

Thoughts Upon the Times.

(By PATRIOT.)

During the week the price of sloop Labrador fish fell from \$7 per qtl. to \$4. This is a very serious drop to happen so early in the season and the fishermen may well view it with alarm. What is the National Government doing to prevent this? Above all, what is Mr. Coaker doing? The price of shore fish is not so good this week as last. Most of what sold during the week on the tal qual basis fetched \$3.50 per qtl. That which brought \$10 was "picture" fish and had to "stand the board". Everybody knows that the tonnage problem is the difficulty we have to face, but the Advocate assures us that this problem has been solved to a large extent by the Government having chartered the Norwegian steamer Haakon VII, and the decision of the Italian Government in sending two steamers with a capacity of about 20,000 qtls. each. The fishermen will expect the price, under the circumstances above mentioned, to remain up. The prices in the foreign market are good and do not warrant the recent drop. The Advocate says "the fishermen can congratulate themselves that their interests are provided for," etc. The fishermen will do no such thing. Mr.

Coaker is now in charge of the Government and is Dictator, with Dr. Lloyd acting Premier. He should, if we are to believe all he said in the past, be able to keep up the price of fish. Anyway, if the prices do not go down in the foreign markets, he will be expected to keep up the price in Newfoundland by getting after the "Combine" which he claimed existed to keep down the price.

Is not this the argument used by Mr. Coaker, brother fishermen, before he got the Government?

The Business Profits Tax Bill has been in operation these days with a vengeance. And who is paying the tax? Why the consumer, on the recent increase in the prices of butter, hard bread, biscuits and kerosene oil. This is exactly what was pointed out to the Government when the Bill was before the House, but they shut their eyes and refused to see it. The people now are paying the price. It is one of the most iniquitous measures ever brought before Parliament. What is needed is an income tax, and the Government should have profited by the experience of the Canadian and United States Governments in trying to enforce a Profits Tax.

The "National" Government has now been in power two months and nothing has been done yet to compel the Reid Newfoundland Company to reduce their freight rates on their trains and bay boats. The people are literally groaning under the heavy rates which they have to pay this wealthy corporation. When the Liberal-Union party assumed control of the Government the public, at least those who supported them, naturally expected something would be done to redress their grievances in this respect, but up to the present time nothing has been done, and what is more, nothing is likely to be done.

The "weather prophets" of the States predict some heavy equinoctial gales this year. It may be remarked that whenever we have had long, fine summers like the present the autumns have generally turned out stormy.

Congratulations to Dr. Lloyd who, in the absence of Sir Edward Morris, becomes Acting Premier of the Colony. It is said that Sir Edward Morris will not return from England before next February. During the interval Dr. Lloyd will be expected to guide the good Ship of State safely through the many dangerous shoals pointed out in these notes yesterday, which surround her. Already, as there are nine vacant seats in the Legislature and fully one-fourth of the total population of the country

have no representation in the House of Assembly. It is not probable that a general election will take place before November, 1918—a long time yet. Why not hold bye-elections in the outport districts which have no representation at present. It would be only fair to the people and would serve to indicate whether they approve of the Coalition Government and its policy. What of the people of these districts themselves? Will they be satisfied to remain unrepresented?

Jensen Red Cross Fund

- Dr. Van Allan, Ch. of The Advent, Boston, per Capt. P. J. Jensen \$ 25 00
- Mrs. Rusted (Upper Island Cove) 12 00
- Miss Hatter Willis (sale of candy) 5 00
- Bell Island Patriotic Association 200 00
- Lecture Bell Island (Captain Jensen) 47 00
- Mr. Cowan, per Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. MacLean 10 00
- Rev. Mr. Holland, August 4, collection St. James Church, Carbonar 5 66
- Donation, per St. John's Daily Star 10 36
- Miss Ola Callahan, New York Children's Bazaar Topical, per Misses F. Smythe, G. Bishop, N. MacFarlane, G. Pratt, P. Inkpen, U. Smythe, G. MacFarlane, B. Smythe, M. Laurence 53 00
- Grand Falls Patriotic Association 50 00
- Shamrock-City Cricket, Match and Baseball Game 80 00
- Bell Island Patriotic Association 50 00
- Mr. Hayward 5 00
- Mrs. Young 10 00
- Miss Freebairn 3 00
- Ladies of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 55 00
- St. John's Amateur Baseball League 21 00
- Bell Island Patriotic Association, additional donation for August 50 00

The Committee of the Jensen Camp wishes also to acknowledge the following with many thanks:

Two hammocks and two camp chairs from C. H. Hutchings children, 330 cigarettes from Frontiersman Russell and the Battery Crew, a porch hammock from G. M. Barr, daily ice from Mr. Ernest Cowan, ice from Mr. Berrigan, flowers from Mrs. T. A. Hall, a bookcase from Mrs. G. Turner, books and magazines from Miss Rene Horwood, Mrs. Tom McNeil, Mrs. T. McNab, Mr. Jim Ayre, fresh eggs from Mrs. McDougall and Mrs. Clouston, marmalade from Mrs. G. Turner, jam from Miss A. McLachlan, Mrs. George Cross and Mrs. Fitzgerald, lettuce from Mrs. Tizzard, lotteried cake from Lieut. Herder, cakes from Mrs. C. Ayre, 5 ash trays and 4 wastepaper baskets from "The Busy Bees", 2 cushions from Mrs. Hector Ross.

They also wish to acknowledge the gift of a cot from the Ladies of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in loving memory of the fallen heroes.

A cot from the Patriotic Association of Bell Island, with a monthly donation of at least \$50 for one year.

A cot from the Patriotic Association of Grand Falls, with a monthly donation of \$50 for one year.

ADELINE E. BROWNING.
FLORENCE PATERSON.

To Enter Indian Service.

Lieut. G. M. Johnson, who made application for the Indian Service, has been notified to prepare for the East and will leave England to take up his new work next month. When war was declared he was studying medicine at Edinburgh, where he enlisted in the Royal Scots and was granted a commission in the Cameron Highlanders. He served with his regiment at Ypres, Fermois, Neuve Chapelle, Festubert and Loos. At the finish of the last campaign his battalion was disbanded. Early last year he asked for a transfer to the Newfoundland Regiment, which was granted in May. At Combes he was taken seriously ill while in the trenches but has since fully recovered. He is the second St. John's boy within the past year to be honoured with so important a position as a commission in the great Imperial Service of India, for which only marked men are chosen. The first officer was Lieut. Len Stick.

We congratulate Lieut. Johnson on his promotion, as well as his proud parents, Hon. Justice and Mrs. Johnson.

WHY DO YOU PAY MORE?
—Nice White Floury Potatoes selling at BEARNS' Stores, Haymarket and Military Road, 10 cents gallon.—sep8,11

GEORGE STREET ADULT BIBLE CLASS which has been closed for the summer months, re-opens to-morrow afternoon in the usual time and place. An interesting address will be given by the Rev. W. H. Pike, an old member of the organization who has been doing missionary work in the Northwest for the past six years. It is hoped that all members will be present. Visitors cordially welcomed.

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Ought We to Forgive Them.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE CRIMES OF THE HUNS.

By Canon Anthony C. Deane (Vicar of All Saints, Ennismore Gardens).

Ought we to forgive the Germans, and can we if we ought?

I have reason to think that many people are troubled as they face that question to-day. And they are distressed because the only answer they think possible seems to menace their religious belief.

On the one hand they have been told that to forgive our enemies is a fundamental law of Christianity. On the other, no mere passing wave of indignation, but the considered judgment of their moral sense, pronounces such forgiveness to be impossible. "How can we forgive," they cry, "a nation guilty of unspeakable crimes? How can we pardon those whose devilish record stands naked in the eyes of the world? How can we forgive the butchers and out-ragers of women and children who gloat over the agony of their victims?"

"It is to make a demand as grotesque as impracticable. Our attitude is unchristian? Well, in that case, unchristian it must be. We do not question the historic truth of that religion, or deny the beauty of its ideals. But it will not serve as a

working creed for the world as we find it to-day. Christianity requires us to forgive our enemies. We find such forgiveness flagrantly impossible. We are driven, therefore, to abandon Christianity."

That is the dilemma. It seems real enough, yet it arises from a strange misconception. Our ideas of the divine teaching are based too often upon a rather hazy recollection of isolated "texts" instead of upon a careful study of the Gospels as a whole.

It is perfectly true that the Founder of Christianity taught us to forgive our enemies. It is perfectly untrue that He taught us to forgive wrongdoers while they remain impenitent. Emphatically He makes repentance the condition of forgiveness.

"If thy brother sin against thee, and he repent, forgive him" is a maxim widely different from that which popular imagination attributes to Christ. I will not multiply quotations; the reader has only to study the Gospels with care to find how universal in them is this principle. Without it, indeed, the whole moral law would be stultified. And I need not dwell upon the tremendous warning which this principle involves for ourselves. But here is the fact. Forgiveness, whether human or divine, can only follow, in Christ's view, upon repentance.

And "repentance" implies far more than "regret" or "remorse." It translates a word meaning literally "a changed will." The penitent person (or nation) not merely owns to his misdeeds, but by definite action breaks with his past, admits his wrongness, and makes reparation for it by every means in his power. Is this the attitude of Germany to-day? The question, unhappily, supplies its own answer.

The Principle of Collective Guilt.

But the plea is sometimes heard that we must not condemn Germany as a whole when only a fraction of her inhabitants are really responsible for her actions. So it is worth while to remember how clearly the principle of collective guilt is recognised by Christ. There were numbers of quite excellent people, no doubt, in the cities which He denounced "because they repented not," yet this fact did not save Chorazin or Bethsaida from His unsparring condemnation. Because there was no collective repentance, there could be no collective pardon.

"Ought we to forgive?" Here, then, is the reply to our question. I have dealt with it apart, obviously, from all considerations of political or commercial expediency—considerations which, important as they may be, belong to another and a lower plane. My aim has been simply to show that our moral instincts and the teaching of Christianity do not, as many people fear, supply conflicting answers. To forgive an unrepentant Germany, so far from being a religious action, would be flatly to contradict both the teaching and the example of Christ.

ANTHONY C. DEANE.

Cotton for Shells.

It is estimated that it takes 400 lb. of cotton to make the powder for one shot from one of the German 17 in. guns. The same quantity of cotton would provide ammunition for 400 shells from a field-gun, or 80,000 rounds from a rifle.

Some idea of the consumption of cotton in the war may be gathered from the fact that 1,000 tons a day are required to supply the German and Austrian armies with powder.

The British cordite consists of two-thirds gun-cotton. The raw material is dipped into nitric acid, washed and dried, and the material thus supplied becomes the base of the explosive. Gun-cotton can only be made from raw cotton; woven cotton is of no use, and any attempt to use it would be fraught with danger.—Tit-Bits.

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SUFFERING FROM A KICK.—Mr. Fred. Phelan, of the B. I. S. football team, who is one of our best players at that game, leaves here next week enroute to New York where he will undergo medical treatment for injuries to his back as a result of a kick received in a game not long since.

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