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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 15, 1915.—5.

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The Mail and Advocate
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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MARCH 15, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

PRES. COAKER VISITS CAMPS

PRESIDENT COAKER left town by yesterday's express for Badger, where he will visit several of the logging camps and see conditions amongst loggers as they really are.

The Supreme Council of the F.P.U. at Catalina Convention petitioned the House of Assembly to pass the Loggers' Bill that the Dumping Chamber assassinated last year, and asked Mr. Coaker to reintroduce it at the coming session of the House.

Mr. Coaker's visit to the camps is to secure information on the spot as to whether conditions in those camps are as bad as reported. It will be the first time that any public man or Leader of a Party in the Legislature, ever visited the logging camps in order to observe actual conditions in view of having them remedied by legislation.

Conditions are fast changing in this Country and the Underdogs can feel assured of a square deal and proper treatment for the F.P.U.'s influence will sooner or later compel all to respect the workingman and treat him as a human being.

The transformation of conditions on board of the scaling ships is an instance of what the F.P.U. has accomplished. The result of last year's scaling legislation which aimed to provide better food and accommodation for the men is very visible this spring on all the ships. The sealers can never forget what Mr. Coaker has accomplished for them in such a short time.

The food that will be served this spring on the ships will exceed all previous years. One of the ships has been supplied with ham to be served on Sunday mornings.

The loggers must now be attended to, and as it will be Mr. Coaker's first visit to the logging camps we have no doubt about the good results that will flow from the visit. The loggers' list would long continue if they depended upon Sir E. P. Morris to set them right. The Premier can find time to take picnics to Canada and America but he can't find a couple of days to visit the logging camps.

Whatever Mr. Coaker's faults may be, no one can dispute the fact that he is untiring in his efforts to improve the poor man's conditions and secure for him a square deal.

His work is not for himself. That is labor is a labor of love to uplift the despised and rejected is apparent to all who watch his actions.

He will probably visit Grand Falls Mills before he returns, and become acquainted with conditions there, as it is his duty, being the representative in the Legislature for that town.

He will also visit Salvage Bay to inspect the new motor yacht being built there for the F.P.U. by Mr. Wm. Moss. This new F.P.U. motor yacht will be about 30 tons and fitted with two kero oil engines of 30 h.p. each. She will be

driven with two propellers, thus ensuring safety at times of danger. If one engine become unworkable the other will enable the boat to make headway while the fault in the other engine is located and adjusted.

The F.P.U. is about to erect a large store and waterside premises at Herring Neck and if possible Mr. Coaker will endeavour to call there in order to finalize arrangements for the work. He is accompanied by the Trading Co.'s storekeeper, friend Bryant, who has been the constant companion of the President on most of his travels in organizing the Union and who went to Coakerville to work as a farm lad fourteen years ago, from the C. of E. Orphanage in this city, and has lived with the President ever since.

WATER SERVICE

By their action in respect to the laying of a new water service to the city, the present Board has overstepped any authority given it by the people. They have no warrant from the tax-payers to proceed with such a work, which is to saddle the people with an additional heavy burden. An undertaking of such magnitude should first be submitted to a plebiscite. The people gave assent to this Board of Commissioners on the clear understanding that they were to assume office for one year. They were to study city affairs and to suggest such improvements as presented themselves. They were to suggest improvements and they have no authority to put into effect their ideas. The people reserved to themselves the right to reject or receive the suggestions of the Commissioners, and now that express privilege is being denied them.

No wonder the "Herald" of Saturday is moved to refer to the unwarranted assumption of authority under the sarcastic caption "Crown Colony Rule for the City." Mr. Longley discovered serious defects in our water system. He found a wastage of about four-fifths of the total flow from Winsor Lake.

It suggests itself to us, we may be wrong, that it would be a good idea to stop some of those leaks, and see how that will work before we undertake the big expenditure involved in the laying of a new system. We believe, too, that there is a good deal of hysteria over this water supply business, and that the whole affair is not so bad as over-excited people would have us believe.

Mr. Longley, of course, is an expert, but those experts are often the very worst things that a small community like ours could invoke.

They are accustomed to dealing with big problems, backed up by almost unlimited capital, and can hardly adjust themselves properly to a consideration of little projects such as ours. It is quite easy to be an expert—the easiest thing in the world. Experts walk among common people like gods. They speak and their voice is heard with awe and respect, and the bigger the terms they speak in, the larger the expenditure they recommend the greater the admiration we have.

Mr. Longley may be right, there may be no other way of solving our water difficulties, but for our part, we should prefer to wait a bit and give the people a chance to talk the matter over.

THAT PROTEST

THE "News" this morning publishes the protest of one, Thomas J. Rowley, who says he did not sign the petition asking for Kean's arrest. Thomas J. Rowley did not sign the petition, but his name got on the list by mistake in place of that of a better man, J. W. Rowley, of Trinity East, whose name did not appear. We published this correction on March 11th at the instance, not of Thomas J. Rowley, but at the instance of Trinity East Council.

If Mr. Rowley is as anxious for the truth as he appears to be, and was as quick to see his name in the list, we want to ask why he has not seen the correction which we made.

Mr. Job informs us that the steel fleet is in the ice ten miles off Elliston, practically making no progress. The Bloodhound is there also and that the Eagle is to the north of there.

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Convincing Argument in favor of Mr. Coaker

A Vivid Contrast between two meetings in the T.A. Hall

ON Saturday the chief topic of conversation about town was the wonderful success of the big Sealers' Meeting held on Friday night at the T. A. Hall. About 500 citizens of St. John's were present and they acclaim it as one of the best ever held in this city. The order was equal to a church service—not a sound of dissent, not an interruption,—and every word uttered by the several speakers reached every part of that massive building. Every inch of space was crowded.

It was in great contrast to the attendance at the last occasion when Premier Morris appeared in that Hall, when he listened to an audience of 180 persons. The occasion referred to was the lecture of Sir E. P. Morris on March 5th, at the same Hall. The lecture was free to the public and the subject "Belgium," which had been well advertised and which was to exceed all other lectures in the same subject as every part of the lecture was to be illustrated by grand slides brought from New York by the Premier himself.

It was one of those commercial lectures that can be bought in the arcades for a few dollars containing full descriptions of all the places and splendidly illustrated. Such a chance of instructing a St. John's audience, and showing it off with great effect at once presented itself to the astute eye of the Premier when he saw this out at New York, and he immediately decided to purchase a ticket in order to deliver a great lecture in the Premier's district at St. John's and as he would make the admittance free and pay the hire of the hall for that night out of his own pocket—if he had to do so—he grew happy in the belief that all he had to do was to announce the great thing and the Hall would be crowded. The result was an audience of 180 persons.

Fancy you outport readers, Sir E. P. Morris, K.C., Premier of Newfoundland—member of Parliament for 30 years for the same district. The town crowded with sealers. The subject one most people are greatly interested in—a popular subject, illustrated by the latest pictures available. The lecture delivered also in the Premier's own district. The night a magnificent one—yet the audience numbered 180.

Only a few weeks before Mr. Morine delivered a lecture on Confederation at the College Hall, the admittance fee was twenty and ten cents. The Hall was crowded and the audience the most select that had ever assembled in St. John's.

What a contrast at Friday's meeting held by the F.P.U.—1500 men assembled who went to express their sympathy for the F.P.U. and to encourage Mr. Coaker in his great work of uplifting the toilers of the Country, to express their confidence in the Union, and to endorse the President's attitude towards Kean and Bowring, and to show what impression the verdict for Kean of \$500 because of the Union's papers publication last spring of a letter from a sealer in which he mentioned something about two barrels of beef

always stood in the office door when pay day came and held out a bag to receive the earnings of Nathan's dealers, and it became such a scandal that the Country was considering whether petition to Parliament had not better been sent in asking to have it "cut out." That is the way "father" used to aid the toilers.

It is therefore no wonder to many, to find Kean's neighbours and cousins and his own life long neighbours signing petitions against the Crown to arrest and try him for criminal negligence in connection with the death of 79 sealers last spring.

The fishermen are well aware of the fact that poor Coaker—the sealers' son—is their best friend and his work on their behalf is sincere and a labor of love—work that springs from the heart—work that must succeed because its roots are fed from every vein in Coaker's body. Coaker's work is the result of a fire burning within him, that is fed by a nature, derived from parents that possess humane hearts and whose longing desire was to avenge the wrongs inflicted upon the poor by the people's taskmasters.

Coaker's father was a sealer for 40 years and one of the physical giants of yonder days who could travel all day and beat a track upon the icefloes from morn to night at the head of a watch of 70 or 80 men.

Coaker is the son of his father, and all his work and toil springs from a burning inherited desire to secure freedom from slavery, liberty from taskmasters, and create conditions that will secure a square deal for every Underdog.

Labor is no burden to such a man. It is but a pleasure—a labor of love. Coaker's only pleasure in life is labor. Anyone who know him will readily admit that fact. His sincerity no one who knows him doubts.

Mr. Morine on Friday night gave ample evidence of that fact. He said Coaker's virtues were his virtues. That what in other men

was, in Coaker were virtues. He explained this by showing that Coaker's only virtues were his rashness, energy, bravery, boldness, aggressiveness. These qualities carried him through and overcome every obstacle. If he was over cautious, prudent and timid he would not have succeeded in anything. Men who weighed those things would never have attempted to accomplish what Coaker undertook. Nothing venture—nothing have seemed to be the keynote of Coaker's success. That he was the most surprising success all must admit. All must confess that he was the most remarkable man the Colony ever produced.

Morris or Bond or Tory or Liberal Governments all together have not accomplished the hundredth part of what Coaker has on behalf of the people.

There will soon be a great day of reckoning, and this Colony will emerge from the clutches of its taskmasters and the people will be free and a government directed by the Union's influence will bestow upon our people and country blessings of prosperity and contentment that will make Newfoundland the envy of all countries.

An express from Fort aux Esnes arrived into the city this am. A big mail motor of 200 bags—the largest—to arrive for some time—was brought along.

The B. I. S. held a meeting in their rooms after last mass yesterday, Hon. J. D. Ryan in the chair. Final arrangements were made for holding of the parade on St. Patrick's day and which this year is expected to be a very large one.

The latest figures placed the number of dead in the earthquake in Italy at 44,000. That was a frightful blow. Months of war, even with all the modern science of killing, do not bring death to so many as died in those few minutes of earthquake.—"The Casket."

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