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The Granite Town Greetings

VOL. 4

St. George, N. B., Wednesday, July 29, 1908.

No. 4

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

The largest variety of Shirts-waists in town at lowest prices

Silk and Lace, Silk, Lawn, Cambric, Sateen, and the latest Golf Waist.

Long Gloves in Cream, Black, and White.

BOOTS and SHOES

Heatherbloom Skirts. All the Novelties in Linen Collars.

Tan, White Canvas and Black

J. SUTTON CLARK,

St. George, N. B.

The Weirmens Union and the Fight for Fishermen's Rights

Desperate Efforts of a Foreign Combine to Control Charlotte County's Magnificent Fisheries.

Packers now Paying \$39.00 per Hoghead for Western Fish in a Vain Endeavor to Disrupt the Union.

The struggle between the Weirmens Union and the combine of foreign packers still goes on. The outlook is decidedly favorable for the ultimate success of the Union in obtaining its demands. In fact it may be said that at no time during the eighteen months of its existence, have conditions pointed to more certain victory than now in the second season of its struggle for fair play and a living price for its members and for all others along the Charlotte County Shore who are engaged in the same occupation.

Perhaps here we cannot do better than give a brief sketch of conditions which existed at the time of the organization of the Weirmens Union, and which were in themselves responsible for that organization. The occupation is admittedly, from a financial point of view, an exceedingly speculative one. The initial preparation is heavy. Then the fisherman runs the risk of not catching fish. If he does make a catch, he may not find a sale. If he found a sale the price was often inadequate. Still under all these adverse conditions, taking one year with another, with the open market, the industry while not lucrative still as a general rule yielded a fair living to those engaged therein. The open market was however essential, for then the competition among the packing buyers was productive of a higher price in times of scarcity than that tended to compensate for the lower price obtainable in times when fish were plenty. Thus competition among the buyers and among the sellers prevented great hardship. Then a move to radically change and which did not really change these conditions was made by the packers. The formation of a combine with intent to eliminate all competition among the buyers, so that certain arbitrary prices payable in times of scarcity, to get the best obtainable rates in times of plenty, and thus to reduce the cost of fish to a miserable fraction of what might be considered a fair price. Finding this new plan to work much to the satisfaction of their greed and arrogance, these foreign corporations decided upon still further reductions, which had been allowed to go into effect would have practically deprived themselves of their source of supply inasmuch as it would have rendered weir-fishing so unprofitable as to drive the workers from the business. To be thus deprived of their means of livelihood was productive of no great amount of pleasure in the minds of the fishermen and the union men, previously advanced in a tentative way to get the best obtainable rates in times of plenty, and thus to reduce the cost of fish to a miserable fraction of what might be considered a fair price. Finding this new plan to work much to the satisfaction of their greed and arrogance, these foreign corporations decided upon still further reductions, which had been allowed to go into effect would have practically deprived themselves of their source of supply inasmuch as it would have rendered weir-fishing so unprofitable as to drive the workers from the business. To be thus deprived of their means of livelihood was productive of no great amount of pleasure in the minds of the fishermen and the union men, previously advanced in a tentative way to get the best obtainable rates in times of plenty, and thus to reduce the cost of fish to a miserable fraction of what might be considered a fair price.

refused to buy and the fishermen to sell. In the meantime the Union was perfecting its organization and adding to its membership, the combine doing its best to disrupt the Union. In the end a sliding scale was set by the Union and worked fairly satisfactorily for the balance of the season, and the combine was thus obliged to acknowledge and treat with the Union and to accept the Union's price.

In the meantime the Union had for the further protection of its members set a standard tub for measurement of the fish. For previously each boatman had carried his own tub and some of these were so deep that it is related that a porpoise fell into one and broke its neck. Daily the too deep tubs worked injustice to the weirmen and were productive of wrangling and disputing at the weirs. But the adoption of a standard has done away with this source of injustice and disagreement. At the end of last season the Union controlled every view in Charlotte County and had been successful to an extent which is given to few organizations to boast of. And the members feel that in no small measure they are indebted for this success to the Canadian packers who throughout the season joined in giving consistent support to their fellow-countrymen.

With and before the beginning of a new season, the combine renewed its war upon the Union. As one of the hirings of the combine declared "The Union must be crushed and crushed this year. There will be no further trouble." No trouble for whom? Presumably the packers—the monopolistic combine. Again they would have their former power over the fishermen. Now that it be desirable that such an aggregation would with the knowledge of opposition crushed, be still more tyrannous and overbearing in their dealings. There would be "no trouble" for the fishermen. The trouble of building weirs, and supplying nets and boats and the thousand incidentals to the occupation for the privilege of handling herring for \$1 per hoghead. Only the trouble of trying to support a family on a meagre less per year than would maintain a weir, only the trouble that comes of mortgaged homes and creditors who cannot be paid. Yes these troubles to be sure. But they are not troubles of the combine. These are troubles of ignorant fishermen and need not concern the combine. The method adopted by fighting the Union was such as we might expect of the heads of the combine. They began by contracting all the weirs whom they could seduce from the Union. And here we might call the attention of those who have contracted with the Foreign Corporation to what we have herein before said concerning the treatment hitherto accorded those with whom the combine made its contracts. Ask those who in previous years have contracted and they will supply the details which space does not here allow. You will find, if you do not in your hearts already know that honestly never was the guiding principle of the foreign aggressive aggregation. No doubt present contractors hope for better treatment than has before been accorded. If it is given, the Union is to be thanked for it. Treatment may be fair now because they cannot afford to antagonize anyone who is now outside the Union. They need such n.w. and will, perhaps, be even generous, until "the Union is crushed." Then there will be no further trouble." The present contractor will have done his part. He will have got the ground from under the feet of those who were helping him and themselves equally against foreign oppression. That done—the contractor and the Union man will pay in the semi-annual treatment of the "troubled days while the Union lived." But let us see how well the emissaries of the Packing Trust succeeded in their efforts to wrest from Union control the weirs of Charlotte County. They have announced as the result of their efforts the contracting of one hundred weirs. These analyzed

sum up as follows: Good 18; Fair 21; Non-productive 22; Not built 16; Not known 23. 100 in all.

Thus it will be seen that the productive weirs which the blood-sucking syndicate has contracted number 39. Contrast this with the 183 productive weirs which the Union controls and we see that the most the syndicate can be sure of is only about 17 per cent of the supply. And very few of these weirs can compete with the Union weirs inasmuch as their season is over while that of the Union weirs is just beginning. The syndicate here has surely no cause for self-congratulation upon the effectiveness of its efforts in this direction. This is especially manifest when we consider that while they may control the output of these weirs they have not the sympathy of the owners. For while a short-sighted self interest may have induced these owners to bargain away their prospective output, their best wishes are with the Union which they have left. But there is a still further element of doubt in the real value to the syndicate of the weirs which they have contracted. For these contracts contain provision which virtually amounts to an agreement by the weir-owners that he will not dispose of his catch to a Canadian fisherman or a Canadian packer. Now these weir privileges are the property of the Canadian government—that is of the Canadian people. They are leased because the government considers that it is in the best interests of Canada and her people that they should be leased. In order that as much benefit as possible may accrue to the Canadian people, the holding of these privileges is restricted to Canadians. If then these holders refuse to give to Canadian packers or Canadian fishermen a chance to bid for the product of these Canadian fisheries but on the other hand sell it without reserve to foreigners who manufacture in a foreign country, employ no considerable amount of Canadian labor, and are in competition with Canadian packers, employing Canadian help; if they alienate from Canadian fishermen the use of Canadian bait; if thereby they are aiding a foreign combine to break down a Canadian self-defensive organization and thereby reduce the sale value of Canadian products, can it be said that Canadian Government property is not being used to the manifest injury of Canadians? Such being the case should the Government not consider this position to be made of its products? The Union thinks not and will use all its power to prevent in future such a signing away of Canadian rights.

Having thus failed to get control of the source of supply available before the formation of the Union the Packing Combine has been endeavoring as it threatened before to do, to obtain its supply of fish from western waters. Here it may be of interest to many to know that a recent importation of Western fish cost one of the American packers at the rate of \$39 per hhd. for packing fish. And even at this figure this supply is so small as to be negligible. The supply must come from Charlotte County waters and the Union controls 85 per cent of that supply.

The old source of supply having thus proved unavailable except at Union terms, a new one not being great enough to form a factor of any importance in the situation the combine commenced an effort to put out of business its outside competitors to whom the Union Weirs were disposing of their catch—this in a round-about way to prevent the Union from selling. To do this they tried to cut off one competitor's supply of cans. It cost the combine in round numbers \$200,000 to keep the can manufacturing companies so busy that they could not devote any time to the former competitor's wants. The competitor tried to and made his own cans while the syndicate has every inch of available space filled with cans which it can't use at all unless it uses them this summer, and which it can't fill unless it buys Union herring. And if they do not use the cans, the firms composing

the syndicate stand to lose the best part of \$200,000. This is a pretty case of self-over-reaching as ever men were the victims of and proves that the redoubtable heads of the Big Foreign Combine cannot see any farther into a pine board than can anybody else.

At present their emissaries are engaged in circulating falsehoods with a view of creating dissatisfaction within the Union one being to the effect that they have asked several times for a conference with the executive of the Union and that their request was each time refused. Just a falsehood nothing less. Then again these hired agents of dissatisfaction, have been stating that the packers would pay the Union price if they were not afraid that they would be held up for greater prices later on in the season. They know that the Union's price has been fixed for the season. Any story coming from the syndicate or its sympathizers or hirelings can be taken with the proverbial grain of salt. The depth of syndicate truth and sincerity was proved before the Union existed.

In the meantime the combine is not as yet buying Union fish. But they soon must begin. Their idle plant, their empty cans, dissatisfaction with their officers, discontent among their shareholders, resentment from their employees, outside pressure—all these must soon have the effect of breaking the deadlock.

It may come in a week or a month. Meantime the members of the Union must stand firm.

They have not shown any indication of weakness. In fact their determination to win has lately been becoming more marked. They can remember conditions of two and three years ago, and before that. They want no return to those conditions. They know that they can when necessary let their herring go that it is better to handle one hundred hhd. at \$6 per hhd. than 600 hhd. at \$1 per hhd. It is easy to foresee the treatment that would be accorded the ex-members of an organization which the combine wishes so to break. They know that the combine must pack and can easily afford to. They know that a brief stand is all that is necessary to decide for years to come whether or not they shall be beaten down to satisfy the greed of the arrogant if not particularly brilliant packers of the combine. It is risky but little to accomplish much and will result in years of greater prosperity for themselves and their neighbors. They will no longer be subjects to contemptuous treatment but will be in a position of such independence as will enable them to demand their rights.

WEDDING BELLS

HANNINGTON—GARNETT
A very pleasing ceremony took place in St. Stephen on Wednesday July 15th, when Rev. W. C. Goucher united in the bonds of matrimony Miss Mary Elizabeth Garnett of Milltown and Mr. Nelson Hannington of St. George. The bride looked cute and pretty in a dress of white silk muslin with picture hat to match. She was attended by her cousin, Miss Janie Purdy, who also wore white. The groom was supported by Mr. George Garnett, a brother of the bride. After the ceremony the bridal party drove to the home of the bride where a dainty supper was served, only the immediate relatives being present. After refreshments, the bride donned a handsome travelling suit of grey, with white silk waist and white hat with plumes, and the happy couple drove to the C. P. R. station where they took the train for a trip through the provinces. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Garnett formerly of St. George. Many beautiful presents testified to the esteem in which they were both held. The best wishes of all accompany them for a pleasant and prosperous journey through life.

R. A. BURR, Eastport

Has a full line of Musical Instruments Agent for Edison Phonograph and Victor Talking Machine. Full list of Records

L'Etete Will be Big Industrial Centre

C. E. Starr of Canning, N. S., arrived in the city yesterday and is a guest at the Dufferin. Mr. Starr is interested in fruit growing in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and is considered excellent authority on existing conditions as well as prospects for the present year in fruit growing. Mr. Starr is manager of 1,280 copper mines covering an area of 1,280 acres located at L'Etete, near St. George, Charlotte County, which according to statements made by mining experts, is destined to become the most valuable mining property in New Brunswick.

"We have now several tons of ore mined," he told the reporter, "and according to certificates of analysis from state assayers in Massachusetts, the average showed by the vein was highly favorable. One assay showed 34.4 per cent, and another made by Clarence Hersey showed 34 per cent. We have not a smelter on the property yet, but expect to be in a condition to have one there by next year."

"The vein is about three feet wide on the surface and has gradually widened until now it is ten feet wide. The ore is chalcopryite, the best quality known, and from which about seventy-five per cent of the world's supply of copper is obtained."—Sun

Catarrah Cannot be Cured

with Local Applications, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrah is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take constitutional remedies. Hall's Catarrah Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrah Cure is a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years and is a regular prescription. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrah. Send for testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Sold by Druggists, price 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Tercentenary Pageants

The Battle of the Plains of Abraham will be repeated in elaborate pageantry on the very ground where Wolfe wrestled from Montcalm the dominion of the great North. The anchorage of the tiny ships that sailed up the St. Lawrence in 1758, under the command of Samuel de Champlain, greatest of French navigators, will be occupied by towering war vessels of the twentieth century, one of them flying the flag that the gallant Montgomery tried in vain to plant upon the walls of the Quebec citadel. The knight errantry of the past will mingle at every stage of the celebration with the precise, and calculating and powerful civilization of today. Quebec is something more than the warden of the St. Lawrence. It stands as the most significant symbol of the Imperial career upon which England entered under the direction of the first Pitt. It was the pivot of the final struggle with France for the "few acres of snow" that Voltaire affected to despise and which has since expanded into a vast commonwealth of illimitable possibilities. The transfer of Quebec from France to England was of infinitely more consequence to human progress than was the capture of Aroost by Clive, which began the conquest of India eight years earlier.—Brooklyn Eagle

Get my "Book No. 4 For Women." It will give weak women many valuable suggestions of relief—and with strictly confidential medical advice is entirely free. Simply write Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis. The book No. 4 tells all about Dr. Shoop's Night Cure and how these soothing, healing, antiseptic suppositories can be successfully applied to correct these weaknesses. Write for the book. The Night Cure is sold by All Dealers.