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'Honesty' Defends Fishermen's Union Against Slander

Lying Writer Taken to Book

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir,—I would feel obliged for space in your columns to answer some statements which appeared in the Daily News of May 6th and 8th over the signatures of Job and Ezekiah Stead and John Trope. Their aim evidently is to injure the Union if possible, but if these men had anything against their Council it was altogether unnecessary to cast slurs on the Union as a whole and to try and lay the blame at the door of Mr. Coaker who had nothing whatever to do with the filling in of these petitions. This petition was filled in at Salvage and Mr. Coaker was at St. John's. How could he be the person to place their names on the petition as they stated he did?

Again in their letter they say "that if we signed it we must have done so for spite." If they did not sign it why did they not so inform their own council and have them remedy it. I expect Sir they had a good reason for not signing it. Perhaps some parties want jobs on the Dundee. Or maybe it is that some parties are dealers of Bowring Bros.

One of these writers in the News seems to regard seal fat as more valuable than human lives. I wonder if he had a son or brother left to die on the Arctic floe by Jinker Kean in the Spring of 1914? If he had would he still be of that opinion?

If such people as those who signed that letter in the News are under the impression that the Union is for their special benefit they make a great mistake and the quicker they and all others under the same impression leave the ranks the better.

With regard to the remarks asked Mr. Coaker by Stead as to how much money was lost in the "Kintail" I would like to know where he got his information? Did he get it before navigation closed or did one of the Directors come by train to Alexander Bay and walk down over that boggy road. A man should remember that in taking hold of the plough it is unwise to look back, and in joining the F.P.U. to remember that it has a Su-

preme Council which governs the whole, and when cut-throat men come to advise these in charge it is high time to abandon the voyage and dump such "jinkers" overboard.

Now as regards the remarks that Mr. Coaker is not fit to untie Jinker Kean's shoe strings I would like to hear the opinion of over 20,000 fishermen of this country on that question. I think I could tell you what their answer would be and well these three tail cutters know it. Nothing helps to make us firmer and truer Union men than to see men such as the writers in the News abuse Coaker and the Union.

With thanks for space,

HONESTY,
Flat Island B.B., May 17, 1915.

P.S.—The statement made by 2 Stead re Mr. Coaker is a black falsehood cut out of new cloth. Mr. Coaker never saw the petition at any time. The men of Salvage who wrote this letter to the News have been expelled from the Union by Salvage Council.—Ed.

To the Icefields in the Eagle

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir,—I would thank you for space in your esteemed paper for a few remarks in connection with my trip to the ice-fields the past Spring in the "Eagle."

I would, first of all, like to say a few words about our good Captain, Edward Bishop. He is a good type of man and looked after the interests of his crew as a father would after that of his children. He did everything to make our lot as pleasant as possible and in this respect could give pointers to many so called "commanders." We trust that next year he will stand on the bridge of the Florizel. Captain Bishop has by his own grit and energy forged himself ahead and we say all credit to him.

With reference to our cooks I will not at present go into details; but simply say that in the opinion of a good many of the crew, Noah Muller, the boss cook, should not be allowed to go as cook to the sealfishery any more, neither should Granter, the cabin steward. The latter would not give a poor man fresh air if he thought it would do him any good. Cooks such as this man should remain on shore. They cause the friction amongst the crew and help to make the voyage as unpleasant as possible.

Our bakers, D. Hunt and R. Harding did good work and gave us good bread. No fault could be found with their work.

Before closing I would like to make a few remarks about the nunneybag government which we have such a worthless gang of political pirates in charge of the ship of state, and the wonder is that we fishermen have not risen up in our strength and driven them out on the Arctic floes to get a taste of what we suffer spring after spring in trying to get enough to keep body and soul together while they spend our money like water in balling out sops to heelers and friends throughout the land. We are a patient people but we can see the day in the offing when we shall rule this Island home of ours through our representatives and not be subjected to the harsh treatment that our past and present taskmasters have accorded us. One Captain of the Morris Government take delight in calling us filerate collage; but let me remind this man Caslin that "it is a long lane that has no turning, and that curses like chickens come home to roost."

The fishermen of Terra Nova are to-day grinding their teeth in silent rage against the manner our public affairs are managed by the gang of misfits now in charge.

We have our leader, President Coaker who has accomplished more for us in the short space of six years than all the government put together since we had Responsible Government granted to us, and we are more determined than ever to stand by him, for we believe the day is not far off when we will see him sitting on the Government side of the House, the undisputed leader of 50,000 sons of toil of dear old Terra Nova.

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Ellistown, T.B., May 17th, 1915.

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