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("To Every Man His Own.")

**The Mail and Advocate**  
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Editor and Business Manager  
**JOHN J. ST. JOHN**

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D. JAN. 13th. 1916.

**THE COAL SITUATION**

YESTERDAY hundreds applied to the Committee for coal orders and many who wanted coal badly were unable to secure it owing to the rush. To-day it is hoped that most of the urgent cases will be accommodated. The Committee of Citizens are general favorites with the public and every confidence is placed in their efforts to do all in their power to get the City over the outrageous condition so inhumanly inflicted upon the poor.

The present situation should not have arisen; a little concentration and foresight and the adaptability of ordinary business maxims would have been successful in arranging for the shortage, but somehow everything was permitted to drift for the want of proper initiative and the result is what have been witnessed since the New Year came in.

We trust citizens will endeavor to co-operate with the Committee and aid them in making the supply last until the "Alconada" arrives. When the "Alconada" arrives any shortage will disappear and every reasonable demand for coal will be met.

The public rejoice over the manner in which the crisis was handled and the prompt action taken, after the City had exerted itself to show its anxiety and contempt.

The offer of the Opposition to co-operate with the Government in this instance, made the matter easy of adjustment; and the Premier no doubt feels contented over the outcome of a crisis that would have caused him many hours of worry had the offer of the Opposition not been accepted, for the populace was ready for action on the 4th; and had a Mass Meeting been convened it would probably have been the greatest of its sort ever witnessed here, and there would have been no way out for the Premier but immediate compliance with the meeting's wishes or the resignation of the Government.

What a pity the Premier did not listen to Mr. Coaker's appeals in reference to a coal shortage three months ago. Ain't it funny that Mr. Coaker is always right regarding those warnings of coming troubles.

It is pleasing to find his fears of a shortage in tonnage for export demands and a salt supply the coming spring has received immediate attention and everything possible will be done weeks in advance to meet the emergency.

The poor of the City are saving \$2.50 on a ton of coal, and they appreciate it, for a saving of \$1.40 on a half ton of coal is quite a consideration to a poor man or woman at this season of the year. Nothing but good can come out of an action such as protecting the poor against the arbitrary action of the Coal Barons.

**A CORRECTION**

The Bay-de-Verde District meeting of the F.P.U. will be held at Lower Island Cove on the 19th instant, at 11 a.m., and not on the 18th at Job's Cove as announced.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

AMONG the other things that Sir Tax Morris promised to undertake, if his Party was returned to power in 1913, was to immediately institute measures to provide for the health of our people.

This has of course, as all the other good things this wizzard was going to perform, amounted to nothing. No one single effort has been made by the Government to do something that would be of any material benefit to the Country in general.

We were told with a great flourish of trumpets by the Government organs that the Messrs. Reid Brothers had donated \$100,000.00 for Consumptive Hospitals. These like the Premier's bluff promises have not as yet materialized. We wonder what became of the money if it was given by the donors?

"One thousand persons amongst us die every year of Consumption, and at least as many of infantile diseases and maladies easily prevented by medical science" says Sir Tax Morris in his 1913 Manifesto.

The question now arises: what have the Government done to cope with the situation?

They have done absolutely nothing and unless steps are immediately made to cope with the "slight" outbreaks of diphtheria now so prevalent in the Outports we may wake up next March and find that we will have trust on us another plague such as the small pox outbreak on the sealing steamers a few short years which resulted in such good picking for Government contractors and plumbers and other heelers.

There are places to-day in the near by Outports that are not altogether free from infectious diseases and it is time the Government wake up to the dangers of the situation.

As regards the City we read every other day of more cases of diphtheria breaking out in different sections of the City. These cases are now growing more frequent and certainly something should be done by the authorities to check its progress.

St. John's has sad memories of the last big outbreak of diphtheria which visited us in 1889 and we don't want a repetition of it now. We have troubles and worry enough without having this added to them. The Government seem to be dead to the needs of the day and only move when united action—as in the coal crisis—forces them to do so.

To our mind what is needed most is an up-to-date Public Health Office. The head of such a department would be directly responsible for the conduct of his office and would have full control of all matters appertaining to the Public Health of the Colony.

A thorough equipped Health Office with a live energetic head would save this Colony thousands of dollars and well pay for itself in a few years.

The present Health Officer may be doing his best to meet the needs of the day but he is greatly hampered by red tape and official interference in his duties. Where even the present Health Department is organized and the medico in charge given full control of all matters relative to Public Health matters both in St. John's and the Outports we feel sure things would be much better carried out than they are at present.

It would be interesting to know just what line of action the present board is taking to deal with the increasing outbreak of diphtheria in this City. Those outbreaks as we stated above seem to be on the increase. Surely some effort should be made to cope with it in the general interests of the City.

Come, Sir Edward, get a hustle on and, although late in the day as it is, do something to deal with this matter of Public Health which you SOLEMNLY promised you were going to do if you and your party were returned to power in 1913.

**NOTICE**

ALL Trinity District Assessments for the District Council should be sent to the Treasurer, MR. GEORGE FOWLOW, of Phillip, Trinity East.

J. G. STONE, D.C.  
dec24,2m,d&w

**PETITION.**

In accordance with the decision of the F.P.U. Convention respecting several matters of vital public interest, the subjoined Petition is being signed all over the Colony. Those Petitions will be presented to the House of Assembly at the coming session of the Legislature. In the meantime the Government may see its way to take some action to meet the prayers of the petitioners, as each matter is worthy of the serious and immediate consideration of the Government.

The Petition read thus:—

TO THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF NEWFOUNDLAND:

The prayer of the undersigned Officers and Members of the Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland and others humbly sheweth:

That we beg most respectfully to approach your Honourable House for the purpose of Petitioning that the following requests be granted:

1. That the use of large steamers exceeding five hundred (500) tons net for the prosecution of the Seal Fishery be prohibited.
2. That auxiliary motor vessels over twenty-five (25) tons be prohibited from prosecuting the Labrador Cod Fishery.
3. That the Government Bonus for the encouragement of ship-building in Newfoundland be increased fifty per cent for a ten year period.
4. That a guaranteed dividend of ten per cent. be granted by the Government to all Companies or individuals who engage in the establishment of ship-building yards in Newfoundland subject to conditions by the Government; and for a period of ten years.
5. That a sum of money be placed in this year's estimates to cover the cost of a tug to be stationed at the port of St. John's capable of rescuing life and property endangered through gales.
6. That all motor engines for schooners and fishing boats be admitted free of duty.

And as in duty bound your Petitioners will every pray.

**ECONOMY**

"ECONOMY is a crime" so sayeth E. P. Morris, Premier of this Colony: "Wilful waste makes woeful want," says the proverb. We think it is hardly necessary to see wherein lies the truth. We can readily pardon the effusion of E.P.: it is merely a palliation of serious financial recklessness, and a plea of justification for wanton waste of public funds during an administration which will go down in history. P. T. McGrath's assertion to the contrary notwithstanding, as the most disastrous period in our annals; for never before has such a carnival of political corruption been witnessed in this distressful country.

Thoughtful men, both at home and abroad, advise the people to practise economy; and this would be an excellent New Year's resolution for many in our midst, for we doubt if any people in the world spend so large a portion of their earnings (and the earnings of others as well) as the people of the city of St. John's.

We do not for a moment suggest that the people should become miserly; but we believe that the average man (or woman) should not spend so freely that a few weeks' idleness may cause him or her to suffer the pinch of want.

The rule in this country seems to be, spend, spend, spend; and this some can not do on their legitimate incomes. Some of them entertain very lavishly, too often at the expense of the butcher, the baker, or the grocer. We even know some fashionable people who contribute large sums to various funds (for the sake of the publicity afforded) who are in debt to the tailor and the milliner for the last sartorial exhibition.

But it is not to this pachydermatous class that we address ourselves, but to the wage-earners who seem to have false impressions regarding the spending of money. Some apparently think that if everybody spends all that he earns, there must be a general circulation of money. This is a fallacy; for the circulation of money does not mean that the toiler who cheerfully spends all his wages, when he need only spend a part, does not necessarily share in the benefit of circulation.

Do the toilers ever ask themselves: how does the money spent come back? Where does the money go? Some rapacious merchant, will likely get possession of much of it; and such people rarely invest in any productive industry in this country. They usually "take a shry" at some foreign stock, or perhaps invest in a Cuban Railway, or a South American coffee plantation, or likely, as has been done quite recently by some such gentry, in Bethlehem Steel.

Thus the toilers are bleeding for the benefit of the few merchant princes or gamblers on the Stock Exchange. It behooves our people to learn now the lesson of economy. We should remember that the high prices now ruling for our products will slump after the war, and that we shall have to face hard times, possibly. The "rainy day" may be nearer than we imagine, and we should prepare for the seeming inevitable. We have had several instances even in local history, of the aftermath of wars.

We had it in the early days of the last century when, after the War of 1812, we were literally ousted from our best markets, and nearly every business house in the Colony went to the wall. We had it in the late 60's and we had it in the crash of 1894—at a period when we were supposed to be flush with funds gathered off the employment afforded by railway construction work. Let us be prepared for it again. We are not by any means pessimistic; but we

wish to issue a word of warning to everybody who has to depend upon a daily wage or has a small income. Instead of pursuing a policy of spend, spend, spend, such as Morris suggest, let us follow the advice of the great English statesman who has just issued a warning to save, save, save, and prepare for the rainy day.

If we have monies to invest, let us invest them in local industries: we have good paying investments right here. Let us do something that will help to keep the wheels of employment running, and thus we shall be doing our duty to our country and safeguarding our own interests.

Let us remember the old adage: "Take care of the pennies; the pounds will take care of themselves."

**GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS**

JANUARY 13

JOHN W. KINSELLA entered the General Post Office, 1877.

Murray & Small failed, 1858.

The late John Kavanagh and the late Hon. John Harris admitted partners to Hearn & Co., 1881.

Fire at Superintendent Sullivan's house, Gower Street, 1899.

Thomas J. Edens and Miss M. Walsh married, 1889.

John Murphy, while engaged unloading coal at Morey's wharf, fell fifty feet, and was instantly killed, 1891.

Peter Brown, Sound Island, died suddenly, 1891.

CHILDREN PLACED.—Thomas Warren, of Woods Island, Bay of Islands, wish to place two motherless children aged nine and five years. Any person willing to take such children as their own, should communicate with the above.—jan4,tf,daily

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