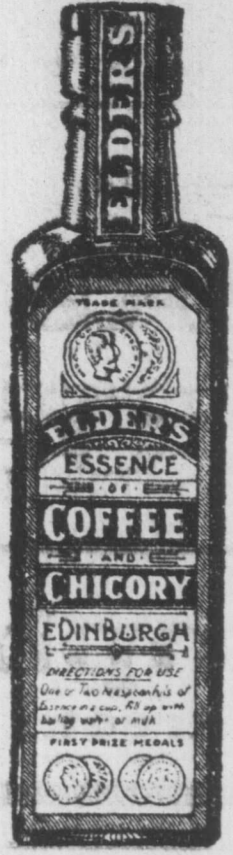


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The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., DEC. 10, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The Farce Continues

THE SEALING COMMISSION Farce is still going on. Nobody is paying any regard to it, for it is looked upon as a big cod, a waste of time and money. No serious attempt is being made to fix the responsibility for the awful sacrifice in human lives, but the Commission is busying itself with the question of food and the panning of seals, questions which have been pretty well gone into by Mr. Coaker, and questions which he has answered pretty satisfactorily. He has had improvements made, and will have still further improvements, when the House meets again. As to the panning of seals, that is pretty well settled too. A Bill will be brought into the House at next session which will provide: "That the right of property in panned seals shall cease, if such panned seals be not taken on board the same day as the panning is done."

This will ensure that the men will not be sent too far from their ships, and also that no blundering Abraham Keans will send men away in the teeth of a coming storm.

What a Commission should do, and we do not for one moment expect it of this Commission, is to get down to hard facts, and fix the responsibility on somebody's shoulders, or else make it clear that there is no blame to be attached to anyone.

They should also find out whether the unsystematic manner of keeping barometric readings on the Newfoundland and Stephano is in any way responsible for the Captains of those ships not knowing that a severe storm was making.

There is a lack of coherence in all the evidence respecting the barometer, and that is where the Commission should get busy.

There is also strong presumptive evidence that there is lying in a wholesale way about the distances and courses between the ship and where the men were put out from the Stephano.

As to the carrying of boats, we believe the Commission is agitating itself for nothing. In the event of the ships being lost in the ice, boats are of little account. What would be more useful then would be some sort of shelter and special portable provisions. Emergency provision they might be called.

There is a lot to be done by a Commission respecting the carrying of seals on deck, especially on ships coming out of the Gulf. On those ships ample life-boat accommodation should be provided, for they have a long water way after leaving the shelter of the ice. We want to see a Commission take up these matters, but the present Commission has no standing with the bulk of the fishermen, and we have repeated this warning time and again.

We will not rest satisfied till a properly appointed Commission that will have the support of the fishermen has been chosen.

Waiting Over?

OCASIONALLY one hears the querulous question: If, as is stated, the Allies in the West are now stronger than the Germans, why do they not assume the offensive against the troops of the Kaiser?

Of course, in the first instance, the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces is unwilling to risk the lives of the thousands of men that would have to be sacrificed in order to carry the strong German entrenchments in Belgium by assault. And, supposing such a manoeuvre to be entirely successful, it would have to be repeated time and again, for the enemy has long ago prepared in his rear positions of equal strength to those he now holds at the front, added to which are the great frontier fortresses and those along the River Rhine. It is plain, therefore, that to oust the Germans from all these fortifications and otherwise, would be to incur the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of men and to wear down the effective fighting force of the Allies to a dangerous extent.

It must be remembered that in war he who acts on the aggressive leads in casualties. In the present great campaign in Western Europe the German casualties have been far greater than those of the forces of the Allies because the Germans have consistently acted on the offensive since the beginning of the war. It is admitted by even the officers of the Kaiser that the strength of the German forces has suffered much in consequence and the whole world knows just how little Germany has gained by her prolific sacrifice of human life in the numerous hard-fought battles.

General Joffre, too, evidently believes it best to allow the enemy to win his victories for him. He disposes his troops as a living wall against the German advances and assaults and time and again have the attackers shattered themselves almost to pieces, depleting their military units and decimating the very flower of their army in a vain attempt to treat their opponents down by sheer weight of numbers.

But there is also another consideration to take into account in this question as to whether or not a general offensive by the Allies would be better than the present "wearing-down tactics" to which Gen. Joffre has pinned his faith.

The closer the armies of the Allies in the West and of the Russians in the East approach towards each other, the easier will be the military task before the Germans.

It has been estimated that Germany has in the field fifty-eight army corps, aggregating about 2,340,000 men. Of this number 1,760,000 men are said to be operating in Belgium and the other 580,000 men against the Russians on the Eastern frontier. Possibly this may have been the original disposition of the German forces, but there it not the slightest doubt that it has been altered time and again by the transfer of German troops from West to East. For instance, the war news yesterday mentioned the fact that one of the army corps that fought against the Russians in the battle of Lodz had been transferred there from Belgium.

Now the longer the distance that separates the armies of the Allies in the East and in the West, the greater Germany's task is bound to be. In view of her continued heavy losses in the two campaigns, the necessity of transferring troops from one field to the other is bound to grow greater the longer the war lasts.

Germany has an excellent system of military railways and they have proved of vital worth to her in many instances during the present war. Should Joffre succeed in driving the Germans any appreciable distance Eastward, and should the Russians roll them back towards the West, these railroad lines will become even more vitally important to the Germans and the shortening of the distance over which troops would have to be transported would lessen to a great degree the problem involved in moving troops on any considerable scale.

It is therefore, beyond peradventure that when the Allies in the West undertake a general offensive against the Germans, it will be with a force immensely superior to their adversaries in both numbers and artillery supplies.

For some time now, it has been understood that the Allies considerably outnumbered the Germans and it was usually conceded that a decisive Russian victory in the East would be the signal for a general advance of the Allies in the West.

Unfortunately, however, the Russian military machine "slipped a cog" and the victory did not materialize. That, however, did not result in the Western offensive movement being called off, for Berlin has told us that the Allies have assumed the offensive in Belgium and we learn also from official British and French bulletins that the Allied forces have made many gains during the last week or so.

It seems evident that with the Russian line reformed and resuming the offensive in the East and with the Al-

lies conducting a vigorous offensive in the West the German militarists will have a big task cut out to withstand the double attack. They can hardly hope to rob one front of men to help the other without courting defeat, even while their troops are in transport across Germany. Neither can they afford to shorten their lines very much, for that would bring the forces of the enemy on to sacred German soil and cause intense dissatisfaction amongst their own people.

It certainly looks as though Germany was about face to face with the biggest problem that has confronted her in the course of the present war. And meantime, we, whose battles are being fought by Britain and her Allies, have greater cause than ever for the most pronounced optimism.

WANTED—One McKay Sewing Machine Operator. Apply N.F.L.D. BOOT & SHOE MANUFACTURING CO. LTD., Job St.—dec41f

NOTICE.—Trinity Bay Councils of the F.P.U. will please notice that January 16th will be observed as Union Day in Trinity District, when every Council is expected according to the Constitution to parade. By order, J. G. STONE.—dec8

TO THE EDITOR

Thinks "No Bluff" Was Entirely Right

(Editor Mail and Advocate)
Dear Sir,—I just want to say a few words concerning "No Bluffs" attack on P. G. Butler in *The Mail and Advocate* of Dec. 2nd, and Mr. Butler's reply in your issue of Dec. 3rd. Mr. Butler says, "The Agricultural Society have not even imported any feeds since the great feed famine of 1912," so he is informed by the so called society.

I wonder what he means by a "feed famine." The only feed grown in this country is hay. A very small quantity of oats is produced but nothing worth speaking about. As for root crops, they were normal that year.

All feeds other than hay are imported and they were by no means scarce that year, but any quantity could be bought at a normal price. The best black oats could be bought for \$3.00 and less per 4 bushels. They are now \$3.50 and more.

Wonder why doesn't the Society import some oats now to sell cheaper. 'Twas never needed worse than at

present. Guess they're too wise. They know that people are on to their game and they'd rather have good oats for \$3.50 than doubtful oats for \$3.00.

As for hay, it was by no means scarce in 1912. It could be bought for \$24.00 per ton of 2240 lbs. from several firms in St. John's. The Agricultural Society sold it for \$21.00 per ton of 2000 lbs. So you see there was only a difference of two cents on a sundred-weight. The Agricultural Society sold for \$1.05 per cwt. while the importing firms sold for \$1.07 per cwt. (100 lbs.) That makes a difference of 45 cents on a ton of 2240 lbs.

I bought a ton of hay from a St. John's firm that year for \$12.00 and it was very good hay. I also bought two and a half tons from the Society. They called it hay but I call it dirt. When I threw away what was mouldy and rotten and totally unfit for use and shook the remainder clear of the dust I had about two and a half hundredweight of stalks and stinging nettles such as grow about our walls and headlands.

We were doubly stung. We were stung when we saw what we got for our money and when we went to feed it to our cows we were stung again as 'twas nearly all stinging nettles.

Mr. Butler says this stuff saved

thousands of horses and cattle from starving. It might have done so but that was all. When we buy feed and pay a high price for it we don't expect to starve our cattle on it, but to feed them and keep them in good order.

I would like to see more men like "No Bluff" coming forward with a little similar criticism. It might do a lot of good for everybody in general and the poor labourer in particular. It is

two years ago now since they sold us to so called hay but we haven't forgotten it and are not likely to do so very quickly.

As for Mr. Butler's school we don't know anything about it and what's more we don't want to.

He wrote us letters about the hay. We bought it and were fooled. So when we want the "larnament" we go to him to be schooled. St. John's, Dec. 8, '14. —DISGUSTED

ANOTHER TOP-NOTCH FEATURE AT THE NICKEL TO-DAY.

A GREAT MORAL PHOTO-PLAY.

"THE IMPOSTER."

A superlative dramatic production in three parts, abounding in stirring situations. The story of a lone woman's triumph over her conscienceless enemies, produced by THE GAUMONT CO., Paris.

3 OTHER ALL FEATURE REELS--3

ARTHUR C. HUSKINS, HAS TWO FINE NUMBERS. PROF. P. J. MCCARTHY, WITH REAL PICTURE MUSIC. JOE ROSS, With Funny Effects

FRIDAY, a Gaumont Special, in two reels, THE BRIDGE OF SORROW.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST AT THE NICKEL. EVERY AFTERNOON AT 2. EVERY NIGHT AT 7.

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The kind of Blankets that you want, and the kind you should get, is the

Riverside Blankets

Insist on getting the Riverside label on every pair of Blankets you buy.

Anderson's Great Removal Sale.

SATURDAY, Dec. 5th, 8.30 a.m., our Great Removal Sale Starts. Our lease has expired at Grace Building, and in the near future we will remove to our New Modern Store in the West.

Later we hope to tell you all about that Store, but to-day we are concerned in asking you to help remove our surplus stock—we will repay, by giving splendid bargains in dry-goods.

We will begin with liberally, cut prices, on women's stylish, perfect-fitting coats—which will give hundreds of women an excellent chance to save dollars.

We stocked for a frosty season, but mild weather has left us with a wonderful display of excellent coats. Bring your friends and embrace these bargains.

Women's Fashionable Black Coats.

If you require a Black Coat you'll like these, all the Newest Styles, best fabrics, and for cut, fit and finish they are right—going now at Removal Sale Prices.

- Here are some values:
- Women's Black Coats. Orig. price \$3.30. Sale price \$2.65.
 - Women's Black Coats. Orig. price \$4.00. Sale price \$3.15.
 - Women's Black Coats! Orig. price \$4.50. Sale price \$3.65.
 - Women's Black Coats. Orig. price \$6.50. Sale price \$4.85.
 - Women's Sample Black Coats. Values ten to \$14.00. Sale price \$6.25.
- You should see our Women's Black Fur-like Coats. Sale prices \$4.00, \$6.25, \$7.50, \$9.00 and \$10.00 each.

We expect a tremendous rush for our bargain coats, because we believe that owing to mild weather, many a woman has delayed purchasing her winter coat.

We have spent days in marking down prices, and you know, we are renowned for genuine December Bargain Sales.



Women's Stylish Coats

Here are some values in Women's Stylish Winter Coats.

- Women's Tweed Coats. Orig. price \$2.50. Sale price \$1.50.
- Women's Tweed Coats. Orig. price \$3.30. Sale price \$1.95.

Women's colored new fabric Coats, manufacturer's Samples—no two alike, all the leading colors, some with straps, belts, pockets, various styles of trimming—wonderful values, worth from five to six dollars each.

Sale Price \$3.25

Another lot of manufacturer's Samples—worth from ten to fourteen dollars each. Colors Tan, Saxe, Royal, Reds, Fancy Checks, Helio., and New Season's Shades—this season's leading styles, with belts, straps, pockets, etc.

Sale Price \$6.25

We have coats to suit every figure, and every purse and many a woman will be glad of this opportunity to get the best at the lowest possible price.

The above noted prices just gives an idea of the genuine reductions. Come and see these coats to-day.

Women's Electric Seal Coats

\$25 and \$30 for 75 dollar Value.

We have a few left. If you want a fur coat see these splendid bargains, to-day.

Bargains in Women's Costumes.

We have about fifty Women's Black and Navy Costumes that will go at cut prices.

- Women's Costumes. Orig. price \$4.50. Sale price \$3.00.
 - Women's Costumes. Orig. price \$6.00. Sale price \$3.60.
 - Women's Costumes. Orig. price \$9.00. Sale price \$7.00.
- Also a few Maid's Tweed Costumes. Sale price \$4.80.

Anderson's, Water Street, St. John's, N. F.