

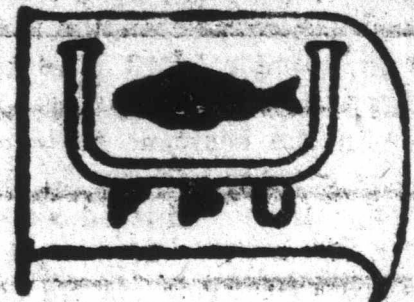
The Evening Advocate

The Evening Advocate The Weekly Advocate

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Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



"(To Every Man His Own)"

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

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ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1918.

THE Grand Jury retired to consider the indictment at 11.30 a.m. and came into Court at 1.15 p.m. with "No Bill." No witnesses were examined—no evidence or documents taken in the Lower Court were submitted to the Grand Jury. The only document they saw was the Reid letter to Lord Shaughnessy, which they asked for after they retired. No lawyer or any other person was admitted to the Jury room. It is contended by counsel for the prosecution that the Jury could not find a verdict of "No Bill" unless every witness was examined, therefore the matter comes before the Supreme Court again to-morrow.

THE STAR, as usual, swings in more than one direction, and on Saturday its columns alternate with abuse of the Government for its action regarding seal fat, and with abuse for not (so it says) taking sufficient interest in the Reid Strike. We effectively dealt with the open inconsistency of its policies on Saturday, so that the public and the workmen take at its "political value" all The Star says for or against Unions. With regard to the strike, the Government have taken the step that common-sense dictates first, in getting the disputants together.

This present strike concerns wages. A living wage, to our mind, is an absolute necessity, and no established industry should be permitted to exist unless it can give its employees a living wage. Of course there crop up many difficulties in determining this living wage, a single man, for instance, being able to live on much less than a married man, so there cannot be any hard and fast rule, but each case be determined on its own merits. The F.P.U. have a plank in its platform of the Minimum Wage, which ought to help to settle many disputes, and we should think that it is within the bounds of possibility that a Commission of Inquiry into the whole question of wages might be an efficient means of solving many of the problems that are bound to crop up in the coming years.

WE warn our readers against garbled accounts of the Government's action in the price of fat. All the seal oil may be consigned to the British Government, so that it will direct its distribution, etc., but the price is regulated by the market rate over there, so that the payment of \$12.00 for fat which the Government say should be paid is not a forcing of the British purchasers, but is a price based upon the value of oil to-day. The Government can obtain quotations of oil just as well as business firms. They also cannot blind their eyes to the fact that sealing steamers owned by those who do not manufacture their own seals, receive dividends of sixty per cent. or more on manufacturing, and this fact reveals that the margin of profit by those who have the means of manufacturing their seals is likely very considerable. This is borne out by an advertisement of a prominent Investment Company in the City, which ought to know whereof it speaks, which says, "We do not solicit orders from capitalists or merchants because ten to twenty per cent. profits would not interest them. In regular commerce, SEALING, shipping and many other activities, their profits are IMMENSE."

SEAL FAT

And here is another eye-opener on this question. After the seals were bought last year, the price of seal oil advanced 20 per cent. and the manufacturers here took it, and did not complain one bit! And the seal oil manufacturers do not want to lose the seals; no one need force them to buy, for they intend to have them. The Government were prepared to have the men's share of seals manufactured separately, giving the men \$12.00 per cwt. The manufacturers having their own two-thirds which they received free by the men's exertions would be in a position to undersell the Government, therefore the Government would have to sell at current prices, and if a loss was made the loss would not be shouldered by the British Government.

A member of the Government asked the seal oil manufacturers to submit figures which would show that they would lose money if they paid \$12.00 per cwt. for young fat. This they refused to do. All that The News has to say this morning to the contrary, the Government have not assigned any seals to be manufactured for them. The sealing steamers are discharging this morning, and the price is \$12.00 for young, and \$8.00 for old, and the merchants are giving it. As we have said, the Government base the price of \$12.00 on the present market value of seals, somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$85 per ton. The sealers or the Government cannot cause it to go to \$100 and there is sufficient profit in the venture at \$12.00 per cwt. The Government were quite justified in stepping in and smashing the arrangement which evidently existed between the seal oil manufacturers, and which fixed the price at \$10.00. We are told by The News this morning that this was the minimum price, and that the merchants would not hesitate to give more if they could! We might ask again, did the seal oil manufacturers increase the price last year when the market advanced 20 per cent. as noted above?

As for interfering in business matters there are precedents in plenty taken during this war by the British, and other Governments. Cold facts and figures justify the National Government in their action, and the toilers appreciate their work.

Premier Lloyd George Asks Newfoundland For Reinforcements

The Following Telegram has been received from the Secretary of State.

March 30th, 1918.
Following from Prime Minister:— Begins—I have been inspired during the past week with the constant news of the dauntless courage with which the Dominion Troops have withstood the desperate assaults of vastly more numerous German forces.

This battle shows that the Empire has reason to be proud of all its sons. Our armies can not have too many of these splendid men. As already announced we propose to ask Parliament to authorize immediately for the raising of fresh forces. I would also urge the Government of Newfoundland to reinforce its heroic troops in the fullest possible manner and with the smallest possible delay. The struggle is only in its opening stages and it is our business to see that our armies get the maximum measure of support that we can give them.

Let no one think that what even the remotest of the Dominions can now do can be too late. Before this campaign is finished the last man may count.

LONG.
The following reply has been sent:—
Secretary of State,

London,
March 31st.

With reference to your Telegram of 30th March.
My Government for some time past has been arranging fresh strong recruiting campaign, opening this week.

Please assure Prime Minister this Government will do all that is possible. I believe Newfoundland whole-hearted in determination to prosecute war to successful issue. Only yesterday received special message from Harbor Grace reaffirming loyalty to British Crown and determination as far as in their power lies to assist in carrying on war.

HARRIS.

Successful Year For Sun Life Assc. Co.

The Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada closed 1917 with another record statement for the year's operations.

The Company again maintained its position of leadership among Canadian life companies in amount of new assurance issued, total assurances in force, assets, surplus and income. Assets are over \$90,000,000, an increase of over \$7,000,000 for the year. It is to be noted that the Sun Life's assets have more than doubled in the past six years and more than trebled in the past nine years; a record of growth little short of phenomenal, and one clearly indicative of financial stability. Assurances issued and paid for during the year totalled over \$47,900,000, the largest amount ever secured by any Canadian life assurance company. Assurances in force now total over \$311,800,000. Cash income for the year amounted to over \$10,200,000. Surplus over all liabilities and capital now stands at over \$8,550,000. Payments to policy holders totalled \$8,840,245, bringing total payments to policyholders since organization to over \$69,000,000. Altogether, the record of Canada's largest assurance company during the past year is striking proof of the essential soundness of the principles of the assurance business on the one hand, and of the conservation and ability of the Company's executive officers on the other.

The Company is to be congratulated on the fact that it is now housed in one of the finest and most modern Head Office buildings in North America. Its new structure on Dominion Square, Montreal, besides being an ornament to the city, is thoroughly up-to-date, and will undoubtedly make for still greater efficiency in the administration of the Sun Life's ever-extending business. The interest of the Company in Newfoundland is looked after by its very capable representative Mr. David Johnson.

Greenspond Echoes

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—The topic for this month's conversation is Seals and Ships. Some opinions of different landmen are worthy of our thoughts and consideration. At our last F.P.U. meeting we discussed the history of the olden days, when so many vessels prosecuted the fishery, and many friends gave their opinions that more small steamers or sailing vessels would be better to-day if we had them. When we consider the small percentage of the value of the cargos that go to the crew of those ships and the small number of men who to the seal fishery, (others would go but cannot get berths), we think that there should be a better distribution of the value of our seal fishery by sending more ships, so that more men could get berths that wanted to go to the seal fishery. However many of our men think the steamers should be discarded and sailing vessels take their places. What we want is a better distribution of seals and labor, so that all can get a share. Friend John Cheater gave a few remarks on the olden times when he was a boy, fifty years ago, netting seals as they came around the bays. It was interesting to hear friend Cheater tell about shooting a large square flipper in a net. Friend Geo. Mullins gave a few remarks regarding the oil carried out of the country and manufactured as it could be manufactured in the Colony. Friends Stephen White, Peter Wornell, and Nathaniel Granter, gave their opinion as to the locality of seals or position of the seals. Friend John Cheater referred to the matter of men getting berths from others than the captain or owners. He thought this unfair, as men would never get a chance to get a berth. The matter of killing old seals is another consideration.

GREENSPOND, OFFICER.

Baker's Quit Work

Have Grievance With Employer.

The Bakers employed at the Anglo-American Bakery quit work this morning, owing to a grievance they have with the management. Mr. G. W. B. Ayre, owner of the Bakery, informs us that the men did not go out on strike because of a refusal to increase their pay, but says that on Wednesday last they asked for overtime for Thursday's work and that their demand was granted. On Saturday they asked for overtime for Tuesday's and Wednesday's work and were refused. Mr. Ayre also adds that the business has been, and is now, losing considerable money in its operation every year almost since its inception, and that it is unique in its character in as much as it was kept in being for many years solely for the benefit of the employees.

The men on the other hand insist that the wages they get are not sufficient for them to live on.

A Valuable Voyage

The total sealing voyage for this season, though probably much less in number than last year, will be considerably heavier and more valuable voyage.

Thus far there are fully one hundred thousand seals brought to port by seven ships. The rest of the northern fleet are expected home during the present week. The Viking in the Gulf will remain until finish up time. The full catch for 1917 was 156,228 seals, valued at over a half million dollars.

Two Men Missing

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries received a message yesterday from Mr. Fred H. White, Acting British Consul at St. Pierre, stating that a dory containing two men left St. Pierre on March 22nd and was last seen between Green Island and L'Anse-au-Loup, with motor broken down. A French tug was ready to start in search immediately on receipt of the message. Mr. Stone gave instructions that the tug proceed to search for the missing dory and men. If the date of the message is correct then the men have reached Green Island there is but little hope of rescue.

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LATEST CABLES

Not in Paris Yet

Miserable weather which has broken over the country is proving a deterrent to the Germans in their push forward. From all directions towards the battlezone from the regions of Somme southward to where the battle line turns eastward, furious fighting has been continuing on many sectors, but everywhere the enemy has been held and even pushed back at some points. Nowhere has he been able, although he continues to fly great masses of men into the fray, to gain ground except an infinitesimal gain from the French north of Moreuil. British and French machine guns and riflemen as well as in days past, again tore great holds in the ranks of Field Grey, as they endeavored to press on. So great have been losses of the Germans in front of the British north of the Somme that Sunday, saw them unwilling again to take up the gaps of the battle. All along the British themselves went on the offensive and to the east of Arras captured the village of Fouchy, on the southern end of the line where Von Hindenburg is endeavoring to pierce through to old German positions as they stood before his retreat in 1916. British and French troops fighting together, have met the enemy in furious combats, but everywhere defeated him with sanguinary losses. Not only has Von Hindenburg lost large number of men killed or wounded, but both British and French armies have taken considerable prisoners and also captured machine guns. At last accounts the Germans have launched a fresh attack in region between River Luce and Avre and fierce fighting was in progress. Reports from both British and French War Offices seemingly indicate that the Allied troops have reached the limits of the retrograde movement. The engagement Field Marshal Von Hindenburg made with himself to take dinner in Paris on all fool's day is off. Instead of truffles and other viands with which the German Commander-in-Chief predicted he would regale himself in the French capital on April 1st, his fare will be that of the German Army and instead of passing triumphantly through the Boulevards of the city in a victory over French and British troops, he will be busily engaged in dodging shot and shell hurled at him by them, and endeavoring to withstand the heavy thrusts of their infantry engaging his battle line.

William Dooley Held For Trial

Wm. Dooley was committed to the Supreme Court this morning on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of Robt. Penney. The case will now come before the Grand Jury. Bail was renewed in the same sum, \$10,000, with the same sureties. The case will be tried at this term of Court.

Bakers On Strike

The bakers employed at the Anglo-American Bakery go out on strike this morning for an increase of pay. The men claim that they have not been given any material increase since the war, and that they are unable to support their families on the present wage.

Weather Forecast

TORONTO, (Noon)—Fresh westerly winds, fair today and Tuesday, becoming milder.

FOR SALE—House

Wharf and Stores; in good condition and ready for fishing, selling at Fourteen Hundred Dollars (\$1400.00). Also Two Flakes and a Schooner 24 tons for \$210.00. For further particulars apply to THOMAS SMITH, South Port, Random, T.B.—apl.2id.wy6.2i

Metal Pot and Furnace in good condition. Apply at "Advocate" office, Duckworth Street.—s24.1i

A little methyated spirit rubbed over candles will harden them, and prevent them melting if kept in a warm place.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, Mar 30—(Official)—North of the Somme only local actions have taken place. South of the Somme enemy attacks yesterday at Demuin and Mezeres succeeded in pressing back our troops from the latter village. We secured a number of prisoners in counter attacks. At Demuin all the enemy's important attempts to

FOR VICTORY!

God of all flesh, the living God and true,
Whose power is over all, whose wisdom sways,
Who sittest in the throne of right, and weighs
The deeds of nations, rendering as their due;
Thou, who canst save by many or by few,
Who dost abase the proud, the lowly raise,
The fierceness of man's wrath turn to Thy praise,
Hear us in mercy, Lord, we humbly sue!

Lord God of Hosts, our only source of Might,
Judge Thou between us and our enemy;
Be Thou our cloud by day, our fire by night;
Lead us from out of bondage to be free;
Scatter the people that in war delight,
And grant us righteous peace through Victory!

From Montreal Star.—H. H. PITTMAN.

British Volunteered for Danger With a Smile Canadians Do Great Work, And Are Praised Highly By The French

LONDON, Mar. 31—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—A dashing feat performed by Canadian Mounted troops, is recorded by Reuter's correspondent at the French front. Telegraphing on Saturday evening the correspondent says, "Among the stories of the battle which are daily reaching French headquarters the following instance of Canadian gallantry deserves to be singled out. During the first days of the battle certain detachments of Canadian cavalry were placed under orders of the French General commanding the French army corps in such circumstances one might suppose the French to be disposed to be critical of our army. What they say British right. On Tuesday, the 26th, is that our troops, whom they re- the Germans made their attack upon most devotion, showing in the midst of the gravest danger a spirit of sacrifice and discipline, above praise. The British, they say, both officers and men, although worn with many days fighting, volunteered for danger without a word, even with pleasure. They seem delighted to find themselves fighting shoulder to shoulder with the French, as is the case on the Somme front where troops of the two armies are practically amalgamated. From prisoners we learn that the German losses in the battle for their old Somme positions have been extremely severe. The men attribute their casualties chiefly to the gallantry of our machine gunners who held out in shell holes spraying the enemy with bullets to the last moment. The 87th Prussian division ground to hear what the French suffered, extremely heavy losses.

How German Planned to Proceed With Attack

LONDON, Mar. 31—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—From a statement of prisoners and military papers captured during the battle, says Reuter's correspondent with the French Army, it is now possible to reconstruct the German plan of attack. East of St. Quentin it had been ordered that the Germans in mass should pass the line as soon as our second position was captured. Maps were issued to the officers and under officers showing the mechanism of the attack and the progress of the creeping barrage. On the back of the maps are reports prepared in advance, corresponding to the anticipated stages of the attack to be sent to the rear by messenger as each successive objective was reached; and drafts or requests for reinforcements, ammunition, etc., corresponding to the anticipated needs of each stage. The progress of the infantry was calculated at 200 metres (219 yards) per minute, which is twice the rate allowed in previous offensives. French mortar detachments, according to prisoners, followed the first waves of infantry, halted and opened fire as soon as the open country was reached. The enemy advanced by means of heavy blows, delivered in rapid succession, massed troops assailing quickly in order to bring about a local retirement of our line. The moment our men fall back the Germans would follow, thus threatening the fresh units which had not retired, and then subjecting them to a fresh frontal attack. If the evidence of prisoners is to be trusted, troops who hesitate to follow up the retiring enemy are driven into the being used with striking success.

capture the village broke down after great gallantry both mounted and sharp fighting which lasted through- out the afternoon. During the past week our cavalry have fought with numerous engagements.