

Twenty Thousand Freemen Take Up Challenge

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 8, 1915-4.

PETITIONS ASKING KEAN'S ARREST

More Correspondence Re Kean Arrest Petitions

The following correspondence passed between the Premier and President Coaker last week. Those interested will observe the Premier's old time bluff in his replies and the manly open manner in which President Coaker wrote him. One is all bluff and deception, while the other is candid, open, incisive and businesslike.

The Premier does not see why Capt. Kean should be arrested because of the Commission's report finding him guilty of conduct which caused the death of 78 men and the crippling for life of 11 others, while 10 more are as bad as useless in this life to themselves or anyone else—only 100—Underdogs massacred or crippled for life because of Kean's conduct on March 31st, yet the Crown sees nothing wrong about it, even though its own Commission finds him guilty.

It is time men like Premier Morris were driven from public life, for the presence of men with such opinions and demoralized principles is just what would drive freemen in to revolt against the shams of so called Responsible Government. Those electors who have signed petitions asking for Kean's arrest will be able to deal with the Premier in their own way when he again has the impudence to send candidates of Graballism to seek their votes.

Anyone who knows Sir E. P. Morris well would expect just such a reply as he gave. Our experience of him taught us to expect this, but the fishermen desired President Coaker to use Constitutional and fair efforts to secure the recognition of their requests in order to have no regrets if stern action had to be taken in dealing with this national crisis.

From President Coaker to the Premier

March 3rd, 1915.

Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, K.C., Prime Minister.

Dear Sir,—Permit me to ask what action the Government proposes to take in reference to the finding of the Sealing Commission respecting Captain Abraham Kean, and the petitions being handed to the Crown through His Excellency the Governor?

The Commission appointed by your Government has found Captain Kean guilty of "a grave error of judgment." Everyone must admit that this finding is unbiased, impartial, and as it is the report of Judges of the Supreme Court who weigh their words and express their findings as moderately as possible, there can be no difference of opinion as to the serious sense in which their conclusion is to be accepted. They have found him guilty of an error which resulted in the death of seventy-eight men.

Can you permit this Captain to sail in command of hundreds of men, where he comes in contact not only with his own ship's crew but with several ship's crews, and where his action may entail decisions which would affect the lives of perhaps a thousand sealers,—this man whom the Judges of the Supreme Court have found guilty of a grave error of judgment?

If you have the interest of our sealers at heart, you can not again permit them to run such a risk. The Country demands Captain Kean's withdrawal, and it is within the power of the Government to protect the sealers from the risks entailed through the sailing of a steamer under a man who has been adjudged guilty of a grave error of judgment. If you again permit this man to leave a Newfoundland port in charge of three hundred lives and with a probable influence over many more hundreds, you will be false to your duty and trust, in that you will not have accepted the verdict of a Commission which you yourself appointed to investigate into this loss of life last Spring.

The public request, now coming into the Government by petition, demands that immediate action be taken. Already one thousand electors have asked for the arrest of Capt. Kean. Based on a knowledge of the conditions and events, with which the sealers are familiar, these petitions can not be ignored. They are the outcome of a Convention of impartial men assembled at Spaniard's Bay, who represented fifty settlements in that Bay. Since that action was taken, the situation has become critical through the finding of two Judges of the Supreme Court after enquiring fully into the facts surrounding the disaster.

Hundreds of sealers are arriving in the City, and they will want to know immediately whether their lives are to be again risked under the command of a man whose conduct caused seventy-eight to perish last Spring. I ask you, as Prime Minister and Chief Adviser of the Crown, what action you intend to take in this matter.

Kindly let me have a reply at your earliest convenience.
W. F. COAKER, President F.P.U.

From Premier Morris to President Coaker

4th March, 1915.

W. F. Coaker, Esq., M.H.A., President F.P.U.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, in which you ask what action the Government proposes to take in reference to the finding of the Sealing Commission respecting Captain Abraham Kean, and also the petitions being handed the Crown through His Excellency the Governor.

As regards the finding of the Sealing Commission, the Government, at the next session of the Legislature, propose to submit legislation embodying the recommendations of the majority report of the Commission, and will invite the Legislature to enact into law the provisions for the safety of the crews prosecuting the sealfishery, suggested by the Commission, as well as such other provisions as may be considered necessary in the interests of the men.

With respect to the petitions which you say have been handed the Crown through His Excellency the Governor,

SPANIARD'S BAY

To His Excellency the Governor in Council:—

The Petition of the undersigned residents of Spaniard's Bay and electors of the electoral district of Harbor Grace, humbly sheweth that on March 31st and April 1st last seventy-eight of the Crew of the sealing steamer "Newfoundland" died on the icefloes from exposure, and that in the opinion of your Petitioners, Captain Abram Kean, Master of the "Stephano," was guilty of criminal negligence in relation to the said men, wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that Your Excellency be pleased to direct the Law Officers of the Crown to take the necessary steps to test before the Courts the liability or otherwise of Captain Kean. And as in duty bound they will ever pray.

JACOB BARRETT ABRAM BARRETT WM. NOSEWORTHY RALPH NOSEWORTHY JAS. NOSEWORTHY R. NOSEWORTHY of Jas. AND. NOSEWORTHY WM. SHEPPARD NATH. GOSSE GEO. NOSE WORTHY WM. MURRIN JAS. MURRIN JOSIAH SHEPPARD SIMEON CHIPMAN JOHN JEWER GEO. JEWER NATH. DROVER GEO. DROVER LEON. CHIPMAN HERBERT GREELY WM. MINCHMAN ABRAHAM SMITH WM. YETMAN C. YETMAN WM. BARRETT	WALTER MURRIN HY. SHEPPARD MARK SHEPPARD H. W. SHEPPARD JOHN SHEPPARD JNO. W. SHEPPARD JOHN NOSEWORTHY GEORGE GOSS JOHN DROVER JOSEPH ROBERTS AZAR. CHIPMAN ALBERT BARRETT JOHN CRAM ISAAC CLARK RICHARD SINGLETON JAMES DROVER MOSES GOSSE JOSEPH MERCER ROBERT CHIPMAN HARVEY SMITH EDWARD BARRETT JAMES CAINES ROBT. HUSSEY JOHN HUSSEY EDWARD BARRETT
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I have made enquiries, and find that all of the petitions received by the Governor have been forwarded in a covering letter to the Colonial Secretary, who, in turn, has forwarded them to the Minister of Justice. You may rest assured that full consideration will be given the matter by the Law Officers of the Crown.

E. P. MORRIS, Prime Minister.

From President Coaker to the Premier

March 4th, 1915.

Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, K.C., Prime Minister.

Dear Sir,—I asked you a plain question and I demand of you a plain answer. Do you, as Head of the Government, intend to act upon the finding of the Sealing Commission respecting the conduct of Captain Abraham Kean in connection with last year's sealing disaster, the Commission having found that he was guilty of a grave error of judgment? Again, I ask what action you intend to take as a Government respecting the arrest of Capt. Kean as directed by the petitions from the people now being sent to His Excellency the Governor in Council.

I ask these two questions and expect you to reply definitely to them. Your reply is not worthy of the Prime Minister or of the serious crisis now confronting the Colony over this matter. You purposely evade the very point of my enquiry concerning your action on the finding of the Commission as to "the grave error of judgment" by Capt. Kean, and nothing is surer evidence than that if Capt. Kean is to be arrested and tried, as the petitioners suggest the arrest should be made before Capt. Kean attempts to go in the "Florizel." It is the right of the sealers coming into this City that you should now speak honestly.

An immediate reply will oblige.

W. F. COAKER, President F.P.U.

From the Premier to President Coaker

5th March, 1915.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date, in which you ask two questions, first, whether I, as head of the Government, intend to act upon the finding of the Sealing Commission respecting the conduct of Captain Abraham Kean in connection with last year's Sealing Disaster, the Commission having found that he was guilty of a grave error of judgment; and, second, what action I intend to take, as a Government, respecting the arrest of Captain Kean, as directed by the petitions from the people now being sent to His Excellency the Governor in Council.

As to your first question I have to say that the Commission, in finding that Captain Kean was guilty of an error of judgment, does not call for any action, nor afford ground for any intervention by the Government.

As to the second question, I have to repeat that the petitions are in the hands of the Department of Justice, who will consider them with due regard to the issues involved.

E. P. MORRIS, Prime Minister.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have learned from the Attorney General that he is sending in to the Colonial Secretary to-day a full report on the petitions forwarded to His Excellency the Governor. As soon as this report comes in I shall have a copy made and forwarded you for information.

JOHN BARRETT
DAVID CLARK
JOHN PEDDEL
JOSEPH PEDDEL
EDW. GREALEY
JOHN FORD
WM. FORD
HENRY SMITH
PETER GOSSE
JOHN VOKEY
JACOB VOKEY
THOS. RABBITS
NATH. SHEPPARD
PETER BYRNE
KEN. GOSSE
EDWARD CHIPMAN
JOHN HUTCHINGS
JOHN R. ANTHONY
GEO. ROBERTS
CALEB ANTHONY
MOSES ANTHONY
CALEB N. ANTHONY
JOHN F. GOULD
BENJ. STRICKLAND
JAMES SYAN
HERB. MERCER
JAS. KENT
JOHN T. SMITH
NICH. COOMBS
MCH. McCARTHY
SOL. SEYMOUR
ELEAZ. SEYMOUR
MOSES STRICKLAND
ALEX. NOSEWORTHY
WM. NOSEWORTHY
AZAR. VOKEY
JOSIAH BUTT
WM. SMITH
WM. VOKEY

MCL. W. WHALEN
JOHN VOKEY
HARVEY VOKEY
ISAAC VOKEY
WM. VOKEY
PHILIP VOKEY
JONA. VOKEY
SOL. VOKEY
SILAS VOKEY
JOSIAH BUTT
WM. H. BUTT
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AB. F. GOSSE
LEON. VOKEY
ALB. SMITH
ISAAC SEYMOUR
EDW. PHELAN
JOB. GOSSE
EDWARD PYE
SOL. GOSSE
G. D. CHIPMAN
AUG. CHIPMAN
LEO PIKE
R. G. PIKE
ROBT. GOSS E
MOSES GOSSE
FRANCIS GOSSE
WM. GOSSE
ROBERT CHIPMAN
RICHARD A. GOSSE
JAMES BROWN
WM. CHIPMAN
WM. GOSSE
CYRIL SMITH
ELIOL YETMAN
R. SMITH
JETHRO BARRETT
HENRY PIKE

CAVENDISH, T.B.

WM. JERRETT
ELIAS JERRETT
EPHRAIM
JOSEPH CHISLETT
JOSEPH JERRETT
CORBET LEGGE
JAMES LEGGE
NOAH JACKSON
JESSE CHISLETT
WM. CHISLETT
HENRY JERRETT
ELIJAH JACKSON
JAMES JACKSON
WM. CRITCH
JOHN CRITCH
E. BISHOP
MOSES CRITCH
JOHN CRITCH
RUBEN BURSEY
JACOB JERRETT

WM. BISHOP
ELI JACKSON
JABEZ JACKSON
CHARLES JACKSON
FREDRICK JACKSON
FRED LEGGE
HENRY JACKSON
SAMUEL JACKSON
PHILIP JACKSON
FREDERICK JACKSON
ALBERT JACKSON
RICHARD CRITCH
ESAU CRITCH
W. J. JACKSON
JACOB CRITCH
ABEL JACKSON
GILBERT JERRETT
JAMES JACKSON
THOMAS JACKSON
AMOS JACKSON

TRINITY EAST

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HERBERT FOWLER
CHARLES JAMES
MARK FIFIELD
WM. FOWLOW OF MART.
ISRAEL JONES
CHARLES JONES
JOHN FOWLOW
ROBERT JONES
JAMES JONES
COLIN EVELLEY
RONALD DEWLING
ARCH BAILEY
DUD. EVELLEY
CHARLIE BROWN
KENNETH DAY
ROBERT MILLER
HUGH EVELLEY
RICHARD HOGARTH
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GEO. FOWLOW
CHAS. NEWHOOK
JAS. EVELLEY
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JOHN FOWLOW II
JOHN FOWLOW, JR.
ROBT. FOWLOW
JAMES BROWN
WM. BROWN
JAMES LAITE
GEO. BROWN
THOMAS LAITE

BURNT POINT, B. de V.

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PATK. J. DOYLE
MARK OLIVER
JACOB OLIVER
SIMEON OLIVER
CHARLES TUCKER

JASPER WICKS
JAMES TUCKER
JOHN C. MILLEY
JOSEPH RODGERS
ROBERT MILLEY
EDWARD MILLEY
CHARLES MILLEY

ANDREW MILLEY
NICHOLAS MILLEY
SAML. STOCKWOOD
GEO. OLIVER
JOHN T. MILLEY
ROBT. STOCKWOOD
AMBROSE TUCKER
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WM. R. TUCKER
THOS. TUCKER of THOS.
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HY. T. TUCKER
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WILLIS PENNY
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OBADIAH TUCKER
ERNEST RAYAN
RICHARD BATSON
STEPHEN BARNES
FRANCIS PENNY
HERBERT BARNES
ALEX. PENNY
STEPHEN FORD
MARK PENNY
NATH. PENNY
WM. IVANY
COLIN PENNY
HY. GEO. BATSON
MARK IVANY
OBADIAH PENNY
GEO. BATSON
DANIEL WILLS
WM. GEORGE
RUBEN PENNY
WM. IVANY
GEO. MILLER
WM. JAS. IVANY
MARTIN LANE
JAMES IVANY
ADAM POTTLE
JAS. IVANY of FRANCIS
MARK BARNES
RICHARD IVANY
JAMES BESTON
WALTER IVANY
HY. GEO. IVANY
GEO. IVANY
HERBERT IVANY
SAMUEL POTTLE
ISRAEL IVANY
FRANCIS PENNY
ALLAN PENNY
ALEX. PENNY
PETER BATSON
ROBT. J. IVANY
JOHN BATSON
JOHN F. PENNY
WALLACE BATSON
ALEX. PENNY
ALBERT BUGDEN
EDWIN BUGDEN
GILBERT BUGDEN
WM. BESTON
MARTIN BUGDEN
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