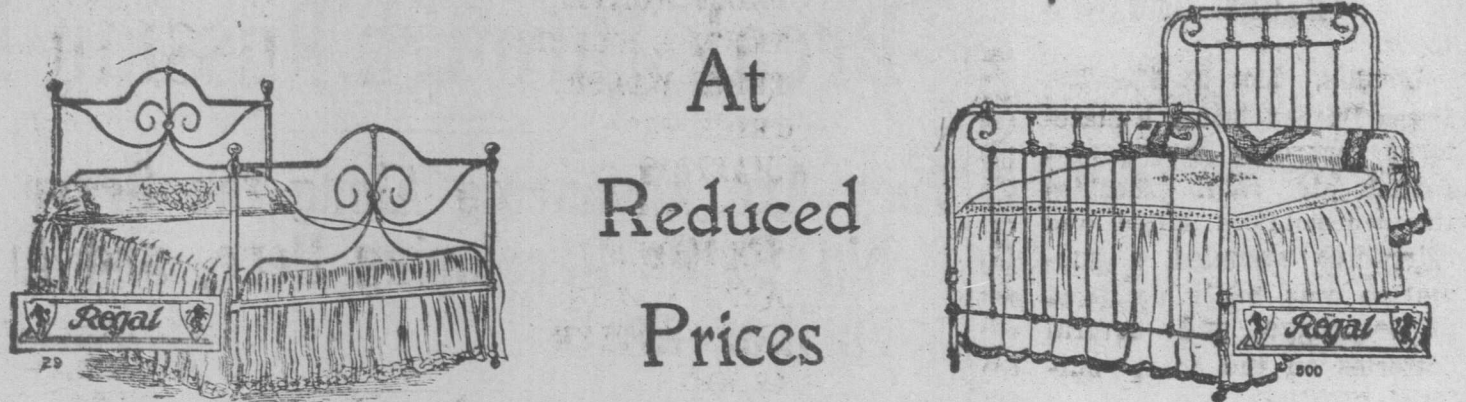


# The Bowrings Challenge The Power of The F.P.U.

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 11, 1915-2.



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## Questions For Kean

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)  
Dear Sir.—Please allow me space in your valuable paper to express my views regarding Bowring-Kean outrage that is at present being forced upon an unprotected people. Do Munn and Bowring realize that as Kean was commanding a ship out of their employ and acting in that capacity was their servant, and that he sent the crew of the "Newfoundland" on the ice and made no effort whatever to rescue them from the perilous position in which his blundering had placed them, could they ever be any greater crime committed than for Munn to allow Kean to sail as master of one of their ships again, thereby giving him a chance of blundering a second time, and, perhaps be the cause of sending more men into eternity. The voice of the people is Kean must not go to the ice as Master—but that piece of scorn and contempt towards the fishermen—Jack Munn and that small-faced boy Eric Bowring says "Yes, he will again command a steamer in defiance of the public wishes."

Why did Joe Kean send a message to his father saying he had three watch crews on board, but March's watch was missing, in answer to a message from him telling Joe to look out for his men, and why did not the two ships turn toward each other until March's watch was found? Was it to save the lives of those men or why was the "Newfoundland's" men left only a few hundred yards away to perish like dogs? Now, Mr Munn did A. Kean do wrong by making a search for his own men or did he do right by leaving the "Newfoundland's" men to die in groups as he did? Did one of Kean's officers go through the ship and investigate to see if any of the "Newfoundland's" crew was stowed away, or did he order all hands on deck at the time the "Newfoundland's" crew was leaving the "Stephanos"?

Now, sir, these are questions that no doubt Capt. Kean could answer and which no doubt could end his career as a Sealing Master if he was tried by a Commission determined to do justice and protect the lives of our sealers from a repetition of another awful disaster. Now, if these Captains that will prosecute the sealshery the coming season send their men seven or eight miles from their ship or turn other ships' crews on the ice, regardless of what happens, and another disaster occurs, who will be responsible? If A. Kean is allowed to command a ship this spring and the same thing happened again under his supervision, instead of receiving punishment, he would be decorated with an Iron Cross by Munn and Bowring for depriving so many more widows and orphans of their breadwinners. I say to Munn and Bowring, "Are ye possessed of hearts of stone?" If you could even now hear the cries of anguish, as the season for going to the ice approaches from heart-broken wives and mothers at homes made desolate by Kean's blundering; if ye are not more cruel than the Germans of the Belgian massacre, you would tell Kean to go bury himself instead of giving him command of a ship at the sealshery.

Now, sir, to ask a fair and honest question: "What is the supreme motive for the great agitation started by the F.P.U. and the verdicts passed at the different Conventions condemning Kean as a Sealing Master?" Is it a feeling of animosity that exists towards this particular man? I say no, but we hold it as a sacred duty, and it is the firm determination of the F.P.U. and its President to do all in our power to prevent a repetition of last spring's awful disaster and to safeguard, as far as possible, the lives of our men that go to the Sealshery in future.

What I would suggest, sir, is a general strike of both Union and non-Union men, not to keep the ships in port, but to bring the present government to its senses, so that laws could be enforced to protect the sealers' interest. Until laws are passed to that effect it will be an uphill fight for the Union. What about Morris? Was there ever such a piece of villainy as for him to keep the House closed until after the ships sailed, leaving Mr. Coaker to fight for the people's welfare single-handed. Morris is indeed a "Friend of the People." So is Jack Munn and Eric Bowring. Their party can well be styled the "People's Party." If Morris ever comes to the country again to solicit votes we would suggest that he take a new cognomen and call himself "Head of the Sealers' Protective Party" and the sealers will no doubt appreciate his action at the present time by sending both him and his party to Hong Kong. Mr. Coaker is using every available means to try and prevent Capt. Kean from sailing as Master of a ship to the ice. What is he doing it for? Isn't it vexatious to find men so obstinate? He is doing it for men that shouted for No-Heart Morris during last elections, but if ever a working man in this country shouts for Ned again its a pity he doesn't about his head off.

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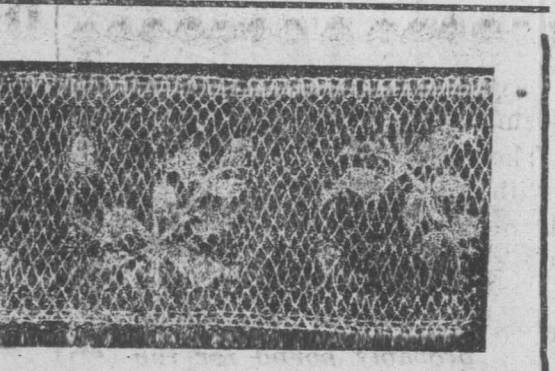
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