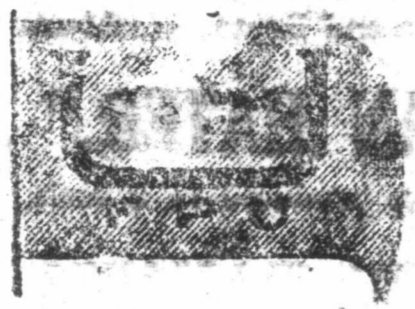


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("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate

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Editor and Business Manager: JOHN J. ST. JOHN.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 13, 1916

THE COD OIL MEASURE

THE News to-day contained a howl of delight by Johnnie Currie over the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the gauge of cod oil. He states that the result proved Mr. Devereaux's stand for loss of value by the fishermen on oil. The Select Committee's Report was unanimous. Mr. Coaker was one of its members. Everyone who spoke of this matter knew and admitted in the House when discussing the matter that the kerene oil casks contained more oil than it gauged; but the point at issue was whether if the measure was altered it would prove of any financial value to the fishermen who sold oil. Mr. Coaker contended it would make no difference, but he accepted at once Mr. Moulton's suggestion that the only cure for the trouble was to mark kerene casks containing cod oil so much more than they gauged, as that rule would at any rate satisfy all that the right quantity of oil in a kerene oil cask was recognized.

The Select Committee adopted Mr. Moulton's idea, not Mr. Devereaux's, who insisted that oil be weighed instead of gauged. The test proved that the kerene oil casks were out 1 1/2 gallons. That being so, it was decided to add that quantity to every kerene oil cask containing cod oil. That means about 10 gallons per ton, or \$5 value when oil is about \$125 per ton.

The price of cod oil will therefore be \$5 per ton less than it was under the old gauge. As the value of the extra 10 gallons will be deducted from the value and when oil is \$80 per ton the deduction will likely be \$5 still and the fishermen will therefore be \$2 per ton worse off than they would be under the old gauge. No one gained the 10 gallons per ton in the past except it may be the exporter of tanked oil. The fishermen as a rule did not lose the 10 gallons per ton in the past, as the bulk of fishermen sell their cod oil loose—by the gallon measure—and therefore the man who shipped in cask was the loser. Mr. Devereaux's idea was not accepted by the House but Mr. Moulton's was. The News therefore deliberately robbed Mr. Moulton of the credit due him and deliberately claimed it for Mr. Devereaux.

Mr. Currie's little bark and insinuations of this morning against Mr. Coaker, who he says defended the old gauge, is only another proof of the qualifications of the sneak who is known to this Colony as J. C. Currie. This is the chap that is scooping in a clear grab of \$6000 per year, or \$35,000 for the past seven years as profits on Government printing. It is his office that has stuffed the Departments with all sorts of printing

matter which has given 50 per cent. profit; some of the Departments have enough printing and stationary done to last for ten years because Mr. Currie insisted on getting big orders and cutting off any other paper from grabbing on such printing long after Currie and the Government he supports will have been sent into oblivion.

We boldly assert that the new measure will not add one cent to the fishermen's earnings. We challenge Currie to produce contra proof from any dealer in cod oil. We know what we are writing about, but Currie don't know the slightest thing about it or anything else in connection with public matters except that he will know how to scoop in for printing a haul of \$20,000 every year from the fishermen's earnings which go into the Treasury.

We challenge Currie or The News to produce a statement from any dealer in cod oil who will admit that the new measure will add one cent to the value of cod oil as sold by the fishermen.

Now Johnnie come on with your proof or be again written down as something that no word in the English language more fittingly expresses than the word "sneak." Let Mr. Currie—who was the god-father of Mr. Devereaux's spurge—do something material for the fishermen of his district, and he may be taken serious. The Bank fishermen of his district have bitterly complained for years over the treatment meted out by schooner owners, in refusing the men their fish "over the rail" when discharging.

This system is said to deprive the share fishermen of a large sum of money annually. In the North the share fishermen do receive their fish "over the rail" and dispose of it to the best advantage. In Burin District the schooner owner or supplier refuse to give the sharemten their fish over the rail and this system has for the past five years become a burning question.

What has Johnnie Currie done to protect the sharemten's interests in this respect in as much as Burin District is concerned? He claims Devereaux's imaginary suggestion will give the fishermen \$30,000 which the "trade" robbed from the men in the past, which we ask him to-day to produce evidence of; but he has for three years been silent over the unjust and indefensible system in vogue in his district which compels share fishermen to give over their catch to the suppliers and to accept just what the supplier chooses to give for the fish so taken.

Now let Johnnie Currie wake up and do something to help the Bank sharemten. Let him introduce a bill compelling suppliers or schooner owners to give "over the rail" the sharemten's part of fish to the sharemten and Mr. Coaker will support it. Come, Johnnie, wake up, and attend to the pressing requirements of the largest bulk of your constituents and do something more than scooping in the boodle from the Treasury; and when that is done give Burin District the railway you promised they would get if you and your party were returned. Don't forget Johnnie that you are a great promiser, and Burin will know the reason why.

MR. MORINE LEAVES.—Mr. A. B. Morine will leave by this evening's express for Canada, and will reside at Toronto, where he will engage in legal work.

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

- APRIL 13
- HANDEL, the composer, died, 1759.
- Catholic Emancipation Bill passed, 1829.
- Harbor Grace destroyed by fire, 1858.
- Thomas D'Arcy McGee buried in Montreal, 1863.
- Alfred Mullooney died in Savannah, 1875.
- Father Delaney buried, 1888.
- William Judge, signal officer at blockhouse for 27 years, died, 1897.
- Whiteway Government resigned, 1894.
- Vindicator registered, J. P. Thompson, proprietor, 1893.
- "Victoria Wing" to St. John's Hospital opened by Lady Thornburn, 1893.
- Robert Walsh won in a lottery a passage ticket, by Allan Line, to Europe, 1880.
- Charles E. Meehan joined the staff of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, 1899.

The world may be getting wiser, but some of us still have a whole lot to learn.

DISTINGUISHED BROTHERS

THE brothers Major General Sir George Youngusband and Colonel Sir Francis Youngusband are very much in the public eye at the moment. Both were born in India, where both their father and grandfather distinguished themselves as generals in the wars by which Great Britain established her mastery over this great overseas dominion. Several other members of the family have likewise achieved administrative and military renown there, while their mother was a sister of that Robert Shaw who was the first Englishman to cross the Himalayas to the plains of Turkestan beyond.

Sir George is the soldier par excellence of the family, and has much active service to his credit, including the Afghan war, the Egyptian war, the Sudan war, the Burmah war, and the South African campaign where he was severely wounded. He has now been appointed to the British forces in Mesopotamia, superseding Sir Percy Lake. Sir Frank is the diplomat, the administrator, and the explorer of the family. He is credited with knowing more about the interior of Asia than any other man living, and was already celebrated as an explorer when twelve years ago he won a place for himself in the pages of history by leading an arduous expedition to the mysterious stronghold of Lhasa, capital of the hermit state of Tibet, which until that time had been rigorously closed to the outer world. Every white man who had endeavored to penetrate into the country, with possibly the exception of the Abbe Huc (a French missionary) had either been killed or turned back.

Sir Frank was debarred from active service in the field at the outbreak of the war by a fractured limb; but he undertook the duty at the India office in London of compiling the official and private despatches from the various seats of war in Europe for the viceroys of India, through whom they are distributed free of cost throughout India to all the newspapers, no matter whether printed in English or the vernacular.

THE world looked upon this spectacle with wonderment and the chivalrous nations which we see to-day standing side by side with Britain regarded her splendid position in the family circle of the Great European Commonwealth as one of the greatest guarantees of liberty for each and security for all. With the vanishing of Austria and France in turn, at least one member of this great European family, in these modern days, scorned Britain's protestations of friendship, often advanced for the sake of peace in the world, and challenged her right to the lands she so benevolently ruled, in effect determined to destroy her Empire.

Drawing a comparison between the Britain of to-day and the moribund Roman Empire of the later Constantines, Germany either benefited or affected to believe that England, peaceful and wealthy was an England decadent and impotent and that all martial ardour had departed from the erstwhile warlike Anglo-Saxon and Celtic races and after decades of preparation bailed, "The Day" which would—she fondly hoped—usher in the downfall of "proud Albion."

War was precipitated and Germany let loose on a bewildered and unprepared Europe—almost the "horrors of hell"—in her desire to crush, vanquish and dominate all in her path. Need we recapitulate her crimes. The rape of Belgium, the devastation of Serbia, the destruction of Montenegro, the obliteration of Poland, the sudden death hurled from the air on innocent non-combatants, women and children, her lethal dungeons for honorable prisoners, of war, her devilish methods, of warfare in the use of poisonous gases, her judicial murders of unoffending women, her vandalism in the destruction of the art treasures of the centuries, her desecration of holy shrines and sacred edifices and her unscrupulous submarine warfare, engulfing innocent victims by the thousand, while despite these atrocious infractions of international and human laws she is heard to hypocritically appeal to these very statutes and quote them against her adversaries.

Can a nation of this sort conquer? The answer must come from the people of the British Empire. It has been given already by our brave Allies—France, Russia, Italy—and England will join in the resounding NO which will reverberate around an awakened world.

Can the men then of Newfoundland, England's Oldest Colony, look on unmoved? Can the descendants of the brave English,

THE SONG OF THE SHIRKER

—By W. FERRANS—

WHEN the war broke out, my chum, he would go. And join the Army, but I said "No!"

In the list of the slain, when his name I did see I shivered, and said, it might have been me.

If I had been as foolish as he, Another I knew has lost a limb, Oh, horror, to be the same as him. The Germans may win and come over, for me

It's grand to live in this land of the free.

'Tis dinned in my ears night, noon and morn
To go, but to do so I steadily scorn.
You'll never see me in the Barrack Square
There's not much ease or pleasure there,
To make more money, I eagerly try.
'Business as usual,' I loudly cry,
Why, why should I go from my father's farm,
Where I am safe and quite free from harm?
And prices are good, oh happy are we.

'Tis grand to live in the land of the free!

Recruiting meetings I never attend,
Some other way my time I spend.
From the march of the men and the roll of the drum
I walk in byways or slink away home.
I've Father and Mother, and Brothers three,
And what would they do at home without me?
Don't bring in compulsion, with that I agree,
'Tis grand to live in this land of the free.

Liberty's tree, I love you from leaf to root,
Oh, why do you bear such rotten fruit?
Cowards they are, and traitors they be
To this land of the brave, our land of the free.

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

RALLY ROUND THE FLAG

(Hymns and Spirituals and Songs)
WHILE England has her sons,
Her vessels and her guns,
No one can harm her in the least,
We'll fight the Prussians o'er,
That's the sort of men we are,
And we're bound to keep our
Empire in the East."
—OLD SONG.

THUS sang the sturdy Sons of Briton in the stirring days of the last century when her supremacy on the seas was questioned, and similar sentiments imbued her brave legions when envious enemies projected and prophesied the dismemberment of our Great Empire.

But these patriotic emotions though most praiseworthy, would have been futile and meaningless, were not the men who possessed them and gave them utterance ready to back them by deeds. Aye, and do not the deeds inspired by such sentiments and performed because of the possession of them emblazon the proud pages of the Nation's history, and shed a halo of glory around the names of the heroes who participated in them.

Britain then, emerged from the struggles which were to rend her, more powerful than ever, respected because she was feared and feared because of the puissant army of her valiant sons and the daring which they displayed on many a gory field. Her brow bejeweled with the aureole of Liberty; her shield bedizen with the shining emblem of Justice she was at once the envy of jealous rivals and the despair of unscrupulous foes, but immune from attack, because of her impregnable position, and the known loyalty of her children, she progressed in power and affluence, practicing the peaceful arts, developing a commerce wonderful and world embracing and sustaining a dominance over myriads of happy people, contented and free, of diverse tongues and races, in an Empire of which it has been truly said "the sun never sets," and to which the Empire of the Caesars was as but the appanage of a Germanic principality.

The world looked upon this spectacle with wonderment and the chivalrous nations which we see to-day standing side by side with Britain regarded her splendid position in the family circle of the Great European Commonwealth as one of the greatest guarantees of liberty for each and security for all. With the vanishing of Austria and France in turn, at least one member of this great European family, in these modern days, scorned Britain's protestations of friendship, often advanced for the sake of peace in the world, and challenged her right to the lands she so benevolently ruled, in effect determined to destroy her Empire.

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Yesterday at the House

House met at 3 p.m. yesterday. The sitting was a very brief one, but lasting an hour.

MR. PICOTT presented a petition from Coley's Point for a post office. MR. TARGETT presented a petition from Hearty's Desire in reference to a telegraph office. Certain bills were deferred as was also supply.

The amendment to the Local Affairs Act passed with certain amendments proposed by Mr. Coaker.

MR. COAKER—I think the other day I expressed an opinion with regard to this matter. I stated that we had given the matter a lot of consideration at our Union meetings, but found no way in which the system could be improved so as to be of benefit to the fishermen. There is not the slightest doubt but that a cask of oil contains two or three gallons more than it is gauged for but if you adopt any other system it would mean a loss of labor and time, and the value of oil will be reduced by an amount per ton equal to the value of the increased measure. That is, allowing oil to be \$135 or \$140 a ton, that would be a reduction of about \$10 a ton. At the present time no one gets the benefit from buying oil by gauge except the largest exporters. This year we have gone into the oil business very largely but we have not sold a ton of oil by weight. At present there is a lot of dissatisfaction, as has been stated by the hon. member, but I do not see, as I have said, any way in which the system can be changed so as to benefit the fishermen: all we can do is to endeavor to force the price per ton up so as to make allowance for the loss, and that is what is being done. The small fishermen who sell loose oil by the gallon does not lose; it is the shop-keeper, the peddler, the middleman, who loses considerably, because he buys oil from the fishermen and puts it into a cask; he buys by the gallon and sells by the cask, and he loses about two gallons on a cask. If we do away with the gauge, the only way to get the exact measure would be to weigh the oil, and that would mean a lot of trouble, and in the end it would not be any advantage, because the price of oil would go down \$1 or \$5 or \$5 a ton—because the merchant knows that by buying by the gauge he gets more than he ought to get, and consequently he is prepared to pay a higher price than he would be prepared to pay if he only got his exact measure. Of course, the price of oil is regulated by what the foreign markets are paying. It is quite true that we were paying in St. John's last Fall \$15 or \$20 more a ton for oil than the abroad markets warranted, but that was a pure matter of speculation on the part of the "Trading Co. We know that the price must advance later on, and we wanted the fishermen to get the benefit at the time. But, as I have said, under the present system the merchant pays more than he would pay if the measurement was exact. I don't know how it was in the old days, but now there are no great profits made on oil. There may be \$5.00 a ton, but that is as much as there is, while they might have got as high as \$25 or \$30 a ton in the former years. If the hon. member for Placentia had anything to suggest, we would be glad to consider it. As I have pointed out, it would not really make much difference to the fishermen so far as results are concerned, because it would practically work out the same way. The trouble is to introduce a system that will be satisfactory all round—that would be of advantage to the fishermen, and still would not give too much trouble or be an annoyance to the buyer.

I have listened to all that the honorable member for Placentia, Mr. Devereaux, has said. He has been loud in his denunciation of the present system, but his utterances have been devoid of anything in the nature of a suggestion to remedy the evil. I suggest that the hon. member for Placentia should propose a definite statement, I have said that we had given the matter a lot of consideration at our Union meetings, but found no way in which the system could be improved so as to be of benefit to the fishermen. There is not the slightest doubt but that a cask of oil contains two or three gallons more than it is gauged for but if you adopt any other system it would mean a loss of labor and time, and the value of oil will be reduced by an amount per ton equal to the value of the increased measure. That is, allowing oil to be \$135 or \$140 a ton, that would be a reduction of about \$10 a ton. At the present time no one gets the benefit from buying oil by gauge except the largest exporters. This year we have gone into the oil business very largely but we have not sold a ton of oil by weight. At present there is a lot of dissatisfaction, as has been stated by the hon. member, but I do not see, as I have said, any way in which the system can be changed so as to benefit the fishermen: all we can do is to endeavor to force the price per ton up so as to make allowance for the loss, and that is what is being done. The small fishermen who sell loose oil by the gallon does not lose; it is the shop-keeper, the peddler, the middleman, who loses considerably, because he buys oil from the fishermen and puts it into a cask; he buys by the gallon and sells by the cask, and he loses about two gallons on a cask. If we do away with the gauge, the only way to get the exact measure would be to weigh the oil, and that would mean a lot of trouble, and in the end it would not be any advantage, because the price of oil would go down \$1 or \$5 or \$5 a ton—because the merchant knows that by buying by the gauge he gets more than he ought to get, and consequently he is prepared to pay a higher price than he would be prepared to pay if he only got his exact measure. Of course, the price of oil is regulated by what the foreign markets are paying. It is quite true that we were paying in St. John's last Fall \$15 or \$20 more a ton for oil than the abroad markets warranted, but that was a pure matter of speculation on the part of the "Trading Co. We know that the price must advance later on, and we wanted the fishermen to get the benefit at the time. But, as I have said, under the present system the merchant pays more than he would pay if the measurement was exact. I don't know how it was in the old days, but now there are no great profits made on oil. There may be \$5.00 a ton, but that is as much as there is, while they might have got as high as \$25 or \$30 a ton in the former years. If the hon. member for Placentia had anything to suggest, we would be glad to consider it. As I have pointed out, it would not really make much difference to the fishermen so far as results are concerned, because it would practically work out the same way. The trouble is to introduce a system that will be satisfactory all round—that would be of advantage to the fishermen, and still would not give too much trouble or be an annoyance to the buyer.

MR. COAKER—We must remember that the gauge used is a standard gauge, but the trouble is that the kerene oil cask—so largely used for this purpose—is a peculiar name—and when the contents are gauged are two or three gallons. Now, the suggestion made by Mr. Moulton and say that for the purposes of sale every cask shall be considered to hold three gallons more than indicated by the gauge and you get over the difficulty as to gauge but reduce the value of the oil per ton. It is well known that all casks do not gauge alike. Some casks on gauging show a difference of three gallons and more than more than one gallon.

MR. MOULTON—Some run as high as four gallons.

MR. COAKER—Every man in the North who sells a cask of oil knows he loses on each cask two or three gallons. I do not agree with the idea of selling by weight; it means increased trouble and labor with no consequent increase in value. Very few of the firms sell by weight. You take firms like Smith & Co. They buy oil and sell it as they buy it; they do not buy oil by gauge and sell it by weight—and take that much profit from the fisherman. The man who sells oil by weight, is the large exporter—like Job, Bros. & Co. or Bowring Brothers. These people buy oil from the smaller people and sell it by weight. The smaller merchants sell to the large exporters; but it is only in sales by the latter that the method of selling by weight is used. We do not believe in the system at present in force; but the question is how are you going to do anything better? The Honourable member for Placentia has been strong in his criticism of this system but he has said nothing that would indicate a way out of the difficulty. If he has anything reasonable, why will he not do it?

MR. DEVEREAUX—I suggest that sales be by weight.

MR. COAKER—The trouble with the weight system is that you have increased labor and inconvenience; the oil will have to be taken out of the barrel to get the weight of the cask. The best suggestion I have heard is that put forward by Mr. Moulton, and that is that every person who sells oil in kerene oil casks be allowed two or three gallons on every cask over and above the gauge. But round—that would be of advantage to the fishermen, and still would not give too much trouble or be an annoyance to the buyer.

MR. COAKER—We understand Mr. Eric Bowring has purchased the residence of Sir E. P. Morris on Rennie's Mill Road. The price is said to be \$20,000.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

THE BUYING AND SELLING OF COD OIL.

Mr. Coaker's Speech on This Subject Delivered in the House April 7.

MR. COAKER—I think the other day I expressed an opinion with regard to this matter. I stated that we had given the matter a lot of consideration at our Union meetings, but found no way in which the system could be improved so as to be of benefit to the fishermen. There is not the slightest doubt but that a cask of oil contains two or three gallons more than it is gauged for but if you adopt any other system it would mean a loss of labor and time, and the value of oil will be reduced by an amount per ton equal to the value of the increased measure. That is, allowing oil to be \$135 or \$140 a ton, that would be a reduction of about \$10 a ton. At the present time no one gets the benefit from buying oil by gauge except the largest exporters. This year we have gone into the oil business very largely but we have not sold a ton of oil by weight. At present there is a lot of dissatisfaction, as has been stated by the hon. member, but I do not see, as I have said, any way in which the system can be changed so as to benefit the fishermen: all we can do is to endeavor to force the price per ton up so as to make allowance for the loss, and that is what is being done. The small fishermen who sell loose oil by the gallon does not lose; it is the shop-keeper, the peddler, the middleman, who loses considerably, because he buys oil from the fishermen and puts it into a cask; he buys by the gallon and sells by the cask, and he loses about two gallons on a cask. If we do away with the gauge, the only way to get the exact measure would be to weigh the oil, and that would mean a lot of trouble, and in the end it would not be any advantage, because the price of oil would go down \$1 or \$5 or \$5 a ton—because the merchant knows that by buying by the gauge he gets more than he ought to get, and consequently he is prepared to pay a higher price than he would be prepared to pay if he only got his exact measure. Of course, the price of oil is regulated by what the foreign markets are paying. It is quite true that we were paying in St. John's last Fall \$15 or \$20 more a ton for oil than the abroad markets warranted, but that was a pure matter of speculation on the part of the "Trading Co. We know that the price must advance later on, and we wanted the fishermen to get the benefit at the time. But, as I have said, under the present system the merchant pays more than he would pay if the measurement was exact. I don't know how it was in the old days, but now there are no great profits made on oil. There may be \$5.00 a ton, but that is as much as there is, while they might have got as high as \$25 or \$30 a ton in the former years. If the hon. member for Placentia had anything to suggest, we would be glad to consider it. As I have pointed out, it would not really make much difference to the fishermen so far as results are concerned, because it would practically work out the same way. The trouble is to introduce a system that will be satisfactory all round—that would be of advantage to the fishermen, and still would not give too much trouble or be an annoyance to the buyer.

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MR. COAKER—We must remember that the gauge used is a standard gauge, but the trouble is that the kerene oil cask—so largely used for this purpose—is a peculiar name—and when the contents are gauged are two or three gallons. Now, the suggestion made by Mr. Moulton and say that for the purposes of sale every cask shall be considered to hold three gallons more than indicated by the gauge and you get over the difficulty as to gauge but reduce the value of the oil per ton. It is well known that all casks do not gauge alike. Some casks on gauging show a difference of three gallons and more than more than one gallon.

MR. MOULTON—Some run as high as four gallons.

MR. COAKER—Every man in the North who sells a cask of oil knows he loses on each cask two or three gallons. I do not agree with the idea of selling by weight; it means increased trouble and labor with no consequent increase in value. Very few of the firms sell by weight. You take firms like Smith & Co. They buy oil and sell it as they buy it; they do not buy oil by gauge and sell it by weight—and take that much profit from the fisherman. The man who sells oil by weight, is the large exporter—like Job, Bros. & Co. or Bowring Brothers. These people buy oil from the smaller people and sell it by weight. The smaller merchants sell to the large exporters; but it is only in sales by the latter that the method of selling by weight is used. We do not believe in the system at present in force; but the question is how are you going to do anything better? The Honourable member for Placentia has been strong in his criticism of this system but he has said nothing that would indicate a way out of the difficulty. If he has anything reasonable, why will he not do it?

MR. DEVEREAUX—I suggest that sales be by weight.

MR. COAKER—The trouble with the weight system is that you have increased labor and inconvenience; the oil will have to be taken out of the barrel to get the weight of the cask. The best suggestion I have heard is that put forward by Mr. Moulton, and that is that every person who sells oil in kerene oil casks be allowed two or three gallons on every cask over and above the gauge. But round—that would be of advantage to the fishermen, and still would not give too much trouble or be an annoyance to the buyer.

MR. COAKER—We understand Mr. Eric Bowring has purchased the residence of Sir E. P. Morris on Rennie's Mill Road. The price is said to be \$20,000.

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