm.

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**WORLD'S PRESS ON THE BIG WAR**

**TRUTH DAWNING ON GERMANY**

London Times:—The conclusion we draw from evasions and omissions in the German Press is that the truth is beginning to dawn upon the German nation, and that neither the Government nor the newspapers can much longer prevent the Germans from realizing that they cannot now hope to win their war. Every day makes it plainer that the handful of men who control German policy are not now fighting to win, but aim only at establishing a position which will secure for them the best terms possible when the time comes to talk peace.

**THE FULL EAR AND THE THIN**

London News and Leader:—It is needless to say there has never been a year at all like this in the Canadian wheat markets. What it means to Canada, remains to be seen. What it means to this country may be dimly realized by comparison with the present state of Hungary, where the Government, in spite of stringent legal limitation of the amount of wheat to be used in bread, has already been reduced to commandeering forcibly bread supplies for the army, so extravagant are the prices demanded.

**PAYING DEARLY FOR "ECONOMY"**

London Express:—You cannot have it both ways. You must either provide in peace time for adequate protection in time of war or you must suffer accordingly. The price of half-a-dozen extra battleships which was "saved" in the House of Commons was a mere bagatelle compared to the price we have since had to pay; and though at a time like the present we dislike to refer to controversial questions, it is undoubtedly true that the present Government and its Radical supporters are alone responsible for the fact that there are to-day so many German cruisers at sea, interfering with commerce and able to destroy weaker British warships.

**UNEMPLOYMENT IN ENGLAND**

Westminster Gazette:—The figures as to employment in this country still continue to improve. In the insured trades the figures of unemployment is now 3.92, as compared with 4.16 a week ago, 4.80 a month ago, and 3.69 a year ago. At the beginning of September the percentage was as high as 6.3. As to uninsured trades, the Labor Exchange Registers also show a slight improvement. We are well aware that the war has brought loss of work to a great many people who are not dealt with in any of these figures, but it may with certainty be stated that industrial employment is being maintained at a far higher level than would have been thought possible if before war came an attempt had been made to estimate its results.

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(Next door to F.P.U. office.) Jan 20, tu, th, sat

**POSTPONED SAILING**

The sailing of the S. S. PROSPERO, for usual Northern Ports, has been postponed until **FRI-DAY, Dec. 4th.** at 10 a.m. Freight will be received up to noon to-day.

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