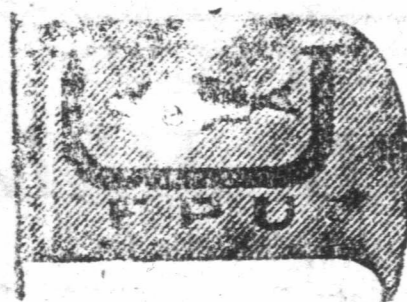


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**The Mail and Advocate**

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Editor and Business Manager  
**JOHN J. ST. JOHN**

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JAN. 10th., 1916.

**THE COAL SITUATION**

The Executive Council and Opposition leaders held a conference on Saturday evening to consider the reply of the Coal Barons to the Colony's proposition of Wednesday. As the Coal Barons refused to accept the proposals of the Colony, the conference on Saturday resolved to stand no further fooling or delay and decided that the Colony charter steamers and import coal during the season. The chartering of the steamers being left to a Committee, consisting of the Premier, Mr. Coaker and the Minister of Finance.

It was also decided to inform the Coal Barons holding coal which was imported at the cheap freight rates, that the coal held by them was to be sold at once to the people at the \$8.00 price; and unless this was done by noon today, the Government would commandeer all the coal in the possession of A. Harvey, H. J. Stab and M. Morey, and sell it to those requiring it worse at the \$8.00 price. This disposes of the coal question for the present.

The coal dealers acted very unwisely by defying the Government and refusing to meet the fair proposals submitted to them, and the action of the conference in deciding to put up with no more fooling from the coal dealers will be received by the public with appreciation.

A few men in this city has long enough lored it over the people through their combines in trade and their utilization of the trick of the trade. This action of the Colony will cause some of them to open their eyes and realize that we are now living under war conditions, such as no generation before us had to contend with.

The Opposition Party will back the Government in its handling of the coal situation which this city now faces owing to the inability of the coal trade to make proper provision for the city's requirements.

The people will rejoice to find that the Government is at last resolved to be up and doing and that every power the Colony possess will be utilized to provide a coal supply during the continuance of the war.

It is possible that the Government will also have to move in the matter of the supply of foreign tonnage to get our fish to market. Something should be done to get fishery produce to Europe, and it would do no harm if the Premier ascertained from the exporters the exact condition of affairs, and what provision the trade had made to cope with the situation.

All will regret that the Colony has been compelled to move in commandeering the coal supply in the city, but under the circumstances created by the Coal Barons there was no other course open to the Colony, if the People's rights were to be safeguarded.

The following letter was sent to the coal dealers Saturday evening, St. John's, January 8, 1916.

Dear Sir,—  
At a meeting of the Committee of the Executive Council, held this Saturday afternoon, at which the Leaders of the Opposition in the Legislature were also present, it was resolved:

(a) That, in view of the serious position of the trade in relation to the importation of coal, the Government should immediately consider the importation of coal on the best charters available, and afterwards arrange as to the disposition of the same through the city coal dealers or otherwise;

(b) That the Prime Minister, Hon. M. P. Cashin and W. F. Coaker, Esq., M.H.A., be a Committee to enquire into and close on the best charter offered and available for the carriage of coal to this country;

(c) That, as to the present stocks of coal in St. John's, imported prior to the 1st instant, and not already disposed of for delivery under contract, coal dealers to be notified that they are to sell the same at \$8 per ton, to be delivered, on the certificate of a committee of citizens, to such persons and in such quantities as may be considered in the interests of the public;

(d) That if coal dealers do not agree to sell the coal now in stock at the rate named, then the stocks to be taken over by the Government and sold to the public;

(e) That the coal dealers be notified of this decision.

In accordance with the terms of the above resolution, I beg to give you notification of the same.

Yours truly,  
**J. R. BENNETT,**  
Colonial Secretary.  
St. John's, Jan. 7, 1916.

The despatch of this letter to those concerned immediately after the conference on Saturday evening is sufficient proof of the determination of the Government to utilize the powers of Responsible Government during a life and death struggle to maintain the Empire, and to show all and sundry that under such conditions as now prevail in the coal situation, the Colony and People's interest must be first irrespective of who is displeased.

The public will no doubt appreciate the action of the Government in this matter, for although something material should have been done last October, that was left undone, yet in view of that action, it is refreshing to find the Executive so awakened as to deal so promptly and effectively with the situation, as has been done the past week.

**OUR SCHOOLS**

WE have no end of pronouncements by such ilk as Patsy the "educator" as to what his political boss "has done" and "is going to do" in the matter of providing suitable education for the children of the toiler; and our aural pleadings have literally become alluded from the incessant drumming of the worn out platitudes of party orators; yet we have not any microscopic evidence that anything has been accomplished, nor is there any visible indication that the Morris Government has the slightest intention of providing technical training for the hundreds in our outports who are destined to become factors in our economic development.

A sum of \$10,000 is annually appropriated to perpetuate the existence of the Council of Higher Education, and we understand that certain enthusiastic dabblers in educational matters are like Oliver Twist, "crying for more," though we are credibly informed that the Council had a surplus last year.

Has this institution advanced our educational status in the outports one whit? We have proven repeatedly that it has not; and we would now ask the admirers of the C.H.E. to seek other proofs than we have advanced, from parents who have made such sacrifices to keep their sons at school for a much longer period than they otherwise would have done, did not the glamor of the C.H.E. exams bedazzle them. How many of these young people made good? How many have remained on the old homestead to continue the father's avocation, or to increase the value of his business? As far as we can gather (and we have made many inquiries) the number is so infinitesimally small as to be a negligible quantity. It is quite true that many young fellows from the outports have come to the city and secured positions in

**MONIED GENTRY**

LOYD GEORGE'S appeal to the skilled artisans of Glasgow, on Christmas morning, is a revelation to us who have for the past few months been hugging delusions as to the preparedness of the Allies to carry on a decisive movement on the western front. "All's well" seems after all to have no meaning. This is indeed discouraging.

The Minister of Munitions is by no means an alarmist, and at Glasgow, he spoke with full knowledge and authority of both the civil and military powers behind him. Hence the unpleasantness of the surprise; and this, with the unfortunate contretemps in the House of Commons, is not calculated to inspire us with confidence.

If we are to believe despatches, France fired away 800,000 shells in one day in the various theatres of war in which her armies are engaged. We do not know what the requirements of the British forces from Flanders to the Nile may be, but the early months of the war have taught us what a ghastly price an army must pay where the stream of supplies is insufficient to meet its requirements.

Where does the responsibility for present exigencies lie? A Glasgow workman's remark at the meeting addressed by Lloyd George is suggestive: "We do not trust you or your class!" This

city offices or behind a dry goods counter; but this is rather a menace to industrial development than a benefit. We read just recently a very interesting article on this matter; and we quote the following paragraph:—

"We all realize that the cityward trend of our country youth swells the ranks of the consumers, puts down the files of producers, and sends the prices of foodstuffs soaring. The insidious, omnipresent dangers to health, religion and morals with which the city teems are too well known to need mention. So it would seem that if we are to reach a satisfactory solution of present-day social and economic problems we must strive to get the young man back to the old home."

This C.H.E. aggregation seems to us to have missed its aim, viz.—true education which is, as the Anglican Church Catechism puts it "to do one's duty in that state of life it has pleased God to call us." The true ideal of education then is to fit our youth for the work appointed. This, and not cramming the brain with knowledge, is the true end of education.

We are quite aware that Professor Davies has been receiving a salary from some source for his services in the so-called Technical School at St. John's. This is a misnomer, as it appears to us that it is simply an annex to Reid's Machine Shops, where some boys (apprentices) do elementary drawing—a subject which should be part of the common school curriculum. We beg to ask, where does the Professor's salary come from? Is there a legal provision for any such payment? We have seen nothing in the Education Act to enlighten us.

We have an allocation, provided at the instance of certain faddists for a Domestic Science class where young outport girls (prospective teachers) and some city maidens are trained? In such practical work as the use of the chafing-dish, how to cook giblets-on-toast, the concoction of an orange frappe, the quantitative analysis of yeast, and sundry other interesting subjects, including the preparation of *pate de foie gras*. We do not know if any particular attention is given to the cooking of such plebeian things as potatoes, cabbage, or such vulgar things as cod-fish or salt herring!

coming at such a critical time is ominous.

That there has been discontent amongst the operatives of the British Isles, we cannot blink; there have been numerous strikes among munition workers. Yet we do not for a moment doubt that the British worker is by any means disloyal. Quite recently a general strike among munition workers in Canada was averted only by the diplomacy of the Canadian Premier, Sir Robert Borden, who assured the delegates of the munition operatives, that the Government of Canada would protect them from the rapacity of a "fair wage clause" in all contracts for war supplies.

Mouthy and rapacious individuals, in nearly every part of the Empire, who have been battenning off war contracts, denounce British and other workmen for their slackness in keeping up an adequate supply of the sinews of war; they even declare that workmen who refuse to tolerate a condition of serfdom are unpatriotic! But are they really so? Not at all; the unpatriotic are those who are coming the sweat and blood of the operative and the humbler classes into dividends and bank deposits. There is a vast exhibition of cheque-book patriotism; and the carpet patriots save their conscience with an occasional cheque to some patriotic fund; this being ordinarily but a mere fraction of their accumulations from war contracts.

Even in this country, we have gentry of this ilk; and the expenditure of large sums on account of our military operations and the needs of the Empire and the Allies has put money into the pockets of many who have never had so much to spend in times of peace. Consequently quite a number of people are able to spend easily, and live like game-cocks, whilst others are suffering from chill enury.

Take, for example, the gentry who are stock-holders in some of our steamship corporations. They have reaped large harvests from increased freights and other items, whilst the men who own the steamers and handle the freights are receiving just what they did before the war. Then take the bonanza which has come to them in the selling of the vessels to the Russian Government—all of course on account of Patriotism!

All these vessels paid handsome dividends even before the outbreak of the war; since the war they have been literally "coining money"; and they have been sold at enormous premiums. What about the three hundred men,—captains, officers, engineers, firemen and sailors,—who will be out of employment and, possibly, needy, after their return from Russia? There are no avenues of employment open to these men; but the carpet patriots will rub their hands gleefully and shout loudly of their good fortune.

Now we contend that it is imperative that these men who have been deprived of their livelihood should be provided for in some way or other. We insist further that the Shylocks who have had their pound of flesh should be made to disgorge some of their ducats and compelled to aid the cause of the Empire by digging down in their jeans and passing into the Exchequer some of their easily gotten coin.

The toiler is taxed in every possible direction; even the cashing of a cheque or the sending of an express order is impossible without a war stamp. On this basis, we believe that the sale of the steel fleet to Russia should have brought thousands into the Treasury. Has it brought anything excepting the ordinary tax on a bill of sale?

There is no disguising the fact that this Colony is now on its

beam ends. We cannot, nor should we, borrow any more money. The loans which we have got within the life of the Morris Government have been mostly squandered in chasing political rainbows, or frittered away in sops to placemen.

We say, tax the monied interests; and do not lay greater burdens on the shoulders of the fishermen and the daily wage earner. Let us do as they are doing in Great Britain, tax the wealthy according to their incomes. An income tax, properly graduated, should yield sufficient to keep us afloat for a while. We insist that there is an imperative demand for immediate action in this way.

Will Morris and his gang of hoodlers have the courage to do this? We throw not; he is too closely allied with the monied interests in this country to make the move. Edward's first thought is "safety first" in the matter of the loaves and fishes. The gang associated with him care nought for the future of the country; their motto seems to be "after us the deluge."

Nearly all the "big wigs" in the Colony are supporters of the Morris Government, and self-protection is the summum of their political ambition. Squeeze the fishermen; tax them as far as you can; paperize the artisan—this is the game. Wages, declare the Moguis, are too high. Just the other day we heard a Rennie's Mill Road magnate bemoan the fact that his beloved spouse had to pay seventy-five cents to a woman who had worked all day helping her to house clean, and that "a fellow had the gall to charge him fifty cents for putting in five tons of coal!" Think of it! This magnate is one of the carpet knights; and his share of the Russian spoils is worth more than the palatial mansion which he built, not many years ago.

"Alas! that bread should be so dear, and flesh, and blood so cheap!"

Is this financial colossus a slacker? Of course, he does not admit that he is. Yes, this is a slacker; and the woman who did the house-cleaning has a son at the front fighting to protect him of the palatial home; the man who shovelled his coal has a son with the fleet in the North Sea!

**PROHIBITION**

DEAR SIR,—Carbonear L.O.L., No. 73, wishes to take this opportunity of expressing to you their sincere appreciation for the splendid services you rendered to the masses of the country during the recent Prohibition campaign, and also for the magnificent editorials in *The Mail and Advocate* criticizing those in high classes for supporting the drink traffic which has now and always had a baneful influence on humanity.

With all good wishes for future success.

I am, on behalf of Carbonear L.O.L., No. 13,

Yours truly,  
**H. R. HOWELL,**  
W. F. Coaker, Esq., M.H.A.,  
St. John's.

**WAS WITH SUPPORTS.**

Mr. Joseph Roper had a letter Saturday from his son Private Hal Roper, in which he says that he was one of the party under Lieut. Ross, which was sent out to the aid of Lieut. Jas. Donnelly, when he and his gallant band of Newfoundlanders held Caribou Hill against the determined attacks of the Turks. Private Roper is in excellent health and spirits, and asks to be remembered to all his friends here.

Riverside Blankets. The more you wear them the better you'll like them.—dec29,6i

**FISH For Sale!**

We have a quantity of large Eating Fish, suitable for retailers. Price very reasonable. This is a splendid chance for Shopkeepers to secure supplies at Two Dollars per qtl. less than usual price.

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**Notice!**

THE Third Annual Meeting of Harbor Grace District Council will be held at BAY ROBERTS on the 18th instant at 11 a.m. Prior to the Meetings of the Convention all Local Councils will please send Delegates.

**A. MORGAN,**  
Chairman.

**Notice!**

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of Port-de-Grave District Council will be held on the AFTERNOON of MONDAY, the 17th instant, at 2.30 p.m., at Brigus. All Local Councils will please send Delegates and prepare any resolutions to be submitted to the Meeting or the Convention which meets at Bay Roberts the following day.

**GEO. GRIMES,**  
Dis. Chairman.

**Notice!**

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of Bay-de-Verde District Council of the F.P.U. will be held at JOB'S COVE on the 18th instant, after the arrival of the train from Carbonear. All Councils will please send Delegates and prepare any resolutions to be submitted to the meeting.

**A. G. HUDSON,**  
Chairman.

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