

Very Interesting Lecture

The lecture given last night in the Grenfell Hall was attended by many of our business people as well as His Excellency the Governor who came attended by Hon. Robt. Watson. The lecturer was Mr. H. C. Thomson who took as his subject "The shortage of fish in the United Kingdom and the practicability of obtaining a supply in Newfoundland." The Premier Sir E. P. Morris occupied the chair and introduced the lecturer who referred to the great shortage of fish in England and Wales by reason of the war and believed that Newfoundland could supply these countries. He lucidly and comprehensively demonstrated how fish and salted fish could be shipped and showed how any difficulties in the way could be overcome. Mr. W. B. Grieve at the close of the address moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer and held that though the supplying of the British market would at present be a patriotic effort we could not permanently compete with the Icelandic and other contiguous fishing countries, being too remote from the British market. In seconding the motion for a vote of thanks Mr. W. F. Coaker, President of the Fishermen's Protective Union, gave the assurance that this important organization would aid in the establishment of such a service between Newfoundland and the United Kingdom. He referred to the projected erection at Catalina of a storage plant with a capacity of 500 tons to be erected at a cost of \$35,000 and the collection of material for same in motor boats. Canadian experts had been consulted in connection with the project and the plant will be in operation in 1918. The Premier having put the vote of thanks which was supported by Mr. Alex. McDougall it was tendered the speaker by acclamation.

OUR THEATRES

THE CRESCENT
Don't miss seeing the great Indian war drama the Crescent Picture Palace is showing to-day, entitled "The Indian", produced in three reels by the Biograph Company, featuring Gertrude Robinson, Alfred Paget and Charles Perly. "The Lost Bracelet" is a fine society melo-drama with an all star Latin cast. "You're Next" is a lively and funny comedy and funny Vitagraph comedy with Wally Van and Nitra Frazer. Professor McCarthy plays a programme of the latest and best music to-morrow another big week-end variety programme.

ANOTHER THIEF ARRESTED

At 11.15 last night Detective Sgt. Byrne arrested another lad named Harry Deer, implicated in the theft of groceries from the store of Hy. North on Hamilton Ave. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Mr. Hutchings to-day to a month's imprisonment. The elder Wadland also implicated and held on remand as well as Neal got respectively three and two months. The other boy Wadland owing to his youth was discharged.

PTE. JENSEN'S GOOD WORK

Mr. F. Morris, K.C., Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, had the following wire from Pte. P. Jensen last evening:—"Just back from Pushthrough, Hermitage and McCallum. Some recruits; Catalina of a storage plant with a capacity of 500 tons to be erected at a cost of \$35,000 and the collection of material for same in motor boats. Canadian experts had been consulted in connection with the project and the plant will be in operation in 1918. The Premier having put the vote of thanks which was supported by Mr. Alex. McDougall it was tendered the speaker by acclamation."

SIGHTED A WRECK.

Mr. Lemessurier, C.M.G., Dept. Minister of Customs, had the following telegram from Sandy Point last evening:—"The captain of the steamer Tremblay report that on Sunday, 8th inst., while coming here from Port-au-Port, he saw the stern of a schooner of about 40 tons. The name was on the wreck, but it was not close enough to distinguish with the prevailing winds. The wreck should be in this vicinity."

CELEBRATING COLUMBUS DAY

This being Columbus Day the Knights of Columbus, in celebration of the anniversary of the discovery of America by the great Genoese mariner, Christopher Columbus, will hold a concert and dance in their rooms to-night. A large number of the organization with their lady friends will be present.

TYPHOID AT TORBAY

We learn from Dr. Brehm to-day that typhoid fever made its appearance at Torbay yesterday. A male resident of the place has contracted the disease and is being attended to by Dr. Ritchards.

ACCIDENT CASE COMING

Dr. McKay, of Catalina, telegraphed Mr. Eli Whiteway to-day, saying that a man seriously hurt in an accident will arrive by this evening's express.

The Firemen's Union and the Ship Owners

Ship Owners Have Reaped in Profits of 300 Per Cent. and More Since 1914 "on Account of the War"—The Cost of Living Has Soared Beyond the Reach of the Average Labourer, Still Our Shiplocks Demand Their Pound of Flesh—Our Firemen Refused a Living Wage While Spaniards Are Given What Our Local Firemen Now Ask—This Tyranny Cannot Long Endure—The Masses Are Growing Restless and There's Danger Ahead

St. John's, Oct. 11th, 1916 (To the Editor)

Dear Sir,—As your paper is the exponent of the rights of the toiling masses and has never hesitated on all occasions to expose any wrong or injustice done them, I take the liberty of laying before the public through the columns of your paper the facts upon which the Firemen's Union base their fight for an increase in the wages at present paid them. Upon Sept. 26th, the Firemen's Union sent to the various shipowners of the city a letter asking for an increase in the wages paid to Firemen, which were in the vicinity of \$37 per month, and pointing out that the rate paid in Canada and the United States was \$50 to \$70 per month. There was nothing in the nature of a "hold up", no demand that could not be fairly and equitably settled. The shipowners were merely requested "to give this matter your immediate consideration as we would like to have an answer from you on or before the 10th of October next."

Receiving no reply to this communication, the Firemen's Union on October 9th wrote the shipowners notifying them that "from the 10th inst. the rate of wages to be paid members of the Union would be as follows:

Steamers plying coastwise and Labrador \$45 per month.
Foreign going steamers, \$50 per month.

The shipowners have seen fit to ignore both communications which aimed at a peaceful solution of the difficulty, and the only alternative left to the Union was to go on strike. As our local capitalists have ever striven to deny Unionism in this country, to put it before the public in a false light, and to belittle its efforts for the amelioration of the toiler, I have therefore decided to place before the public of this city and of all Newfoundland the facts upon which the Firemen base their claim for a living wage, and to ask them to judge between us and those who to fill their pockets with the dollars of the poor seek to enslave the wage earners of this country. Not alone is the workingman affected but also the clerks and office hands whose salaries remain at the same level as that of 20 years ago while the cost of the necessities of life has within the same period doubled and even trebled, in some cases.

When one considers the wages paid to stokers in other countries and those paid in Newfoundland, the wonder is that our men have managed to keep body and soul together for so long a time and at so paltry a wage. Firemen sailing from Sydney, Halifax and New York are paid a minimum wage of \$50 per month, while on the Great Lakes it is as high as \$75. On every foreign boat coming into this port Firemen are paid over \$40 per month. The following is a list of some of the rates paid:

S.S. "Sable Island":—
Oilers \$40 per month.
Firemen \$45 per month.
S.S. "Pro Patria":—
Oilers \$40 per month.
Firemen \$45 per month.

On the ill fated "Stephano" the Spanish firemen were paid at the rate of \$50 per month with a bonus of \$3 for every two trips made on the boat. One of the reasons advanced for the discrimination practised against our men is their alleged bad conduct when intoxicated. There has been a great deal of exaggeration in this respect. The acts of a half dozen men who are unable to control themselves, are no justification for the slanders that have been hurled wholesale against a Union whose members as a whole are as industrious and as law abiding as any class in this city. The old saying that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor is only too true. Because of their humble origin and of the fact that they earn their livelihood by honest toll their faults are proclaimed to the public on every occasion.

I would ask the public to bear in mind in this connection that it is to the interest of the capitalist to place the toiler before them in as unfavorable a light as possible so as to deprive him of their sympathy and support. If the capitalist succeeds in making public the impression that the fireman is a drunken wastrel he gains a great success, for all citizens would be rightly reluctant to lend their support to such a cause. Even if one quarter of the things that have been published about the firemen of this city were true, which I deny, it is not for those who live in glass houses to throw stones. If we all had our secret sins of omission and commission published to the world, some of the proudest heads in this city would be bowed with shame and our so called "society set" would seek like the ostrich, to bury their heads deep into the sands to escape the shame and humiliation that would be their just due.

Some contend that there is nothing in the present condition of things to justify the increases which we are asking. If conditions were normal and prices were at the same level now as before the war there would be much to be said for the arguments that they advance. Since the outbreak of hostilities, however, there has been a tremendous increase in ocean freights ranging from 300 per cent. and over. This is borne out by a paragraph in a local paper stating that the "Stephano" which was built at a cost of \$200,000 was worth at the time she was torpedoed over \$1,000,000. In other words there has been an increase of over 300 per cent in the value of steamers since the outbreak of the war. Has there been a corresponding increase in the wages paid the crew? Has the consumer benefited from the rain of gold that is continually pouring in upon the shipowner? As a matter of fact the poor and those least able to stand it, may have been milked dry to enable the capitalist to swell his already fat bank account.

Prior to the declaration of war the freight on flour from Montreal was 30 cents per barrel. Reids are now charging \$1.10 and the steamship companies about the same. The freight on coal from Sydney is in the neighborhood of \$3.50 per ton free discharge while the rate before the war was \$1.20 per ton.

Into whose pockets is all this wealth flowing? Who are now squeezing the consumer that it is now well nigh impossible to live? Who have doubled the prices of the necessities of life and have made flour \$10.75 per barrel and coal \$10.50 per ton. Anyone who reads this letter knows the answer to these questions as well as I do, knows that there are to-day in this city men who for the sake of the dollars that they covet would enslave their fellow men and deny their right to a decent existence. The same men whose profits have increased 300 per cent and have taxed the consumer till he finds it difficult to live are the ones that have refused to increase the wages of the Firemen on their boats.

These are the men who are rapidly filling their pockets and building up immense fortunes out of the necessities of the war and the difficulties of the poor; who are demanding their blood money with the same terrible insistence as Shylock demanded his "pound of flesh" from Antonio. An indifferent Government has allowed this exploitation to go on unchecked, but I can assure them that the masses are not likely to endure very much the tyranny under which they groan.

Thanking you in anticipation for space,

Yours truly,
F. J. WOODS,
President and Delegate
Firemen's Union.

LOCAL ITEMS

Schr. "Little Madona", Ed. Hynes master, arrived here yesterday evening from St. Brendan's, B.B. She is discharging her cargo at Job's.

The schr. Matanzas arrived here yesterday afternoon after a good run from Lunenburg in ballast to A. S. Rendell & Co.

Last evening a girl aged 11 of New Gower Street was reported ill of diphtheria and will be treated at home.

The schr. Frank H. Adams arrived at St. Jacques yesterday with 500 qtls. codfish from Labrador. She reports fish plentiful on the coast.

Labourers Help Firemen

We learn to-day that fully 120 firemen of the various local steamers, including the coastal boats, Reids and Bowring's, are now out on strike for a raise of wages. To-day Mr. F. Woods tells us that the L. S. P. U. will help the stoker out. These men absolutely refuse to go back to the ships on the present scale of wages, and President James McGrath of the Labourers' Union is issuing tickets to all the striking firemen to entitle them to work long-shore. Mr. Woods also says that the Firemen's Union is to-day retaining a legal man to test the legality of men with certificates of competency engaging on certain boats as stokers. There is a law on the Statute Book requiring an examination, and Mr. Woods says that the matter will be properly taken up and dealt with by process of law.

All Seeking Licenses

Since Tuesday just as many licensed saloon keepers as ever have made applications for license to sell spirituous liquors. Some of the ardent prohibitionists who are importing 20 years' stocks of booze are looking wise at the applicants for licenses and are wondering what's going to happen. They fear that it may be money wasted to get in such large stocks, and they also realize that their hypocrisy has been discovered and that there is intense indignation throughout the city and country.

EXCELLENT RIFLE WORK

Yesterday the Volunteers resumed rifle practice at the South Side Range. A squad of 14 recruits went over there under Sgt. Newman and did excellent shooting at the head and shoulder target at 200, 300 and 400 yards. Pte. Pilgrim scored 72 points, Pte. Co-field 68 and Pte. Thompson 53.

POLICE OFFICER MARRIED

Const. Edward O'Flaherty, a well known and efficient officer of the Eastern Station was married last night at the R. C. Cathedral to Miss Ryan, a popular young lady of Aquaforte. Both received the congratulations of their many friends. The Mail and Advocate extends to them its hearty felicitations.

NEW C. C. C. CLUB

The lads of the Drum and Bugle Corps of the C.C.C. recently started a club of their own and have taken a special apartment in the armoury for their use. They will be supplied with the best of literature for the winter months and will have games of all kinds. Friends of the lads have taken much interest in this movement.

Dutch to Ask The Reason Why

THE HAGUE, Oct. 11.—The Dutch Government, on the basis of facts already ascertained, will ask Germany to explain the sinking of the Dutch steamer Bloomersdyke, in the Atlantic, off the New England coast, last Sunday.

Reichstag's Life Prolonged

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 11.—According to a despatch from Berlin the Reichstag to-day passed the third reading of a bill to prolong the life of the present legislative body until January 12th, 1917.

Sub Has Disappeared

NEW YORK, Oct. 11.—Nothing to indicate the presence of a German submarine off the American coast was observed by steamships which arrived in this port to-day, after voyages from east and south. There was no unusual activity on the seas, the arrivals reported.

OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST

FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT
(Received 11 a.m. October 12th)
2160 Private Lyman Stoodley, Grand Bank. Admitted Wandsworth, Oct. 9; debility.
700 Private Frederick D. Bastow, 9 Cook Street. Dangerously ill at Wandsworth, Oct. 11. (Previously reported wounded in left eye).

MAN FELL 20 FEET

Yesterday afternoon as one of the tinsmiths at Mr. Dymond's was doing some work at the rear of Bishop & Sons' premises he stumbled on the scaffold on which he worked, and fell to the ground, a distance of 20 feet. The man received severe injuries, was unconscious for over a half hour and received two very deep cuts, one on the back of the head and another on the forehead. Men about did all possible for him and he was removed to M. F. Wadden's drug store, but the case was too serious to be attended to there and he was brought to a doctor's surgery where the wounds were stitched and he was driven home.

NOTICE

APPLICATIONS for Licenses to sell Intoxicating Liquors shall be made before the Fifteenth instant.
St. John's, October the 9th, A.D. 1916.
JOHN MCCARTHY,
Actg. Secy. Licensing Board.
oct10.51

Firemen's Union Meeting

Last night a meeting of the Firemen's Protective Union was held when the following letter was read and submitted for discussion:—"We, the undersigned, beg to notify you that if the strike which you have called on our boats is not raised before noon to-morrow, Thursday, October 12th, we will not in future sign on any Union Firemen on our steamers.
(Sgd.) Reid-Nld. Co., per H. D. Reid; A. H. Murray; Bowring Bros., Ltd., per Eric A. Bowring; Crosbie & Co., Jas. Baird, Ltd., per Hugh Baird; Job Bros. & Co., per Robert B. Job; Murray & Crawford, per Baine, Johnston & Co., Agents."
Lengthy discussion resulted from the letter which was received yesterday afternoon. It was decided that men belonging to the Union would not work for the wages now prevailing. Quite a number present intimated that they rather than serve for the sums now offered they would proceed

PICKED UP—About two miles off Crouse Harbor, the 17th September, a large Motor Trap Boat, painted Dark Grey; engine had been removed, shaft and propeller intact. For further particulars re salvage and expenses the owner may apply to LOUIS BURTON, Greenspond, —oct10.31

WANTED—Schooners to freight Lumber from North Dame Bay. Highest rates. HORWOOD LUMBER CO., LTD. —oct7.61

FOR SALE—10 Horses, 5 Ponies. Apply to CHAS. LESTER, 49 Hamilton Street. —oct11.61

to Halifax or Sydney to seek employment. To-day the men in the Straits and Bay steamers will be instructed to leave them.

St John's Municipal Council

Wanted Immediately 20 or 30 Labourers,
Apply to the Foreman, Windsor Lake.

JOHN. L. SLATTERY, Secretary-Treasurer.
oct7.17

(On account of whom it may concern)

AUCTION ON FRIDAY, the 13th inst., at 12 o'clock, at the premises of

MESSRS. HARVEY & CO., LIMITED, 40 Sacks BRAN. 28 Barrels MOLASSES.

Surveyed and ordered to be sold by Public Auction for the benefit of whom it may concern.
A. S. RENDELL,
oct11.21 Notary Public.

V. C. and British Colonel

Dark, Mixed IS GREAT.

TRY IT

At the Royal Cigar Store, Bank Square, Water Street.

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DECIDED BARGAINS
WOOL UNDERCLOTHING
For Boys from 12 to 16 years,
\$1.20 per Suit
OR
60c. per Garment
We claim to have the best value
BLANKETS
in the city from
\$3.00 to \$5.50
Nicholle, Inkpen & Chafe Limited.
315 -:- WATER STREET -:- 315
Special attention given to Mail Orders.
Agents for Ungars Laundry & Dye Works,

"GOLD BOND" Cut Tobacco.
The very Best.
10c. per tin.
M. A. DUFFY, Wholesale Distributor.
Office—Gear Building, East of Post Office.

BLACK OATS
Just Received per S.S. Sable I.
600 SAX
FROM CHARLOTTETOWN.
HARVEY & CO., LTD., (WHOLESALE ONLY.)