

Makes Plea for Our Local Potato Crop

(To the Editor.)

Sir.—In your issue of Saturday you made reference to the fact that some of our local business firms have recently bought 4,300 sacks of P. E. I. potatoes at a cost of \$1.00 per barrel more than good local potatoes could be purchased for, and this in spite of the fact that one of the best crops grown for many years are available in the outports at reasonable prices.

Now, sir, this is one of the most miserable transactions which our commission merchants have been responsible for for many years and clearly demonstrates the glaring fact that those business men, who owe their existence as such to the poor of this country are ready to starve, yes, sacrifice the toiler in any occupation when it serves their own selfish interests to do so.

The names of some of those creatures who are the prime movers in this latest shameful business are well known and every farmer along the south shore of Conception Bay will know who their enemies are. They may be some justification in boycotting the local farmer if any advantage could possibly accrue to the poor consumer in the City, but the opposite is true. These fellows will stock in five or six thousand barrels of the foreign stuff and sell at exorbitant figures to the people, while the severe winter weather keeps the local potato

off the market. There is no redeeming feature in the matter. It is a glaring, barefaced outrage on all sides, and will lead to the farmers organizing to protect themselves in future by boycotting the miserable, unpatriotic gentry who attempt to introduce such unfair competition. I say unfair, because if judged from the standpoint of quality, generally speaking, the local is far superior to the imported potato. Very true, our agricultural experts introduced a couple of Canadian varieties of soft and inferior flavour a few years ago, which were discarded by our farmers after discovering their nature, and it is only because of the weakness of our people in being prejudiced against anything produced in their own country, that enables those importers to fleece them \$1.50 per barrel more for the Canadian than for the Newfoundland potatoes. I ask the importers of those potatoes, is it fair or just for you to exercise your power as a factor in the business of this country, to assist the well-to-do P. E. I. farmer to get richer, while your poor over-taxed countryman are denied a market for his potato crop on account of your action? Do you think it patriotic or even manly, on your part to discriminate in this way against the products of your own country? Can you honestly say that one barrel of imported potatoes are worth two of the Newfoundland raised? Is this the way

you assist the poor old farmer, whose boy is out in the trenches fighting that you may continue to live in comfort and luxury? Can you expect the man who tills the soil in this country to purchase your goods, when you persistently refuse to buy his potatoes at \$2.00 per barrel while you pay \$3.00 per barrel for stock grown in P.E.I. and sell the same on the strength of local unpatriotic prejudice for \$4.00 per barrel? Is this your idea of keeping the home fires burning? Would the Germans, whom we so strongly condemn, treat their countrymen in this way? If he did, we would have him beaten long ago.

We find in Saturday week's Trade Review an article on the Potato Question, which shows conclusively the difference and ignorance displayed toward this important branch of our industry by the man in the City whose business it is to deal in this commodity. One of those dealers is quoted as saying: "You will never be able to do any considerable trade in home-grown potatoes unless there is uniformity of size. People will continue to prefer to buy the P. E. I. potato as long as conditions are as they are, and while our local potato growers continue to mix their potatoes as they do. They should be all as near as possible of one size and absolutely of one quality in the sacks and barrels before we can hope to run in competition with imported potatoes. When people are buying P. E. I. potatoes they know exactly what they are getting. They are sure of the size as well as quality, whereas they are always in the dark in the purchase of the Newfoundland product—this is the reason why P. E. I. potatoes to-day are \$3.80 and ours \$2.20." Now the

writer has no hesitation in saying that the true situation is very much the opposite to what this commission man would have us believe. I have handled over a thousand barrels of local potatoes annually for a number of years and I have never had cause to utter as much complaint over the size of the stock offered, as I have heard from dealers in the P. E. I. potato. This year in particular, it will be difficult to secure sufficient undersized tubers for seed purposes.

If we speak to the average householder in St. John's he will not bear out Mr. Dealer in his misrepresentations of the local potato, but simply because of that thoughtless inclination to patronize and cater to anything that does not bear the trade mark of home, coupled with the fact that the dealer can often realize bigger profits by importing his winter stock and then extensively advertising same in the Press as a superior article, and the people of the City are misled into paying a 50 per cent. higher price for the same reason Mrs. Vokey paid the peddler \$4.00 for a 30c. brooch.

If sufficient encouragement was given to the farmers of this country they would grow abundance of first class potatoes to supply our requirements, and if the Government had the slightest intention of promoting this class of industry a prohibitive tariff would be placed on all foreign grown potatoes this year, and the price of local potatoes regulated not to exceed, say, \$2.75 per barrel, and in this way both the producer and the consumer would be protected, and the money which goes to P. E. I. could be distributed at home. The Canadian authorities would not allow a barrel of Newfoundland potatoes to enter any Canadian port, to-day, as they fear we may send them back some of the canker which they sent over to us a few years ago when our agricultural experts bestowed Tory blessings in this form. And where are those officials to-day? Are they compiling another Agricultural Report? No doubt they will take credit for the big crop which Providence bestowed upon the country this year. Will they also state how much sleep they have lost in helping the producers to market his crop? I wonder.

OBSERVATION POST.
St. John's, Nov. 20, 1916.

Newsgirl inherits \$17,000. Will there be a rise in chewing gum?

Many a man of means is the meanest man in town.



OUR QUESTION IS,

What will you do if you have a fire and haven't any insurance? Can you stand this loss?

IT'S FOOLISH TO TAKE YOUR OWN FIRE RISK

when our premiums are so low. Don't take chances, but . . .

HAVE US INSURE YOU

in one of our companies. Why not do it to-day?

PERCIE JOHNSON
Insurance Agent.



Published by Authority

UNDER the Provisions of the War Measures Act, 1914, His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to order that the Regulations, published in the ROYAL GAZETTE under date 17th October last, in connection with Precautionary Measures taken against the incursions of hostile ships of war, be suspended as from the 15th November instant.

These Regulations comprised, amongst other things, the closing of the port and harbor of St. John's at night, and the extinguishing of the lights at certain light houses, and in the city of St. John's.

ARTHUR MEWS,
Deputy Colonial Secretary.
Dept. of the
Colonial Secretary,
November 14, 1916.

Pte. Fred Snow's Chum Writes His Sister

In the Field, 23/10/16.

Dear Miss Snow:

Your letter of Sept. 25th. came to hand to-day. I am sorry that I can not give you some definite information regarding your brother. Originally we were in the same platoon, No. 10, and while in training at Stobbs we occupied the same tent. I do not know just how it was, but Fred always seemed to take me into his confidence, and after we went on active service were very much together. I always admired his fearless manner and considered myself lucky to have him on patrol with me. He remained cool under all circumstances and I do not believe he knew what fear was. When he came to France, after recovering from wounds received on the Peninsula, he was in my section for a time, but owing to lack of N.C.O.'s he was transferred to No. 9 platoon and even then whenever nine and ten were billeted together he always came with us. I remember quite well the last night we spent together; we had a nice room in what was a convent before the war, and as we were going over the top in a few hours from then naturally enough part of the night was spent in talking about what we were going to do. There were eight or nine of us in the room and as we realized full well the task set us was by no means an easy one and our chances of coming out of it none too great, I remember saying I never expected to get in their lines. He laughed at me and said I know you do not mean that, and then he said something to this effect:—"Never mind boy we shall be dining at their expense this time to-morrow night." He did not seem to mind it any more than if he was going off for a day's trouting.

I could not begin to describe to you what it was like on that day. I have read several accounts of it in the home papers but I may say none of them did it justice. Our boys were splendid. It was a sight I shall always remember. If there were any who were afraid to die none showed it. You could hardly give account of the men in your own section, so it was almost impossible to know what became of any person not in your platoon unless he was wounded and you happened to meet him at the dressing station. I did not know Fred was reported missing until I came back from hospital. I inquired from several persons, whom I thought would be likely to know if they saw anything of him, but none of them could tell me anything about him. This, I am sure, he was not suffering anything from the wound he received in Gallipoli. It is very hard to get any information regarding persons missing. There may be fellows now in hospital who could tell but it is difficult to get hold of the right person. I have been trying to find out what really happened to my brother, but so far have failed to do so.

We have had quite recently another little scrap with the huns and this time I may tell you we got back some of our own. In one sense I do not think the enemy is much indebted to me. If we could at it in this way—an "eye for an eye" sort of business. I feel sure the balance would be very much in my favour. I was very fortunate and never received a scratch. Like all bullies, the Hun is very cowardly when it comes to close quarters, with anything like equal odds. I never thought a lot of men could act as these fellows did. It was great sport, they would not stand up to us at all, and quite a number of them left their trenches and ran when they saw us coming.

I shall have to close now as that "Mr. Consorman" will be getting after me. If I hear anything about Fred I shall let you know. Trusting he may be still alright.

SEND US THE NEWS

Do you know of a wedding, a death or an accident?

Has there been a concert or entertainment of any kind given in your locality?

Has there been a lodge or any other meetings in your locality?

Has anyone moved in or moved out?

We would like to tell our readers all these things, but we are not mind readers.

If you tell us we will do the rest.

SEND US THE NEWS

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

BUDDY BOOTS



The greatest Rubber Boot ever manufactured.

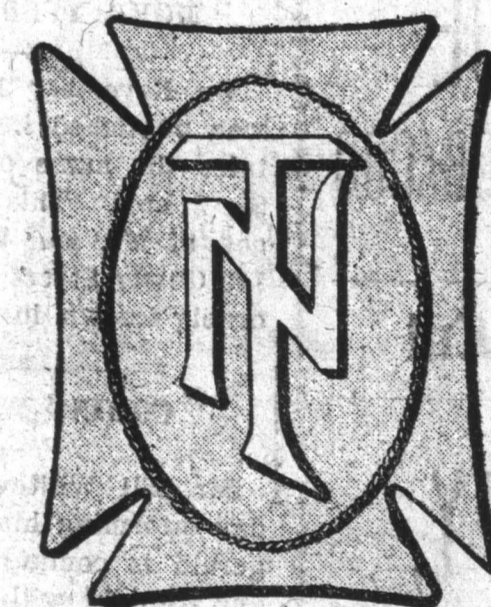
By test will outwear any other Rubber Boot.

A positive guarantee that every pair will give satisfaction.

A light weight perfect fitting boot, not wool lined.

BUDDY BOOTS were worn extensively on the Labrador this year by many Fishermen who recommend them highly.

Hear what Captain John Matthews, of Grand Bank, says:—"The best boot I have worn in twenty one years fishing."



BUDDY BOOTS

Are the LATEST New Process Boots. The color of BUDDY BOOTS is GREY from top to bottom.

Sold in St. John's by

NICHOLLEE, INKPEN & CHAFE.

ROYAL STORES LTD.

FRED SMALLWOOD.

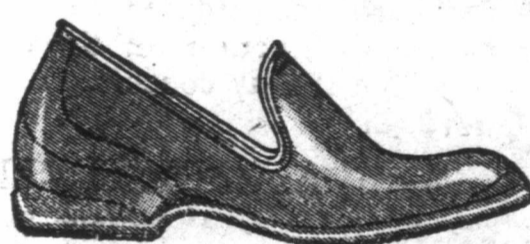
STEER BROS.

JESSE WHITEWAY.

SMITH CO., LTD.

Rubber Footwear

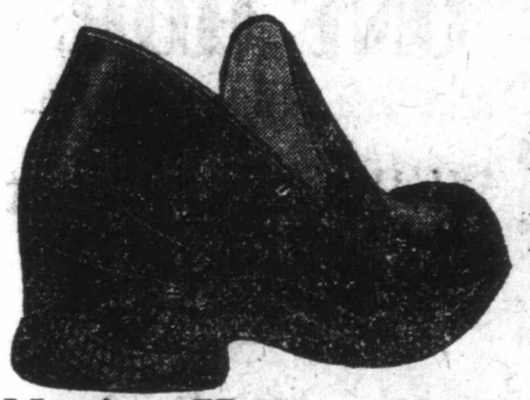
We carry a large and well assorted stock, Men's, Ladies', Boys', Misses' and Childs'. Best Brands.



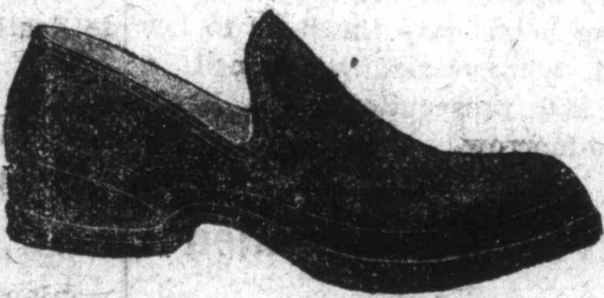
Ladies' LOW RUBBERS.
55c., 60c., 70c. & 75c. per pair.



Ladies' Low Rubbers, high heel. 75c. & 80c. per pair.
Ladies' Storm Rubbers. 65c., 70c., 80c. & 95c. per pair.
Ladies' Storm Rubbers, high heel. 85c. per pair.



MENS'
Men's Low Rubbers—\$1.00 & \$1.05 per pair.
Men's Storm Rubbers—85c., 90c., \$1.00, \$1.10, \$1.20 per pair.



Men's Heavy Dull Storm Rubbers,
Hipress, red sole and heel. Best obtainable for hard rough wear—\$2.00 per pair.

Childs' and Misses' LOW RUBBERS.

Sizes 6 to 10—52c. to 60c. per pair.
Sizes 11 to 2—64c. to 72c. per pair.

STORM RUBBERS.

Sizes 4 to 10—51c. to 65c. per pair.
Sizes 11 to 2—58c. to 75c. per pair.

BOYS'

LOW RUBBERS.

Sizes 11 to 2—65c. to 85c. per pair.
Sizes 3 to 5—90c. to \$1.00 per pair.

STORM RUBBERS

Sizes 11 to 2—64c. to 90c. per pair.
Sizes 3 to 5—76c. to \$1.00 per pair.

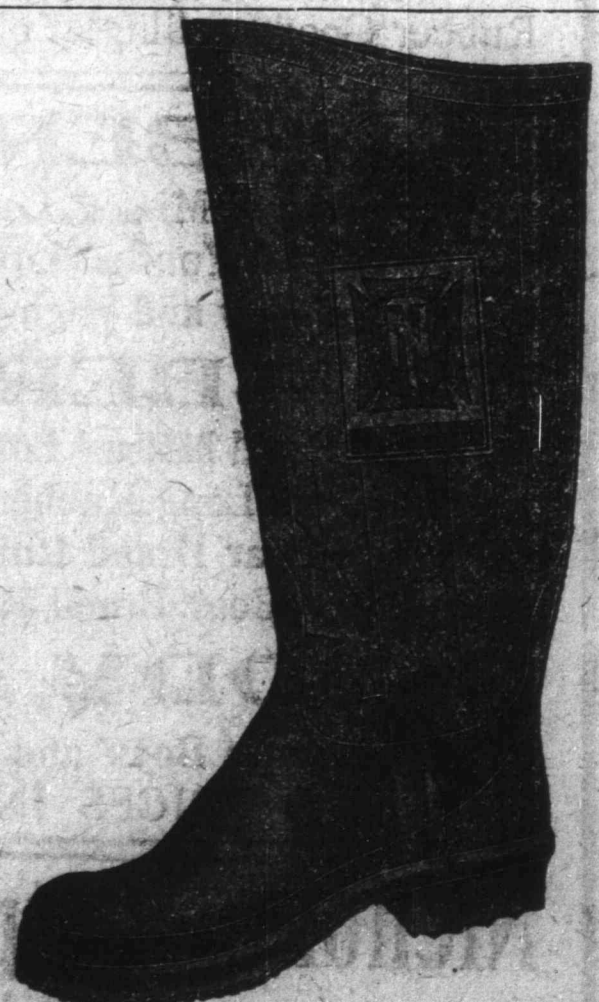
MENS' Long Rubbers

We sell the famous "BUDDY" and can recommend them from personal testimonials—\$5.50 per pair.

Black Rubber Boots, first quality—\$4.50 per pair.

Red, patent process—\$5.30 per pair.

Brown Gibraltar—\$4.70 per pair.



Ladies' Long Rubbers

Ladies'—\$2.40 per pair.
Childs, 6 to 10—\$1.60 to \$1.80 per pair.

Misses', 11 to 2—\$2.00 to \$2.20.

Boys', sizes 9 to 13—\$2.15 to \$2.35 per pair.

Boys', sizes 1 to 5—\$2.70 to \$2.90 per pair.

Ladies' and Childs' Spats.

STEER Brothers