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The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., MAY 21, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.**THAT COMMISSION.**

There is no sign of Judge Knight's report yet. The public is beginning to ask whether the Government has not asked the Judge to withhold his report until the Fishermen get away fishing and will not be able to discuss the matter. Anyway it looks as if Judge Knight intends to withhold it as long as he conveniently can.

That report must be forthcoming immediately or a greater unrest than any yet existing over the disasters will result. The public consider that three weeks is long enough for any man to prepare a report, especially upon a matter of such importance to the people.

The public are not only asking when the Judge's report on the Newfoundland disaster will be produced, but it is also asking what has come over The Telegram. Only once or twice has The Telegram made any reference to the disaster. Only faintly has it backed up the public wishes respecting a full Commission of Enquiry into the disasters.

During the last two months it has referred but insignificantly to any local matter, and it contains very few references to political matters except about foreign affairs which for want of something to fill space is now occupying space that may well and profitably be devoted to such pressing matters of local importance as now confront the Country.

It is generally conceded that it is not an Opposition paper now and in no way does it represent the once mighty old Liberal Party. What it says or does is of little importance to us and we only refer to it in order to note a matter that has been the subject of much comment during the last few weeks.

Now for that long promised Commission of Enquiry.

We charge the Government with wilful delay in appointing that Commission and that delay is the result of their determination to sacrifice the interests of the Trolling Masses in order to aid some of their intimate supporters and party hangers to escape from the consequences of their blunders and to prevent any further public upheaval against certain inter-

ests and conditions whereby the few are to gain and the many lose.

If this is not their game then let them at once announce the Commission and let it get down to work.

One hundred and seventy-three men went to watery graves in the Southern Cross March 31st and fifty days have passed without seeing a finger moved by what is supposed to be the Government of this Colony in order to investigate the terrible catastrophe.

We hear the owners of the Southern Cross have absolutely refused to recognize the right of the relatives of the men who were drowned in their ship to claim the men's share of the seals lost in the ship which were insured under the Sealing Agreement of 1912, which Baine Johnston's were a party to they undertook when possible to insure the men's portion of the seals and to deduct the cost of insurance from the men's share of seals.

This will also be another matter to legislate upon at the next session of the Legislature. The owners will be compelled to insure all seals at their own expense and if this materialize the owners will have to thank Baine Johnston's action—the Southern Cross—for the new tax upon them, for it seems nothing but laws are sufficient to secure a square deal from some of the owners.

A matter of honor or a private agreement is but chips and porridge to them.

The Country might make up its mind that Patsy McGrath—the tacit Premier of Newfoundland, to whose hands Newfoundland is now committed by leave of the few wisecracks returned last fall for Western Districts—do not intend to permit any Commission of Enquiry to fully investigate the massacre of the seventy-eight martyrs belonging to the Newfoundland's crew until the result of the labors of such a Commission will be such as to be of no use to man or beast in Newfoundland.

A minority Government composed of the worse half dozen creatures that Newfoundland ever produced are now running Terra Nova and using the power of the Crown and the Constitution to defy the public will and to insult and defame the Country before the whole world.

Never before did poor Terra Nova fall so low in political morals.

Never before were such a clique of incapables permitted to govern a so-called free Country.

Talk about Newfoundland being free, why Russia to-day is governed by gentlemen, and the Russians are blessed, as compared to what is endured by the long-suffering and innocent inhabitants of poor Terra Nova.

We call upon His Excellency the Administrator to oust the whole gang and save the Country from an armed revolution which will surely result if things continue longer as they have been during the last twelve months.

There are men in this Country who will not stand by idly any longer and tamely submit to be misruled by the gang of rascals that robbed the Country from the electorate last fall and who continue to demonstrate what useless and incapable misfits can do in a short time to trample upon the rights and liberties of the people and bring the Country to the verge of bankruptcy.

Won't the Graballs move until they are awakened by a mob demanding Justice and British Rights, and avenge the murder of the seventy-eight heroes who gave up their lives on the ice floe?

Morris is in London having the time of his life, while Patsy McGrath is all powerful here, moving the so-called Executive as if they were pawns and driving the people headlong into open rebellion against the misrule of the past few years.

Will you move, John Bennett, and either resign like a man or give the people what they demand, and end if you can the intolerable conditions and abuses now existing?

FISHERY LAWS.

We ask the Deputy Marine and Fisheries to publish the amended fishery rules from time to time in the daily papers. The Fishermen do not see The Gazette and they therefore are ignorant of any changes in the rules when advertised in The Gazette.

The matter is of great importance and should at once receive the consideration of the Department of Fisheries.

MORE LAND GRABBING.

The Northern Timber Company of Newfoundland is asking for 6000 square miles of timber areas, situated at Hamilton Inlet.

In view of Messrs. Job Bros. having sold a section of timber areas there in 1912 for \$400,000 it would appear that the Colony should reserve whatever timber it owns in Hamilton Inlet, for \$400,000, would be just as good to the Colony as to Job Bros.

It is a tremendous sum of money for anyone to secure for a slice of timber areas on the Labrador Shore.



It is no wonder the Morris crowd are known as Graballs for they certainly make small pieces of the timber areas on the Labrador.

Another applicant named O. Hebron, of Toronto, applies for 14 areas at Hamilton Inlet, consisting of 3000 miles. They certainly ought to get it, poor chaps, only a small portion will satisfy them.

We wonder whether Mr. Hebron is another speculator. Anyway, where are the mills that the law says should be in operation on pulp areas? The Labrador would be alive with them if the law was observed, judging from the list of areas granted.

CHAOS AT GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Matters at the General Hospital in connection with the nursing staff have reached a crisis. Instant and efficient action was necessary to the comfort and perhaps to the lives of the patients in the Asylum. No further delay in dealing with the matter was consistent with public safety.

It is already publicly known that the appointment of Miss Scott by the Governor-in-Council to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Nurses was followed by the resignation of three nursing sisters, by which title the senior nurses are known. Each ward is supposed to be in charge of a nursing sister, from whom the other nurses in the ward take their orders and directions. Their resignations were accepted, but the acceptance was pointed to enquire into Hospital matters. The nursing sisters who had resigned, however, did not recall their resignations and did not resume duty.

In the opinion of Dr. Keegan it was essential to the well-being of the Hospital patients that nursing sisters should be appointed at once, and the superintendent of nurses, Miss Southcott, was requested to make the appointments. She did not do so, and gave no explanation for her refusal. Dr. Keegan then directed that she should appoint the only three graduate nurses in the Hospital to the post.

POEMS OLD AND NEW.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Owing to the big number of original poems sent in to this office we have decided to throw open a column for Local Poets and to use as much of the poetry received as possible.

It must be remembered, however, that we cannot use in their entirety poems that run to twenty, thirty or more verses. Keep down to about half a dozen verses and your poem stands a better chance of making an early appearance in this paper. Lengthy poems have to be cut down before they can be used.

Readers desiring to see old favorites or new and striking poems appear in The Mail and Advocate are hereby invited to send along copies or clippings thereof to this office.—Editor.

THE DROWNING OF EDGAR PARSONS

Come all ye people, far and near,
And list to what I say,
The while I tell of a young man,
Drowned in Bonavista Bay.
His name was Edgar Parsons—
His life just in its bloom—
Death has cast his home in mourning,
In sorrow, and in gloom.

It was a hard and trying blow,
To friends who held him dear,
To see him go in manhood's pride,
In his third and twentieth year.
A fine, smart, sturdy sailor lad,
He went unto his doom;
His people are weeping for him,
His is a watery tomb.

So many homes grieve o'er his loss,
And for this poor lad weep,
Who on the verge of manhood's years
Went down into the deep.
But, may he see a fairer land,
Most fervently we pray,
This splendid, stalwart fisherman,
Who lost his life that day.

—SOPHIA WHITE.

tion of nursing sisters, and this also was refused and neglected by Miss Southcott. Thereupon Dr. Keegan appointed the three graduate nurses as acting-nursing sisters, and placed them in charge of wards. Miss Southcott promptly notified the appointees that they were not to act, asserting that Dr. Keegan had no power to appoint them, and still later, upon their continuance to act, Miss Southcott dismissed them from the nursing staff. This, following after other resignations, practically deprived the Hospital of its staff of nurses, and the discipline of the Institution into chaos, imperilling the comfort, and perhaps the lives, of patients now in the Institution.

The Commission now sitting to enquire into the Hospital affairs has, of course, no powers beyond those of enquiry, and had, therefore, no authority to interfere in this matter. The Colonial Secretary, in whose department Hospital affairs are supposed to be controlled, is absent from the Colony. There appeared to be no person whatever in or out of the Colony who had enough decision of character to protect the public interests in this crisis.

Whatever reason there may be for Miss Southcott's assertion that as Superintendent of nurses she alone has the power to name nursing sisters, and whatever the merits or demerits of the dispute between her and Dr. Keegan as to the precise seat of authority, there could be no question whatever that the vacant positions should be filled, and that the Hospital staff of nurses should be kept in full vigour and efficiency. The disputes of the principals should not interfere with the appointment of substitutes, nor should the fact of such disputes be allowed to interfere with the efficiency of the staff in any way whatever. The person who stands upon quibbles and allows that staff to be deprived of its efficiency is guilty of a crime against the public, and for such a crime the punishment should be swift and ample.

It is quite apparent to the thinking person that the trouble at the General Hospital arises in the main from an inadequate and improper perception of where authority resides. Such an Institution should be run with a discipline military in its precision. The General Superintendent should have absolute authority, unquestionable only by the Colonial Secretary as the head of the department. Every other official in the Hospital should receive order and directions through the General Superintendent, and every subordinate in the Hospital should receive his or her orders through his or her immediate superior. No inferior official should be allowed to question the order of a superior. A complaint by an inferior of a superior should not be heard except when presented in writing and coming through the proper channels. The habit of allowing inferior officials to get the ear of departmental officers, passing by immediate superiors, is in itself destructive of discipline, and should not longer be permitted.

Yesterday a sub-committee of the Executive Council (Bishop, Crosbie and Gibbs) met to consider the situation, and as a result gave Miss S. notice that pending a report by the Commission she should obey all directions given by Dr. Keegan, and confined the appointments of nursing sisters made by them. Permanent action along this line should be taken at once. The sub-committee are to be congratulated upon the promptness and decision of their action.

TO THE EDITOR.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We are always glad to receive letters on matters of local and general public interest. Correspondents, however, should make their letters as brief as they possibly can, as we are receiving scores of communications daily and have only a very limited space in which to publish them.

We use practically every letter received, at some time or other, but there must, in view of our large correspondence, necessarily be some delay before some of these letters appear in The Mail and Advocate.

We are particularly anxious to receive notes of news from all round the Island. Let our young people particularly get busy and help us make our paper the newswiest in the country.—Editor.

HELPFUL SUGGESTION

(Editor Mail and Advocate)
Dear Sir,—Our people have watched with great interest the persistence shown by The Mail and Advocate in demanding the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the recent sealing disasters in particular, and the sealing industry in general, with the intent of securing legislation for the protection of the workers engaged in that industry. I do not think it is too much to say that the majority

of our people agree with the attitude of the paper.

What To Do

I notice that President Coaker, who has been most untiring in his efforts in this respect, is urging the workmen to render him all the assistance in their power and I venture to make the following suggestion:

Let the workmen in their thousands write the Premier or Acting Premier urging the Government to accede at once to the request of President Coaker and the other Union M.H.A.'s. I feel sure, Mr. Editor, that with letters reaching them from twenty-five or thirty thousand toilers, couched in strong but respectful language and written over their own signatures, the Premier and the Government generally will feel compelled to grant their very reasonable request.

False Impression

It strikes me, judging from their present attitude, that the Government now regard the agitation for a Commission as due more to the restlessness of a few hot-headed agitators than to an aroused and united working class demanding that their legislative representatives perform their duties. It is the place of the Toilers to disabuse their minds of this idea, for the least we can do is to assist President Coaker to the utmost of our power.

P. H. CLEARY.

Little Bay.

DOTING COVE SORROWS

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—The news of the Newfoundland Disaster has plunged our little settlement into sorrow. Three of the eight men who went from here lost their lives on the icefields. One of them, Daniel Cuff, leaves a wife and four small children, one of whom is a cripple. He was a soldier in the Salvation Army, and we know in that awful blizzard Daniel Cuff did his duty as a soldier.

The Army lost another worker in the person of Arthur Moulard, whose body was not recovered, and in David Abbott the Army brigade loses one of its singers. The only help which Abel Abbott had was his son David. Arthur Moulard was also his father's right hand and I cannot see how the poor man is going to do without him.

Made Collection

The F.P.U. made a collection to get provisions for Mrs. Cuff.

Daniel and David were both laid to rest in the Army cemetery, and we hope that never again shall we witness such a heart-rending scene.

My own son, Ralph, is still in the hospital, and we are glad to know that he is doing well.

God only knows the anguish of our hearts when we read the list of survivors and did not find Ralph's name, but joy came when we received messages saying that our boy was saved. We want to express our sincerest thanks to Mr. W. W. Halfyard, and also to Mr. S. P. Whiteway, Mr. Eli Russell, Mr. C. Bradley and Miss Delilah Gray. We feel that we cannot in the slightest measure repay them for the good which they did us.

Thanks Them All

I wish to thank the good people who have visited Ralph at the hospital and to pray God's blessing on Captain Randall and his noble crew.

The people here are indignant over the actions of Captain Kean. Before he went to the seal fishery, he fought against the Sealing Bill, and while he was at the icefields he put the men out in the face of a storm and did not look for them when the blizzard came.

It isn't any use to say that the glass did not show weather on that day, for although the glass was higher that morning than it was for the whole winter, it was not long before it began to drop.

Weather Signs

When it is calm in the morning and the wind first comes from the South, you can always expect a stiff breeze.

In my opinion, we want men like Mark Sheppard to go to the ice, men who are not afraid of Captain Kean or any other Kean.

I pity the poor men who did not have spirit enough to turn back and get aboard and demand their dinners. If I were going to the ice, I hope no captain would try that trick on me. In closing, I want to wish you success in your efforts to secure a thorough investigation in the disasters.

Our branch of the F.P.U. is sending a donation towards the disaster fund.

J. F. MOULARD.
Doting Cove, May 4th, 1914.

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