

The Evening Advocate

The Evening Advocate. The Weekly Advocate.

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Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



"To Every Man His Own"

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ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, TUESDAY, OCT. 2nd., 1923.

Why Should the F.P.U. be Attacked?

Union History Is Marked With Achievement For The Poor Man.

The Fishermen's Union is essentially the fishermen's organization; but that fact should not make the Union a culpable organization and should not expose its members to attack. In the F. P. U. are members among the very best type of the country's manhood. They have just as much right to be members of the F. P. U. as any merchant has to become a member of the Board of Trade. Moreover, as an F. P. U. member, the ordinary fisherman may feel he belongs to an organization with superior ideals and with far nobler purposes than even the Board of Trade. Knowing the record during the past few years of the F. P. U., on the one hand, and the Board of Trade on the other, the unpartisan observer will readily conclude that the Union organization has a place in the hearts of the common people which the Board of Trade has never filled and can never fill. Through unselfish effort and by the pursuance of high principles of right and justice, the F. P. U. has in a comparatively few years, won a strong place in the esteem of the toilers; and there are to be seen many proofs, through the north, of the truth of our contentions.

On the other hand, the Board of Trade cannot boast of a career that has either done the fishermen benefit or done its own members credit. It has not displayed the same unselfish, broad-minded and constructive motives as have the Fishermen's Union.

The difference between the two organizations is the difference between unselfishness and selfishness, between advancement and stagnation and between construction and destruction.

What right, therefore, has any individual member of the Board of Trade to denounce the F. P. U., Coaker and Port Union without justification? That thing was done a few days ago by a couple of political soreheads in the rooms of the Board of Trade, without protest from that body.

It is granted that the merchants have a stake in this country. So have those men, who, as their fathers did, struggle around the coasts to secure the wherewithal to supply a bare existence to their families, and plenty to those who, from time immemorial, have taken advantage of their position to victimize them.

As an organization, the Board of Trade functioned long years before northern fishermen decided to organize. The latter's right to unite cannot be questioned more than the right of any other union or body, including the merchants.

Moreover, the Advocate asserts the F. P. U. have proven, through sterling action and great achievement, that they have not been recreant in their duty to the general country. Is that as much as the Board of Trade can say? It is a great deal more than the Board of Trade can say, to date. Take the history of the F. P. U.

Until the Union came, the sealers were treated like mere animals, like dogs. The Board of Trade had been functioning for years. Its members were seated comfortably in their armchairs, letting the rest of the world go by, leaving sealers to suffer.

What fishermen-endured under the decks of sealing ships passes description. There are sealers who remember these fearful days. These wretched conditions which no one attempted to remedy and no one wanted to remedy—till the F. P. U. struck its blow against them.

The sealers had to do it themselves. The fishermen had to do it. The Union destroyed these conditions in the face of the same sealing captains and men who permitted

them to prevail for years, who permitted sealers to suffer for years.

Where was the Board of Trade, which has in its membership roll little men who sneer at W. F. Coaker and Union members?

The history of sealing conditions alone will call the Union "blessed" in the opinion of those who have a memory. Loggers had reason to hail the day that saw the Union arise. They too were allowed to suffer,—till Coaker and the Union fought and won for them the treatment which was due honest men, not beasts of burden. In every public crisis, the Union has played a proud part, and Union men and Union leaders have proven themselves unselfish, honest and with due respect to the rights of others.

The Union purpose has been to construct, to advance and to remedy. Does the Board of Trade boast as much, or have they during the past few years destroyed more than they have constructed?

In the opinion of many, if that body, whose right to get together is not denied, showed the same unselfishness towards matters affecting the people as the Union, (of which matters the fishery problem is chiefest) conditions would be far different to-day.

The fishermen would not be obliged to think that what must be secured must still be fought for, as in the days when the F. P. U. flags were first raised to the northern breeze.

And still, they are in the Board of Trade who sneer at Union men and abuse the Union-President!

THE GRENFELL MISSION

Speaking of the Grenfell Mission, its aims and objects, to the Advocate yesterday, Colonel Cosby, the executive officer of the Grenfell Association, said it was the ambition of those interested in the work of the Association to bring about a better understanding of the Grenfell Mission's work in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador on the part of the people of this country. He felt that Newfoundlanders should be keenly interested in all that the Mission is doing because that work, or its result, has a direct bearing on the country's welfare and must influence in no small measure many phases of the Colony's future. Indeed, he felt that should the Grenfell Association, for any reason, in the near or distant future, see fit to discontinue the work, it had so well begun and so efficiently carried on up to the present, Newfoundland herself should be ready and willing, nay, anxious to take up the good work where it had been left off and continue it for the benefit of the coming generations of those hardy toilers of the sea, on whom the country will ever have to depend as its greatest asset.

Colonel Cosby's sentiments do him credit; they are such as cannot fail to find sympathy wherever the good effects of the work of the Grenfell Mission are known, and there are few indeed who would contemplate without regret the day when the splendid influence the Mission has wielded since it came to our shores should disappear. Inestimable, however, as have been the splendid results of the Grenfell work amongst the people of the North, it has not been carried on without criticism, and even censure, from many quarters. How much such criticism or censure has been deserved it is not easy to say but, that it was justified in some cases at least can scarcely be denied. While humanitarian work like that of the Grenfell Association is disinterestedly carried on, assisted by the philanthropically disposed outside of the country, there can only be gratitude and admiration in the breasts of those who benefit directly or indirectly from such work, provided always that humanitarianism is not used as a cloak for competitive business enterprise or that the interest of philanthropic persons is not aroused by exaggerated pictures of the destitution and depravity of those for whom assistance is sought.

There should be greater interest in the work of the Grenfell Mission amongst the people of the North evidenced by Newfoundlanders, and perhaps the best of all ways to awaken this interest would be for the Association to substitute for a few seasons for American workers a number of Newfoundland volunteers whose services it should not be difficult to secure and who, having seen the work as it really is, could do much to dispel any false impressions that may at present exist.

What is the Explanation?

The curtailment of Bell Island operations, which last Saturday resulted in 300 men being laid off, is surprising in the face of the general opinion that market conditions were looking more promising.

Officials on Bell Island have declared market conditions are responsible for the Company's action. That is a

reason which would not appear to be borne out by the situation arising from the resumption of activities in the Ruhr and the Japanese demand for Besco products.

Empire's Steel's Products Being Sent To Japan

Sydney, N.S., Sept. 27.—The British Empire Steel Corporation begins today its second shipment of steel products to Japan, when the S. S. Diomedes pulled into the company's low pier and commenced to load a quantity of steel rails and other wire products for Chinese and Japanese ports.

The S. S. Modig has completed loading and sailed with a part cargo of steel products for South African ports and S. S. Turret Cape sails today for the head of the lakes with a full cargo of pig iron.

Sydney, Sept. 27.—The Montreal Star is reliably informed that H. J. McCann, former general manager of the Dominion Coal Company, will act as general manager of the British Empire Steel plant here until a permanent appointment is made. Mr. McCann, it is understood, will take over his new duties immediately. An official announcement confirming this temporary appointment is looked for this week-end.

President Wolvin and his party are en route to Montreal after a visit to the coal and steel properties of the corporation in Cape Breton. A feature of the stay was the forecast by the president that the business outlook for both coal and steel was rapidly improving, and should the trend keep on upward there was a likelihood that the Scotia Steel plant at Sydney Mines, idle for nearly three years, might soon be in operation again.

Mr. Wolvin failed to announce a successor to Mr. McDougall before leaving Sydney, but said he hoped to return here in about two weeks, and probably before that time an appointment would be made.

He expressed himself as pleased with conditions here. He was particularly interested in reports of how the Bischoff co-operative plan was coming on, and hoped that its inauguration marked the end of labor disputes at the plant. Mr. Wolvin informed his friends that he recognized that the retirement of Mr. McDougall left a vacancy it would be difficult to fill. The latter understood the steel and coal trades of Cape Breton better perhaps than any other man in North America, and he enjoyed the respect and confidence of all the workers. For these reasons alone he would be difficult to replace.

Should nothing untoward occur, the British Empire Steel Corporation looks forward to a busy winter.

What is the explanation? Is this an attempt to hold the knife of unemployment over Newfoundland until more concessions are wrung from the country?

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By OBSERVER.
"It pays to advertise" was never so strikingly illustrated or more forcibly brought home to advertisers than in the case of the recent pressmen's strike in New York City.

The papers got together during the brief strike period and issued a morning paper of eight pages with the following title:

"The combined New York morning newspapers"—New York American, New York Herald, Daily News, The New York Times, New York Tribune, The World, New Yorker Staats-Beitung, Il Progresso Italo-Americano."

This paper contained no advertising except theatre announcements, and it has proved that business people cannot afford to do without their advertising.

The Boston Post commenting upon the strike says:

"The managers of the big department stores, the Wall Street bankers, the real estate men and a dozen other types of advertisers unite in declaring that their 'businesses have been seriously hurt by their inability to get their messages to the people. Some go as far as to say that if the present condition were to continue much longer, unemployment would result."

Few people realize the tremendous importance of advertising. Even those who advertise extensively fail to fully appreciate the part their advertising plays in building up their businesses and bringing hundreds of customers flocking to their stores.

In my opinion outport advertising, that is advertising that reaches outport men and women who are seldom or never in touch with stores, is by far more important than advertising for city buyers, necessary as the latter undoubtedly is. For example, all city stores make a display in their show windows of the goods with prices they are advertising. City buyers are bound to see these bargains in the windows, even if they do not see them in the newspapers.

The outport man or woman, and particularly the latter, see no show windows. Their only guide in sending orders to city stores is the "ad" in the newspaper. The more attractive the "ads" and the oftener they see them, the oftener they will buy, just as the attractive display in a shop window will irresistibly draw the city woman and induce her to make purchases which, without the display, she would never think of.

People are sometimes inclined to ridicule outport visitors for their noticeable penchant for gazing in at shopwindows. They forget that these visitors get perhaps only a week out of the whole year to so indulge themselves while those of the town have the whole twelve months in which to gaze upon the wares set out for their benefit.

Getting back to the matter of

"The strong man of Italy"



PREMIER MUSSOLINI,

strikes: one of the most objectionable features of the strike as a weapon of wage adjustment is the fact that there are so many double knockouts. Just let a strike drag on long enough and it is inevitable that both parties will find themselves losers at the end. Prestige and pride and many such matters are allowed to get in the way of things more important. In every continued dispute the contending sides forget all about the issues after the first week and content themselves with saying "Is that so?" to each other.

The debt of the Australian Commonwealth and States aggregates over \$700 per head of the population. That of Canada's Federal and Provincial Governments combined does not exceed \$350 per head. Newfoundland's per capita debt is not much more than half that of Canada.

Despatches say that Japan is refusing to accept assistance from Russia which country, vanquished as it was by the Japs, is ready to bury the hatchet and help a stricken nation. Apparently the disaster has not taught Japan to accept the Divine exhortation to "love thy enemies." If Japan can thus afford to spurn the very material assistance offered by Russia, the question presents itself, "where is the need for Newfoundland to make an effort which, at the very best, can be only an infinitesimal drop in a very large bucket?"

Murray Anderson Presents New "Greenwich Village Follies"

The New York World of Sept. 22 contains a review of John Murray Anderson's new Greenwich Follies, which was staged at the Winter Garden on the 20th. The write-up says:

"The new Greenwich Village Follies, which opened at the Winter Garden on Thursday, seems to be one of the liveliest of the season. It is somewhat less gorgeous for the eye than one or two of its predecessors, but more spirited and much more amusing."

The review is a lengthy one, and very favorable, ending with the following: "Perhaps the final word of praise should be reserved for John Murray Anderson, who has mixed the various elements in his revue with beauty, humor, speed and not a little discretion."

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JAMES G. CRAWFORD,
Representative.

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