

The Evening Advocate

The Evening Advocate.
The Weekly Advocate.
 Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"
 Issued by the Union Publishing Company, Limited, Proprietors, from their office, Duckworth Street, three doors West of the Savings Bank.
W. F. COAKER, General Manager
R. HIBBS, Business Manager
"To Every Man His Own"

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

By mail The Evening Advocate to any part of Newfoundland and Canada, \$2.00 per year; to the United States of America and elsewhere, \$5.00 per year.

The Weekly Advocate to any part of Newfoundland and Canada, 50 cents per year; to the United States of America and elsewhere, \$1.50 per year.

Letters and other matter for publication should be addressed to Editor. All business communications should be addressed to the Union Publishing Company, Limited. Advertising Rates on application.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3rd, 1923.

Bell Island Situation

Yesterday, *The Advocate*, in commenting upon the Bell Island situation, asked if the Company's action in laying off 300 additional men was an attempt to hold the knife of unemployment over us to wring further concessions from the country.

Following our remarks, the *Advocate* has been informed that the Company's action had been decided on for no ulterior motives against Newfoundland, but was necessitated, by actual conditions which Besco could not overlook.

In fairness to the Company, it is considered proper to pass along to the public as much as possible of the case and let them judge for themselves.

At the present time, the *Advocate* is informed that 1,000,000 tons of ore are mined on deck on Bell Island and there are 600,000 tons at present in the Company's plant in Sydney. The highest yearly consumption of ore by the Sydney plant reached 700,000 tons; but the average yearly consumption is about 600,000 tons. It is therefore contended that the Sydney stocks will be sufficient to meet the Company's requirements for over one year hence, and that the Company will be obliged to continue to carry over the 1,000,000 tons on Bell Island, which were produced by the extra men employed by the Company under an arrangement with the Government permitting the free export of ore for 1923.

Early in this year Sir Newton Moore, who is the largest British shareholder of Besco, visited Germany to solicit orders, but was only successful in securing, at a figure which barely paid, a German order of 60,000 tons, which, with a British order of 60,000 tons, represented all the European orders secured since the Ruhr occupation. The quantity of ore shipped to Germany by Besco prior to the Ruhr impasse was 1,000,000 tons.

It is stated that German customers contend that Newfoundland ore is different from the Norwegian article, and, containing as it does, a large percentage of silica, it is very destructive to German furnaces, which, in using it, had to be lined several times yearly at great expense, until special smelting furnaces were installed and some chemicals used to nullify the action of the Newfoundland product.

The *Advocate* is advised that the Besco, at the time of the merger had hoped to export 5,000,000 tons of ore yearly, but have been badly disappointed, largely through the reception given to the product by Germany, and also thru the Ruhr impasse.

In this connection we are reminded of a remark made by Sir Newton Moore to the *Advocate* during his visit here. He said that while the French occupied the Ruhr, Newfoundland ore stood very little chance of getting any appreciable show there for the reason that our mineral took the place of Loraine ore as a good mixture with Norwegian ore. The French would naturally do all in their power to debar the importation of any raw material that might lessen consumption of their own product.

It is contended that with a year's manufacturing supply in Sydney, with 1,000,000 tons mined on Bell Island and with mining operations still continuing on the present scale that the Company, from a financial viewpoint, could not keep employment proceeding on the same large scale as was made by arrangement with the Government.

Regarding free ore, the remission of the tax only applies to 1923, after which the tax of 25 cents on ore to Sydney and 10 cents on ore to foreign countries would be collectable.

The matter of the Company's position in this country was thoroughly ventilated in the House of Assembly during the last session.

Hon. Mr. Higgins, the leader of the Opposition, in the House of Assembly, had the following to say:—

"I would merely urge upon the Minister of Finance the necessity of getting down to business methods with regard to this contract

from this moment. It has been agreed to lift the tax for 1923, but let the Companies know now that they must pay what the Contract provides for in the future. Let them know that from December 31st this thing has got to end and the country wants its money. If at any time in the future an amendment to the Act is found necessary, then amend it in the proper manner."

Hon. Mr. Warren said:—

"Mr. Chairman, in dealing with the question of the export duty on iron ore from Bell Island, I quite agree with what has been said by the learned Leader of the Opposition, and between now and the first of January next every effort will be made by the Government to see that the tax goes on again, and will be kept on, unless the Government is fully convinced that circumstances and conditions are such as would not warrant the House agreeing to an extension of time for the remission of that tax. It must be remembered, though, that the Government is in a very awkward position in relation to this matter, as my honourable friend opposite, no doubt, recognises. Supposing that next week I were to notify the British Empire Steel Corporation that on the first day of January, 1924, the ore tax has got to be put on, according to contract? The Corporation knows that conditions are such in and around Conception Bay, that there are a couple of thousand men there depending on the mines at Bell Island for work, and advantage might be taken of this knowledge and immediately the mines would be closed down. Then look what a hardship that would mean to these workmen and their families right in the middle of the winter season."

MR. HIGGINS:—But the Corporation would judge the man they are dealing with.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:—That may be, but if the Corporation do close down the mines, they will be handled properly. Certain facts and figures must be submitted to the Government, and the Government must come here and defend the abolition of the duty, based on these facts and figures.

The *Advocate* does not defend the Company. It has merely passed to the public as much information as could be gleaned regarding the Company's side of the case.

There is certainly a case for Newfoundland and her people, and surely the country's treatment of Besco entitles the country to know not a part, but all the facts of the situation.

The Bell Island curtailment at this period is most unfortunate, and if Besco's action is taken to secure free ore for next year, the Government will be confronted with a position, so serious for our workmen, as will be impossible to overlook.

It is a situation that must be faced. To face it and deal with it successfully, all the facts must be known.

U. S. CONSUL BENEDICT LEAVES

United States Consul James S. Benedict has been notified of his transference from St. John's to Windsor, Ontario, and will be leaving this city shortly to take up his duties in the Canadian province.

While warmly congratulating the Consul on his well-deserved promotion, Newfoundlanders generally and the people of St. John's in particular, cannot but be sensible of the great loss the community sustains by the removal from our midst of Mr. and Mrs. Benedict, both of whom have won the genuine esteem of our people, the former by his extreme courteousness and unflinching willingness to afford every satisfaction in the performance of his duties, and the latter by her deep interest and practical participation in all philanthropic work.

Mr. Benedict was appointed to St. John's in 1907, and thus he has spent 16 years in the country as the official representative of our neighbor Republic. Included in this term was the never-to-be-forgotten war period which made increasingly difficult and exacting demands upon the American Consul, who at all times measured up to the requirements of his office. It was proverbial that the increase in the volume of his work in no way lessened that personal attention Mr. Benedict was at all times prepared to give to all matters and he invariably made things as easy as possible for those who had business to transact with the consulate.

It is understood that Mr. Benedict will be succeeded by Mr. Alfred A. Winslow, who is at present at Windsor acting temporarily. Mr. Winslow is a Consul General, and his appointment to the consulate here will likely not be permanent.

Motorist Charged With Breaking Regulations

COUNCILLOR OUTERBRIDGE IS WITNESS—HE MAKES STATEMENT TO COURT CHARGING DISCRIMINATION

A case of more than ordinary interest to motorists was given a hearing before Judge Morris this morning. He said there was gross discrimination in these traffic regulations and he apologized to the present defendants for having them before the Court. It was he who brought the parking of cars before the Board of Trade Bldg. to the attention of the Sergeant in charge of the beat. The cabman and motorist had been discriminated against. Those regulations were the fad of the Inspector General of Police and in his, Councillor Outerbridge's opinion, the Council was being made the 'goat' to such an extent that it was being made the laughing stock of the community. He referred particularly to a recent order of the Council which had received such a warm reception as to be regulated to a region, which even St. John's Municipal Councillors dread to contemplate sojourning therein even in transit.

Judge Morris said Councillor Outerbridge was quite within his rights in thus expressing his opinion as to what he considered discriminatory regulations, but they were the law and had to be obeyed.

A resident of the South Side was fined \$5.00 and costs for assaulting a married woman. At 11 o'clock on a recent night the defendant called at complainant's house to object to certain names which the defendant's 12-year old boy had called his wife. He was refused admission but says 'strongly objected to being made the 'goat' on this occasion. Why were

not eight or nine other car owners summoned.

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The Fishermen's Protective Union



By FISHERMAN

I am an F. P. U. man, was born and reared in a northern outpost. I have dragged the fish from the sea, suffered in the catching of it, was sacrificed in the selling of it, and, with thousands of others, am determined never to grow weary till the many hard circumstances under which we labour are made better.

For many years my pen has been silent; though my voice has been heard in many outposts and in many districts advocating the fishermen's right to live and defend, with my full breath, the Fishermen's Protective Union, our great President and the many sterling men who have brought the F. P. U. flag, with full honours, through many a hard-fought contest. They are great men. I know them, almost all, have shaken hands with them, have talked over the fishermen's affairs with them and hoped, aye, and prayed together.

And, now, the time is ripe. I think, when my humble pen should crave permission to write in this column of our own paper, the words which my voice can no longer reach to all the people. With its wide circulation in the outposts, the *Advocate* will speak my message to the fishermen more loudly than any other paper; and what paper has earned for itself the right to speak for the "underdog" like the Fishermen's *Advocate*?

I shall not be able to speak every day. I live in a northern outpost where mails are irregular and the uncertainty of the weather makes the service also uncertain.

But, for today, fishermen, my word to you is "Stand by the Union."

I have stood by the Union since I first heard Coaker in this little fishing settlement. I intend to stand by the Union.

In this column I intend to tell you why I shall and why you should.

Mails for the Schem for Great Britain and European Countries will close on Saturday the 6th inst. at 3 p.m. The Schem leaves Halifax for day for this port.

Prospero Sails

The S.S. Prospero, Capt. John Field sailed north at 10 a.m. today, taking a full freight and the following passengers:—Messrs. Bishop, J. Penney, Gedge, Capt. Jones, J. Avery, Rev. W. Williams, W. H. Wright; Mesdames C. M. Spurrel, Mrs. Capt. Jones; Misses Susie Justian, M. Fowlow, Fitzgerald, Plowman, Blackler, Hyde, W. Houghtlin, Blake, McClure, M. Martin, Smith, Northover, and 30 steerage.

NOTICE

One month after date hereof, application will be made to His Excellency the Governor in Council for the right to use the waters of Lomanete River and Aquaforte River, for the purpose of driving machinery.

Sept. 20, 11, wk. 4 wks P. F. MOORE.

upon him. This the Judge refused to believe. He had no business to go to the complainant's house late at night looking for satisfaction or apology from his wife's villifiers. There was another and much more peaceable way of having the child reprimanded. He ought to have told the father of the boy who he says is co-worker at Jobs.

Do you want to tell the Fishermen what you have for sale? Well, then, put your ad in THE FISHMEN'S PAPER.

W. M. S. Convention Western District

The Third Annual Convention of the Western District was held in Central Church, Burin, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 19th, and 20th, and was enjoyed to the full by all who attended. Fourteen delegates responded to the roll call, representing five auxiliaries, one circle, eight bands, besides about ten visiting members, some of these walking about twenty miles to attend. This will give an idea of the interest taken in the work. The reports from delegates were most encouraging, and despite the depression of the times the District showed an increase both in membership and funds.

The Convention was opened by Mrs. (Rev.) Howse, our District Superintendent, who presided at all the meetings. A very hearty welcome was given to delegates and visitors by Mrs. C. F. Bishop, the President of the Burin District, and responded to by Mrs. Julia Patten of Grand Bank. An election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in the re-election of Mrs. (Rev.) Howse and Mrs. Ella Hollett as District Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, respectively, while Mrs. Merrill Tibbo was elected Secretary-Treasurer. A very impressive Memorial service was conducted by Miss Ella Hollett in memory of our members who had been called to higher service during the year, and fitting tributes were paid to the lives of the departed by those with whom they were associated.

On Wednesday evening the Burin Auxiliary royally entertained all W. M. S. workers attending the sessions, in the basement of the Church, where a bountiful feast was spread; and the social hour was much enjoyed by all. Thursday afternoon took the form of a children's meeting and it was inspiring to see such a gathering of little ones considering the distance some of them had to come in boats. The little tots did their parts well, showing careful training on the part of the Presidents and helpers. A questionnaire on the Blue Book was ably conducted by Mrs. (Rev.) Young of Fortune, a very profitable time was spent in dealing with facts on our W. M. S. work.

A very large audience gathered on Thursday evening and listened with interest to the items of a lengthy programme. Miss Hollett addressed the gathering on "Our Open Doors." She spoke of the strangers within our gates and Canada's problem of dealing with them, also of the Church's great opportunity. She also told of the willingness of missionaries today to go to the ends of the earth for Christ, mentioning the fact that we have two in our own District prepared to go, Miss Millicent Howse of Grand Bank, and Miss Grace Bishop, of Burin, who has just been accepted by the Board of Managers to train as a Missionary. Mrs. Howse, in her usual good way addressed the meeting, and a letter was read from Miss Wagg by Miss White. The music was of a high order all through; a solo was well given by Mrs. (Rev.) Young; and papers by Mrs. M. Handrigan and Mrs. Merrill Tibbo. The close of the meeting was a veritable surprise party. Mrs. Young, convener of the courtesy committee brought a beautifully worded report thanking all who had helped to make the Convention a success. Mrs. Howse was then presented with an address and a ten dollar gold piece from the District, showing how her work amongst us the past three years has been appreciated. Mrs. Wagg, the mother of our own Missionary was made a life member by the Burin Auxiliary. Mrs. C. F. Bishop was also presented with a life-membership certificate and address showing the great esteem in which she is held by her auxiliary.

Lastly little Miss Marjorie French, daughter of the Pastor was presented with a life membership fee of the band by her little friend, Miss Eloise Hollett.

The following Sunday evening service brought the Convention to a close. A large congregation gathered while the Pastor, Rev. Mr. French preached a very fitting sermon. Mrs. Howse read a splendid message from Mrs. Lindsay regretting that she could not be with us. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered at the close. All who attended will go to their homes with greater interest in the work; and with hearts full of gratitude to the people of Burin who cannot be surpassed for their friendliness and hospitality.

Labrador Gold Fizzle

A member of the staff of Saturday Night has just received a letter from Greta G. Bidlake, who has just returned to Moncton, N.B., after a trip to Stag Bay Harbor, Mrs. Bidlake, who has been teaching in Labrador Mission schools, has the following to say with regard to the great disappointment which met prospectors who went to the alleged gold camp: "You may tell your financial editor that I applaud him vigorously when he says the Labrador gold scheme was a fizzle. Indeed it was. I was one of the first two white women to get down there—there seemed to be a number of Eskimo women and men about, but I did not discover their extent and status nor the length of their stay. Their homes were North of Hopedale. The gold 'parties' on the boat were for the most part quite subdued though striving to be optimistic in their conversation and all disclaimed responsibility for advertising put out and tactics adopted by 'the Company.' There were seventeen policemen dressed as much like Mounties as possible without infringing on the copyright, five customs officers (one would find himself idle enough to die of ennui), and about a dozen prospectors until we brought more. We also had the outfit for a wireless station and an operator. We had wintered on Belle Isle, an island in Siberia which Jacques Cartier with his usual insight named Isia aux Demons. They had the best of provisions and lots of them. Everyone seemed fed up about the gold—nothing doing. A small amount to be found in the hands of the rivers but likely brought down by glaciers. No veins had been found. Some men came out with gold-bearing quartz, said they got it nearby at Byron's Bay. I do not pose as a cynic but—

"As to the Steamship Watchful, the Newfoundland Government are ever willing to exploit, but never to benefit Labrador. They were evidently very much taken in by stories of what they would make out of it. My impression of their politics is that the combined common sense shown by their legislators from 1878 until now would do a good horse great mental injustice—well, not quite that bad, but it does make one hell of a look on a poor, pinched, striving pauperized people, and know that, as Dr. Padon puts it, politics is the most lucrative of the Newfoundland professions—they just line their pockets."

As a sort of sequel to the 'fizzle' one may note that, following a meeting of directors, the Labrador Goldfields, Limited, 25 St. Francis Xavier Street, was put into liquidation last week at Montreal by order of Mr. Justice Coderre, in Superior Court, acting on a petition presented by the company itself, asking that its affairs be wound-up through lack of assets. Alexander Burnett was named provisional liquidator, and a meeting of creditors and shareholders will be held later.

The company, the directors' resolution reads, is unable to meet its liabilities, and they declare that its stock has become of little or no value. In its petition it asks that it be declared insolvent, that the liquidator be appointed, and that creditors' and shareholders' meetings be called.

The company was incorporated with an authorized capital of \$50,000. Following is the list of directors: J. Lambert Payne, vice-president; Dr. J. B. McConnell; O. Stewart; A. Burnett; A. Seybold; Ottawa; Col. J. O. James and H. G. Belfave; Toronto Saturday Night.

Mr. John Norris who has been in the city for the past few weeks on business, left for Conche by the Prospero this morning.

ATTENTION, FISHERMEN! TOWER'S WATERPROOF OILED SUITS

are made for you—the men who need the best in waterproof clothing. They are sized big for comfort and strong at every point.

TOWER'S A. J. TOWER CO. BOSTON, MASS.
PETERS & SONS, ST. JOHN'S, Agents

