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The Mail and Advocate

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

Subscription Rates.

By mail The Daily to any part of Newfoundland and Canada, \$2.00 per year.

To the United States of America, \$3.50 per year.

The Weekly issue to any part of Newfoundland and Canada, 60c. per year.

To the United States of America, \$1.10 per year.

All correspondence for publication should be addressed to the Editor of The Mail and Advocate.

Letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only and the real name of the author should be attached. This will not be used unless consent be given in the communication.

The publication of any letter does not signify that the Editor thereby shows his agreement with the opinions there in expressed.

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MAY 22, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

PRESIDENT COAKER

VISITS PETTY HARBOR.

LAST evening Mr. Coaker visited Petty Harbor in compliance with a request of the Local Council established there by Mr. Stone the past winter. He drove to the Harbor. The village was decorated with bunting in honor of the visitor.

At 8 p.m. he addressed a public meeting in the Church of England Parish Hall, Mr. Joseph Chafe presiding. Many ladies attended and the building was crowded. The speaker reviewed the work of the Union up to the present; the need of such a Union; the causes of such a Union. He pointed out what benefits could be derived if the people supported it as a body. He reviewed the treatment accorded the Toller in the past and how changes must come in Newfoundland if the rising population were to be held in the Colony. He spoke of some of the political aims of the Union and how the masses would benefit by their adoption.

His remarks concerning Old Age Pensions and Educational Reform were received by the audience with thunderous applause.

The people say it was the best, most interesting and satisfactory public meeting ever held at Petty Harbor.

When Mr. Coaker arose to speak the reception that greeted him was one worthy of the man and the people. He stood for several minutes awaiting the applause to subside before he could open his address.

The speech occupied an hour and a half in delivery and throughout the speaker was generously applauded. At the close the audience cheered and clapped their hands for several minutes.

After the singing of the National Anthem a Union meeting was opened and ten candidates were initiated.

Mr. Coaker returned to town

after partaking of refreshment provided by Mr. Joseph Chafe.

Mr. Coaker says that three-fourths of the fishermen at Petty Harbor will be enrolled in the Union within a few weeks, and he thinks Petty Harbor fishermen will be as strong for the F.P.U. as the fishermen North.

WHAT'S THE EXPLANATION?

JUDGE KNIGHT sent his report of the Disasters Court Inquiry to the Department of Justice on Saturday last.

The thing, however, has been kept quiet and no public announcement of this fact or of the contents of the document has been made.

The Judge then has done his duty but so far the authorities have kept silent on the matter. Why?

Was the Minister of Justice in too much of a hurry to get away on his American jaunt to wait for the Report?

Have the Government some very particular reason to keep it pigeon-holed?

Do they want to wait until the fishermen are away to Labrador and elsewhere for the season's work, before making the Report public?

Surely it is about time these side-steppers measured up to their public responsibilities.

We have the Colonial Secretary jaunting about when the Hospital is being investigated and his presence in the city is a matter of importance.

We have the Minister of Justice taking a trans-continental trip just now when this Report is to be considered and when the immediate appointment of a Judicial Commission of Inquiry is imperative. We have had enough of this contemptuous indifference to public interests. The Country demands a change of conduct on the part of its administrators. We are passing through a time of much peril and the powers-that-be are acting in a manner but little calculated to inspire in us faith in their ability to pilot us safely.

Meantime we want that Report of Judge Knight's at once and we also want some explanation of the long delay in handing it out.

MISERABLE FAILURE.

IN view of the fact that Sir Edward Morris is to-day before the public as a miserable political failure and financial bungler would it not be charity on the part of certain newspaper correspondents to refrain a bit, and cease coupling the name of a one time popular idol with a man who has utterly failed to deliver the goods.

"Breathe not his name; let it rest in the shade," where failures at last discard the borrowed raiment, which never fitted them. As long as Sir Edward Morris remained in the companionship of genius and masterly ability he passed as a man of some capacity, but once he forsook the fostering shadow of a leader, he began to wilt. People are now realizing that Sir Edward Morris was never anything but a reflex of Sir Robert Bond, and that he never could have attained to any prominence but for the man whom he at length betrayed.

Overmastering conceit and pride engendered by the plaudits of admiring followers got the better of him, and caused him to believe he had more ability than he really had, he stepped out into leadership and—failed. Not only has he failed to realize what some people expected of him, but he has made such a mess of the unfortunate Country's affairs, that ruin is staring her in the face, and men are asking, where is it going to end?

Some think Confederation is the only hope, but there is another hope, and that is that another party may soon succeed the party of bunglers and spendthrifts, in the administration of the Country's affairs. Let there be an end to this parading of the name of Morris before the public gaze. His name stands for failure and it is sickening to the people.

WANTS OUR PAPER.

Lord Grey will be much obliged if Mr. W. F. Coaker will put his name on the list of subscribers for one year to The Mail and Advocate and have it sent to Howick, Lesbury, Northumberland.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Lost!

An Extension Gold Bracelet, by way of Barter's Hill, Duckworth Street, Church Hill, Bond Street and Prescott Street. Finder will be rewarded by leaving same at this office.—may 22

TO THE EDITOR.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—We are always glad to receive letters on matters of local and general public interest. Correspondents, however, should make their letters as brief as they possibly can, as we are receiving scores of communications daily and have only a very limited space in which to publish them.

We use practically every letter received, at some time or other, but there must, in view of our large correspondence, necessarily be some delay before some of these letters appear in The Mail and Advocate.

We are particularly anxious to receive notes of news from all round the Island. Let our young people particularly get busy and help us make our paper the newest in the country.—Editor.

MR. COAKER AT PETTY HARBOR

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—Please allow me space in your much esteemed paper for a few lines about Mr. Coaker's visit to Petty Harbor. As an eyewitness of the scenes, I think I can form a very good idea of the Union-spirit in Petty Harbor. Mr. Coaker met with hearty handshakes everywhere he went, and we could see from the manner of the people that a good Union meeting was forthcoming. The new hall at Petty Harbor was packed to overflowing and in the gallery quite a number of women had gathered to hear Mr. Coaker.

Well Received.

At 8 p.m. the meeting was opened by Mr. Josiah Chafe (Council Chairman), who introduced Mr. Coaker. When Mr. Coaker rose loud hurrahs and applause greeted him. Mr. Coaker's address lasted for one hour and forty minutes. He spoke on different subjects connected with the Union.

He spoke of his reasons for forming a Union among the fishermen. The power acquired by the combination of people with a common object; the old age pensions for worn out fishermen and women; the standardizing of fish in order to induce men to make the best fish possible so as to get a better price, hold present markets and opening new ones; free and compulsory education was also dealt with and loud acclamations of assent greeted the speaker's remarks.

Benefits of Education.

He eloquently showed up the benefits of education. Then he touched on a few of the planks of the Union political platform, and he was continually applauded. The meeting was brought to a close by singing the National Anthem, and ringing cheers for Mr. Coaker, the Chairman and Petty Harbor Council.

At the close of the public meeting a Union meeting was held and ten members were enrolled.

Mr. Coaker then went through the order of Union business, and after closing the meeting partook of refreshments at Mr. Joseph Chafe's residence and then departed for the city.

Petty Harbor will not be behind in Union spirit and determination, and will back up Mr. Coaker's efforts to secure a square deal for the Toller of Terra Nova.

Wishing The Mail and Advocate and the President abundant success.

REMARKS OF AN OLD TIMER.

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—Surely the attitude of the owners of steamers is not "Let us have seals no matter how much men's lives are risked." This year, unfortunately, the price paid for the voyage is a very high one—the lives of no less than two hundred of the finest of our Tollers.

Last Spring, one of the captains was in such a hurry that he could not wait a couple of minutes to let the Bonaventure clear his steamer, and as a result we very nearly had a disaster involving the lives of hundreds of men, even before the ships got through the Narrows. It looks to me as if the fact that our men get home safely as a rule is due more to a guiding Providence than to any common sense or good judgment which the captains exercise.

Terrible Calamity.

Now we face the most terrible calamity in the history of our Country. Of course, it is too late "to lock the stable door when the horse is stolen," but we are in duty bound to try to find some kind of remedy for conditions as they exist at the icefields. For instance, I am firmly of the opinion that the panning of seals should be prohibited, for if this is not done, it is extremely likely that at some other time there will be panning of dead men again.

Long Experience.

I prosecuted the seal fishery for over twenty years, sailing with dif-

ferent captains and in different vessels and I know from experience that to send men long distances from ships to pan seals is to expose them to the dreadful risk of losing their lives. If there were no panning of seals, the men would naturally keep in the neighbourhood of the ship and spend their time getting on board seals near at hand. In this way, the crew would be kept under the control and protection of the captain and would have a chance of getting their food regularly.

Think of scores of men getting out on the ice at 2 o'clock on a cold Spring morning and remaining there all day, working hard and walking long distances without having a drop of hot drink, sometimes even having to spend out all night under these conditions. And yet they expect human nature to stand such harsh treatment.

Nearly Lost.

I was out with Captain Kean one Spring when he got out on the ice on a Wednesday morning and we did not get on board the ship again until Friday, having to walk to her even then. Surely, this was a terrible risk to take with men's lives. The day after we got on board, a terrible storm of snow and wind blew up, broke up the ice, and swamped a lot of the seals which we had panned at the risk of our lives! Had we not got on board the day before, there is not the slightest doubt but that that iceflow would have been a graveyard for many of us.

The Greenland disaster is also a strong argument against sending men long distances to find and pan seals.

—OLD TIMER.

FROM JOE BATT'S ARM.

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the people of Joe Batt's Arm I beg permission for space to tender our heartfelt and most sincere sympathy to the sad and bereaved who have lost their loved ones by the recent sealing disaster, and the prayer of the writer is, that those who are left to mourn and feel the loss of their loved ones may receive Divine comfort.

While we mourn the loss of our Countrymen, let us bear in mind those gracious words: "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." And again: "On that happy Easter morning, —All the graves their dead restore, —Father, sister, child and mother — Meet once more."

It being our bounden duty to do all possible to alleviate the wants of our sorrowing friends, a collection was taken up at the services of the Church of England on Sunday last amounting to \$57 which goes to the Sealing Disaster Fund. During the services of the day prayers were offered for the bereaved ones of the disaster, the Revs. J. O. Britnell and W. H. Seely officiating.

In the evening a beautiful memorial service was held which was very largely attended.

The S.U.F. here have also donated towards this fund, thereby performing their bounden duty to their brother fishermen.

The F.P.U. here have also taken up a collection and every member I believe did a brother's part. Most heartily do we accord our praise to President Coaker for the noble, fearless and public spirited manner in which he has acted in dealing with the recent terrible sealing disaster. We laud in highest terms his writings and criticisms of Captain Abram Kean. Nothing should be hid from our view concerning this haughty individual. Show him up in his true colours.

—JOE BATT'S ARM.

IDLE OFFICIALS.

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—We have four Government officials here and there is really not work enough in connection with public affairs to keep more than one of them busy all the time. One thing they do keep busy about and that is spreading reports concerning political matters. For instance, one of our Government officials spread the rumor around this place that Coaker was about to unite with the Morris Party.

We know by The Advocate that Emerson said in the House that the Agricultural Policy of the Government was a very progressive one. It certainly has been of absolutely no benefit to this section of the Country and we are of opinion that the money spent on it has been absolutely wasted.

—FISHERMAN.

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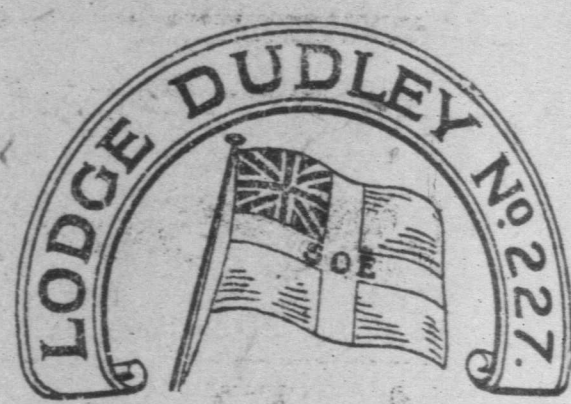
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G. PIKE,

Secy. Lodge Empire, No. 27

C. W. UDLE,

Secy. Lodge Dudley, No. 27

G. B. LLOYD, D.D.S.C.

may 22.11

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