

# Toilers Final Fight For Liberty

**F.P.U. Fight Now Against Bowings, Whose Word Is No Longer Their Bond, History of Trickery and Dishonor Exposed. Munn and Eric Bowring Responsible.**

The Government, Reid and Munn Against the Liberty of Poor Old Terra Nova

**NEWFOUNDLANDERS WILL NOT BE OVERAWED BY THESE**

**But Will Make Their Demands Felt—The Dodge of the Featherweights Seen Through**

THE Managing Directors at Liverpool who were not open to the flimsy anti-fishermen Water Street influences, and were removed from Abraham Kean's cringing appeals, and those of his abettors, decided as impartial men responsible for the good conduct of their business and honourable dealings towards all, that Abraham Kean should not go to the seal fishery as Captain of their sealing steamer and so cabled President Coaker.

The two flips here who are running the business got funky when the Managing Directors' decision reached them and if report is true they threatened to resign their positions as Directors of the business here unless they were given a free hand in a matter that five weeks ago, they, by their action, admitted they had not the power to decide.

Mr. Munn says he cares not for anything the people may say or do, that he will not agree to put Kean out of the Florizel.

He was too great a coward to say this five weeks ago when he was requested. He then shirked the responsibility by handing the matter over to the so called Managing Directors of the Stephano and Florizel, but now when the sealing voyage is drawing near, he thinks his scheme to defy the people will succeed, as the people would not have time to mature their plans to make him swallow his medicine—but Munn will never forgive himself for his action in this matter, and when the people's contempt for him is given effect to, Bowring Bros. will wish their Local Directors were where the people wished Kean was last March when he sent 78 men out to their death and 11 others to something worse than death.

**Shirked the Responsibility And Acted the Coward**

Mr. Munn is eagerly fighting the cause of Kean in defiance of an outraged and indignant public, but he was cowardly enough on another occasion well known to many when he failed to defend the weak against the strong, of which he will yet hear more.

Does he think the public have not sized him up? Does he think they will adore his loyalty to Kean now,—the man that was watched the past summer by Northern men who were intent on shooting him but were prevented because to do so would risk the lives of others.

Does Munn know that the Northern men the past season were compelled to lock their guns away in stores and throw away the key in order to remove the temptation to use them in avenging the death of some lost loved one.

With such feelings existing J. S. Munn dares to defy the people and risks turning the Country into a bedlam in order to give effect to his vanity and want of foresight.

As for Eric Bowring, he is regarded as a nonentity and a featherweight, but Munn is the man the people will blame, for what comes out of this dishonourable trick of deceit and pretence.

Who will ever rely upon the word of Bowring's again? Who will believe, their yes means yes, or no means no, if received by a cable? Who will regard as honourable the firm that one day say yes and four days after say "we said yes but meant no?"

Who will regard with honor a man who says one day this is a matter for the Managing Directors to decide, and five

weeks later defies the decision of the Managing Directors and demands his own way, in order to gratify the whims of the most hated, soulless and conceited trouble incubator that ever sprung from Newfoundland soil?

**Showed True Patriotism Cutting the Price of Seals**

This deliberate insult to the fishermen, coming on the back of that other outrage of cutting the price of fat one dollar per cwt. without producing an ounce of proof to the representatives of the men concerned, will about bring to the highest pitch of indignation the feelings of the toilers.

Without one word of explanation to Mr. Coaker—without consulting anyone on behalf of the sealers—the sealing steamer owners met and decided to cut the price of seals from \$4.75 to \$3.75, and then turn around and says if you don't work for that, then starve.

Once more the taskmasters of the Underdogs have shown their ugly teeth and at a time when those same creatures are asking the fishermen to offer their lives for their defence and the defence of their property and their money. They have as much as said to H— with you all, you illiterate tax producers. We have you now, as the war has made times bad and given us a scorpion to lash your hungry backs.

Then comes forward the lie: Our skins are unsold. The markets are blocked. Seal oil is of no value, just as they stated last August that fish was only worth \$4.00 per quintal.

These are the men that bought flour last July at \$5.00 and sold it in August, September, October and November at \$7.00 and at \$8.00 per barrel in December and January, who bought flour for \$5.00 last July and sold at a profit of from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per barrel.

**Thousands to Patriotism At Expense of the People**

These are the men who bought flour for \$6.00 and \$6.50 in December and are selling it to-day at from \$8.50 to \$8.75.

These are the men who gave thousands of dollars to the Patriotic Fund in order to be called great and loyal citizens and then legally robbed \$250,000 on flour, sugar, etc., because of the miseries of the war.

Bowring's bought thousands of barrels of flour in July at \$5.00 per barrel and \$5.20, and sold it to their dealers in the fall for \$6.80 and \$7.00, and later \$7.50 and now at \$8.50.

These same men direct a firm that bought poor fishermen's Labrador fish at \$3.60 and held it when the same fish was selling at \$5.50 per quintal, in the local market.

These are the men who bought lots of fish when it was driven down to \$5.50 and \$5.70 and \$6.00, and held much of it in their stores when the value here advanced to \$8.00 per quintal.

They have cleared net profits on their business for 1914 amounting to \$100,000, and a net profit of \$70,000, which they get from the Government as mail subsidy. Yet to-day they bleed the poor, who want a barrel of flour by asking \$8.50 for flour that they bought for \$6.50 and \$6.00—and less.

Once Bowring's word was as good as a bond. How are the mighty fallen? Who would now rely upon their brand of honor?

The Union men who sell and buy at Bowring's have already been told that the Union Trading Company will supply them next season, and the Union Export Company will buy their fish and make them partners in all profits, which will suit them better than having profits on their trade given out for parks costing \$50,000 that have become incubators of vice and immorality; and even when people are starving owing to war conditions \$11,000 more can be given out for land around Quidi Vidi pond to be used as pleasure grounds. Yet the cry of the hungry is not heeded.

**The Fight For Freedom Is Now Near Its Final Stage**

This fight on behalf of the Underdogs of Newfoundland for recognition and for proper consideration of their reasonable requests will now be transferred from Kean to Bowring's. The fight will become more bitter day by day, and before six months are passed Mr. Munn and the other man called a director will wish Kean was in kingdom come and that they had listened, as boys should, to the wise counsels of the able experienced honourable men responsible for the firm's business at Liverpool.

This Kean business is one of pressing public importance and Bowring's act of deceit towards the F.P.U. in connection with the people's request will meet with the universal condemnation of the people of Newfoundland, and will end in a complete triumph for Democracy and the placing in their proper places the taskmasters who, with their fathers, have kept their feet across the neck of the people's for 100 years.

The day of freedom is near. The fight that must make the 50,000 toilers of Terra Nova masters of Newfoundland has now entered its final stage and the day our fathers hoped for and longed for is near at hand, thanks to a swoolen headed piece of vanity and two boys that happen to be unfortunate enough to occupy places once possessed by the great Bowring men of yonder days.

Mr. Munn thinks he can manage to bear our agitation against him if we don't strike harder than we did yesterday. He should not forget that we have known him since 1893, and it is no pleasure to us to have to publicly review the dishonourable action of one hitherto claimed as a friend.

He will however wish he had taken our advice and escaped this trouble. He is perhaps more to be pitied than condemned as he is being led on into this trouble by the clique along Water Street that he comes into contact with daily and who have persuaded him that he has to fight their cause in this manner, for to comply with the wish of the vast majority of the Country is, in their estimation, giving away to the rabble and a sure sign of weakness.

Mr. Munn imagines our request was one that interfered with his right to run his own business as he thought best.

Our demand is the demand of the public and not for private reasons, but upon public grounds, as it is based on the fact that 78 men were massacred last Spring and the people have long ago concluded that those heroes would not have died had Abraham Kean not been at the seal fishery.

**Munn Convinced He Can Stay the Powers of Democracy**

The demand is a public demand, made in consequence of a catastrophe that became a national matter and as most every man recognizes that Kean was to blame for this catastrophe, they believe also that he should receive some punishment, in order to be a warning and a lesson for always to sealing captains.

The price paid for the indifference of the public at the time of the Greenland disaster has cost seventy-eight lives that passed into eternity through Abraham Kean's blundering last Spring and that price is too great to permit any further chances of a repetition in future.

The sealing captains are not too careful of their men and don't always consider them as human, and the sealers who must endure the hardship and pay the penalty for indifference with their lives are now resolved to be slaves and serfs no longer to Jack Munn or Abraham Kean, or any one else.

And as the fishermen have now a medium through which their wishes can be expressed, those who hitherto have traded upon the impotence, simplicity, and unorganized toiler, using them as they choose and serving them as they wish, will now have to face changed con-

ditions and meet those hardy sons of Terra Nova—the mainstay of the Colony—as one free man should meet another.

The Water Street snibs have too long treated our toilers of the sea as if they owned them body and soul. The time has now come for a cleaning of the old slate and before this struggle is over Water Street Graballs will be shown the place they must occupy in the future, and if unwilling to do so, then their places will be occupied by better men—by men willing to meet changed conditions reasonably and fairly.

The merchants of St. John's are behind this dishonourable trick of Munn's, and he is now convinced that he has been chosen by Heaven to lead the powers of Graballism against the powers of Democracy.

**Abraham Kean's Mad Behaviour Last Spring**

Munn sees no wrong in any action of Kean's last Spring. He has no regard for the suffering and misery endured by the fathers, wives, brothers and sisters whose loved ones were massacred through Abraham Kean's mad behaviour last Spring. The lives of seventy-eight men are to Munn as nothing, in comparison to carrying out the behest of Water Street Graballs.

Those bereaved families are but the common fishermen, and why should Jack Munn or Eric Bowring consider the feelings of fishermen or fisherwomen even if their sons and brothers were massacred on the iceflo, or that some of them came in to exist for a few years as living monuments of the inhumanity and want of common sense of a man Munn is ready to stand by, even if it leads to strike or riots.

Of course Munn feels sure there will be no strike or no riots. Perhaps he thinks he can rely on Morris turning 250 or 300 Volunteers into special constables. But if he ever had any notion that those two machine guns that Reid presented to the Government, could or would be turned on those who cannot swallow Graball ideas or Kean then he is to be pitied.

We hear Reid paid \$10,000 each for those machine guns for the war. They can shoot down 400 men in one minute. Reid's patriotism shows itself now. He makes a present to the Government of two machine guns with one hand, whilst the other iron hand strikes off several hundred employees to starve, so far as he was concerned, on a cold world.

In London, they treat such patriotic capitalists differently. A large corporation there sported the Royal Arms, and gave Ten Thousand Pounds to the Patriotic Fund, and at the same time dismissed the most of their employees. The Patriotic Committee in London at once returned the Ten Thousand Pounds, stripped the corporation of the right to sport the Royal Arms, and the Corporation stands disgraced before the world. The Corporation sought honor and titles whilst their employees were driven to starvation.

The Morris Graball Government applaud the Reids but how many of Reid's hands are seeking employment to-day?

**Why Reid Waited Till Now To Present Two Machine Guns**

Reid might feel patriotic but those who know that his patriotism is of a brand that permitted him to take Four Hundred Thousand Dollars from Britain's Allie for a ship that cost Reids Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars, will soon regard that sort of patriotism at its true value.

Why did Mr. Reid wait until now to give the Volunteers two machine guns? Why were they not given to the first regiment, and why were they not sent to England direct instead of being sent here with a trained man to operate them?

It is now nearly seven months since the war was declared, surely brainy men like the Reids could have secured those guns and presented them to our regiment at least three months ago. Why should he have given them at all? No

one asked for or even suggested such a gift or such a want.

The British Government were to find all machines and if such was necessary the Government had Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars at their disposal to purchase such on behalf of the Colony while Reid might have given the Ten Thousand Dollars to a fund to prevent their discharged employees from being hungry, naked and cold.

The fishermen believe that Kean's acts render him unfit to take a steamer to the seal fishery again. The lives of 78 salwart men who died such a heart rending death are the cause of that belief.

The Government should bring their influence on the side of the people. But if in the face of these facts the Graball Government should assist Munn and Bowring in aiding Kean to escape to the seal fishery the Government will learn to wish an earthquake had swallowed them up.

Why did not Bowring's ask the Russian Government less for the Florizel and get the Russian gold and buy two more machine guns and give them to Kean to take to the seal fishery or to place them on the bridge of the Prospero?

Thousands would be Patriots of the Munn and Bowring stamp if they could sell a ship costing \$280,000 for \$500,000 at a time of war to an ally of our Gracious King.

**Our Fathers Shed Their Blood For Their Liberty and Right**

Jack Munn it is said even went so far as to place our letter of 15th to the firm here, into the hands of Governor Davidson, and it is further said that Munn informed the Governor that Coaker would have to be held responsible for any trouble that would come.

We ask the Governor now to give Munn and the boy Bowring a little good advice and show them that if Kean goes to the seal fishery as Captain of the Florizel, in view of the Liverpool firm's cable to President Coaker, that dishonor must forever be the portion of the House of Bowrings.

Let the Governor explain to Munn that in free countries under the British flag, inhabited by white men, that the will of the people is the corner stone of the Constitution, and political, commercial, financial and social foundations of the country, and only a pigheaded man with eye sight that could not see his nose, could benefit in any way by defying the people's wishes.

The Union Convention that will meet at Spaniard's Bay next Wednesday will decide what action will be taken, and if that decision says strike, ten thousand machine guns won't prevent the sealers from taking Kean ashore from the Florizel, even if one hundred are left dead on the wharf.

Our fathers shed their blood for every Liberty and Right they handed down to us and our men can die even at the instance of machine guns imported by Reid, if in so doing the power of the taskmasters who held the past and present generations of toilers in subjection, is broken.

Munn says that no merchant would allow Coaker to dictate as to how they should run their business. Coaker don't wish to dictate to any firm about running their business. Coaker is not asking anything because he is Coaker, but he asks on behalf of the people as President of the Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland. There can be only one President of the F.P.U., so only one man in the Colony could say with any authority to Munn "I request you to refuse Abraham Kean the command of a sealing steamer."

(To be continued from day to-day).

**WATCH FOR THE PAPER TO-MORROW**