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1 Car of
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 and
YELLOW CORN
 Prices Right
J. J. ROSSITER
 Real Estate Agent

One Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE."

 (To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate
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OUR POINT OF VIEW
The Anniversary Of
The Sealing Disaster

ONE year has passed since the great sealing disaster which claimed 253 of Terra Nova's primest sons. Thousands of eyes in Newfoundland will be dim to-day owing to those disasters.

Many a mother will shed tears as she recalls the bright strong lad that left home last March in the Newfoundland and Southern Cross, never more to return. Many a wife will mourn for him who was to her all that life was worth living for. Many an orphan to-day will wonder why mother's eyes are so dim, and will hear of the story that left them without a father.

Many a father's heart will to-day contain bitter remembrances of what occurred just one year ago off Trinity Bay, and as he lingers to peep over the past he will feel somewhat relieved as in imagination he glances towards Cape John. His thoughts will be that man is no better than he ever was, while God's promise of "I will repay" is as strong and genuine as it ever was.

May the God of Right shower His blessings upon those sad bereaved ones to-day and lighten the crime committed against them by the Government of their Country and the firm of Bowring's in making a hero of the instrument of their sorrow and the cause of all this suffering.

Last night and to-day a storm almost equal to the blizzard of March 31st last is sweeping over the eastern portion of the country and nothing that man could do could recall more vividly that day one year ago, with more severity than to-day's blizzard does.

Out over the ocean our sealers to-day will wonder why this blizzard should be sent to commemorate the same fatal day of last year. Their thoughts will all be turned to the Florizel and the response will be that "God moves in mysterious ways."

Let those who aided and abetted a guilty man to escape man's punishment, learn a lesson from Nature's God, who has cast His lightning over our Country ever since this calamity of man overtook it last March.

The barometer acted exactly as it did last year on this day when it foretold a blizzard. It fell five tenths of an inch from midnight to this morning.

Let us hope that none of our sealing ships will suffer by to-day's blizzard. The men at any distance will not be exposed on the ice for the storm to-day broke at a time when all should be on board of their ships.

One Year has passed—a year that all thinking persons in Newfoundland will remember while we live.

Our sympathy we extend to the bereaved friends of those brave men who laid their lives on March 31st, 1914, on the altar of duty and paid a price—an awful price—in order to safeguard the lives of all sealers, but which would have been in vain had there been

no F.P.U. or Mail and Advocate or Coaker to bring home to the sinners the enormity of the evil. Thousands of men to-day will think the same thoughts of the almost criminal indifference of the Premier and some of his henchmen regarding their action in reference to the manner in which they have coddled and blighted the Country concerning Kean and the slaughter of 78 breadwinners on March 31st and April 1st last.

Our Timber Areas

THE HERALD, lest eyeing strongly endorsed the position taken by this paper regarding the recent activity of the timber land grabbers to secure from the people petitions backing up the exportation of pit props and pulp wood.

It is asserted that they stated last summer when the Legislature passed the temporary amendment to Crown Lands Act, permitting the export of pit props during the continuance of the war, that it was the thin edge of the wedge and they would secure one way or another the permanent exportation of pit props and pulp wood and make themselves very rich at the expense of the toilers of this Country whose heritage they are now endeavouring to rob from them by amending the laws in order to permit unlawful holders of our timber wealth to grow rich in a mighty quick time while the future fishermen of the Country would have to give up fishing and emigrate for the want of timber wherewith to provide themselves and schooners to prosecute the fisheries.

These sneaky grabbers who would despoil the Colony of her timber wealth and turn the whole interior into a famishing wilderness in order to grab fortunes at the Country's expense have had their vile plots exposed and the fisherman who signs his name to one of those petitions deserves to be deprived of a country and be held up to the scorn of every lover of Terra Nova.

We understand the Executive Council was divided upon this issue last summer when the matter was pushed before it by some of the Council, whose object, may easily be discerned.

The Premier it is said opposed the proposal but his wishes were overcome by a majority of the Council voting in favor of the proposal.

The timber grabbers thought they had secured a victory, but it will be found that they will receive scant courtesy at the hands of the F.P.U. members when this matter is brought before the Legislature.

The permission to export pit props must be rescinded, and the curse ended. The whole body of fishermen are loud in their condemnation of this curse which the amendment passed last September has brought upon the Country. They will not tolerate its longer continuance.

The timber wealth of the Colony must not be handed over to speculators for their selfish ends. Let the limits revert to the Colony and every one of them who has failed to live up to the requirements of the law forfeit their ill secured and illegally held licenses.

There must be no half measures adopted in this matter. We warn our fishermen friends to consider the timber export petitions sent around by Noseworthy as you would the Black Plague.

They tried to secure the support of this paper and the F.P.U. in their business but failed. They may as well have tried to swallow Signal Hill.

Never will we consent to see the Country's best interests prostituted to the requirements of the clique who for years past have swarmed the Crown Lands Office daily seeking who they may devour and grabbing up every acre of timber areas in the Colony.

We showed where we stood when we brought Donald to his knees over his darling timber area schemes, and as punishment drove him from public life and from office whipped and scourged, and Noseworthy may rest assured that those using him in this business will receive no lighter treatment.

The scribe of the Mail and Advocate heard the "Pit Prop" question which this paper has so ably discussed in its last couple of issues—commented on to-day and those who know claim it is a timely mention. Of course it is, and the land-grabbers have yet to learn that but a preface of the whole history of greed and wrong and general destruction to the interests of our people has been entered upon. It is a big and vital subject and is going to be ably dealt with accordingly.

BLASPHEMY!
GOD DID IT, SAYS
JUSTICE JOHNSON
CAN GOD BE THE AUTHOR OF EVIL?

In the report of Judge Johnson of the Commission of Enquiry into the Sealing Disaster of 1914, that loquacious gentleman lays the blame on God. We confess that we had never thought of that before! He says in a truly convincing style, and with superior, and final decision in his words: "Having dealt with the heads (a) and (b) supra, (most illuminating!) I may dismiss (c) by saying that the disasters were the Act of God."

That settles it, gentlemen! At last the blame has been laid at somebody's door! The honor of discovering the culprit in the crime of the 1914 seal fishery rests on His Honor, Justice Johnson. God did it! Gentlemen, that ends the matter; we cannot arraign God before any earthly bar of justice.

To this great and learned Judge of the Law Courts of Newfoundland we must give credit for the newly discovered doctrine that God is on the side of the merchants, and sealing masters, and in desperate enmity to the fishermen!

This decision of a Mr. Fracing, both ways with regards to God's responsibility in the sealing disaster, would free Captain A. Kean from all blame, which it is quite evident the Commissioner desires, for, about two-thirds of his report to the Governor appears to be devoted, not to an impartial survey of the evidence before him, but to a biased attempt to exonerate Captain Abram Kean from any criminal neglect or responsibility. Any ordinary observant reader of his report will serve through the design without glasses on.

In an enquiry of the nature of the one the Commissioners had to prosecute, only such evidence as bears directly and immediately on the situation at the time of the disaster, can have any value in determining at whose door the neglect, or blame is to be laid, but here a petty-fogging justice of the law courts, who knows no more about the seal fishery than a boy would, comes forward with the astonishing theory that because Captain Abram Kean has been successful at the seal fishery, and a good fellow for twenty-eight years, he could not possibly be to blame in such a disaster! Did angels, or devils ever offer a more biased, or insidious argument in such a case as this?

Commissioner Johnson was not appointed to his position at the enquiry to decide the matter for or against Abram Kean; he was there to try and discover who was to blame from the evidence brought before him by competent witnesses. What in the name of justice, has Captain Kean's twenty-eight successful years at fishery to do with it? Mr. Justice Johnson's opinions about Captain Kean's character, or ability, do not weigh a feather-weight with the judgment of the public.

Is Mr. Justice Johnson above his fellows? Is he great, or learned, or wise, to some extraordinary degree?

His report to the Governor, summed up, attempts to prove (1) that God did it, (2) that Captain A. Kean has been successful at the fishery for twenty-eight years, therefore, he did not do it, (3) that Captain Kean's (to quote) "powers of correct observation at the seal fishery, and his ability to recall, and describe the positions of several moving ships at different times of the day, even where his own vessel was not concerned, are very remarkable."

It is quite evident from the foregoing opinion that Captain Abram Kean had not been drinking, or of such remarkable powers of observation and description would have been impaired!

Justice Johnson says that Captain Kean "is no more to blame than the captain of the Southern Cross." Well, the poor captain of the Southern Cross is in a worse fix than God. God is present to answer for Himself by Judge Johnson.

Did ever any man with pretensions to education and religion display a more ancient fatalism,

or cruel theory of the providences of God than this: "The disasters were the Act of God, and in the circumstances inevitable"? The old time Calvinists who believed that God sent some men to hell, were nowhere, as compared with this miserable effort to shuffle off the responsibility on to the Diety.

The impartial report of the majority of the Commission states that the men from the "Newfoundland" were put off on to the ice with the understanding that they were to go to the "Stephano," and find shelter on her for the night. They reached the "Stephano," and spent twenty minutes on her; then, in spite of the snow that was falling at the time, they were ordered off on the ice again, with instructions from Captain Abram Kean as to where to locate the seals. "In the position of responsibility," says the Commissioner, "in which the captain of the 'Stephano' stood towards those men, he should have obtained, from the Newfoundland's first officer, exact information as to the time taken to travel that distance before presuming to advise. There can be no question that a grave error of judgment was committed by the captain of the Stephano."

Commissioners Sir W. Horwood and Hon. Mr. Justice Emerson base their decision in the matter of the responsibility for the crime, upon the evidence brought before them, including that of Capt. Kean himself. They, too, might have said, "Captain Kean is a jolly good fellow, and therefore could not do it," but they weighed the evidence, and came to a decision diametrically opposite to Justice Johnson's.

Captain Kean did not mean to cause those lives to be lost. But the Commission of Enquiry says he "erred gravely in judgment," in spite of his very remarkable display of observation and discretion before the Hon. Justice Johnson.

Mr. Justice Johnson's report reminds us of childhood's happy days, when the crockery was broken in mother's absence, and the evidence given was to the effect that "Nobody did it," only in this case Justice Johnson's excuse is infinitely more audacious, and blasphemous. God did it.

Can God be the author of evil? Think to what dark lengths this doctrine would drive the widows, and orphans of the men who perished in the wintry blasts that bit and burned them on those storm-swept icefields? If God did it, then, away with the christian conception of God! "Like as a father pitieth His children, so God"—No, Sir, you had no son on the icefield that terrible night, or you could not so easily say "God did it." Somebody else did it, not God.—Brutus.

"The Hr. Grace Standard" and Sealing Disaster

Thinks the Responsibility of each Actor in the Tragedy should be adjudicated upon in the calm atmosphere of a regular court and not be dragged into party politics when the real issue may be lost sight of.

The report of the Minister of Justice on the steps the Crown had decided to take with respect to the Ss. Newfoundland Sealing Disaster, a copy of which was sent to Mr. Coaker, President of the Fishermen's Protective Union, has not been made public, so our remarks can only be of a general character. From what was stated respecting its purport in the Mail and Advocate, we gather that the Crown does not consider there was anything in the conduct of anyone that had a part in the sealing disasters of last Spring that the law could take cognizance of.

We have no intention here of entering into the matter of the soundness of this decision from a legal standpoint, tho we feel we would not do justice to our subject not to state that it has seemed to us all throughout the matter of the responsibility, if any, of parties was to make investigation into the circumstances by an impartial tribunal capable of pronouncing on the blameworthiness or otherwise of the parties concerned, and empowered to pronounce sentence on any persons found responsible. This might either be done by the ordinary mode of procedure or perhaps—because less harsh so to speak in appearance—preferably by somebody similar to the Court of Enquiry that adjudges in the case of ordinary marine disasters. As we all know, tho we may not all agree as to details, and degree of responsibility, and the best mode of dealing with the matter, there were several parties that did not do all that the public has a right to expect that men in their position as leaders should have done to safeguard the lives under their charge; and inclined to we are to take the most lenient view we can of the responsibility of each and every one of these and to give them credit for no bad intentions.

Does not improve them. Yet this is what is done at present. Such a practice certainly does not "improve" the fish, and the fisherman or dealer who is guilty of them should not be allowed to market his produce.—A.D. in "Conservation."

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tions, we hold that it would have been well were some tribunal in whom the public has full confidence to pronounce on the responsibility of each and every one concerned, and to administer what correction was necessary in each case, even tho such were merely a caution.

This with adequate measures to prevent such disasters in future would have done much to satisfy the sense of justice of the people at large, to have prevented the Captain A. Kean's action that has assumed such proportions and appears bound to involve people that should see eye to eye, and to bind some to the real main question at stake—the safeguarding of human life.

We think it is infinitely better for such a matter of the personal responsibility of each one of the actors in the tragedy to be considered and settled in the calm atmosphere of a judicial investigation rather than have it thrown into the seething caldron of partisan contention as is being done, in which the real issue may be lost sight of. We have tried to do our part in pointing out the way to avoid this deplorable situation. Tho stress no special tribunal has adjudicated on the matter, and the Department of Justice has decided that there is nothing in the way in which the different persons in authority on the occasion of the Ss. Newfoundland disaster discharged their duties that is subject to consideration by the ordinary courts of law, let us leave for the nonce all questions as to the unsatisfiability of this decision, and from careful or reckless bloodiness, and as the buttress to their own sentiments of regard for human life threatened by Lucra, the Fear of man over them, and other motives that assail our weak human nature.

And then, there is the loss of respect by the people for Law in general when it proclaims itself powerless to deal with so vital a thing as the safety of our breadwinners' lives! If the law be so weak, it should be amended or extended, and the sooner the better. The Legislature will meet in a few days; and what better could engage its attention than claim, unbiassed, non-partisan, practical consideration of this matter? (Harbor Grace Standard.)

SOME CHALLENGE!
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