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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., DEC. 31st., 1915.

1915

THE year 1915 is gone. In Newfoundland it will be a memorable one, owing to the carrying of Prohibition at the polls, and the passage of a Prohibition measure by the Legislature. This will prove in future years to be one of the greatest economic and moral achievements the Colony ever accomplished.

The past year will also be remembered as having taken about 100 of our Naval Reserve and Volunteer forces, who gave their all—their lives—for King and Empire.

It has also beheld one of the greatest agitations the country ever experienced in connection with the Kean-Newfoundland Disaster issue, which called forth protests from 10,000 electors, who claimed Abram Kean should be tried for manslaughter for his conduct in the loss of 79 sealers, who were sent to their death March 31st and April 1st, 1914.

Destitution also will be another of the reminders of 1915, for thousands applied for public aid last winter and spring in order to get over the effects of a bad fishery and the closing down of labor owing to war conditions.

The historian will also note the opening of the Legislature at the late date of April 7th, a date which ought to have seen legislative work finished instead of begun.

The infamous Reil-Willson Deal will also commemorate the year 1915, for future generations will remember the passing of that contract, with even greater regret than the Colony to-day do the 1898 Deal.

The F.P.U. has been very active during the year. Three Conventions of the F.P.U. were held during 1915. One at Coley's Point, one at Spaniard's Bay and another—the Supreme—at St. John's. The establishment of Conception Bay District Council of the F.P.U. will be another of the records for 1915.

During the year President Coaker visited Carbonear and addressed the first Union Public Meeting held there. He also paid his first visit to the Lumber Camps at Badger.

The year 1915 will also be noted for the Mosdell-Star attack upon President Coaker and the F.P.U., and the anti-movement of certain interested graballs who were so convinced of the power of the F.P.U. that they polled over \$20,000 to start an anti-union daily paper and the purchase of two officials who had been connected with the F.P.U. movement. Their efforts resulted in strengthening rather than injuring the cause, of its leader.

Another F.P.U. achievement of the year was the forcing of the price of seals from \$3.75 per cwt. to \$4.75 in spite of the bitterest and most uncompromising attitude of the Seal Oil Manufacturers.

It will also be remembered as the year Kean drove the Prospero

on Horse Island Rock and the year Kean jinked the sealing voyage by leading the steel fleet along the shore in Green Bay, during a period of East winds, which jammed the whole fleet for the spring, resulting in a voyage by the northern fleet of less than 20,000 seals.

The year will also be remembered for the Union Bills which were placed on the Statute Book, such as the Logging Bill, Local Affairs Bill, and the Prohibition Resolutions. The Labrador Fish Price Bill, Sealers' Compensation and Protection Bill also unanimously passed through the Lower House, while the Upper House killed both by amendments which were unacceptable to the Peoples' representatives.

The Union Party's activities in the House during 1915, also compelled the Government to investigate conditions prevailing at the Penitentiary and in the Postal Telegraph Department.

Another action of the Government in 1915 that will long be remembered, was the placing of ten per cent tax on all free importations, such as cattle feeds, agricultural implements, motor engines and a heavy tax on kerosene oil and gasolene used by motor engines.

The future historian will also record the scandalous conduct of the Minister of Finance in the House last May, which came very near ending in a disgraceful brawl. —as it was the Speaker was compelled to interfere and restore order—the scene having been enacted while the House was sitting in Committee of the Whole.

1915 will be remembered by the fishermen as the Soft Fish Year, when green faggot fish was sold at \$6.40 per qtl. and cod oil fetched \$145 per tun.

The returns of the fisheries will exceed those of 1914 by at least \$500,000 owing to high prices obtainable, which the fishermen must again thank the F.P.U.'s exertions for. At least \$1,000,000 have been placed in the fishermen's pockets by Union exertions in securing the highest values for fish and oil during the year, while another \$250,000 has been saved to the toilers by the Union's trade competition.

The year 1915 will be a noted one for the F.P.U. in respect to its political decisions as well as its decision to make Catalina headquarters for the F.P.U.

The F.P.U. now consist of 250 Local Councils, containing 22,000 members.

The year 1915 has demonstrated once more how utterly incapable the Government is to meet the public requirements of the times or to make provision to aid the Colony to pass through the trying months of the war period. Absolutely nothing of material benefit has been achieved by the Government on behalf of the Colony during the past year. Things have gone on just the same as if no Government existed so far as any help was afforded the fishermen or the trade. Every possible cent has been filtered by the Government from the earnings of the people, while absolutely nothing has been done to relieve the situation created by the war.

That an F.P.U. had been organized and had become powerful enough to protect the country's best interests has indeed proved to be a God-send to country and people during the past year.

During the year the F.P.U. lost several leading members by death—such men as friend Joseph Elliott of Change Islands, friend Geo. Moulard of Doting Cove, friend Thos. Wells of Twillingate, friend Joseph Burke of Tilting, and others, who cannot be replaced in their Councils. They possessed much influence and were looked up to by their fellow-fishermen. They are gone, but not forgotten. Their work for the advancement and uplift of others was not in vain.

The great war is still being rigorously prosecuted and the possibilities are will continue so for many months. What condition the conclusion of peace will leave Newfoundland and the Empire in no man can now foresee, but if 1916 will prove as faithful to Newfoundland as 1915 has, then Terra Nova will not come out of the struggle any worse than any other portion of the Empire. A very prosperous year none can expect, but our hope is that Providence will watch over our Island Home during 1916 equally as lovingly and beneficially as in 1915.

The Colonial Commerce

WE extend our thanks to Mr. P. K. Devine, the Editor and Manager, for a copy of The Colonial Commerce, a local magazine devoted to the trade of the Colony.

The publisher has, we think, succeeded in filling a long felt want in this respect and we feel sure if subsequent numbers are up to the same high standard as the current issue, Mr. Devine will have reason to feel proud of his work.

A trade paper is badly needed here and The Colonial Commerce should, and we feel confident will, do much towards building up a better and larger trade between the Dominion of Canada, the United States and Newfoundland.

The magazine contains some very interesting reading matter. The various articles deal with every phase of our commercial life. A very interesting peep at Water Street in the early 'sixties' is well worthy of special mention. We congratulate Mr. Devine on his first issue and trust he will meet with the success his efforts so justly deserve.

Roumania

FROM the very outset of the war, Roumania has been in the public eye, yet few people seems to understand the position of this non-Slavic nation. In Bucharest, its capital, a diplomatic game has been fought similar to those fought out in Athens and Sofia, but of far greater importance to the contestants. For Roumania could bring to Russia and her Allies an army of 300,000 splendidly trained soldiers, with large reserves, with an open road to the Bulgarian frontier and thus a land approach to Constantinople. To the Russian armies in Galicia Roumanian intervention would mean a flank attack upon the Austrians and the retreat of the Hapsburg forces from the Trans-Carpathian front.

Had Roumania intervened on the side of the anti-German Allies last spring the Russian disaster would probably have been prevented, Serbia would not have been crushed, Bulgaria would not have ventured into the war at all inless on the anti-Teutonic side; here would have been no crisis at Athens, and Greek armies would unquestionably have shared in the Gallipoli adventure. Roumanian intervention could have been had by the Allies for a price, a price which seemed to them too high at the critical moment and has since seemed ridiculously low.

Like Greece, Roumania is prepared "to rush to the succor of the victor" in the present war. Like Greece, Roumania is still divided in its views as to which force will prove victor. Like the Greeks, the Roumanians, as a people, are profoundly sympathetic with the Allies, and as a rule hostile to Germany and Austria. Like the Greeks, they fear the Bulgars, having joined the Greeks in plundering Bulgaria. It is exceedingly doubtful whether the Crown Prince possesses influence enough to throw the Roumanian army to the Central Powers. King Charles desired to do this, and was forced by his ministers to abandon the project in order to keep his throne. So the deadlock in Roumania, as in Greece, has been maintained, on the whole, to the advantage of the Central Powers.

Roumania is a comparatively young country. Carlos, or Charles, its first king, is only recently dead; his wife, under the name of Carmen Sylva was well known in the literary world.

Racially and linguistically the Roumanians form a Romanic people, and a Slavonic one; and those who have an acquaintance with Latin and the Romance Languages can readily understand the language of the Roumanians. The Roumanians are of entirely different physique from their Slavonic neighbors, being small, wiry, and alert, whereas the Slavs are large-bodied, heavy and phlegmatic.

The first thing to be learned about the Roumanians is that during the first century after Christ the Eastern provinces of the Roman Empire were frequently ravaged by incursions of powerful barbarian tribes. In 101 A.D. Trajan, the Roman Emperor, led in person a large army against the Dacians and conquered their country. Rome created a large military settlement in Dacia on the lower banks of the Danube; and the modern Roumanians are the descendants of these colonists. They have never adopted either the Slavonic language or customs, and they have no racial affinity with either Bulgaria or Russia. They are a Romanic people, akin to the Italians and the French; but their kinship with these will probably weigh lightly compared with their national interests which are remote from those of their relations amongst the Allies. The great dream of the Roumanians is the hope of a restored Roman Empire in the Transylvania Alps and along the

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

December 31

HON. A. W. HARVEY admitted partner in the firm of Harvey & Tucker, 1860.

Day Book registered, F. Winton, proprietor, 1861.

Mercury registered, J. E. Furneaux, proprietor, 1881.

Government statistics show that 116 houses were built in St. John's during the year; value, \$155,760, 1879.

Edward Meehan died, aged 66, 1895.

Governor Pickmore offered £300 reward for apprehension of person who tried to set fire to William Hogan's house in Maggoty Cove, 1817.

"BUT WHAT SAYEST THOU?"

By WILBUR NESBIT, in "The Living Church"

(ST. JOHN, 8th Chapter: But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground * * * So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.")

We have saved the soul of the man that killed.

We have turned to shrieve the thief.

We restored the pride of the man that lied.

And we gave him our belief; But for her that fell we have fashioned hell.

With a faith all stern and just—it was so of old; and no man has told.

What our Lord wrote in the dust.

For the men who thieved, and who killed, and lied—

Who have slain the woman's soul—

We have worked, and prayed, and have seen them made

All clean and all pure and all whole.

But we drive her out with a righteous shout

In our Pharisaic trust.

So the man goes free—but we did not see

What our Lord wrote in the dust.

ian army. The Czar's gratitude to Prince Charles was effusive, and he declared that "in the future Roumania could always rely on Russian sympathy and aid." But what happened? The Roumanians were excluded from all participation in the Peace Conference of San Stepano, refused territorial compensation, and in the following year, they were forced to cede Bessarabia to Russia in order to avoid war with their powerful neighbor. This brought forth from Lord Beaconsfield the expression: "In politics, ingratitude is often the price of the best service."

In consequent to this, Roumania drew closer to Germany, and the King of Roumania writing to Bismarck said: "It will be the aim of my Government to carefully promote the valuable relations with the German Empire, and I hope that my country may count upon the benevolent support of Germany in all future contingencies."

With Austria-Hungary, also, relations became more cordial and intimate. These relations have been persistently maintained; so when we read that Roumania will soon enter the war on the side of the Allies, we must not swallow the news too readily.

The course that Roumania's national interests dictate is an alliance with Central Powers. Had the Allies succeeded, or were their chances for success in the Balkans brighter, then Roumania's weight would doubtless be thrown into the scale on their side. Whilst it is quite true that the mass of the people and the few patriots like M. Take Ionescu are favorable to the Allies, the King, the Court, the financial forces, and the upper classes are with the Central Powers. Ferdinand, like Constantine, is impressed with the military strength of Germany, and Ferdinand belongs to the House of Hohenzollern, while Constantine has merely married a daughter of this family.

Danube and the Dneister, the aspiration for a Roumanian risorgimento, and a new Latin state but little smaller than modern Italy in area, and possessing regions far more fertile than any in the Italian Peninsula.

Roumania offered its aid to Rus-

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We are clearing out some lines of FUR COLLARS and STOLES, that are left over, at a GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE, some less than HALF PRICE.



Brown Marmot Collars that were \$10.00. Selling now for... \$ 3.00.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$16.00. Selling now for... 6.00.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$15.00. Selling now for... 7.50.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$18.00. Selling now for... 9.00.

Brown Marmot Collars that were \$30.00. Selling now for... 15.00.

Brown Marmot Stoles that were \$10.00. Selling now for... \$ 6.00.

Brown Marmot Stoles that were \$ 9.00. Selling now for... 6.60.

Brown Opposom Stoles that were \$15.00. Selling now for... 11.00.

Brown Opposom Stoles that were \$20.00. Selling now for... 12.00.

Brown Opposom Stoles that were \$26.00. Selling now for... 18.00.

Mole Squirrel Stoles that were \$3.00. Selling now for... 2.00.

Black Coney Seal Collars that were \$6.00. Selling now for... 3.50.

Brown Coney Seal Collars that were \$6.00. Selling now for... 3.00.

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NEW MARRIED WERE ONE TIME PRISONERS IN GERMANY

An old prisoner of the Kaiser's was recently married in England. He is commander Vivian R. Brandon, R.N., one of the two British officers sentenced in December, 1910, to four years' detention in a German fortress for espionage. Capt. Trench, who was

captured at the same time as Commander (then Lieutenant) Brandon, and given a similar sentence, was best man. Commander Brandon and Capt. Trench were pardoned by the Kaiser on the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen to Berlin in May, 1913, for the marriage of Princess Victoria, Louise to Prince Earnest Augustus, son of the Duke of Cumberland.