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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 6, 1915-2.

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 General Office: 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S NEWS, MARCH 6, 1915.

### OUR POINT OF VIEW

#### THE EPOCH OF LIES

YESTERDAY'S despatches, among other items, conveyed the intelligence that Germany was on the verge of starvation. We are told that "famine hangs like a pall over Germany." The message was dated New York, March 5th, and was sent to New York from Washington. It was explained that the message was sent from Berlin under date of January 28th, and that the message was somewhat delayed. The despatch of yesterday hinted that if Germany was starving a month ago, her position must be desperate now.

That is one story. We turn up the London Times of about a month ago, and we find an altogether different story. In this latter message we are told of the plenty that Germany possesses, and that there is no famine at all. This latter story we are inclined to accept, for we believe that Germany has abundance of food, and is well able to provide food for her millions for a long time to come.

We mention those items just to show what little reliance can be placed on public messages. The liar seems to have blossomed out to that degree as to make Ananias himself a mere novice were he to essay a foul whisper to-day. We seem to have reached the very nadir of lying perfection since the outbreak of the war. This is the culminating period of the genus liar. There is a bountiful supply of that fungi upon which it may batten and reach its highest stage of development, a fungi that are overspreading whole nations and stifling out the flowers of Christian teaching. But there is hope that its very superabundance will prove its own ending, and the flowers of truth and virtue will flourish more beautifully than ever.

The human race must in time grow sick of that which not elevates, but degrades, for despite our waywardness and backsliding, our highest ideals are found in virtue. Our truest happiness is found in the sobriety of truth, though we now and then debase ourselves in a revelry of lying intoxication.

### AWAKE

FROM the look of things just now it must be very plain to Messrs. Mann and Bowring that they have made a big mistake, and that they have sacrificed the honor of the Bowring firm for nothing.

We mean that things are shaping themselves so that there can be no manner of doubt as to the determination of the F.P.U. to carry out by strength of numbers what the Bowring's might have done by a single word or two, and with everlasting honor to themselves.

The F.P.U. is determined to see to it that Captain Kean remains on shore. Fully 2000 names have been received attached to petitions to the Governor in Council, asking Kean's arrest on a charge of criminal negligence, and there are thirty thousand more names

to come in, attached to three hundred similar petitions. If such a formidable array of names is not sufficient to move the Government the people will have to confess that "Constitutional Government," as administered by Sir Edward Morris is a delusion and a snare, and the people will have to take their own government and law administrators.

This step of asking Kean's arrest on a charge of criminal negligence would not have been taken had he not quietly resigned from the command of a sealing ship. We are surprised that government, whose duty it is to see that the will of the people is respected, has taken no action in the matter. We have long supposed this to be a free country where the people have the power of self-government, but this incident of the Bowring-Kean dispute only goes to prove to the people what a sham all our talk of freedom has been cloaking. It is said that "murder will out"; well, so will time expose all shams, all duplicity and lay bare before the eyes of the people the frauds that have long been practiced upon them.

Frauds and all sorts of pretences must eventually be exposed in time. Some little rent will let the cat out of the bag. The discovery, when it comes, is a kind of set back to our pride, it is rather sickening to think that we have been fooled and coddled while all the time "mistrustful of our smuted faces. We have been regarding ourselves as the very pink of intellectual alertness, the one grand, free and independent people, absolute lords of our own destinies, steering our ship of state and plotting our courses with the greatest pride in ourselves.

Electoral after election we have exercised our free and independent votes in the election of our own chosen men, who were to navigate the ship of state according to our own plans. But on the wide sea of politics, where the horizon was obscure, we have been placing too much confidence in our selected navigators. Playing on our conceit in our ability to see to it that the course being steered was the correct one, the real navigators of our ship, the wily politician and the cunning and corrupt wire pullers who dictate terms to the political bosses, have been going their own course. "A government for the people, of the people and by the people" we have never yet enjoyed, though we have been long hugging the fond belief to our hearts.

This affair of Kean is going to prove a blessing to the people of this country. It has served to open wide the eyes of the masses. They now see how it has been done all along. How the coddling and make-believe has been carried out. "The pitcher that goes often to the well is bound to be broken some day." Messrs. Bowring and Kean have brought their pitcher at last once too often. It is now broken. All the time the common people have been getting wiser, their lords and masters have been sliding backwards in mentality, till now, the common man is able to outwit the lord and master by the simple expedient of permitting the overlord to rise to his own undoing.

Lying in the twentieth century, the words of Messrs. Dostoevsky, Mann, Kean, et al, are those of medieval times. They are the Rip Van Winkles of a modern day, who do not yet understand that they have been ushered into a day for which their make-up renders them unfit. Better for them to go back to Sleepy Hollow, and with the rusty remains of their guns and dogs compose themselves to a permanent sleep, till Gabriel, with his loud horn calls them to arise.

The day when a coterie of merchants and politicians can run the laws and the institutions of this country to suit themselves has gone by. Kean has been found guilty of what is tantamount to criminal negligence, that cost the lives of seventy-eight men and maimed for life a dozen others. Such a crime merits condign

punishment according to law. The Bowring and Mann have so far succeeded in thwarting justice, that they have had the consummate effort to set themselves up as superior to the law. They have offered an insult to justice by brazenly proclaiming that game of the few overriding the will of the many is now exploded, and Bowring and Mann and Kean will find out that the people are not going to be coddled any longer.

Kean must stay on shore, so that country will be hurried into a revolution before another six weeks passes.

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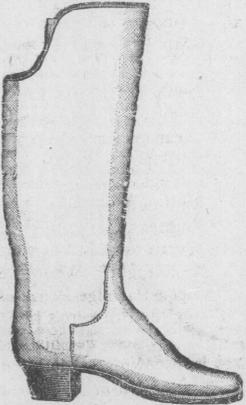
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## The Mongolian's Eventful Trip

With streams of water pouring from her forward pumps, the Allan liner Mongolian which sprung a leak early last week on the voyage from St. John's, Nfld., to Glasgow, and was forced to put about and steam for Halifax, arrived in port yesterday afternoon and will repair her. As the liner had two hundred passengers on board, considerable anxiety was felt for her, but she appears to have been in no great danger. At one time, it is said, the hand pumps were called into use, but the leak was under control most of the time.

The captain of the Mongolian refused yesterday to make any statement and his officers were correspondingly reticent about giving out information but from other sources it is learned that the leak was due to the loosening of plates which had been fitted when the steamer recently underwent repairs at St. John's.

On the night of February 26th the steamer was making water rapidly but the leak was again placed under control and the Mongolian came to Halifax under her own steam. She was conveyed by the United States Revenue Cutter Seneca, which had gone to the Mongolian's assistance. The Allan liner, as she came up the harbor, was slightly down by the head and two pumps were going strong, but there was otherwise no indication that anything was wrong with the ship. She docked at the south side of new Pier No. 2.

A reporter from The Morning Chronicle spoke briefly with Captain Hatherly yesterday afternoon.

"I have nothing to say," said the Captain. "Nothing at present."

The Mongolian sailed from St. John's on Thursday, February 18, with passengers, mails and cargo for Glasgow. She ran into heavy weather and the continued buffeting by the seas affected the plates in question. On the morning of the 25th the Cutter Seneca, which was engaged in ice-patroling, received a wireless message through Cape Race that the Mongolian was in distress and needed assistance.

The Mongolian was then 280 miles south-east of Cape Race. The Seneca immediately answered the call and the Red Cross liner Stephano from Halifax for St. John's, also responded. The Seneca headed southwards and, having learned from the Mongolian the course which that steamer was steering, lay in wait for her. In the forenoon of the next day, Friday the 26th, the two ships met. Captain Hatherly informed the Seneca that he would be glad to have her convey the Mongolian to Halifax, and that he had the leak under control. Accordingly the Seneca set out with the Mongolian.

In the meantime the Stephano had been searching in vain for the Allan

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