

## Loyalist Party Win in South African Elections.

### Three Passengers on Italian Steamer Die of Typhus--Fishing Race Cup Defender's Keel Laid--Irish Republican Army Taking Offensive--U. S. Marines in Custody on Disorder Charge.

#### SOUTH AFRICA LOYAL.

JOHANNESBURG, S. A., Feb. 10. The position of the parties in the South African general election now in progress in that country at nine o'clock to-night was: General Smuts, South African Party, 73; Nationalists, 21; Labor, 9; Democrat, 1; Tied results, 2.

#### PLAGUE-STRIKEN STEAMER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10. Twenty cases of typhus were found among steerage passengers arriving here today on the steamship San Spirito from Trieste and Naples. Three passengers died of the disease during the voyage. The vessel was ordered held up indefinitely at quarantine and the typhus victims were removed to Swineburn Island.

#### TORNADO'S DEADLY WORK.

OCONEE, Ga., Feb. 10. Two white persons and twenty-five negroes were killed when a tornado struck here soon after one o'clock yesterday afternoon, seriously damaging a plant of the Cleveland Oconee Rubber Co. and other property. Between thirty and forty negroes were injured by flying debris.

#### SHIPLOVER'S KEEL COMMENCED.

ESSEX, Mass., Feb. 10. A spike driven through the stout timbers that will form the keel of the schooner Mayflower, marked the beginning to-day of the construction of the craft, intended to represent Boston in the races off Halifax, N. S., for the International Fish-Schooner trophy, won last November by the Gloucester fisherman Gerardo. Townfolk made holiday, school children flocked about, and by the Gloucester and Essex fishing fleets came here to take the Mayflower began to take form. The first spike was driven by Lieut. Governor Alvan T. Filer, by W. Stirling Burgess, dealer of the vessel, and by child Alfred Lantier, daughter of one of the shipbuilders. The Mayflower will be three feet longer than the new Essex, and will be built of steel, as Canada's challenger, but will weigh approximately 500 square feet less canvas. Her finer lines are carried out also in beam, which is a foot less than that of the new Canadian ship.

#### MARCHING ON SKIBEREEN.

LONDON, Feb. 10. An Irish Republican Army, several hundred strong, is marching on Skibereen, County Cork, according to reports from many sources, says a special despatch from Skibereen to-day. The hundred Sinn Féin, who occupied a position near the police and military quarters last night, the despatch adds, withdrew when the policemen on duty paid no attention to them.

#### E. S. STEEL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10. The monthly tonnage report of the United States Steel Corporation, made public to-day, showed seven million, five hundred and seventy thousand tons of unfilled orders on hand. On January 31st, as against the same date last year, the company had on hand one hundred and forty thousand, one hundred and twenty-two tons for December 31st.

#### RELIGIOUS AND HUNS CLASH.

LONDON, Feb. 10. Serious fighting between the German population and a Belgian patrol in Alsace is reported in an exchange of telegrams to-day. The despatch says a number of the inhabitants of the town refused to obey police instructions regarding carnival celebrations, remaining in the streets and after the hour fixed for closing, a result of the delegation patrol.

#### Eat It Anytime

Day or Night

and its ease of digestion and sound food value will give you—

Contented Nourishment

The Food is Grape-Nuts

"There's a Reason"

## The Fish Regulations.

### NOT LEGALLY BINDING.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—The News, on Wednesday last, published a letter from E. Collishaw, and another signed "Super-Six," which he acknowledged to be his. He said he was a "Member of the Fish Export Board," and referred to Mr. Long as "Chairman of the Advisory Board," but as no such boards exist, I presume he referred to the "Codfish Exportation Board," the appointment of which was provided for by legislation in 1920. The distinction is important, as there is a body of licensed exporters known as the "Fish Exporters' Association," and confusion should be avoided if possible. I understand that he is not a member of the Codfish Exportation Board, nor, in his own right, of the "Fish Exporters' Association," but that he occupies a place in the latter as the representative of the Union Trading Co., Ltd., not by election, but by appointment. He represents Mr. Coaker, in fact.

The letter signed "Super-Six," is rather provocative in its assumption of superior sportsmanship on his part and in its insinuation of a mean spirit by opposition papers, but such bumpiness may better be disregarded at present, to procure a calmer consideration of the more important features of the letter.

His account of what it alleges to have been done in Portugal, by Mr. Coaker, is preceded by a statement of alleged conditions in the markets there, when the exporters asked the "Codfish Exportation Board" to recommend the suspension of the Export Regulations. From these bad conditions, Mr. Coaker has rescued us, Mr. Collishaw says. But, Sir, if the regulations had not existed, fish would have got to market in regular ways, and been absorbed, instead of being massed in foreign ports, near Leix, unsalable at regulation rates, so that if a rescue had been made, and by Mr. Coaker, he has only in part undone his own bad work.

I challenge the accuracy of Mr. Collishaw's assertion that outside of the concern in Portugal with which Mr. Coaker is dealing "few buyers could finance one cargo of fish." I fancy that is treading very dangerously near the law of libel. It is an unworthy insinuation of financial incapacity, and one which I am informed is quite untrue.

In the absence of precise information, it is impossible for me to give the denial direct to many other assertions made by Mr. Collishaw, but I venture to doubt their correctness, or even their probability, unexplained and unqualified. For instance, Mr. Collishaw says that "prices (have been) arranged for cargoes on the spot at 50 and 60 shillings." Does he mean all cargoes on the spot, or some of them, and how many, and why the variation in price. Whose cargoes were sold? Again, he says that "arrangements are made for all cargoes on the way over: they are expected to fetch 65 shillings." Does this mean that no "sale" has been made, and that no price has been fixed? And yet again, "all fish (in Newfoundland) is also provided for, consumption of 25,000 qts. per month guaranteed." Does "provided for" mean that the price is not fixed, and if so, how is it to be arranged, and is there, as I have been informed, that there is no "guarantee" whatever. Mr. Collishaw says that "the arrangement (is) that our Trade Commissioner shall sell all the fish possibly can and whatever he falls short of 25,000 quintals (per month) the bankers take." This seems to mean that no "sale" has been made of the fish, but is to be attempted by the Trade Commissioner, as it arrives, and if unsold, is to be stored, up to 25,000 qts. per month, to be sold by the "bankers" for the best obtainable prices, less expenses.

Mr. Collishaw charges that the press has suppressed news of "this gigantic sale," whereas the truth is, I fancy, that the real suppression has been by the Board of which he is a member. It is high time that the public should know the whole truth, and I invite Mr. Collishaw to procure publication of all the facts. The public, which has to "pay the piper," is entitled to know all. The "sale" may prove to be a "cod"!

"The greatest objection raised by the Exporters to the Regulations is, that the price of fish to the fishermen was fixed too high last fall," says Mr. Collishaw. Surely, it is not necessary to point out to him that a price "to the fishermen" was not fixed by the Regulations. The only time when anything like price fixing was attempted on the part of the Government, was on the occasion when Mr. Coaker arranged for the buying of about 40,000 quintals of Labrador in the harbor of St. John's late last fall at \$3 per qt. That was not voluntary on Mr. Coaker's part in the real sense of the word. It was forced on him at the point of the bayonet, as it were, by those fishermen who held a public meeting in the C.O.C. Hall, and demanded the fulfilment of promises they considered that Mr. Coaker had made. But Mr. Collishaw goes on to make the unprovoked assertion that if the law of (unregulated?) supply and demand had been allowed to rule last fall, the price of fish would have fallen to \$4 per qt. This much is perhaps the truth: that the regulations having brought about an unprecedented glut of unsold fish here that time, the price would then have

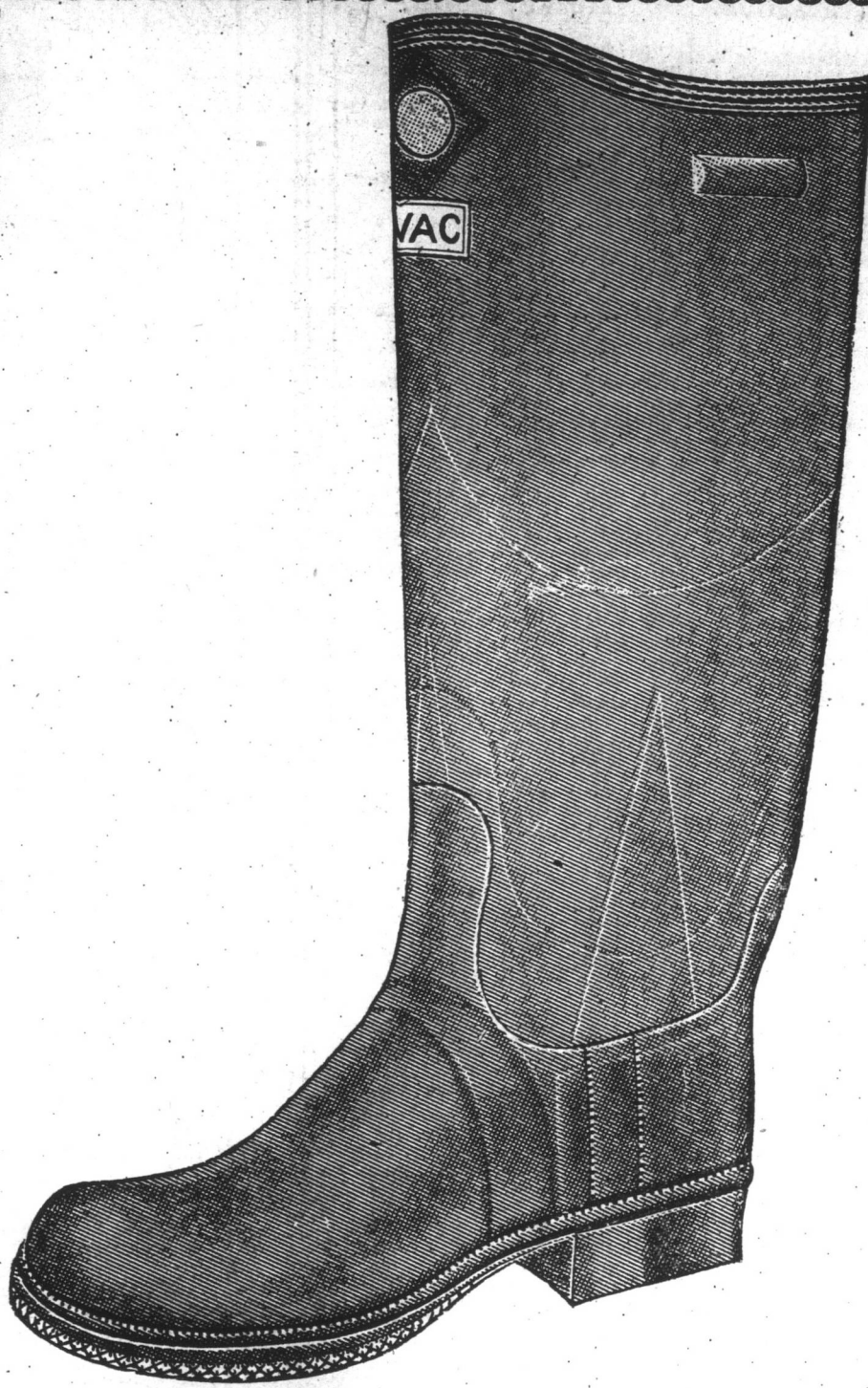
fallen if Government money had not been used to buy the surplus. But it is perhaps also true, that without the regulations, no glut, and no fall in price, would have occurred. And it is quite true also, that while the few sellers to the Government were lucky, the taxpayers at large must bear the inevitable loss. Mr. Collishaw does not contend, I hope, that we can become prosperous as a people by buying our own fish with our own money, and selling to foreigners at a lower net price.

In one place Mr. Collishaw says, that Mr. Coaker wired from Portugal that unless his proposals were adopted here, the price would drop to 50 shillings. In a second place he says that "the bankers" feared that without control the price might fall to 40 shillings, and in a third place he says that "without regulations, exchange alone would depress the price to the lowest in our history." As to all these assertions, I wish to say (1) there is no proof that either is true, (2) the two former, as to prices, were made by prejudiced parties, (3) the two latter refer to prices in a bad condition largely created by or under the regulations, and (4) that the remark about exchange is absurd. The rate of exchange depreciated the value or purchasing power of Portuguese money, in Portugal, it is true, but the price in Portugal, and therefore the net result to us, was governed by the demand and the supply of fish there. If our regulations did not decrease the supply, they did not increase the price. Such a decrease they did not cause, but merely gave the market to our competitors, for a time, and under them our fish glutted the market with an over supply, as Mr. Collishaw himself set forth in the early portion of his letter.

Mr. Collishaw suggests a change as to the regulating power that is worth discussion. It is, that political control shall be abolished, and handed over to a committee of exporters. Anything is better than political control, except possibly monopoly by a clique of exporters. The present control is objectionable on both grounds. It is controlled by one who is both partisan politician and exporter. No confidence in such control can ever be felt. Nothing but contention about it can ever be expected to exist. It is an abomination. But control by a board of exporters would be almost as bad. Were such controllers as wise as Solomon, and as virtuous as Caesar's wife, neither their wisdom nor their honesty would be believed in by their competitors in trade, and those competitors would be right in fighting to the last ditch the control exercised over them by such a body.

If any form of control is to be exercised, it will go nearer to giving general satisfaction when it is by a legally constituted board of (say) three men of known probity, ability and experience, absolutely disinterested peculiarly in exports, directly or indirectly, and enjoying such salaries as will place them above the ordinary temptations which beset men who have to earn their daily bread by their work. The board must command such respect as is given to our Supreme Court, for instance, or the Railway Board of Canada, or similar boards elsewhere. Whether men with all the requisite qualities can be obtained here, I do not venture to say, but I regretfully feel that the results would not justify the expense, and outweigh other objections.

Better prices should be, of course, the only object of regulations. Prescribing sales prices and regulating shipments and market arrivals, are the methods advocated. If we could control all the supply, or even a portion of it really vital to consumers, prescribing our prices by law would, of course, be effective. But if we could not control the whole supply, or a vital portion of it, we could not control the price. If the supply, by others, controls you, the price is controlled by your competitors. That



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is really why the Coaker attempt at price fixing, taken at large, has not only failed, in my opinion, but materially aggravated bad conditions. This Colony does not control even a vital supply in our markets. The regulations have benefited our competitors only.

Mr. Collishaw says, "Control of shipments alone justifies the regulations." I do not quite understand his meaning. Does he mean that the control they have given of the order and destination of shipments is their only justification, or that this of itself is sufficient justification, in addition to any good which may have been done by price fixing. I am inclined to make this assertion (or admission), that if regulations could have been of any value whatever, it was in the control that might have been exercised by them over the order of shipments and arrivals. If the controlling power were so omniscient as to know when shipments should be made here so as to arrive at the best time; if an orderly procession of shipments could be arranged so as to arrive with regularity, avoiding gluts in our markets; and if the controlling power were exercised only in the general public interest, not for the benefit of any special company, firm or person, undoubtedly such regulations would be beneficial. But to be so, certainty as to wind and weather, and all the other Acts of God, and foreknowledge of all our foreign competitors were doing, would be necessary to success, and in addition, the controlling power would have to be as wise and honest as Mr. Collishaw pretends to be.

It is to be presumed that every exporter at all times studies market conditions anxiously, and with all his ability, knowledge and experience. He does not wilfully cause a glut in the markets. When it occurs, it is accidental or unavoidable. Under the regulations, a glut has occurred in Portugal, worse than would otherwise have happened. Is it probable that any Board composed of exporters would do better work than the Codfish Exporters Board has done, or than exporters uncontrolled except by their own ability and self-interest would do. Not the worst result of official regulating is the destruction of individual initiative in business men. We may bid farewell to personal enterprise if it is to be supplanted by official control. No ambitious beginner will have any chance of success whatever in a business dominated by partisan politicians and jealous rivals. Official regulation is opposed to those principles of free and unshackled trade which have made the British people the greatest trading nation the world has ever known. Official regulating is known, or so-called, in its very essence, and, run wild, becomes bolshevistic.

Because I think price fixing is very injurious in the long run, and wise regulation of shipments impossible under the circumstances, and because I am of opinion that no controlling power could be created here which

would command implicit confidence, without which it would be worse than useless, I am persuaded that official regulating should be abandoned.

In the meantime, the recent proposals as to Portugal can only be worked out, if that be desirable, by the voluntary co-operation of all the exporters. Whether it is desirable or not, under all existing circumstances, I do not presume to say, not being aware of all the facts of the situation. It may quite well be, that no matter how wise the policy of regulation has been, no matter how completely responsible that policy may be for the disaster that impends, it is not the part of wisdom to endeavor to carry through the latest proposals to their bitter end. None of the so-called regulations have been legally binding at any time. In my opinion, and these latest proclaimed, are, I think, not only legally unenforceable, but a clear violation of the Act under which they purport to be made, wherefore only voluntary cooperation is to be relied on. If the worst scheme is to be tried out, if some obey the regulations, thinking them valid, and some disobey, believing them invalid, destruction will surely come upon somebody.

Yours truly,  
ALFRED B. MORINE.  
Feb. 10, 1921.

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## Shipping Notes.

Schr. Annie M. Parker is loading herring at Spencer's Cove for New York, from Messrs. A. Wareham & Co.

The steamers Sable I. Canadian Sapper, and Rosalind for Halifax and the Manola for St. John, N.B., all got away yesterday.

Schr. Netherthorn, Capt. Faulke, has cleared for Alicante, with 1028 casks of codfish, containing 4283 qts., 244 cases containing 258 qts., 10 casks haddock, containing 40 qts. and 5 bris. caspils.

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## EMPIRE'S DRESS FOR SALE

The beautiful dress worn by Empress Marie Louise, second wife of Napoleon, on the day of her coronation as Empress of the French, is to be sold at auction. The dress is of exquisite lace, made by the French lace workers of Calvados, to whom Napoleon himself sent the design. It was stolen from the Tuilleries during the riots of the revolution of 1848 and found its way to the Galliera Museum. The Empress was the daughter of Emperor Francis I. of Austria-Hungary.

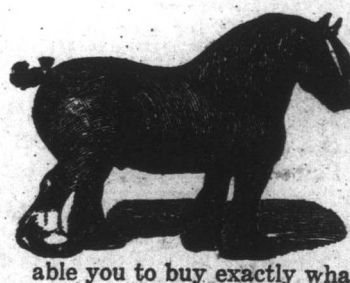
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## PRIZE-GIVING.

The annual distribution of prizes at Virginia Sunday School, takes place to-night in the School Chapel after evening service.



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