

Toilers Final Fight For Liberty

F.P.U. Fight Now Against Bowings, Whose Word Is No Longer Their Bond, History of Trickery and Dishonor Exposed. Munn and Eric Bowring Responsible.

Scathing Indictment Against the Ancient Enemies of Newfoundland Progress

"It is remarkable that in every movement for amelioration of the country we invariably find the merchants obstructing and opposing the improvement."

Bishop Mullock.

MUNN and the Bowring Boy have been utilized by Water Street to defy the people's request, and their conduct has aroused a very bitter resentment against the few kid-gloved grabbers of Water Street.

They are to-day exhibiting some of the dirty deeds that made the people hate their taskmasters and which called forth such a scathing indictment by the great defenders of Democracy who endeavoured in days gone by to defend the cause of the people against their oppressors.

What Bishop Mullock Stated

That saintly man who did as much for Newfoundland as any that ever resided in the Colony, and who later was lamented so exceedingly by the people of all sects,—the late Bishop Mullock—wrote those scathing words about the treatment accorded the people by Water Street merchants.

It is remarkable that in every movement for amelioration of the country, we invariably find the merchants obstructing and opposing the improvement

In 1729 they upheld the rule of the fishery admirals, and opposed the establishment of a crown governor. When it was necessary to establish law courts, and appoint a Chief Justice and assistant Judges, again they are in opposition. The establishment of a Colonial Legislature, found the majority of them, opponents, and latterly the principal opposition to Responsible Government, and free trade came from the mercantile body. Their interest and those of the people were never identical.

Those words were written by the brilliant pen of Dr. Mullock in 1856. He accused them of opposing every movement for the amelioration of the Country. (Note the scathing indictment.) They upheld the rule of the fishing Admirals; they opposed the establishment of a Crown Governor; they opposed the establishment of Law Courts, because they wished to be the judges themselves and administer the laws of their own imagination as they deemed proper to further their own interests.

Balance Paid in Truck

Only God and our poor forebears know what they endured under the law administration of the merchant lords a hundred years ago.

Every fish caught had to be handed over to their taskmasters. Every ounce of food, every inch of goods, had to be taken from the taskmasters at whatever prices they choose to name, and when the voyage was over the balance due—if any—was taken in truck. If they did not like the treatment they could apply to the so-called courts and have their troubles adjusted by their taskmasters.

Is it any wonder the fishermen in their inner hearts hate the merchants intensely and will never trust them or consider that they are any better than legalized robbers?

Opposed All Progress

It was Dr. Mullock who branded their conduct as legalized robbery.

They opposed the appointment of a Chief Justice, states the saintly Dr. Mullock. They opposed the proposal to establish a Supreme Court. They fought

against the establishment of a Colonial Legislature. Then latterly they bitterly opposed the granting of Responsible Government.

They spent thousands that they grabbed from the toil of the sea toilers to defeat the establishment of Responsible Government, but their efforts ended in failure. They were forced by the people to swallow their medicine and they have always hated the common people and endeavoured by trickery, fraud, deceit, and brow-beating to keep them under as serfs and chain them to slavery that made Merchant Princes of one and paupers of the other.

A Duty to State the Truth

Bishop Mullock was in his day the sole defender of the poor toilers, and when he wrote his history of the Church in Newfoundland he felt it his duty to state the whole truth concerning the treatment of the poor fishermen's taskmasters.

The interest of the merchant and those of the people were never identical said that meek and holy man, but the condemnation of the people's taskmasters did not terminate with Dr. Mullock's death.

A Terribly Severe Indictment

Another, lately laid at rest—Archbishop Howley—who throughout his life always defended the Rights of the People and placed the interests of Country always in the forefront of his principles, wrote in that book on Church History that has become world known, words endorsing all that Dr. Mullock had written about the conduct of the merchants and then expressed his feelings by stating:

"A terribly severe indictment but not too much so. They are the deductions of a clean historical mind, from the study of our past history. The pages of Chief Justice Reeves an impartial authority tell the tale in terms not less terrible, from being couched in the authentic records of the period, and at the present day, after a lapse of over thirty years of modern development, and enlightenment, have we anything to nullify, and erase, in the strictures of Dr. Mullock. Alas, no, on the contrary, many other counts must be added to the indictment. The merchants were opposed to the construction of our dry dock, to the undertaking of railway work, to the opening up of mines, topographical and geographical surveys, and such public enterprises, in fact to all that could raise Newfoundland from the condition of a fishery station.

Other Counts Must be Added

Yes, stated the venerable Archbishop, after thirty years of modern development and enlightenment we can nullify and erase not a stricture recorded by Dr. Mullock, "but" said His Grace, "on the contrary, many other counts must be added to the indictment."

Archbishop Howley in his History states the merchants were opposed to construction of the dry dock, they were opposed to railway construction; they were opposed to the opening of mines, and geological surveys—to all in fact that could raise Newfoundland from the condition of a fishing station.

Will our readers look up Archbishop

Howley's Ecclesiastical History and read pages 169-171, and peruse the burning language in which he so ably portrayed the endeavours of the taskmasters of the people to keep the Country as a fishing station and the people their unwilling serfs.

They opposed every improvement and change that would lead to the uplifting of the Country and its Sons of Toil, but step by step they were compelled to swallow their medicine and to-day their defiance of public opinion by the miserable specimen of humanity known as Jack Munn who sprang from another branch of the mongrel taskmasters who laid Harbor Grace low and turned a thriving town into a condition that leaves it to-day the saddest spot in Newfoundland, is but another attempt of Water Street to prevent the people from becoming wholly free and thrusting aside for ever the shackles that have for generations bound their class.

Same Haughty Scorn Still Lives

The same haughty defiant scorn that was so scathingly exposed by Dr. Mullock and Archbishop Howley still lingers amongst the dying embers that compose the make up of the greatest portion of Water Street grabbers.

Munn and the featherweight Bowring boy have once more been utilized by the legalized robbers of Water Street to defy the people's wish and what they did last week will be the weapon that will cause the whole population of toilers to back poor Coaker's efforts to place those upstarts once and for ever in their proper places.

78 Men Die Within Hearing

This fight will be continued until a general election places the people in charge of the Legislative machinery that operates the Colony and then reforms long wished for, long hoped for, will be initiated that will never again permit boys like Munn and Eric Bowring to back up the conduct of a man that must have lost his reason last Spring when he permitted 78 men to die almost within hearing of his ship's steam whistle, with out making the slightest effort to rescue them.

Great Creator of all—how can reasonable men ever again be subject to the orders of such a man! How can any man sail under such a master again and hope to escape horrors and haunting that will remain with them for life!

Munn is the puppet of the clique that defies the people's wishes.

Peoples Cause Prevails

The taskmasters of former generations acted exactly the same, but the people's cause prevailed, and thanks be to God, whose help is always on the side of Right, this final fight of the Toilers for Liberty and complete control will end by placing the People in Power, and making upstart legalized robbers who thrive along Water Street swallow the final dose of bitterness that will forever suffice to keep them in their proper place.

Bowings can put up their shutters to-morrow. Their lands and buildings would not be open to purchase 24 hours before a buyer would present himself, and if that buyer could not operate business with as much ability as Jack Munn or the Bowring Boy, he ought to be given a job in the institution opposite the moral uplifting production of Bowings, situated at Waterford Road.

We will continue to show our readers what the venerated clergy have written concerning the merchants of Newfoundland. We have the works of the late lamented and well known writer, Rev. Phillip Tocque, which we will review.

We have also some very interesting reading from the pen of the venerable Canon Smith, who at one time was one of the people's strongest defenders. It will all come in good time. We fear our readers are too anxious. They would like to have a whole paper full of our shrapnel for their taskmasters.

We will issue a special eight-page paper during the latter part of this week, which will be sent into every hamlet, town and settlement in the Colony—20,000 will be printed. The whole issue—the eight entire pages—will consist of matter dealing with this Bowring-Kean outrage. It will be a splendid paper to send to friends abroad, or in distant outports, for all will be glad to hear the particulars of this final fight of the Toilers in Terra Nova for Liberty.

(To be continued from day to day)

"Justice" Suggests Kean Withdraw

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—The only clean way out of the present "F.P.U. and Kean tangle" is for the latter to withdraw out of this year's prosecution of the fishery.

The public have followed up the whole question, and judge that Captain Kean has lost the confidence of the people, and stands in a false position with the Bowring firm.

Kean is not worth all this work, and if he refuses to acknowledge his weak position, he is less a man than Mr. Munn who for pure "pig-headedness" is a gentleman second to none in the Country.

The sealers who owe their safety to experienced and trustworthy commanders have a just and perfect right to insist on the withdrawal of Capt. Kean, and I hope they will do it.

—"JUSTICE"

BOWRING BENEFACTIONS TO CITY AND OUTPORTS

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—I have just read a letter by "Patriot"? He says he does not want to come before the public as a writer, well! he does not. It would have been much better to have let Prudence conquer Van ity as he only succeeded in offending the minds of reasoning people with so much senseless clap trap.

He talks of *Might and Right* in the great world struggle, he does not mention *Might and Right* in the great struggle here. From an interested onlooker's point of view Mr. Coaker has both *Right and Might*.

In any other country Capt. Kean would now have been without a Master's Certificate.

Then Bowring's benefactions to City and Outports, may that not have been conscience money or a short cut to royal honours, in any case it would only be as very small proportion of the profits they had made out of the fishermen!

Business For Profit

Why don't Bowring's close down, "Patriot" answers that when he says they are not in business for their health, they are in business for PROFIT, with capital letters too.

Then who helped to make the widows and orphans?

The fishermen do not wish to have Munn, Bowring & Co. insulted, they only wish to have them corrected. Evidently Bowring Bros. did play a very good game before Mr. Coaker was thought of, for their own benefit.

Brains Resemble Driftwood

No, Mr. Coaker's brain is not the only pebble on the beach, at the present time it seems to be very sound, the brains of "Patriot" and those he champions somewhat resemble drift wood. Eight per cent. seems to have knocked them.

Talking of what Mr. Coaker is living on, the other side seems to subsist on "Sas" a very dangerous thing to be in childish hands, it sometimes bursts.

Anyone with brains does not bring the King's name into political affairs. Certainly Country before satisfaction, that's it, 20,000 fishermen against one man and a few others.

Now Patriot & Co., Etc., just close down yourselves, you are only a few against many, let us have peace and happiness, we should have had something near it but for Bowring's second cable.

Yes! the greatest labour union leaders are quiet now, but then they have not Bowring's to deal with. "Tis Liberty and Right we are after," just so, and the Fishermen are going to get it.

Mr. Editor, do you think Capt. Kean would like to lecture to the Widows and Orphans of the sealing disaster? If so, probably he would take as his subject, "Motives of a Great Man."

"ON LOOKER."

St. John's, Feb. 22, 1915.

[We do not think Capt. Kean would venture to go on the lecture platform down North, to speak on any subject, unless it be to ask forgiveness for what he has done.—Editor.]

Abram Kean Held Responsible

That Feeling Has Not Been Quelled By the Latest Episode on the Part of Bowring's

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—I have read with much interest your articles re Bowring-Kean outrage and must confess that while I always had a good opinion of that firm I am now disgusted with them and my confidence in the firm can never again be replaced while Munn is in charge. A man or firm guilty of such conduct can never be any good, and the sooner such men bury themselves from the eyes of the public the better for all concerned. The matter of allowing Kean to sail in command of a sealer again, not only concerns the fishermen, but the public in general.

I am quite positive that the public don't want another disaster and if Kean hadn't been so near the Newfoundland last Spring 78 poor unfortunates would not have perished as they did.

Public Holds Kean to Blame

The public is quite aware that Abe Kean is chiefly responsible for the loss of the 78 Sons of Toil, and Munn or Bowring's should never again allow him to sail as captain or blunderer of a sealing steamer.

Everybody felt satisfied when they heard that Kean wasn't going to the seal-fishery as captain and decided that the firm of Bowring Brothers had acted wisely and it was a relief indeed to the whole Country. Subsequently when the Bowring Liverpool dishonour and deception became known and that Munn had agreed with Kean to go in command of the *Florizel*, the whole Country became indignant and is now in an uproar because the wishes of the people are defied.

Shame Upon the Firm

Shame upon the firm that is guilty of such contemptible conduct. How much longer will the courts be deprived of the chace to mete out complete Justice between the people and those responsible for the present uproar.

Will Demand Legislation

An enlightened and long suffering public will some day, and perhaps soon, rise in the majesty of their power and demand that the legislature take action. There was of course a Commission appointed but of what use was it, only what Mr. Coaker predicted from the beginning, a farce and a failure.

Hoping that Bowring Brothers will reconsider what they have done, and that Kean will be manly enough to withdraw voluntarily and thus save the Country from a great calamity.

A SEALER.

Trinity East, Feb. 20, 1915.