

THE PEOPLE

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L. F. YOUNG or G. M. MOON,
Middleton, N. S.

HIGH TRIBUTE

To the Memory of an Annapolis County Boy by a Newspaper of Seattle, Washington.

DEAR MR. COX:—

I am quite sure that every true and loyal Nova Scotian is always glad to hear when one of his countrymen has performed a notable achievement, or attained unusual success in the pursuit of any avocation. Mention was recently made in your columns of the death of Capt. Harry P. Weaver, a native of Port George, Annapolis Co., and a former resident of Middleton. The splendid success achieved by this young man in his chosen calling is a notable example of what may be accomplished by pluck, push and indomitable perseverance and I feel quite sure that some further facts in regard to his life would be of interest to many of your readers. I take pleasure, therefore, in enclosing herewith a clipping from a newspaper of South Washington, containing a brief sketch of Capt. Weaver's career on the Pacific Coast, which I hope you can give a place in your columns. This sketch deals mainly with the last seventeen years of his life. Capt. Harry P. Weaver was the son of Capt. Robert D. Weaver, late of Middleton and formerly of Port George and grandson of the late Deacon Chas. B. Weaver of the same place.

His father, Capt. Robert D. Weaver was a deep water captain for many years. The first vessel of which he had charge being the schooner J. V. Froop, built and owned at Port George, by the late Mr. Granville B. Reed, postmaster of Middleton. He next took charge of the schooner Telegraph, owned by Messrs. Rupert and Chas. Eaton of Canning. The next vessel of which he took charge was an American brig which he sailed for some time between New York and the West Indies.

Securing a lucrative position as business solicitor for W. C. Haslan & Co., shipbrokers in the Island of Bermuda, Capt. Weaver retired from the sea for a few years. Although well situated and prosperous, it became apparent that he had not forgotten his first love. Associated, as he was, with mariners, both in social and business life and constantly in touch with all the activities of the sea, one would have thought he might have been weaned from actual participation in its privations and hardships. That such was not the case became apparent when the desired opportunity offered. The Captain's brother-in-law, Capt. James Parks of Port George, then carrying on a ship repairing business in Bermuda, had bought the brigantine, Two Brothers. Capt. Weaver decided to buy part of the vessel and take charge of her. He took her to New York, refitted her, went to the West Indies and thence to ports in the Mediterranean Sea, being accompanied on this voyage by his wife and little two year old son, Harry the subject of this sketch.

Capt. Weaver subsequently spent several years in the foreign trade, after which he came to Port George and engaged in the St. John packet business. He next took charge of the schooner C. B. Weaver, designed and built by Capt. James Parks at Port George during the winter of 1878 and '79. It was in this schooner, that Harry P. Weaver made his maiden voyage at the age of fifteen.

Shortly after this time being in New York with his father, in the brigantine, Geo. E. Cobbit, young Weaver came to the conclusion that, since he had chosen the life of a seaman, he would seek experience in a larger vessel. Unknown to his father, therefore, he sought out and shipped in the largest ship he could find in the harbor of New York. Later on he went to Halifax and passed for mate and after some further foreign voyages, he was successful in obtaining in England a certificate of Master Mariner.

As boys, Harry P. Weaver and the writer of this letter were friends and fellow playmates. It is now more than twenty-five years since last we met, but as a tribute to the memory of a high-minded, generous hearted youth, with pluck, ambition and manly courage, I am glad to say, that if he had one characteristic which I remember more distinctly than his tenacity of purpose, it was his thorough dislike of anything mean or underhanded and his love of absolute fair play. Besides the immediate relatives mentioned in the South newspaper, Capt. Weaver leaves a number of relatives in Port George and vicinity as well as in Massachusetts and a host of warm friends who will deeply regret that he has been called away in the prime of manhood.

J. E. SLECOSS.

Following is the sketch referred to in the above letter.

"Capt. Harry P. Weaver, of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's fleet, died at Providence Hospital, yesterday, morning from typhoid fever. He was admitted to the institution three days before and although his condition was regarded as serious it was not thought that he would die. His wife was with him at the end, having arrived from their home in Alameda Saturday morning. Last evening the remains were taken back to California on the steamship City of Peches.

"Capt. Weaver was 43 years old and a native of Pictou, Nova Scotia. Born of seafaring stock, he early took to the sea, serving in both the Atlantic Coast trade and in deep-sea ships. In 1890 he came to the Pacific Coast, making San Francisco his headquarters. There he sailed South to the West Coast and to the North on different voyages until he gained a reputation for seamanship that is still remembered.

In 1895 he was given his first command by Capt. Morse, of San Francisco, the vessel being the old sailing ship Occidental. She was engaged in the coal trade between British Columbia and San Francisco.

After remaining with the Occidental all for seven years he began to feel that the days of the sailing craft on the coast trade were about numbered and he decided to get experience with the steam vessels.

By a coincidence his first berth on a steam vessel was on the City of Peches, the same ship that last evening bore his remains southward in their final resting place. He was second mate here for several voyages and he left her to be commanded third officer on the Valencia, owned by the Pacific Steam Whaling

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FRUIT MARKS ACT

Its Terms—How Enforced—What Growers, Speculators, Dealers and Consumers say of it

(Continued from last week.)

was framed for the benefit of the producers, middlemen and consumers. These three classes, therefore, should be heard from. The law was enacted primarily for the benefit of the Canadian people, but as the export feature of the Canadian apple trade is a most important one, the success or failure of the Fruit Marks Act has to do with the foreign countries using Canadian apples. Testimony, therefore, of those who buy Canadian apples in foreign countries, will be of value.

The opinion of the Fruit Marks Act held by Canadian growers may be gauged very accurately by the criticism of the Provincial associations of each of the provinces of Canada where fruit growing is an important feature. Without exception the Provincial associations have expressed their hearty approval of the Fruit Marks Act and the way in which it is enforced. It would not be hard to make a list of many hundreds of growers who have, during the past six years expressed individually their approval of the principles of the Act.

The retail fruit merchants represent perhaps more nearly the consumers. They have almost without exception expressed their approval of the principles of the bill, and they are at present engaged, through their Dominion Association of retail sellers in introducing new features for the purpose of more effectively enforcing the Act locally; but there is no dissenting voice with reference to the principle of the Act itself, and there is no difference of opinion with reference to the very great improvement that the Act has made in the local fruit trade as well as the export trade.

The apple operators, who are the true middlemen, are not quite so unanimous. There are, indeed, among them a few who are not favorable to the Act, though I know of no one who objects to the principle of the Act, the objections being urged against special features or against what they deem the indirect enforcement of it. The fact that there is no one who criticizes the Act would be sufficient reason for an explanation of the want of perfect unanimity. The explanation is found in the nature of the business and the character of many of the men who follow the employment of buying and selling apples. This business is largely speculative as usually conducted. The buying is done comparatively early in the season, before the volume of the crop or the market value can be estimated with any degree of certainty. Under such circumstances it is easy to see that sanguine buyers are frequently tempted to pay higher prices than the markets ultimately justify. When the time for marketing comes, the temptation is almost irresistible to so pack and mark these apples that the buyer can finish the transaction without serious loss. This is done by overrating and undergrading. It will be readily understood that dealers of this unscrupulous type are not seriously in favor of any restrictions being placed upon their actions.

On the other hand, many of our merchants, and the best of them, look forward to the apple business as a permanent feature of their work, and so conduct it that they may continue in it from year to year. Such men do not find it necessary to secure a profit on each particular deal, but are willing in this, as in other commercial transactions, to average up the business of the season, and are satisfied if out of a large number of contracts the balance is upon the right side for them. They are, therefore, not tempted to practise the arts of the buyer who is in the apple business in such a way that he must secure practically a profit upon each transaction. Of course, there are a large number of itinerant buyers who have no status whatever in the country and who are willing to do anything in order to make a profit, having no reputation to sustain. The last two classes of buyers are not friendly to the Fruit Marks Act.

The reception of the Act in foreign countries has been even more enthusiastic than in Canada itself, inasmuch as the law with reference to the export trade is more effectively enforced than for the local trade. The following extract is from the London, England, Fruit Grower, dated February 11, 1904:

"The United States Consul in Edinburgh records the fact that Canadian apple imports are gaining a very strong position in the Scotch markets, in some cases supplanting the United States supplies. Mr. Fleming states that the system of inspection adopted in Canada and subsequently renewed at the British ports, has served as a guarantee to the buyers of Canadian apples, and has in this way proved useful to seller and purchaser."

Extract from letter of Thomas Russell, fruit dealer, Glasgow, Scotland:

"In reference to the packing of apples in barrels there can be no doubt the passing of the Fruit Marks Act, 1901, had a most beneficial effect in improving the grading and marking of the fruit."

Extract from an interview with Mr. Dennis, a broker of Covent Garden, London, Eng.: I think the act is a very great advantage, and if the trade on each side cooperate with the Fruit Department, I am sure it will be to the benefit of all concerned. There has undoubtedly been a vast improvement in the packing and grading."

It might be remarked that the advantage accruing to the Canadian grower does not consist simply in the consciousness that he has not cheated anyone either in the marking or packing of his apples. In fact, the Fruit Marks Act is in no sense of the word an attempt to make people honest by legislation; but, though it does not do this, it certainly does make them "act as though they were honest," as one of the college professors said when writing to me regarding the Act. The advantages accruing to the buyers of apples are evident. They are fairly sure that they are getting exactly what they have paid for. The advantages to the Canadian grower appear in the strongest light in the market reports of Great Britain.

In recent years, since the passing of the Fruit Marks Act, trade journals and the brokers who furnish market

(Continued on page 4.)

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Largest list of commercial and domestic varieties of fruit ever offered, suitable for N.S. & Scotia planting. All the latest and improved specialties in both fruit and ornamental stock.

A permanent situation for the right man; liberal inducements; pay weekly; Reserve Territory; Free Equipment.
Write for particulars.

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Our stock of Xmas Good this year surpasses all previous lines. We would be pleased to have you call and inspect our goods.

Thanking you for past patronage and wishing you a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year, I remain,

Yours very truly,

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