

# The Mail and Advocate.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, DECEMBER 9, 1914.

## THE UPPER HOUSE

THE F.P.U. Catalina Convention emphatically protested against the outrage committed on the common people by the Dumping Chambers' refusal to give the Loggers' Bill even a second reading.

That Chamber knew the Bill had been passed by the Lower House without a dissenting voice. What was strongly objected to by the employers had been removed from the Bill and the provisions it contained had reference only to the food supplied the men and their accommodation. The members of the Upper House cared little whether men were forced to lay on beds of boughs which were often icy and wet, nor did they care that more attention was bestowed upon the fittings of the sheds which served as stables for the employers horses than was bestowed upon the condition camps used by the loggers.

A gas-bag that any sensible man could easily read, came here to represent one of the small companies and lobbied until he had secured the support of men that he knew were not responsible to the people and the old trick so long practiced across the water of keeping down the masses by the power of the House of Lords was adopted here and to-day the strongest organization this country has ever owned is pledged to abolish the power of non-responsible slave masters, as their brothers in Britain did three years ago with the power of the House of Lords.

Never, in all the history of this Colony's sixty years of responsible government was anything so bare faced and brazen attempted in connection with a measure going up from the Lower House.

The peoples' representatives fresh from the polls and by an unanimous vote decreed that the four thousand men working as loggers should have some attention bestowed upon them as regards the food supplied them and the condition of their living and sleeping quarters. That was all, but that little was enough to cause the Lords of the Dumping Chamber to hurl its hitherto concealed hatred of the masses into the face of the Party in the Lower House that introduced the measure and who were sent there to represent the wishes of the toilers of the country.

No country was ever treated so insultingly, no body of upstarts clothed in a little brief authority in any country under the sun ever attempted such an outrage.

But it was not done with impunity.

The toilers, thank Heaven, have an influence now that can reach even to the Throne and when the next political battle is fought the foremost matter to be submitted will be the abolition of that useless and autocratic chamber now known as the Dumping Chamber.

To treat the Loggers' Bill with contempt would have been sufficient to arouse the indignation of the people, but in addition the country this year was further humiliated by having two defeated candidates just fresh from the polls, thrust into the Dumping Chamber as soon as a couple of vacancies were secured, and because of being dumped there the Government got the Governor to consent to their appointment as members of the Executive Government and as Ministers of the Crown—positions the electorate had declared only four months previous they should not occupy.

This was done against the protest of the F.P.U. Convention which had laid its protest against such action in the hands of the Governor through a deputation of the whole Convention which had paraded from their place of meeting in this city to Government House.

If the Dumping Chamber had not been guilty of any other objectionable action, this would have been sufficient in any other country in the Empire to bring public indignation to boiling point to elicit a demand for the abolition of such a trickish and unconstitutional proceeding.

The time has now come for action. The fishermen have struck the first blow, and when the next general election comes the fate of that useless appendage of our Legislature will be decided.

Had it been decent enough to observe the signs of the times and had it treated the peoples request with respect that useless body might have gone on for a few more years, but as in England the local Lords defied the decision of the People's Parliament respecting the collection of taxes and thereby initiated one of the greatest political struggles in the history of England, which ended in making the House of Lords a Consulting Chamber, shorn of all power. So here the Upstart Lords hurled their insults and contempt, at the People by refusing to give a second reading to the first measure that ever went up to that Chamber in the interest of common humanity.

Had it been a beaver or deer bill, or a bill to preserve the herd of seals, or a bill to protect brute beasts it would have been given days of consideration and ultimately have passed—but this bill came from the largest body of men in Newfoundland—an organization that had controlled the return of thirteen members of the Lower House at the recent election and was intended to protect suffering humanity in a manner that would do no injury to any other interests, and was supported by every member of the Peoples' High Court—yet it was treated as though it was a bill intended to introduce small pox or cholera into the country.

The Dumping Chamber have made their own bed and they must now lay upon it.

The fate of that useless contemptible ornament is now sealed, thanks to its own want of discretion.

**FOR SALE—Schooner To Let—That Centrally**  
 "Dorothy B." 56 tons, 7 years old; juniper plank, well built, well found. Can be inspected in port. Apply to THOMAS SCAMMEL, JR., Change Islands, or Fishermen's Union Trading Co., St. John's.—dec5, w61, d31

## ANOTHER TOP-NOTCH FEATURE AT THE NICKEL TO-DAY.

A GREAT MORAL PHOTO-PLAY.

### "THE IMPOSTER."

A superlative dramatic production in three parts, abounding in stirring situations. The story of a lone woman's triumph over her conscienceless enemies, produced by THE GAUMONT CO., Paris.

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## AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS PROPOSED BY THE F. P. UNION RESOLVED AT CATALINA CONVENTION

### THE PRESENT LAW

Wherever practicable a doctor shall be carried in each ship.

In addition to the food usually supplied, not less than one pound of soft bread shall be served to each member of the crew three times each week.

Beef, pork, potatoes and pudding shall be supplied for dinner three times each week.

Fresh beef shall be supplied to each member of the crew once each week and when fresh beef is not available through circumstances over which the owner or master of the ship has no control, canned beef shall be substituted therefor.

The owner or master of any steamer offending against any of the regulations set forth in sections 1 and 2 shall be liable, for every offence against section 1, to a penalty not exceeding \$500, and for every offence against section 2, where such offence shall arise from any act, neglect or default of such owner or master, after his attention has been called to such offence, to a penalty of not less than twenty-five dollars and not exceeding five hundred dollars, to be recovered in each case in a summary manner by any member of the crew of such steamer, who shall sue for the same before a Stipendiary Magistrate. Provided it shall be proved that complaint of any such offence against section 2 was made to the master at the time it occurred, provided that written notice of such suit shall be given to the said owner or master within seven days after the arrival of the steamer at port of discharge.

One half of any fine imposed under this section shall be paid over to the person or persons taking suit and one half to the Minister of Finance for the use of the Colony.

No seals shall be killed by any member of the crew of any ship prosecuting the seal fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence before the 12th day of March in any year, nor shall seals so killed be brought into any port of this colony under a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars to be recovered from the master, owner or other person on whose account such steamer shall have been sent to the fishery and subject to the proviso in the latter part of section eight.

The owner of steamers shall be liable in the case of the crew of any steamer being paid off at the end of the voyage with a balance insufficient to amount to pay the fares of the crew to their respective homes, to contribute a sum not exceeding four dollars which when added to the amount paid the crew will be sufficient for payment of the said fares.

### THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A doctor shall be carried in each steel ship.

In addition to the food usually supplied, not less than two pounds of soft bread shall be served to each member of the crew three times each week.

Beef, pork, potatoes and pudding shall be supplied for dinner daily, fish may be substituted for beef and pork on Wednesdays and Fridays and soup on Saturdays.

Fresh beef shall be supplied to each member of the crew on Sundays and when fresh meat is not available through circumstances over which the owner or master of the ship has no control, canned beef shall be substituted therefor.

(d) By adding the following as s.s. (g): "In addition to their shares of seals chief cooks if their services have been satisfactory, shall each be paid a bonus of \$30.00, and assistant cooks each \$20.00 at the end of each voyage by the owners."

The owner or master of any steamer offending against any of the regulations set forth in sections 1 and 2 shall be liable, for every offence against section 1, to a penalty not exceeding \$500, and for every offence against section 2, where such offence shall arise from any act, neglect or default of such owner or master, after his attention has been called to such offence, to a penalty of not less than twenty-five dollars and not exceeding five hundred dollars, to be recovered in each case in a summary manner by any member of the crew of such steamer, or as provided in Sec. 14, who shall sue for the same before a Stipendiary Magistrate, provided that written notice of such suit shall be given to the said owner or master within thirty days after the arrival of the steamer at port of discharge.

One half of any fine imposed under this section shall be paid over to the person or persons taking suit and one half to the Minister of Finance for the use of the Colony.

No steamers crew shall be paid off with less than four dollars per man, exclusive of cropping.

### Marine Disaster Fund

Already acknowledged ... \$305,730.59  
 Montreal Fund (additional) per Arthur Clift, Treasurer, and the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister 20.50  
 \$305,751.09  
 R. WATSON.

- Sec. 1, s.s. (h) of the said chapter is amended by deleting the words "wherever practicable."
- Sec. 2 of the said chapter is amended as follows:
  - s.s. (a) by substituting the words "two pounds" for the words "one pound."
  - s.s. (b) by substituting the word "daily" for the words "three times each week," and by adding the words "fish may be substituted for beef and pork on Wednesdays and Fridays and soup on Saturdays."
  - s.s. (c) by substituting the words "on Sunday" for the words "once each week."
- Sec. 4 is amended by deleting the words "provided it shall be proved that the complaint of any such offence against Sec. 2 was made to the master at the time it occurred," and by substituting the word "thirty" for the word "seven" between the words "within" and "days."
- Sec. 10 is repealed.

be liable for the amount.

(7) The right of property in seal pelts arising from the killing of seals and taking the pelts thereof into possession shall cease if the pelts be not taken on board the steamer by whose crew the seals were killed on the day of such killing. Thereafter the pelts shall belong to the owners of the sealing steamer on which the said pelts are put or whose crew or some member thereof have actual physical possession of the pelts.

(8) The Workmen's Compensation Act 8 Ed. VII, Cap. 5, shall apply to employment on board a sealing steamer. Injury by or from unusually severe exposure while on the ice shall be held to be injury by accident within the meaning of the Act.

(9) The Governor-in-Council may appoint a Board of Inspectors composed of three ship-builders, and make regulations for the performance of their duties, which shall have the force and effect of law after publication in the Royal Gazette.

(10) No Sealing steamer shall be cleared outwards for the seal fishery in any year without a certificate from the Board of Inspectors that she has within one month of the date of the clearance been inspected and found seaworthy and well fitted for the seal fishery.

(11) The Governor-in-Council may appoint a Board of Examiners consisting of three persons having not less than ten years' experience as masters of sealing steamers, and make rules and regulations providing for examinations which shall have the force and effect of law after publication in the Royal Gazette.

(12) No person shall be employed in any sealing steamer as second hand, or master watch, or Master without a certificate of competency from the Board of Examiners, under a penalty of five thousand dollars for each unqualified person, payable by the owner of the steamer.

(13) If two or more members of any crew of a sealing steamer shall die from exposure due to negligence on the part of the captain,

while on a sealing voyage, the master shall not afterwards be employed as such in any sealing steamer, under a penalty of five thousand dollars payable by the owners of any steamer so employing such masters.

(14) Any penalty provided by this Act may be sued for by any member of any steamer's crew in connection with which any offence here-

under has been committed, or by any other person in his own name who has been authorised so to do by any member of a crew.

### Picked Up, Herring Net.

Owner can get same by sending marks and particulars to ELI SQUIRES, Sibley's Cove, Trinity Bay South.—nov28

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