

## MOONSHINE Chewing Tobacco. PARK DRIVE Smoking Tobacco. J. J. ROSSITER Distributor.

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



(To Every Man His Own.)

**The Mail and Advocate**  
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### OUR POINT OF VIEW

#### The Fishery

ANY observant man possessing proper knowledge of the business of the country can now make a sane estimate of this season's fishery. The Labrador fishery will easily be one-third less than last year, and last year's catch was one of the smallest for twenty years. Another important feature of the Labrador situation is that the supply of soft cured fish taken at the Labrador by boatmen will be exceedingly small and will not amount to 50 per cent of last year's supply. This fact should secure a large price for soft Labrador shipped off the coast and the fishermen who are now preparing to ship their fish are demanding \$4.50 and a bonus of 20c. per quintal.

The shore hand line catch up to the present is a complete failure, solely because of the want of bait. Since July 31st the total catch of shore fish North does not amount to 5000 qtls. There will be a big demand for shore fish as well as soft Labrador in November and the fisherman who has this fish to dispose of will be glad he did not sell before. The price paid here is still \$6.

The price about Conception Bay is lower, and while Conception Bay fishermen are willing to sell at that price they cannot expect anyone to pay them more. Conception Bay fishermen must make good fish and cure it dry and lead the North in prices. The rule however is to pay from 30c. to 50c. per qtl. more for fish North of Baccalieu.

The remedy is in the fishermen's hands and we trust the future will find an improvement in the cure and the highest price paid for the same. The fact that fish is sold at a lower price in Conception Bay makes it difficult to secure proper values for Northern fish. The Conception Bay fishermen as a rule cannot hold fish late as the harbors are unsafe and makes shipping in the fall very difficult; but far higher prices will prevail later and the man who can hold on will be the best off when the voyage is made up.

Cod oil is not coming in as it did in July and August and prices are firmer. We predict much higher values in November.

This season's catch will not exceed that for 1914. This means a harder struggle for the Colony to exist the coming winter than most people anticipated in July. The hook and line men North will find it hard to struggle along even to the New Year. There will be some employment—logging—but not as much as given last year.

Now is the time for the Reids

and the Premier to prove the value of the Products Co.'s bluff. That act was rushed through the Assembly and railroaded through the Council in order to meet the demands for labor and to supply employment for Conception Bay men who were unable to get fishing supplies as Minister Piccott explained. If ever employment was needed badly it is now.

Who can be base enough to ever again trust the word of a Premier or the agents of speculators such as the Product Co., who sought and secured millions of dollars worth of the people's heritage, free of charge, under the plea of providing labor for the people—bringing back the Sons of Terra Nova who were compelled to emigrate to secure a living—and employing some 4000 men; and as Piccott claimed, giving employment to all fishermen of Conception Bay who were thrown ashore on the rocks owing to lack of fishery supplies.

Now then, gentlemen, come forward; the time has come for you to make good your promises and your boasts. What is required now is employment, and it is the Government's duty to provide it.

### Public News Service

COMPLAINTS are quite frequent as to the state of affairs in connection with the public news despatch, and have become of late quite loud and long. The whole thing seems to be rotten in all its branches and roots. The country is paying for this service and the people have every right to demand an improvement of the present existing conditions.

The complaints are to the effect that the messages are effete, badly chosen, irregular, incoherent and badly served, as to this latter part of the complaint, it is said that in many places days and days go by without a word from the outside as to how things are going.

This is the same old complaint and points to the same old indifference and contempt for the people of the outports. This is nothing new as the same state of affairs has existed since the advent to power of the Morris party. This inefficiency was bad enough in all conscience when the world was enjoying the tranquility of ante-bellum times, but it is a thousand times more grievous now when so many vital interests are hanging in the balance and the nation's safety in jeopardy.

Do the Morris party realize that the poor fisherman is as keenly anxious to know how the battle goes, and has as deep an interest, from an emotional standpoint in the outcome of the conflict as any of the gentlemen who compose this unfortunate country's governmental party.

Here is the whole world fairly throbbing with the excitement and uncertainty of affairs being decided on the bloody fields of Europe, and still the cold sanguineous fluid of the bifurcated animals who rule affairs in this country, is not warmed. If it were there would be an extra effort put forward to furnish the anxious people with full particulars of how things are shaping themselves in Europe.

This cold blooded indifference at such momentous times furnishes a safe and sure indication of how shallow and how insincere are all talk and outward expressions of patriotism on the part of these toads.

Their patriotism is as shallow, as hollow and insincere as themselves. As futile to think that we could accept their lip loyalty for the genuine article, or be deceived by it, as to think that we could mistake the croaking of the bull frog for the song of the nightingale, or the senseless repetition of the poll parrot for the wisdom of the sage.

No person can be patriotic on one side and indifferent to the welfare of his native land on the other, if he displays these two phases of his double nature, he is false to all sentiment of patriot-

ism, and true only to himself and his selfish interests.

P. T. McGrath gets substantial remuneration from the country's chest for the compilation of a daily dispatch to the outports. How is he earning it? If the stuff that goes out daily from that centre is all that he can do, the better for the service if he were relieved at once from a position that he so badly fills. We all know what he can do towards poisoning the public mind with dished up falsehoods at or approaching election times, but we cannot understand why his miserable little soul is not able to rise to this occasion.

There are other complaints also respecting the reporting of the coastal steamers. The failure of the telegraphs to report the whereabouts of the different steamers is the cause of much unnecessary privation to intending passengers, who often are compelled to be in waiting long hours and even days for the arrival of a steamer, when, if she were reported the person could avoid all this annoyance of being ready grip in hand waiting for a ship that is not due for many hours.

This is another case of slip shod style and shows into what unsystematic and slovenly style we are drifting.

Officialdom needs a bomb or two dropped among them, nothing else is calculated to wake them up.

## The Exchange Situation

When, in the House of Commons, he was announcing the recent huge British loan, Mr. Asquith deprecated the thought of floating a loan of any size in America, on the ground that it would make Great Britain a debtor nation—a role which he considered as objectionable as it would be unfamiliar. He has come to it, now, however. There is still an abundance of money to be had in England; that is not the point. A special and temporary expedient has been rendered necessary by the exchange situation.

Usually the money coming into England from the avails of her exports and from the earnings on her investments abroad is more than the money going out; hence her faculty of becoming richer every year, even though the balance of trade may be against her solely in respect to merchandise. After the bulk of transactions has been settled for by the usual process of exchange, there remains a balance to be settled for in gold.

At the beginning of the war, it was considered dangerous to ship across the Atlantic the usual quantity of gold going from the United States to England, and hence it was stored in Ottawa to the credit of the Bank of England. Now the situation is reversed. The war has brought about a vast diminution in the exports of the British Isles, while at the same time the British Government is purchasing enormous quantities of munitions and other supplies in America.

On the whole, therefore, not only is the balance of trade against her as usual, but the balance of all cash transactions, including interest on American investments, is against her. The flow of gold to settle the difference is westward, and not eastward. Only the other day the last five millions of the original hundred was shipped from Ottawa to New York, and further shipments must be across the Atlantic.

There is so little demand now in New York for bills on London that the rate of sterling exchange has sunk from the normal 4.85 to 4.67. Here is a depreciation, roughly, of about four per cent., which means so much added to the cost of all the purchases Great Britain is making in America. Obviously there is need for some method of stopping the flow, actual or theoretical, of gold from America to England, and of increasing the value of the British pound in the American market. Hence the current talk of a British loan flotation in America. The only question now is as to the size of the loan. Some think it ought to be as great as \$75,000,000. Others think it ought to be only sufficient for current needs, and that \$100,000,000—which would equal the amount of gold in Ottawa a year ago—ought to be enough. The weight of

## RUSSIA'S STEP UPWARDS

By Eric Glenton

Twenty years ago the Russian Government placed restrictions on the sale of vodka. In many places it bought over the distilleries. It took over the vodka shops and allowed the spirit to be sold only in sealed bottles, forbidding the buyer to open on the premises. At this time I was living on a large, wooded estate near the small town of Isum, where I had ample opportunity of studying the effects of these restrictions.

In our case it worked splendidly; but this was because Madame Guersevanoff, the wife of the resident landowner, took great personal interest in the matter. She opened a tea-house, to which the peasants might resort and where they could buy white bread and a glass of golden tea for one cent; they also had the privilege of remaining in the warm room as long as they liked to drink it; of meeting their friends, and of talking together.

But in the large towns the people would buy their vodka, come outside, knock off the head of the bottle and consume the contents. One might say that in some country villages things went well, in others the reverse; all depended upon the interest taken by landed noble and priest. In the towns it did not help much. The people simply took it home. In the homes of the intellectuals and nobles it made little or no difference, for the people I went amongst were self-controlled and knew how to use intoxicants.

I lived in Russia ten years without ever seeing any gentleman leave the table the worse for drink. But I believe in clubs, amongst societies composed only of men, this was not the case. I even heard a woman, here in Canada, say that she had seen men carried away from the table at birthday or namesday dinners. I do not know in what part of Russia she lived, nor in what society she moved; I can only say it was never once my experience.

The Russians have other drinks besides vodka. There is the sweet champagne of the Don; the light Caucasian wines, besides beer. But whatever it was that Russians drank, they drank it no longer, for when the Czar speaks his people listen. One can get nothing in Russian public-houses, wine shops or restaurants stronger than cider or ginger ale. And this has been accomplished by the word of one man.

But still more remarkable is the fact that nobody grumbles—that is, audibly. Breweries are idle, beershops are shuttered, wine stores closed, and yet the newspapers have nothing to say, neither are meetings of protest being held. Even in the most fashionable cafes and restaurants the guests drink only kvass—a drink made from black bread tasting a little thick and sour.

The peasants obey because they have not yet learned to question the Czar's will; but the higher classes acquiesced from the conviction that it is for Russia's general well-being, for nowhere can be found people who are more ready to sacrifice their own personal likes in time of national need than the Russians.

When one adds to these two factors the total abstinence party, which has long fought against the evils of drink, one can readily understand how the Russian nation became teetotal in a week.

And if brewers and wine-sellers are at heavy loss, let them join the ranks of merchants whose businesses are already doubling their receipts. Let them do as the town workmen are now doing—open business on their own account. For the money that used to be spent on clothes and homes,

opinion, however, inclines to \$500,000,000, in one five and ten year periods.

There would, of course, be no such thing as the throwing open of the loan to public subscription, as lately in London. The big American bankers would snap up the bonds in a moment, and at rates satisfactory to the British exchequer. Let there be no thought of Great Britain, ceasing to be a creditor and becoming a debtor nation. The measure about to be taken is one to which, recourse would only be had during a world-quaking war. Its object is merely to rectify an abnormal state of the exchange market. The amount spent annually by American tourists abroad would alone offset it in a few years. The Spectator.

while the increase in savings bank deposits is enormous, I am told. In the villages peasants are buying farming implements and increasing their stocks. Wages are higher, and everyone can find employment. Then, too, the patients in hospitals are noticeably less, while the police records show a great decrease of crime.

To buy other than in secret is out of the question, and private vendors are very hard to find. The drug stores ring up your doctor if you take them a prescription which includes alcohol. But though there certainly is scarcity of alcoholic drinks, there is plenty of everything else. Some things are dear, such as raisins, lemons, figs and oranges. The size of the loaves may be a little less, but they are still made in the same way, and as there are fifty-two different kinds of bread to put on your breakfast table every morning, one more delicious than another, the Russian people will not lack their daily bread if they are obliged to forego their daily vodka.

The Russian kitchen is an extensive one; it is quite possible to arrange a menu for three months without once repeating oneself. Add to this the choicest dishes taken from the kitchens of other nations, and you have a variety that will tempt any appetite. Then who wants to drink vodka when they can obtain the golden tea of Russia! To my mind this is the most delicious drink in the world. Our tea is brown mud in comparison. Then, too, their sweetmeats and cakes are so delicious, as are their preserves of all kinds. Truly one need never be hungry in Russia.

Of course there are to be found those who are trying to profit by the war—merchants who raise prices, especially in oil and wood, probably because these two articles are absolutely necessary in Russia. But here a Government which asks sacrifices will see to it that they shall not be of an unnecessary nature, and these greedy ones will, sooner or later, pay the price of their greediness.

Taking it altogether this war will probably do for Russia what would have taken the Progressives years to accomplish. It may heal Poland's wounds, and even ameliorate the restrictions of the Jews. One wishes it would kill the bureaucracy and forever wipe out the secret sections of police.

### AN OCEAN SUPPLY OF POTASH

(Rural New Yorker)

Your article in last week's issue about the cultivation of seaweed for fertilizer purposes leads me to inquire why it should not be possible to make some use of the enormous masses of floating seaweed which are to be found in the Sargasso Sea, situated 1200 miles off the coast of Florida. Columbus ran into this mass of floating vegetation on his first voyage of discovery to America, and pretty nearly lost his way therein. There are thousands of square miles of this substance containing about 16 per cent of potash to the ton, and I am informed that it could be very cheaply concentrated on the spot in suitable barges and brought ashore by an attendant steamship.

This supply of potash is inexhaustible because it is renewed from year to year by natural processes, and there is no chance for any individual or nation monopolizing it. It is much more available than the kelp of the Pacific coast because it is floating on the surface and not attached to the bottom of the ocean as is the case with the kelp. Again, a vessel does not have to be moved about in it, but just allowed to drift and keep sucking the weed into her hold day and night, where the water is squeezed out of it between rollers and the pulp properly treated to concentrate the potash.

R. S. HOWLAND.

Florida.  
R.N.Y.—We submit this to our readers. We do not know whether our agricultural scientists have considered this supply or not. We know they have hunted everywhere for a potash supply. There may be objections to this seaweed supply which our correspondent has not mentioned. At any rate we should like to see the subject well discussed by those who know.

## Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland.

Established, 1908.

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Disaster Fund—\$6,000.

Reserve Funds—\$11,000.

## Fishermen's Union Trad- ing Co., Ltd.

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