

The Evening Advocate

The Evening Advocate. The Weekly Advocate.

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Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



"To Every Man His Own"

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ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27th., 1922

CONSIGNMENT CURSE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THIS!

FISHERMEN FACING SITUATION OF GREAT DIFFICULTY

As the price of no-regulations we have the spectacle of the Daily News printing the following this morning:
(Daily News, Sept. 27.)

NO DEMAND FOR LABRADOR FISH—PRICE GOING DOWN

"As a result of the prevailing unsettled state of the Mediterranean markets, and the fact that Greece is practically out of the market this season, it is now very difficult to dispose of Labrador fish. Several cargoes have reached the city during the last couple of days, but the merchants don't seem over anxious to buy, while the price is now down to \$4.25. It looks as if the man who got rid of his fish on the Coast early in the season, is going to be the better off, as at that time the price was around \$5.00 per quintal, with some firms giving \$5.20 in order to complete cargoes. A resident of Bonavista who brought a cargo here on Monday was offered \$4.00 in cash by an East End firm, or \$4.50 in trade. With these conditions existing, with but a few of the fleet in port, the situation will not be very healthy when the schooners get here during the next couple of weeks. One business man stated yesterday that he had an offer for a quantity of Labrador but the best he could offer would be \$4.00 and then his profits would not amount to 20 cents per quintal. At this price the fishermen will find it very difficult to make two ends meet this season."

And we agree that it will indeed be difficult for the fishermen to make two ends meet this season!

Speaking to an Exporter recently we asked about the fish situation and he said:

"It is a crime to see the way we are drifting in marketing our codfish. Here last year I had several cargoes sold outright at this time, but this year I have only sent across a few cargoes and it is all on consignment. What better can I do when Hawes has invaded Portugal and is able to offer consigned fish in competition with all other fish. And how can I expect my fish merchants in Portugal to pay me outright for three or four thousand quintals of fish, when they can get fish on the spot over there in any quantities they require? The industry is being ruined."

The Daily News may write itself black in the face in the effort to blame "unsettled markets," "exchange" and the war for the poor outlook for fish, but no one who knows anything about the matter will believe it. The exporter quoted above is an unbiased authority and is representative of the general opinion of the Exporters today. And it is criminal to remain quiet when we have had the remedy in our hands and refused to take it. It is late now to do anything, but it was not too late last Spring when Mr. Coaker, the London Brokers and Sir John Crosbie came out in the open and pointed out that something could be done to put the industry on a firmer basis.

The Advocate has kept hammering at this topic for years. We can claim that since the fall of the Regulations, the price for fish has continued to drop, simply because we have put ourselves in the hands of the consignment outfit, which holds the strangle grip on Newfoundland today.

We look abroad and in every direction see the producers of other countries paying strict attention to the marketing of their produce. Raisins, fish, fruit and other commodities are feeling the good effects of cooperative selling, yet we, with a comparatively small output of a million or so quintals, cannot get together to market it to the best advantage. We are deliberately ruining the markets, not only for ourselves but for our competitors. If the con-

signment "heroes" want to depress the price, very little stock is necessary to do it, but this year we have dumped so much fish by steamer and sailing vessel into the Mediterranean markets that prices can slump to the lowest without difficulty.

The lot of the fishermen this fall is not going to be an enviable one. They realize that they are back to the days before the F. P. U. came into existence as far as the price of fish is concerned, and they know for a certainty that their only sure hope for the future is the fishery policy of Hon. W. F. Coaker. They are with him to the finish in the great fight for a progressive Newfoundland. They look to him as the one who brought the Humber project into the limelight to see that no one is permitted to spoil Newfoundland's chances to get out of the rut of depression! The Tory newspapers will attempt to foil his every effort, but they will not succeed when he is backed by the toilers of this old Island.

THOSE WHO KNIFED COAKER'S POLICY MUST SHOULDER THE BLAME

The Daily News and Telegram are featuring the fact that Labrador fish has fallen in price here to four and twenty-five cents per quintal and ascribe the cause to the unsettled conditions in the Mediterranean.

It is not to be denied that conditions in the Mediterranean have an influence on the price of fish as it may eliminate Greece from the market. Notwithstanding however, it will not take the ordinary fishermen long to discover that these Tory newspapers are trying to throw dust in their eyes and conceal from them the greater cause of the low price of Labrador and Shore fish.

When the fishery regulations were introduced, conditions were also very much unsettled in the Mediterranean. Europe had just emerged from the greatest war in history, a war which left economic desolation everywhere, particularly in the markets to which Newfoundland had to market her fishery produce; indeed, it will be readily remembered, how Tory hypocritical newspaper writers pleaded the "improvement of some of the allied Mediterranean countries" as a reason for the cancellation of our fishery policy. It was argued that we should not demand high prices for our fish from the countries whose peoples fought in the great war.

Europe could not possibly be in a more unsettled state than in the years immediately following the cessation of hostilities. He who denies that fact is a fool or a self-conscious hypocrite. Yet it cannot be denied that prices equal to double present prices for both Labrador and Shore fish were obtained by the fishermen at a time of such "unsettledness in the country of the Mediterranean" when, if we reason along the present lines of Tory newspapers, fish would certainly have declined to its present values or less than its present values: all of which considerations prove that owing to the policy which was attempted then as against the present lack of any policy whatsoever, prices were raised to double of prices now obtainable by the fishermen.

We state advisedly that when the fishery regulations were attempted, those who were responsible for the introduction of the regulations had to fight the greatest odds imaginable against merchant and political traitors who were spies in this country for foreigners, and who were in daily communications with foreigners by cable or with their agents here. The regulations therefore, to our shame, was never given fair play by those Newfoundlanders whose plain duty towards the fishermen was to support any measures enacted to raise the price of fish. The opportunity to play politics even at the expense of the common people, was so tempting, that such gentry became Judases and

business is carried on in absolute chaos or without the least semblance of sanity or system? If the exporters' only object was to secure the lowest possible price instead of the highest possible price, they could not pursue it in a more disastrous measure than they now do; unless they gave their fish to foreigners free or threw it over their wharves. As conditions are to-day, the prices cannot be given because the foreign dealers are getting fish on consignment and, broadly speaking, "will pay for it what they feel like"; for they will not want for fish. There are tens of thousands of quintals over there and eight steamers, filled to the hatches, racing their way across the Atlantic; for all of which fish the regulations would have made them pay outright before it left our shores, and on every quintal of which fish fishermen should not have been sacrificed to the tune of several dollars.

That is the correct position to-day, the unchallengeable position as seen by anybody with ordinary intelligence. By the blind knifing of a policy, which meant as much to exporters as to the fishermen, by the foul satiation of the political appetite of Tories whose actions have disgraced the country and brought us to a position of shame, our people suffer, our country suffers.

By to-day's News, an individual who lauded Mr. Coaker to the skies when Mr. Coaker gave him a job and who is damning him and the Government for not giving him just what he wanted is still trying to hoodwink the fishermen and explain away why fishermen will not make both ends meet.

He forgets that the fishermen have arrived to an opinion and will class him in the category in which so many of his political confederates have been placed. For further assurance in that score such political firebugs may seek the opinion of northern fishermen.

FREEMASONRY IN SOUTH AFRICA

AMALGAMATION PLAN REVIVED.
The movement for the amalgamation of all the four Masonic Jurisdictions represented in South Africa—English, Irish, Scottish and Dutch—is increasing, and now that Prime Arthur of Connaught has taken up his residence in the Union it is hoped that some definite action will be taken and that he will consent to become the Grand Master of a new sovereign jurisdiction. The question was first mooted in 1904, and was revived in 1906, but on neither occasion was a definite move made. In 1908 a motion was made in one of the Scottish lodges by a District Grand Committee be requested to consider the desirability of con-

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TURKISH PROBLEM SETTLED BY CRIMEAN WAR

The Settlement!

OTTAWA, Sept. 21.—Under the caption "Settling Turkish Question," the Citizen features the following on its front page to-day:

"The Turkish question was 'settled' after the Crimean war by the treaty of Paris, March 30, 1856, when the empire was formally taken into the society of European nations. How well it was settled is shown by the chronology of the high spots in subsequent Turkish history.

1875—Herzegovina rebels.
1876—Bulgarian revolt; cause-massacre.
1877—War with Russia.

1878—Treaty of San Stefano, ending Russian war, makes Bulgaria an autonomous state of such large dimensions that other powers object. Treaty of Berlin arranges new territorial settlement of Balkans which endured substantially until 1908.

1885—Bulgaria advances frontier as result of war with Serbia.
1887-1897—Uninterrupted peace reigns in Turkey.

1897—War with Greece.
1908—Nationalist Society of 'Young Turks' proclaim establishment of constitution and set up 'Committee of Union and Progress' which becomes unofficial, but real government.

1908—Bulgaria proclaims independence of Turkish suzerainty. Austria proclaims annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1909—Unsuccessful counter revolution against Young Turks is accompanied by Armenian massacres.
1911—Italy invades Tripoli and Cyrenacia.

1912—First Balkan war with Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro against Turkey begins one day before peace is signed with Italy.

1913—Division of Turkish spoils brings on second Balkan war, ending by Rumania's intervention.

1914—Greece annexes Crete creating friction with Young Turks.
1914—Turkey became ally of Germany in World War.

1919—Trouble with Greece is renewed.
1922—Kemalist army forces Greek retreat and captures Smyrna.

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