

A BARGAIN
150 Sax
Corn Meal
at **\$1.85**
per sack.
J. J. ROSSITER
Real Estate Agent
Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



The Mail and Advocate
Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 29, 1915.

Breaches of the Sealing Law

LAST night, in the House, Mr. Coaker spoke about the manner in which the steamer owners had broken the food regulations of the Sealing Laws passed last year. The Erik's crew had been treated almost inhumanly. The laws had been deliberately disregarded. The ships were without a proper supply of food. If the men's statements are correct. On several ships the breaches of the food regulations have been an outrage. Even on board of the Florizel the food was not supplied according to law. The fresh beef and canned beef provision was not carried out except on board of the Nasopic. Much credit is due Hon. W. C. Job for the attention given the supplies of food on Job's ships and the manner in which the food was cooked. Mr. Job's example and that of Capt. Geo. Barbour might be followed with much profit and credit by other firms and Captains. Mr. Coaker's speech on the Sealing Bill delivered last night will be published in due course and the public will then be able to judge as to whether the firms are endeavouring to do what is possible to carry out the laws. He said he would give them another year to prove they intended to do their best, and if no improvement was visible then, an amendment would be introduced, placing an official on each ship to enforce the laws.

The following statement was read in the House by Mr. Coaker last night and it does not reflect credit on the owners of the Erik:—
331 of Fare on the S.S. "Erik" for Sealing Voyage, 1915, from March 23 to April 27th.

Fresh Beef was served in soup three times during the whole voyage, namely the first three Monday out.

Potatoes and Turnips served only twice with duff during the whole voyage.

Bread was served once for the Spring. Beans twice a week for breakfast until the 15th of April. None for breakfast from that time to the end of the voyage.

For eight days on trip from St. John's to Port aux Basques 1 lb. loaf of bread served to a bunk's crew of three men. The first week the baker was on board we got no soft bread. The following week on Saturday, March 27th, we got bread, but it was so sour that we could not eat it. We got soft bread once a week after that.

Turnips were served in soup only three times during the voyage.

On Good Friday, April 2nd, the steward refused to give us salmon for dinner. It was the first time as asked for salmon.

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, we had Pork for dinner, but no more pork was served till Sunday, the 25th.

We did not see any Canned Meat for the Spring.

On April 13th five men went to the Captain and asked that food be supplied three crew according to the Sealing Laws of 1914. The Captain said that the food was not on the ship.

On April 12th the last meal of potatoes was served.

We hereby certify that the foregoing statement is true and correct in every particular.

- ARTHUR GOSS,
- FRED DODD,
- HENRY GOSS,
- JOSEPH G. MURPHY,
- RICHARD THORNE,
- THOMAS HYNES,
- WILL WYLLIE,
- BEN. LEORON,
- ALEX. LACEY.

The New Reid Give-Away

YESTERDAY'S debate on the so-called Wilson Deal revealed the fact that this much talked of Mr. Wilson does not appear to have any connection with this matter so far as the documents and agreements possessed by the government go.

The whole affair is a new Reid deal, so far as now observable the Reids and their solicitor are the only persons connected with it.

It is an attempt by the Reids to secure a bigger grab than they ever got from this Colony, and the speeches of Messrs Kent and Morine which occupied all of the afternoon session of the House proved that this octopus would secure all these valuable concessions worth probably \$50,000,000, by spending in seven years five million dollars, in and about their demise, all over the colony, which may mean a very small expenditure in establishing an industry or in labor, as it is said, the Reids are selling to the new company their interests in the Humber, Notre Dame Bay and the Gander for \$3,000,000 and if the company secures any rights or timber areas or water powers in the Humber or has to compensate any owners for damages, it is apparent that all the \$5,000,000 will be expended in so doing, and the whole thing will fizzle out in an outrage of legalized robbery, to take from the people and colony the only valuable properties in the country in order to add to Reids' interests, and to make sure to them what little of value in the colony remained after they secured their grabs under former contracts.

Both speakers condemned the agreement in the strongest language permissible, and showed it would be of little value to the Colony, while it would ensure great concession to the company for which nothing in return was ensured.

Mr. Morine's speech of nearly two hours was indeed worthy of him, and he stripped the infamy shroud by shroud and revealed a monster that he felt sure the Government had never intended to construct. He condemned the agreement without having it submitted to the scrutiny of the best available legal ability. It was prepared by the company's solicitor, Mr. Furlong, who was a director in the new company the solicitor for the Reids and a director of the Reid Newfoundland Company and they had accepted the agreement as it was with their eyes closed and now it was shown to be the biggest attempt ever made by any Minister in any country to take from a people its heritage, giving absolutely nothing in return except windy promises contained in the estimates of the promoters which were not in the agreement, but which were given the Premier, made up as rosy as possible in order that he may read them as part of a speech to be handed out to the people.

Mr. Morine's speech will begin publishing tomorrow, and it will be continued until finished. Every citizen should carefully read it.

MR. MORINE said, that in its present shape the Resolutions and Contract were very terrible propositions. With the Contract the Committee could not interfere, that was a matter between the contracting parties, but over the Resolutions the Committee had full power, and they should be radically altered. The Contract and Resolutions were drafted by the Solicitor for the Contractors, who was at the same time Legal Advisor to the Government and Law Clerk to the Legislature. Looking at the amazing document before them the Committee would find it difficult to decide whether it showed very great stupidity or very great cunning on the part of those who were responsible for it. Having regard to the great legal ability of the person who drafted it, he was bound to assume that it was not stupidly made but wholly in the interest of the contractors, and he regretted that the Government had not employed competent legal men outside the Government itself to criticize and assist in drafting the agreement and resolutions.

He would not be persuaded that the Government fully understood all that the Contract might mean until by the obstinate resistance of the Government to any amendments it had shown its disregard to the public interest.

He was pleased to be able to assume that the terrible things he saw in the Contract were not deliberately intended by the Government, and, therefore, he looked for a willingness to make amendments. It was not one contract in reality which they had before them, but three contracts—one dealing with the Humber areas, another with the Exploits and Gander areas, and the third with the Hamilton Inlet.

These three subjects should have been dealt with in three separate contracts, and not in one contract which was so involved as to be puzzling to a reasonable lawyer, and not understandable by an ordinary layman. He objected to the proposed concessions about the Hamilton Inlet upon the ground that they gave away the greatest free water power at present in the North American Continent without a dollar of return to the country.

It was not difficult to imagine that within the next ten or twenty years this water-power could be sold for enough to pay the whole public debt of the Colony, and that it was now being given away for nothing. He objected to the concessions concerning the Exploits and Gander basins, because they practically gave control of this immensely valuable region to the Company for twenty-one years without requiring any expenditure whatever by the Company during that time.

These concessions practically destroyed the property of every person having rights in that region, because they made this new company Lord and Master over the destinies of the area in question. It was a region which had mineral possibilities, for copper and phosphates particularly, and had been very cunningly mapped out.

He objected to the concessions on the Humber, because they were based upon the assumption that every person or company, now having any rights there, had agreed to assign them, which was not true. These persons or companies were being sold out to this new company. He objected to the whole agreement on the ground that the new Company which was obtaining tremendous franchises, had no shareholders, no capital, and undertook no obligations, with what the Colony was now giving. The Company could go into the market and sell out, possibly, for a great sum, which would enrich those who are promoting the Company, and possibly, not result in any good whatever to the public.

He objected to freedom from taxation of all kinds being given to the Company without limit or time Tax exemptions, he said, were a menace to any country in which they were given. The new company was not formed under a special act of Parliament limiting its operations, but under the general Companies' Act, and could enter into any other business or trade and compete therein with every established trade of the Colony, free from all forms of taxation for ever, while competing with people who were maintaining the Colony's institutions.

He dealt exhaustively with the form of the Contract, pointing out its lack of safeguards and the looseness of its phrasing, and generally, made an attack upon the document which created the feeling very generally in the House and amongst the audience that in its present form the agreement should not be assented to by the Legislature. He appealed to the members of the committee not to treat this as a party question, but to patriotically protect the interest of the public, and said he was filled with the hope that after he eyes of the Government were opened to the dangers of the proposition now before the Legislature, they would willingly assent to all proper amendments.

Mr. Kent's speech was logical and clearly exposed the attempts made to tangle the agreement by legal phrases and to leave the country's interests unprotected. We hope to publish it in a day or two.

The House met at 8 p.m. to continue the debate on the measure, but as the Premier was not ready to reply to the Opposition speakers' exposures of the outrageous contents of the agreement, the Opposition refused to proceed and the debate was adjourned till Friday.

The Sealing Bill was then taken up and explained by the Minister of Fisheries and Mr. Coaker, and accepted by both. Some further discussion took place over the wording of the Bill, in which Messrs. Bennett, Higgins and Kent took part. Mr. Coaker condemned the Government for appointing the Judge of the Supreme Court as a Sealing Commission, and intimated that confidence in the Bench had been sadly shaken since this great mistake was made, and it would take years before the people would regard it with the esteem it was held in before the Government started out to use it for political ends. He claimed that the new Sealing Bill had been carried on for the past year, and had there been no F.P.U., no Mail and Advocate, or no Coaker, the "Newfoundland" Disaster would have passed over as was the "Greenland Disaster." The Bill was the result of the sacrifice of seventy-nine heroes, and he believed that when it became law it would safeguard the sealers' lives and minimize the risks incurred in prosecuting the seal-fishery as far as it was possible by legislation to accomplish such.

The Union Trading Co. has purchased a "Chase" 30 h.p. Motor Truck which is now being utilized in handling the big traffic of to Company. The Company's business is rapidly increasing and has necessitated the purchase of this splendid motor car.

Proceedings at the House of Assembly

Messrs. Kent and Morine Speak On the New Reid Deal For Three Hours

Resolutions Torn Into Shreds By Brilliant Speech of Mr. Morine Agreement Dubbed Monster of Iniquity Most Infamous Proposal Ever Submitted To Any Legislature the World Over

Wednesday, April 28, 1195. House met at 3.20 p.m.

Mr. Morine presented two petitions, one from Salvage being a request for \$100.00 for a road, the other from St. Chad's on the question of an Electric Road Board.

Mr. Targett called the attention of Colonial Secretary to a question he asked on April 13th and Mr. Abbott made a similar request to the Minister of Finance and Fisheries as to questions of April 13th and 22nd respectively.

Prime Minister tabled some replies to questions asked by Mr. Morine relating to water powers on the Labrador.

Mr. Coaker asked the Premier for information relative to evidence taken by Hospital Commission.

Colonial Secretary tabled evidence regarding matters at the Lunatic Asylum that had been asked for by Mr. Coaker.

Notice of Questions on the Order Paper was then gone through, with the usual replies of "being prepared," etc.

House then went into Committee on the "Resolutions concerning the Newfoundland Products Corporation Limited." Mr. Parsons in the chair.

The debate was opened by Mr. Kent, Leader of the Opposition, who started out by saying that the Resolutions now before us contained matters of the gravest importance to the people of Newfoundland. Our first duty therefore was to view it in that light, and discarding all party feeling constitute ourselves "the people," and in our deliberations in the peoples' House in connection with the Resolutions before us, consider seriously the effect our decision would have on the welfare of future generations.

Let us ask ourselves therefore, what is this Corporation, how composed, and what powers do they already possess. He was sorry the Committee were not better informed, but we had nothing at all but the analysis of the Corporation as made by the Premier a few days ago. He (Mr. Kent) had asked whether any independent survey had been made as to the concessions to be given, and had been informed, that nothing beyond the ordinary Government survey had been made. Well, he certainly thought that the Government should come in prepared with all details as to the rights involved and we had nothing at all beyond the project as to its industrial application.

Mr. Kent then reviewed Mr. Wilson as an inventor and prospector, also his experience in connection with chemicals, and his connection with the Reid Newfoundland Company—a Company which already has too many interests in this Colony—a Company that at present have four million acres of land, the control of the railway system, and the greater portion of the Bay steamship service of the Colony, and a Corporation or Company that we now propose these resolutions to give the control, practically of all the water powers of the Colony—viewed in that light what returns are we to get that are to be considered in any way as commensurate with the concessions we are giving.

Mr. Kent showed that there was no proof that Mr. Wilson was concerned in this deal as his name was not mentioned in any of the documents tabled, the whole deal being one in which the Reids and their Solicitor were alone concerned. It was a new Reid contract, giving Reids all in the Colony that they did not secure in the Deal of 1898.

Mr. Kent contended that a concern such as this should be under the direct control of the Government who would safeguard all the rights involved in the interests of the people of the Colony. Broadly speaking the contract calls for the absorbing of all the water powers of the Colony, and it was very apparent that in the framing of the contract the Company had been very active and the Government not quite as active as it ought to be. There was no definition as to what the operations meant, and altogether the whole agreement was so confused, the different clauses being dovetailed into each other in such a manner that it led one to think it had either been carelessly drawn up or done with the purpose of making it perplexing in the extreme.

If this Bill passes in its present shape, said the Leader of the Opposition, we were giving this Corporation exemption from Taxation and Duty, for all time, on all their possessions (see Sections 6, 7, and 8) at the expense of every other industrial concern in the Colony, which was an outrage that should not be considered for a single moment.

An agreement such as the one before us, said Mr. Kent, should be clearly defined and clean cut, not vague, misleading, and arbitrary, as this was in its present shape.

The question of labour was also to be considered and in this connection no provision whatever had been made as to the wages to be paid, or the class of people to be employed so unless labour is furnished at such a rate of wages that would induce fishermen to give up their usual avocation and get work from this Corporation, the project as an industrial concern was practically useless. It was only right and proper that in our consideration of a project of such magnitude, as the one before us, we should have due regard to the rights of the people of this Country and see to it that these rights were strictly conserved. The contract as it stood carried no obligations whatever on the part of the Corporation, therefore, let us try and get down to the kernel and see to it that we don't give everything and get nothing in return.

Mr. Kent concluded a sound practical speech by stating that when discussing the various Sections as we went along in Committee, he would then have something more to say on the matter.

Mr. Morine said the matter before us is fraught with such tremendous possibilities that one approaches it with a feeling of despair in setting the matter before the House.

We are asked to confirm an agreement that has already been made, and in considering the matter every member of this House should have, and he trusted would have, his own say without regard to party or partizan feeling.

It was very apparent that the Resolutions had been framed by the Counsel for the Company, who was also the Solicitor of this House and a Director of this Newfoundland Company—a gentleman whose reputation in the legal profession was beyond dispute, and one whose framing of measures there was not a man on the Government side of this House capable of criticising—and yet it would be found that the framing of this agreement was not as intended, and had the Government submitted the Resolutions to some competent outside authority, they certainly would have been entirely different in their construction.

He (Mr. Morine) found fault with the Premier's speech in introducing the Resolutions because it contained no adequate warning as to the Tax exemption given this Corporation and covering all their operations in Newfoundland or on the Labrador—a conferring of power under the Companies' Act that made it possible for this Company to manufacture goods of every description free for all time from all taxation and binding all other manufacturers hand and foot to the Corporation in question. Viewed from this standpoint then, am I right or am I wrong when I say that before these Resolutions go through this House, they will be in different shape.

The Premier had also in his speech attached too much importance to figures that he had not satisfied himself as to accuracy.

Again, this Mr. Wilson had been exploited in this House but we search in vain for his name as a Shareholder in the concern, and as a matter of fact the Corporation as far as we know has no Directors beyond the Reids, and no Shareholders at all, in fact it was a "paper" Company that we were asked to give concessions of such magnitude to. Is it too much therefore that you won't be laughed at by and bye by some "Kite Flier" or other.

Why do you propose to give all to this Company and get nothing in return? said the hon. member for Bonavista, and in commenting on the ever increasing value of water powers he made the statement that the water powers of the Hamilton River alone would probably in 10 or 15 years time be sold for a sum that would pay off the public debt of the Colony—and this is what you purpose throwing at a "paper" Corporation as you would a bone to a hungry dog.

In further consideration of the question Mr. Morine reviewed the various clauses and sections of the Resolutions in detail and his pronouncement of the contract as it then stood was, that it was the most infamous document that was ever presented to any Legislature.

What authority have you, said the hon. member, to take all the common rights of owners of land in the affected areas—inherent rights they possess and what has always applied to the rivers and streams of the Colony, whether they like it or not, and make them subservient to these Lords' of the Manor?

He appealed to all as Newfoundlanders to conserve all these rights privileges instead of giving a Twenty Million Dollar Corporation freedom of taxation on their oxen and asses and everything

else they had for ever and ever—Amen.

Mr. Morine also touched upon a matter in which two members of the Legislative Council were concerned, viz—an agreement with the Products Corporation as to the absorbing of 30,000 horse power of 50,000 which the Company offer the outside public—a matter on which he (Mr. Morine) had received partial information in reply to questions he had given notice of.

The question of labour was also considered, and in this connection Mr. Morine emphasized Mr. Kent's remarks relative to the Corporation employing the cheapest labour of all nationalities procurable, as no provision had been made either for the class to be employed or what wages should be paid.

With regard to the exemption from taxation and duties, the Government if they had fully considered the question would have stated a given time, as in the case of the Harmsworths and not given a perpetual lease for ever and ever, and in connection with taxation generally Mr. Morine said that the only solution of this question and best, antidote the Colony could have against Confederation would be the universal adoption of Local Government Boards or Municipalities who would have the power of local legislation for their own needs but which was impossible so far as taxing this great Corporation.

Mr. Morine tore the Resolutions into shreds and concluded one of his best efforts by making an earnest appeal to all members of the House for their united, thoughtful, and non-partizan consideration of the project now before the House.

Recess was taken till 8 p.m. On resuming at 8.15 the Premier upon the suggestion of Mr. Morine announced a postponement of the debate till Friday next, and House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Seal Fishery Bill.

Mr. Piccott, Chairman of the Select Committee, appointed to consider the matter introduced the measure section by section. He (Mr. Piccott) thought time had come for this Country to look after the industry and the men who prosecute it. At the same he thought too much legislation might be harmful rather than helpful. When last year the Bill was brought in he thought it good, as it tended to the creation of an interest in the welfare of the industry.

The Upper House last year struck out certain parts of the measure, which he thought did not improve it in any way. As an instance of the necessity of such a law as proposed he pointed to the incident at Port aux Basques this spring, where men were put in jail for seeking to abandon the voyage. He thought those troubles would have not occurred had the Upper House not cut out the clause in last year's Bill providing for bringing a portion of the crew to land by April 10th.

Last year's accident set everybody thinking. It opened the eyes of the Government and Opposition alike. As one party they have come together to consider a Bill that the best thought and ability of the Select Committee could devise. He referred to the ignorance of sealing matters on the part of the Commission of Enquiry. They might know all about law, but they know nothing of sealing.

The Bill was then read section by section, and some comment was made as he went through it.

Mr. Coaker followed Mr. Piccott and reviewed the whole Bill, showing the benefits which it would confer upon the industry and the safeguards it provided against risk to the lives of the men. He showed the benefits that would accrue from the claim to do away with the right of property in panned seals after 24 hours, how it would safeguard the men from being sent panning long distances away, and would give smaller ships a chance to get a portion of the patch of young. It would compel the captains to get seals on board immediately, and would prevent them from being miles away from the men picking up panned seals from day to day as in the past Mr. Coaker thought one of the best safeguards was the \$1000 compensation to be paid by the ship owners for each man dying from exposure on the ice, or dying within two years as a result of exposure or injury, and in future captains would regard men's safety more seriously and be less eager to send them miles away from their ship. Every life lost in future would be costly to the ship owners and that was one way of safeguarding the precious lives of the brave men who pro-