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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 2, 1915-3.

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Anderson's, Water Street, St. John's

Letters of Interest

From Mail and Advocate Readers

THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

New Councils, New Stores, New Ideas and New Hope for the Toiling Masses

At the recent Convention of the Conception Bay District Council of the F.P.U. held at Spaniard's Bay, amendments to the Constitution of the F.P.U. providing for the establishment of a District Council for Conception Bay, were unanimously agreed to and submitted for the consideration of the Supreme Council.

Pending the approval of the Supreme Council officers were elected pro tem, as follows:—

Chairman—The President.
Deputy Chairman—R. Hibbs, Kelligrews.
Secretary—P. J. Griffin, Conception Bay.

It was decided to appoint a representative of the Council, to attend to F.P.U. matters of organizing, operation, buying and selling, &c., in Conception Bay, who would devote his whole time to the work and be responsible to the President. This decision was highly appreciated, as every Council will be visited regularly by the agent, and all business will be attended to and arranged by him on behalf of the F.P.U.

He will also attend to the purchasing of fish, &c., and the ordering of coal and provisions in bulk. It was thought that the appointment of such an agent would greatly facilitate the work of the Councils and firmly establish the political interests of the Union. It is another of President Coaker's wise moves to stabilize his work for the toilers of Conception Bay and make it as solid for the F.P.U. as the other Northern Bays.

The result of the President's work the past winter may be gathered from the fact that on Wednesday 75 delegates attended the Convention from all parts of Conception Bay being an increase of 50 per cent. on the attendance at Coley's Point Convention. The activity of the F.P.U. in the Bay this winter is an indication of the renewed interest and progress that is being made.

At Bay Roberts one of the largest outport Halls was started about a month ago and is now almost ready for use. At Coley's Point the Council is putting forth great efforts to complete their fine Hall. At Kelligrews lumber and framing has been secured for the erection of a Union Hall. At Western Bay the Union Hall will be completed this winter. At Job's Cove the Council has completed a splendid Hall this winter. At Clarke's Beach the Union Hall has also been improved.

New Councils have been established at Topsail, Seal Cove, Kitchues, Colliers, and another will be established at Long Pond. Bell Island will possess a Council of the F.P.U. and a Union store as soon as normal conditions are established there. Harbor Grace will also have a Council as soon as war conditions are relieved and the Union will be taking a hand sooner or later in the uplifting of Harbor Grace town.

KEAN'S NAME BRINGS SAVAGE LEER

To Face of Him Who Lost A Son in The Terrible Blizzard of Last Spring

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir,—One of the things which helped to bring about the French Revolution was that the rulers would not allow the farmers to manure their corn fields for fear the grime would eat the corn and thus spoil its flavor. Everyone will admit that this kind of rule was rather tough, but are we not subject to a rule just as hard only that it comes in a different form? Today there are twenty or thirty thousand men demanding that Captain A. Kean be not allowed to command a steamer to the seal fishery again on the ground that he, by an error of judgment, caused the death of seventy-eight of their fellow fishermen last year, but the "powers that be" pay absolutely no heed to their demand. In the face of this, who can blame if these fishermen revolt?

Now, I am not going to pass judgment on Capt. Kean, because I am not very well versed in oceanology, but I know enough about meteorology to say that any one could have seen that there was going to be a storm on that

day without the assistance of a torricellian tube.

Every lecturer who has stood on the platform at Bonavista has spoken about the famous "scrap of paper" and how Germany has not minded breaking her word.

There are people who are breaking their word just as readily as the German Government. I do not know where you could find a more flagrant case of word breaking than in the Bowring outrage. Here are our boys going to fight and die for the Empire in order that we may not be brought to suffer through German despotism and this same despotism is rampant in our own land.

It is no trouble to be a patriot after the stamp of some of our pseudo-patriots who will put \$50,000 in with one hand and pull a hundred thousand out with the other. I would suggest that they would put a little into fitting up the railroad. I think you would too, if you saw the "trap" that is hauling the train on the Bonavista branch, where the engine is so envel-

A FERRYLAND SEALER

Endorses Coaker and F.P.U.—Says Southern Shore Sealers are Ready to Join the North in Defense of Right and Justice

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir,—Please allow me space in your valuable paper to make a few remarks concerning the great fight Pres. Coaker is putting up against Kean and Bowring Bros. on behalf of the sealers of Terra Nova.

To our mind Munn and Bowring Bros. should be ashamed of themselves for the deceitful and dishonorable manner in which they have acted towards President Coaker and the F.P.U. If they send Kean out to the ice as master of the Florizel this spring, their name will be mud on this shore. All our men down this Shore are in full sympathy with President Coaker in this Kean business. We regard Kean as incompetent to take charge of a sealing crew after his blundering last spring. This district lost six of her sons through Kean's lack of common-sense and to send that man again in charge of a sealing crew is to our view, nothing short of a deliberate attempt to ride over public sentiment.

Your paper is read to-day by every one who has the interests of fishermen and the country in general at heart. It is, indeed, the toilers paper, and the fervent prayer heard all over this district is that you may be spared for many years to come to fight the battles of us poor fishermen. We believe the Union men of the North will stand to President Coaker in this crisis. We are prepared to do the same, and let those grab-all merchants on Water St. see that this is a British Colony, and that the fishermen who produce the wealth of the Colony are now ready to strike the final blow for liberty, justice and fair play. Abraham Kean should be sent to the woods to catch rabbits. He should not and must not be allowed to sail in charge of the Florizel or any other sealer to the icefields.

The best medicine for Munn and the Bowring youth is for the fishermen to ignore Bowring's firm in the future. When these bright youths see their cash receipts getting smaller and smaller they will soon realize how foolish their conduct has been in defying the fishermen of Newfoundland.

Go ahead, President Coaker, the fishermen of this Shore are with you in this great fight. We had enough of Abraham Kean last March, and we don't want another sealing disaster this year. Kean has been held guilty by the sealers, some of whom were friends of his till his terrible blunder caused the lives of seventy-eight of our fellow-countrymen and left eleven more maimed for life. We are watching the matter down here with deep interest, and I can assure you, sir, the fishermen of the district are going to back up President and the F.P.U. in their demands for Kean's arrest.

Go ahead, President Coaker, and may God strengthen you in your noble fight for the uplifting of Terra Nova's toilers.

FERRYLAND SEALER.

Southern Shore,
Feb. 23, 1915.

Buy GOODS Manufactured in NEWFOUNDLAND & keep the Fathers at work

opped in a cloud of vapour when the throttle is open that the engineer can no more see danger ahead than if he were in the Black Hole of Calcutta.

To-day I was talking to a man whose son perished on the ice last spring, and one had only to mention Kean's name to bring to his countenance a savage leer. And is there any wonder? I can assure you that there are thousands who are not in the Union who will fight to the last ditch for democracy.

W. L. BUTLER.

Bonavista,
Feb. 23, 1915.

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