

The Progress of the F.P.U. During 1917, and the Work of the Tonnage Committee

THE year just ending is without doubt the most important in the life of the F. P. U. During the year a premises has been almost completed at Port Union that surpasses any commercial establishment in the Colony, and larger by 100 per cent. than any premises in the country. Not only have the F. P. U. constructed a colossal premises at Port Union, but an Electric Plant worth \$60,000, and a Shipbuilding Plant costing \$50,000 have also been constructed. The Electric Plant will be in operation in about ten days, and the Shipbuilding Plant has turned out its first vessel, and is constructing its second and third vessels. Modern dwelling houses to accommodate 25 families, and a staff house containing 25 rooms, have also been erected on the Union premises at Port Union.

The whole property at Port Union is now connected with the railway system, and facilities for handling freight are such that cartage and labour in handling have been reduced to a mere nothing.

This great establishment will be in full operation by April next, when the whole distributing and collecting business of the Trading Co. and Export Co. will be conducted at Port Union. While all this progress has been developing at Port Union the past year, the Trading Co. has not neglected other portions of the North, and splendid commercial premises have been constructed, and are being constructed, at Keels, Tilting, Change Islands, Seldom, Carmenville, Wesleyville, Lewy, isportre, Botwood, Leading Ticks, Springdale, Pilley's Island, Salvage, Ladle Cove, Elliston, while important improvements have been made to the Union premises situated at Greenspond, Doting Cove, Hant's Hr. Exploits, Herring Neck, Joe Batts Arm.

65,000 qtls. of fish have been collected during the year and the most of it exported. 25,000 brls. of flour, 5,000 brls. of beef and pork, 1000 puns. of molasses, 40,000 hds. salt, and 5000 brls. of sugar have been disposed of. The general turnover of the Company has increased 40 per cent. during the year. 40 branch stores have been in operation, and over \$2,000,000 worth of business has been transacted.

2000 members have been added to the roll, and about ten additional Councils. The experience of the past has demonstrated the advisability of placing supervisors in charge of Union stores, and on January 1st all stores operated by the Trading Co. will be conducted under a new system with supervisors in each section, who will be responsible directly to the general manager at Port Union. The supervisors for the work are Wallace Abbott, Job Wornell, Donald Groves, Stephen Hancock, Alfred Hussey and C. Simms, all of whom have had three years successful experience in operating Union Stores.

Over \$80,000 worth of shares in the several Companies has been sold the past year. Recently a canvasser sold \$9,000 worth at Joe Batts Arm, and LaScie has purchased \$5000 worth. Burin District is now being canvassed, and \$25,000 worth of shares will be disposed of in that section.

Many of the Councils possessing stores have erected them without cost to the Trading Co. The work is only beginning and will develop and expand as the toilers provide the capital. Over 4000 toilers are financially interested in the various companies. In six years the parent Company—the Trading Co.—has paid a total dividend of 58 per cent. This winter Mr. Coaker hopes to add \$100,000 to the capital of the Trading Co.

The result of the business of 1917 will be a record one for Colony and fishermen. Never before was Newfoundland so well off. There is no want amongst the fishermen. The surplus earnings of 40,000 fishermen this year will exceed \$2,000,000. Prosperity and plenty abound, and Newfoundland today is probably the most contented and prosperous country in the whole wide world.

There's every indication of a successful 1918 for our toilers, although our exporters of codfish have met with severe losses in Europe, which will take the cream from the earnings of the business firms. Those losses have been caused by inferior cured fish, and one of the problems that 1918 will have to solve is the cure and standardizing of fish, as the present system of curing and selling will end in disaster if continued. The price of all sorts of fishery produce has ma-

terially advanced the past year. The prices paid exceeded considerably any prices ever heard of in the past. Herring from the net are now fetching \$6.50 per brl., cod oil is worth \$275.00. Seals advanced from \$6 to \$8 per qtl. the past spring, and will probably soar to \$10 per qtl. the coming spring. The markets are able to clean up the whole of the great catch of fish by the 1st of May, and tonnage is now available to meet all demands.

The supply of cod oil for 1917 was 10,000 casks in excess of 1916, yet the stocks of cod oil carried over into 1918 will be the smallest for 20 years. A commercial revolution has overtaken the Colony, and new conditions have made Newfoundland a country to be proud of. Many outports are developing and some are transacting as much business as St. John's transacted 20 years ago. Grand Bank is probably the most prosperous of our Western outports, and is transacting a \$4,000,000 business. Hr. Grace is again coming into its own through the enterprise and outlay of Mr. Christopher Hanniveg, who has expended a half million dollars on a shipbuilding plant.

A bright future is before the Colony if the toilers remain loyal to their organization and leader, and assist him all in their power to expand and develop the great F. P. U. business. While the fishermen remain true to Coaker and their Union prosperity and plenty will abound. The benefits already conferred upon the Colony are many and enormous, and all who possess one eye can see the great changes accomplished.

We wish the fishermen and country a successful New Year, and believe the year 1918 will turn out to be one of the greatest and most important in the history of the old Colony—now to be known as a Dominion of the Empire. It was a grand and glorious deed that was performed at Herring Neck by these 19 fishermen on the 3rd day of November, 1908, and now that the movement embraces 250 harbours and contains 23,000 members, transacts over \$2,000,000 business, and owns the largest, most modern, and most convenient premises in the Colony, every reasonable man should concede that the most momentous day Terra Nova ever experienced was November 3rd, 1908, when W. F. Coaker organized a Fishermen's Union.

Today the Leader of the F. P. U. is the most powerful political and commercial factor in the Dominion. Mr. Coaker started as a daily laborer at the age of 12. He sold newspapers when he was 9 years old. Every boy, no matter how poor, might become a Coaker. All the necessary qualifications are within the reach of most boys, hard work, untiring energy, punctuality, intense persistent interest in whatever has to be done, faithful service, clear conscience, clear brain, abstention from liquor and tobacco, love for humanity, aggressive temperament, reforming and uplifting disposition, quick to decide, closely observant, absence of empty talk are qualifications prominent in Mr. Coaker's make up. Those who expect Mr. Coaker to pander to political intrigue and corruption will be sadly disappointed. Those who have been slandering him recently along Water Street will discover that he is not a wily politician or open to influences of gain or corruption. A new class of public men has arisen and old methods must disappear. Newfoundland today possesses a Government that cannot be bribed or influenced, and will alone strive for National ideals. Dr. Lloyd is perhaps the straightest, squarest and most honest public servant that ever held office under the Crown. Those who have worked with him the past three months have learnt to respect and admire him for his sterling qualities. The country knows what Mr. Coaker has accomplished for fishermen and country the past year, especially since the National Government was formed. What Government ever attempted or accomplished such benefits for the Colony as the Tonnage Committee has accomplished under such harsh conditions. Every lover of Newfoundland will, if honest, confess that the National Government has already justified its existence, and is entitled to the support and confidence of all the electorate, and we have no doubt but that will be the verdict of the people next Spring when an appeal is made to the people.

The trade has been supplied with all the tonnage capacity it requires. The Tonnage Committee has succeeded in securing a steamer

to take a load of 65,000 qtls., mostly Labrador. This steamer is now at Halifax and is due here shortly. The chief shippers by this steamer will be Bowring and Murray who are shipping 15,000 qtls. each. The balance of this cargo has been taken by the various shippers. The Tonnage Committee has also arranged with the Furness Line for space on their steamers calling here in January and February, which space had been requisitioned by the Admiralty but upon representation from the Tonnage Committee the Premier in London secured the cancellation of the order, thus providing sufficient space for all our requirements. This is another instance of the great benefits accruing to the trade through the Tonnage Committee's exertions for had the steamer which is to take the 65,000 qtls. not been available, (as had been intimated to the Tonnage Committee two weeks ago), this fish now at the Furness pier would have been left on the hands of the shippers and proved a serious menace to the stability of the trade.

At a meeting held by the exporters recently it was decided that no further steamers would be required. The situation at Gibraltar has improved and arrangements have been finalized to tow or tranship fish cargoes in sailing vessels now at Gibraltar. The work done by the Tonnage Committee for the trade during the fall will never be fully appreciated. Had the Committee not been in existence there is no doubt about what would have happened to fish exports and in connection with local prices paid the fishermen. The Colony has reaped benefits exceeding in value the sum of five million dollars this season through the Tonnage Committee's exertions and if proofs of this statement are required they can be found in the Official Minutes of the Tonnage Committee, a copy of each day's proceedings—the Official Minutes—are daily submitted to the Governor, and a great deal of the correspondence and cables to the Imperial Authorities have been transmitted by the Governor.

The letter of Governor Davidson to the Tonnage Committee, or the eve of his departure, was not an idle utterance, but the sincere expressions of His Excellency who was in constant daily touch with the Committee's work and followed every transaction daily. No men engaged in the performance of public duties ever received a more splendid recognition of their labors at the hands of the King's Representative than did the Tonnage Committee when Governor Davidson's penned the following words:—

Government House,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
October 25th, 1917.

GENTLEMEN:—

It afforded me the deepest pleasure to receive your Address of this day's date as members of the Tonnage Committee, placing on record your appreciation of any small assistance which I have been able to render to you in the discharge of your important and responsible duties.

I congratulate you on the sound judgment and moderation and untiring industry which you have displayed in facing the problem entrusted to you to solve.

I do not remember in my life's experience any more critical situation than the problem which was presented to you: there was an abnormal catch of fish and it seemed impossible to place it on the foreign markets. An Absolute, or even a partial, failure to convey the fish to its destination might have produced the most alarming consequences. And the cheerful resourcefulness with which you have faced and solved this problem meets with my unbounded admiration.

I have been able to help you somewhat in your task. It is always a pleasure to me to take a hand in emergencies of this kind, but I would like to add that it has been a pleasure to me to co-operate with such keen, capable and straightforward men as compose the Tonnage Committee.

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

HON. J. C. CROSBIE,
HON. W. F. COAKER,
HON. A. E. HICKMAN.

New Bonaventure Helps Halifax

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir.—Please allow me space in the columns of that much read and much loved paper, The Advocate, to insert the following.

At a meeting of the Local Council of the F. P. U. at New Bonaventure, it was decided that a committee of two be appointed to go around from Kerla Harbor to Cat Cove to see what could be collected for the Halifax Disaster Fund, when the grand sum of \$31.25 was collected.

Collected by Charles King and David Miller.

Charles King	.....	\$ .50
David G. Miller	.....	.50
Henry G. King, Kerlis Hr.	.....	.20
Henry A. Miller	.....	.50
Jacob Miller, Sr.	.....	.25
Geo. Miller, Sr., Kerlis Hr.	.....	.50
Jacob Miller, Jr., Kerlis Hr.	.....	.50
John Miller	.....	1.00
Joseph Miller	.....	1.00
Frank Miller	.....	.50
Dorothy A. Pardy	.....	1.00
Richard King, Jr.	.....	.25
Joseph R. King	.....	.50
Edward King	.....	.20
John G. King	.....	.50
Richard King, Sr.	.....	.50
James C. King	.....	.50
Theophilus King	.....	.50
J. Noah J. King	.....	.50
Ananias King	.....	.50
George King	.....	.20
Thomas Bailey	.....	.50
Abel Miller	.....	.40
Fred Miller	.....	.20
Walter Vivian	.....	.50
John Vivian	.....	1.00
Uriah Vivian	.....	.50
Augustus Vivian	.....	.50
Richard Vivian, Sr.	.....	1.00
Richard J. Vivian	.....	.50
Arthur Miller	.....	.50
Hezekiah K. Miller	.....	.50
Willis King	.....	.50
Azariah King (school teacher)	.....	.50
Mrs. Azariah King	.....	.50
Noah Miller	.....	2.00
Zacariah Miller	.....	1.00
William M. Short	.....	.30
Samuel King	.....	.40
Samuel Miller, Sr.	.....	1.00
Jonathan Miller	.....	1.00
Mrs. Edwin Miller	.....	.50
Joseph Miller	.....	.20
George Miller	.....	.20
Ephraim Miller	.....	.40
Henry Miller	.....	1.00
Henry G. King	.....	1.00
George Field	.....	.50
Valentine Hoda	.....	.50
James Ivany	.....	.25
Richard Ivany (of Jas.)	.....	.10
Obediah King	.....	.50
Joseph Clark	.....	.30
James King (of Chas.)	.....	.20
Mrs. Thomas Miller	.....	.50
Mrs. James Miller	.....	.50
Thomas Miller, Jr.	.....	.50
Sydney Miller	.....	.20
New Bonaventure, N.B.	.....
Dec. 25, 1917.	.....

Keel's F.P.U. Council Elects Officers

(To the Editor)

Dear Sir.—Keel's Council held its annual meeting on the 4th December. The officers elected are as follows:

Chairman—James Wheeler, re-elected.
Deputy Chairman—John Fitzgerald, elected.
Secretary—Hubert Mesh, elected.
Treasurer—John Penny, re-elected.
Door Guard—Henry Yetman.
Wishing Mr. Coaker and the Advocate every success.

Yours truly,
HUBERT MESH,
Secretary.

Stock-Taking

Our Stores will be
CLOSED

FOR
Stock-Taking

--ON--

Wednesday

January 2nd, 1918

F. Smallwood

HISTORY DAY BY DAY

DECEMBER 31st.

Death of John Wycliffe, 1384

John Wycliffe was born in Yorkshire in 1325. He seems to have been educated at Oxford. The followers of Wycliffe were called Lollards. Wycliffe's great work was the translation of the Bible into English. Wycliffe died at Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, on the above date.

Wycliffe Translates the Bible Into English.

It was then that the idea first dawned in his mind of transferring the dead letter of the Latin version of the Scriptures into the recently developed speech of his motherland. It is sufficient for us, however, to know that this great idea was ever presented his fellow-countrymen with the gift of the whole Bible in English—a task which his predecessors in the work had only done in fragments and paraphrases, and the like of which had long been vainly wished for in Germany and Bohemia. His was destined to be a translation into his mother-tongue such as that tongue had become after eventual periods of the national history, and by a remarkable admixture of native dialects, which had made it the property at once of the high and the low, and

the characteristic exponent of a nation rapidly advancing to mental and physical independence. A faithful verbal translation of the Bible, in a form of speech comprehensible to the whole people, was a treasure possessed by no other plished chiefly through Wycliffe's own exertions, although recent research has shown that some of his best pupils must have aided him truly and effectually in the work; for it is to be noted that there prevailed during the next few years a perfect emulation among the Wycliffites in this department of study. The English translation of the Bible of the 14th century, although extant only in individual portions and incomplete copies, is in fact the best specimen of the English prose of that day.
(From Paul's "Pictures of Old England").

JANUARY 1st.
Founding of the Australian Commonwealth, 1901.

For many years previous to 1901 there has been a growing desire in Australia for a Federation of the different colonies. Financial and political difficulties sprang up and for some time the question was shelved. In 1879, however, the desire for Federation broke out afresh, and a Bill was drawn up and accepted by every State. The Bill passed the Imperial Parliament and received the Royal assent in 1900.

The Earl of Hopetoun was ap-

pointed the first Governor-General, and the proclamation of the Commonwealth took place at Sydney on January 1st, 1901. New Zealand is not included in the Commonwealth.

Tennyson's Vision of the Brotherhood of Man.

Men, my brothers, men the workers ever reaping something new:
That which they have done but earnest of the things that they shall do:

For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be;

Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, drooping down with costly bales;

Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rain'd a ghastly dew
From the nation's airy navies grappling in the central blue;

Far along the world-wide whisper of the south wind rushing warm,
With the standards of the peoples plunging thro' the thunder-storm:

Till the war-drum throbb'd no longer, and the battle flags were furled
In the Parliament of man, the

CUTCH

Is a Spring Necessity
Put in Your Order Now

A. E. Hickman Company, Ltd.

Federation of the World. Customer: "Which way to the hos- turn at the next aisle, sir, forward
(From Tennyson's "Locksley lery department, please" about twenty paces, left incline, for
Shopwalker (an ex-soldier): "Right, ward, left turn, halt, and it's there."