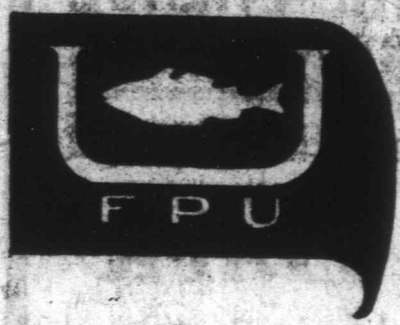


OUR MOTTO: "Sum Cuique."

**The Mail and Advocate**

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("To Every Man His Own.")

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, DECEMBER 15, 1916.

**PEACE**

THERE is no one, who, in his heart of hearts, does not wish that the present proposals of peace will be continued until the nations can agree as to the actual conditions. It is hardly to be expected, taking human nature as it is, that Germany is going to acknowledge in one breath that she has been wrong and has acted unworthily of a Christian nation. To suggest Peace at all seems at first glance to be a confession of weakness in her hopes of winning the war, and probably there will never be a more favourable time for her to cease hostilities, holding as she does so much of conquered territory. But the absence of definite terms upon which Germany suggests peace is clearly not a basis upon which we can either refuse or accept her proffer. We do not profess to know much about the German character, but we do think that the opportunity is ours now to offer Germany our terms of peace. If England and her Allies can obtain the restoration and compensation they require at Germany's hands by peaceable means, there is no father, no mother, no soldier who will say: No! Go on with the war. Our point is that we have become so accustomed to war that our finer sympathies have to some extent been dulled. We read of thousands being killed and talk of it at our tables, shuddering less at that fact than if we had burnt our tongues with hot tea. As we said yesterday, peace must come on an honourable basis. England's terms embody the Liberty and Justice of every nation and every individual. She is not likely to ask for much for herself. She is content to suffer much if the principles for which she is fighting are acknowledged. France will want Alsace-Lorraine back and Belgium and Serbia have big claims. Russia will doubtless be very chary to any peace terms which will not give her an open port in the south. However, the wires will be kept hot with "surmises" for the next four or five days till Lloyd-George gives his statement in the House of Commons next Tuesday.

**CHRISTMAS DINNERS**

THERE is one Fund during the year that should have the sympathy and help of all. We refer to the Christmas Dinner Fund, which the Salvation Army have taken upon themselves to collect in order to supply to the poor of all creeds such food and fruit as will give them the "something extra" that we all think we want at this season. This is done by the Army in all cities we believe, and the impartial and satisfactory manner in which the scheme is carried out makes it one that is commended by all. If our feelings were more acute, we should find it difficult to sit down to a meal, knowing that there may be others, deserving and industrious, who have very little to eat except bread and tea. How much better, then, should we feel, if, when we sit down to our Christmas dinners, we can know that the Salvation Army have made use of our donations to hunt out and give a dinner to those who are poor.

**POVERTY**

WE HEAR a great deal of the extent of poverty in our midst, and by that term we do not mean destitution, though many confuse the two terms. There is poverty when a family cannot obtain the necessities of life with the weekly wage that is theirs. And so poverty grows worse and worse till at last destitution, which is practically starvation, is reached. By this it is seen how many families feel the pinch of poverty. It has always seemed strange to us that there has been no inquiry, not only into the conditions, but the causes of poverty. It seems to us that a Central Bureau of Charities, existing not altogether to distribute to the needy, but to help by systematic means to lessen the number of the poor is very necessary. "The poor we shall always have with us" has too often been the excuse to ignore the problem altogether. We are not aware that the admirable Charity Societies in the city attempt this "cure" of poverty, but we hope to see the day when all will join hands in the effort to do so. If some are not self-reliant, let us try and make them so. If some are not paid a living wage, let us help them to obtain it. If some are lazy, let us try to get some life in them. This would be work worthy of ourselves, and in these days when man-power and man-efficiency count for so much, it would be work in every sense worthy of the Empire.

**THE COAL SHORTAGE**

Yesterday the Tonnage Committee which consist of representatives of the Government, Board of Trade and the F.P.U. met at the Premier's office to further consider the coal shortage. It was found that coal is unobtainable at present at Sydney. The output of both Companies is very short of normal supplies and the Companies cannot supply coal to fill all its contracts. About 15,000 tons are required here to carry the city through the winter. The freight is now from \$1.00 to \$1.50 higher than the rate that prevailed six weeks ago, and as the price of coal has advanced at the mines, the probabilities are that prices will advance considerably here when new coal arrives. The stocks in the city now amount to 9000 tons. The Government is dispatching Mr. Hall, the Government Engineer, to Sydney by Sunday's express to make the best possible arrangements with the coal Companies for the supply of enough coal to carry us over the winter. The Companies have received exceptionally good treatment at the hands of the Colony

**THIS DATE IN HISTORY**

**DECEMBER 15**  
Days past—348. To come—16.  
New Moon 24th.  
Isaac Walton died, 1683.  
George Washington died, 1799.  
A temperance appeal published to the people of Newfoundland, signed by James J. Rogerson, R. J. Pinsent, L. T. Chancey and others, 1853.  
Augustus O. Hayward and Daniel Woodley Prowse admitted to Bar, 1858.  
Mrs. Duggan (mother of Hon. Phillip Duggan) died, aged 100 years, 1860.  
Account of loss of brig James Stewart, with Capt. Mitchell and one man, reached here, 1877.  
Parker & Monroe opened business, 1879.  
Legislature reopened under Greene (Liberal Ministry), 1894.  
(Local items under this heading are taken from Devine & O'Mara's "Notable Events.")  
which it is hoped the Companies will appreciate and bestir themselves to supply the domestic requirements of the country.

**REVELLE BY CALCAR**

NEWFOUNDLAND has a total area of forty-two thousand square miles. Much of this is covered by water, some of it is absolutely barren, but aside from this barren area and this area covered by water we possess a great deal of valuable land that is highly fit for the production of farm crops. A good deal of the non-agricultural land is capable of producing valuable forest trees. We had a splendid forest area at one time, but how much of that we can boast of to-day, seeing the destruction that has been going on during the past few years, and particularly during the past decade? Our agricultural lands are capable of producing more than the needs of this country demand, and should be so producing were a wise agricultural policy to be introduced. It should be the aim of the Government to advance the farm productions of the country as to place them in a position to admit for the benefit of those not engaged in agriculture all farm productions free of duty. This cannot be done at the present day without crippling entirely the struggling industry. But we repeat it should be the aim of the Government to advance the status of farming to that degree where even with duties removed the farmer would still be in a better position than he is to-day, and this can be done, by improving agricultural knowledge, and by helping the farmer to introduce modern methods on his farm. This might be done by the establishment of a farmer's bank, where a farmer might obtain loans on easy terms. Want of capital keeps many an eager, earnest, intelligent farmer in poor and struggling circumstances. In Australia, New Zealand and also in certain of the Western States of America, notably in Colorado, such banks have been established to the great advantage of those countries. Small loans are favored but loans up to \$4,000 are to be had. The money is lent at five per cent. No interest being charged for the first five years. The farmer is given forty years to pay it back. It is arranged in such a way that interest and principal are liquidated together. This we think is the very best way by which agriculture may be advanced, and at the same time bring about the day when it will be possible to wipe out the duty on farm products without in any way placing an undue burden upon the shoulders of the farmer. The greatest need upon most farms is horse power and adequate machinery. Place these two items upon the farm and you place in the hands of the farmer a means by which to increase the productivity of his lands. Hand in hand with this system of financing the farmer should go a system of vocational education. We have the soil, we have the intelligent men, introduce horse power and education and you have the greatest forces possible to conceive for the advancement of agriculture. If this were done it would soon result in every available acre of land being under cultivation. Our agricultural lands are foremost among the great natural assets of our country. Let us deal with them in such an intelligent way as to make them truly valuable to us, not only to the farmer but to every man, woman and child in the country. This briefly is what should be done for our agricultural lands. Our so-called barren lands and lands not suitable for agricultural purposes can be made useful too, in great measure. We have herds of caribou whose chief habitat is the barren and scrubby land. Let us take measures to conserve the herds of deer. They are an asset to us, if we but take care they be not ruthlessly destroyed. A great tourist traffic may be built up in this country if we intelligently work about it, and one of the first essentials towards this is the preservation of such wild life as we possess. At present there is grave danger that our caribou are soon to go the way of the buffalo. The Game and Inland Fisheries Board is accountable for the preservation of the deer, let us see that they do what ought to be done in the matter. Let us keep an eye on them to see what they will do in respect to the terrible state of affairs existing in the interior, as exposed by Mr. Mark Gibbons in an interview with The Mail and Advocate a few days ago. Caribou and their habitat the bar-

**CHRISTMAS NUMBERS**

"The Nfld. Quarterly"  
We acknowledge receipt of the Christmas Number of "The Nfld. Quarterly," an interesting number, dealing particularly with the War, with a great many "cuts" of our boys at the Front as well as of those who have died in action. "The Distaff"

We have also received "The Distaff," edited by Miss Mabel LeMessurier, which is devoted to the account of the work done by energetic wives and daughters in Newfoundland towards Red Cross work. It is a magazine, as the title denotes and the articles and "cuts" show, in which men have little part, though they will be expected and doubtless will feel glad to do their share in buying the magazine. We are glad to see this entry into journalism by the ladies. All the articles we presume are by women-writers and doubtless will be found interesting by the public. We shall not anticipate their pleasure by mentioning the contents in detail.

**A MAN**

"Down with ambition, avarice, pride, jealousy down!  
Down, too, down at your own fire-side,  
With the evil tongue and the evil ear,  
For each is at war with mankind."  
Ah, God, for a man with heart, head, hand,  
Like some of the simple great ones gone  
For ever and ever by,  
One still strong man in a blatant land,  
Whatever they call him, what care I.  
Aristocrat, democrat, autocrat—  
Who can rule and dare not lie."

ren grounds are among the assets that may be made to pay some of the revenue. Let us see that they are cared for and preserved that they may prove an asset worth having.

There is scarcely a square mile of this Island of ours that could not under a wise administration be made of some value and a help in the matter of revenue production. The more attention we pay to these matters the better it will be for the country. There is no valid excuse for the present deplorable state of affairs which permits almost the whole revenue to be derived from import duties. Free trade is the ultimate condition to be aimed at, and the freest and most enlightened countries are those to first throw off those trade restrictions customs duties.

It should be our aim to first of all get the duties knocked off the necessities of life, and then to follow up bit by bit the entire relinquishment of this cheap way of getting revenue. It is a cheap way in that it is a brainless way, it is the resort of brainless men.

There is no reason why this country could not support in every degree of comfort a population ten times the size of that which it present obtains.

Even the very spaces occupied by our waters may be in large measure made a source of profit. How much power is locked up or going to waste in our countless streams? This is the age of the engineer, the age of utility. Where are our engineers, and why are we permitting horse power to run to waste when it is so badly needed to run the machinery of our factories and our farms, or to light our streets and homes? This is a time when our geological survey should be busy, yet we find that no effort whatever is being made by the Government to have a study of our resources made. Does the Government not realize that after the war we may be face to face with industrial problems that are to upset all preconceived notions of what those problems are? It is time to wake up.

**WEATHER REPORT**

Toronto, (noon)—Moderate to fresh winds; fair to-day. Saturday: Winds increasing to gales from E. to S.E. with rain or snow.

**Why Of Course.**

"What are the twins called?" asked one neighbour of another.  
"Henrietta," was the reply.  
"But not both of them surely?" said the first in surprise.  
"Certainly not, one is called Henry and the other is Etta," was the true reply.

**VARIA BY GALE**

**THE FOOD PROBLEM**

SOME days ago the representatives of some 2,000,000 housewives of the United States forwarded to President Wilson a formal appeal to regulate the prices of foodstuffs in the United States. Governor Whitman of New York has already taken State action; and the result is awaited with a good deal of anxiety and curiosity. The Women's League bases its appeal on the assertion that the people of the United States are suffering from exorbitant prices due to shortage of crops, increased exports, but chiefly on account of speculation, and urges the Government to determine by all possible methods by which the food supply needed to feed the people of the United States may be secured from soaring higher in price. At the same time an egg boycott was inaugurated, and the cold storage people are already gnashing their teeth. It would seem that the cold storage people have been garnering an egg harvest for a very long period with the result that it has been officially announced that about 25 per cent. of the eggs sold by dealers are unfit for use. We wish our readers to take this into consideration, as we believe that certain dealers in this city taking advantage of the situation have been stocking large quantities of cold storage eggs. People should be particularly careful in their purchasing of the ancient egg, as it is not only an undesirable article, but it is absolutely unfit for use, even in the making of the Christmas cake. Some days ago we suggested that the cake business be dispensed with for the nonce, and this would have the effect of bringing some of our profiteers in this article to their senses. At the meeting of the Women's League in New York an unexpected bomb was thrown into the food profiteers camp by a visitor to the American Metropolis, namely Patrick E. Quinn, Esq., Government Commissioner for New South Wales who explained the Australian system of food control. As we are in about the same condition as is New South Wales we give the reported address of Mr. Quinn in order to show just where we are behind our fellow colonists in the Antipodes, and to prove to our people that the high prices obtaining in this country should not exist. That they exist is due without any shadow of doubt to the callousness of E. P. Morris and the coterie by whom his policy has been shaped. In the Morris Government there are several profiteers; they are too well known to individualize them. They have been fattening off the unfortunate people for many moons, and they will continue in their nefarious work unless the people rise in their might and demand the removal of these barnacles from the Ship of State. Mr. Quinn said in part: "I do not want to appear noisy about the affairs of a country whose guest I am, but when I see high prices in the United States where there is no regulation, and compare it with the prices and legitimate profits obtaining in my home country of New South Wales, where food prices are controlled by the Government, it is a strong temptation to say: 'Go thou and do likewise.'"

**YOUTHFUL THIEVES SENTENCED**

The three boys convicted a couple of days ago for a series of petty thefts, viz.: Wm. and Isaac Murrain and John Jones were up before Mr. F. J. Morris in court to-day. They had entered several houses and stole a revolver, rings, &c. In their possession was found at least 12 door keys which they had stolen at various times from doors and which they effectually used later to get into the houses from the doors of which the keys had been extracted. Of the Murrains, one a very young lad, was released and the other as well as Jones were each sent down for 60 days. These boys were the principals in the thefts committed. An affiliation case also came up and the defendant sign bonds to appear later.

**PERSONAL**

Mr. J. Dwyer, M.H.A., who was stricken with paralysis two months ago, is now able to take a little outdoor exercise. His rapid recovery is unusual at his advanced age. Mr. Coaker visited him yesterday and was delighted to find Honest John so well. Mr. Dwyer's many friends in the city will be pleased to know that their old friend is recovering so rapidly.

**"FORD RIVER" ABANDONED**

Mr. J. J. Rossiter has received the following telegram to-day from Gibraltar: "Ford River dismasted and abandoned; crew here."  
JOHN HAMILTON.  
(Master)

**THE EGG BOYCOTT**

Let the subject not be broached; I refuse to eat them poached. 'Tis in vain the hen has toiled, I decline to eat them boiled. Any weakening I spurn; From an omelet I turn. Till the prices downward slide

**--JUST IN--**  
**No. 1 King APPLES**  
**Florida Sweet ORANGES**  
**J. J. ROSSITER.**

I shall scorn to eat them fried. Till they grow more circumspect Any scramble I reject. Though I take my stand alone I shall not receive them thrown. But it might be—well—them! I perhaps may weasel them.  
—McLandburgh Wilson.

**NOTICE!**

There remain for sale a few quarter casks of  
**"Newman's" Port Wine**  
APPLY TO  
**Baine Johnston & Co**  
AGENTS. m.w.f.

**Reid - Newfoundland Co.**  
**XMAS and NEW YEAR EXCURSION**  
Return Excursion tickets will be sold between all stations and ports of call at  
**ONE WAY FIRST CLASS FARE.**  
Good going December 23rd, 24th, and 25th, and good returning up to December 27th; also good going December 30th, 31st and January 1st, and good returning up to January 3rd.  
**ONE WAY AND ONE THIRD FIRST CLASS FARE.**  
Good going December 21st to January 1st, and good returning up to and including January 4th.  
**Reid - Newfoundland Co.**