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The Mail and Advocate
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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., OCT. 31, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

**The Premier's
Want of Foresight
Constitutional Outrage**

PRESIDENT COAKER for weeks since the war began and up to the middle of October did all in his power to move the Opposition Party led by Mr. Kent to make proposals to the Government in view of keeping shore fish to \$6 per qtl. and Labrador to \$4. The Opposition met the Government to discuss the matter of prices and after a two hours' conference the Premier decided to take no action.

The consequence of his refusal led to a 25c. drop in the price of shore and 60c. drop in the price of Labrador. Had the Premier endeavored to back up Mr. Coaker's proposals some \$100,000 that have been cut off fish prices would today be in the pockets of the fishermen.

Time has shown that Mr. Coaker's contentions were accurate and well founded and he was right throughout. That a panic did not ensue is not the fault of the Government; that it was prevented and prices fairly maintained is due solely to the methods and action of Mr. Coaker throughout the crisis.

The fishermen and country will never realize what they owe to Mr. Coaker for the way in which he has maintained the price of fish this Fall, and prevented the bottom from falling out of the whole fish business.

Prominent fish buyers in this city asserted again and again this fall that they would not buy fish at \$6 because they were sure to buy it at \$5 or \$5.25. When one interested looks back to the first week in September when out of all the buyers in St. John's only one would offer \$6 for the first load of shore fish which arrived here when the markets were bare and the best prices ever offered came from the European markets, it appears miraculous that in spite of the combined attempt of Water Street buyers and the total indifference of the Government and the bitter opposition of some of the Government papers, the price of fish has been so well maintained.

If any sane sensible man requires any further proof of the usefulness of the F.P.U. and the beneficial work of President Coaker than that demonstrated in this city this fall and summer respecting the fish situation, that man is not open to believe the truth and refuses to believe what his eyes behold.

Sir Edward Morris had a grand opportunity to gain the Union's goodwill and to establish himself in the good wishes of the fishermen when President Coaker asked him to take steps to keep shore fish up to \$6 and Labrador soft fish to \$4. The prices should not have fallen one cent below these figures and if the trade knew that no one would be permitted to buy at lower prices, all would have gladly bought in at those prices even if 50,000 qtls. more had been offered for sale by the fishermen. Today the stores are clean of fish; no stocks for winter sales are on hand.

When President Coaker met the Government he asserted that 70 per cent. of the catch of shore fish had been disposed of by the fishermen

NOTICE TO FISHERMEN

All Union fishermen are requested to call at the President's office to learn prices of Shore and Labrador fish immediately upon arrival here. No Union member should sell a quintal of fish from now to the close of the fall, except through the Union.

the assembled lawyers and fish buyers laughed over the assertion and some began to count up eighty or ninety thousand quintals for Green Bay and the Treaty Shore then to be disposed of.

In future they will recognize Mr. Coaker's knowledge of fishery matters and be more ready to accept his statements.

This fall has been unusually trying to business men for the abnormal conditions prevailing tended to create a lack of confidence in themselves which was never so noticeable, and a strong move on the part of the Government would have restored that confidence and the great load of care and worry carried by the business men since fish began to come in would have been removed.

The crisis is over. The prices will now be firm and the markets abroad are looking better and better. The crisis has shown just what business ability our commercial men possess for it often takes a period of great trial to bring out the strength and weaknesses of responsible business men.

Very few of our merchants would be termed business giants or heroes—many of them have showed the possession of much timidity, and strength of character which is alone the safe anchor in strong business men is lacking in many of the men now entrusted with the commercial affairs of the Colony. As for our public men, this crisis has revealed them as absolute weaklings with no strength of character, no constructive ability and utterly ignorant of matters pertaining to the vital commercial affairs of the country.

Mr. Coaker has asserted that only once in his life has he been forced to confess that he was ashamed of being born a Newfoundlander and that was when he met the so called chosen public men of the country at a conference to discuss the fish situation. He was disgusted to find that the principal public men of the Colony when convened in conference knew so little about interests that involved 90 per cent. of the country's productions. He claims that the Executive Council should embrace eight men selected from representatives of outport districts, responsible to the fishermen and who come in constant contact with the fishermen.

What can men belonging to St. John's, holding office and possessing all power care for outport interests or the fishermen's interests as long as they are maintained in place and power by means and tricks over which the fishermen and outports have no control?

What interest have Morris, Bennett, Gibbs, Squires, Blandford and Bishop in outports concerns? They are there regardless of any outport power or interests to remove them. They are responsible to no one interested in the fishermen.

What right has St. John's West to two votes in the Executive? What right have Gibbs, Squires, Blandford and Bishop to votes in the Executive? Whom do they represent? To whom are they responsible?

Is it not plain that the Constitution has been trampled on and outraged in a manner that no sane man ever imagined could be attempted by the placing of such irresponsibles into such high positions. The Principles of Responsible Government have always insisted that such poston should be held by men selected by the people responsible to the people and representing the people?

How can a Government represent the people and the wishes of the people unless responsible to the electorate? It is a crime. It is enough to turn the people for ever against rulers and Governors. Such outrages if committed 20 years ago would have been replied to by an uprising of the people.

Where is the Leader of the Opposition that he doesn't publicly expose those frauds and outrages? Is he also false to his duty? Is he willing to allow every principle of representative Government to be trampled underfoot because it is easier to tolerate such conditions than to expose them?

Would Sir William Whiteway, if he was alive today, allow the Leader of a Tory Party to so outrage those principles and disfranchise the electorate, without bringing home the crime to the traitors to the Constitution?

Where is Dr. Lloyd—Mr. Kent's Chief Lieutenant—who edits a daily paper which the Premier claims is the official organ of the Liberal Party? Is he also willing to permit such outrages to pass with impunity?

Is the Liberal Party so dead that

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ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE



PROCLAMATION

By his Excellency Sir Walter Edward Davidson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies.

Your KING and COUNTRY Needs You
Will You Answer Your Country's Call?

A Proclamation was issued on the 21st of August calling on the Patriotic young men of Newfoundland to enlist in the First Newfoundland Regiment and rally round the Old Flag. The response to the appeal was prompt and our Contingent—540 strong—is already training in England and will be sent to the front as soon as the men are made thoroughly efficient.

We need more fighting men. We need to train more men to strengthen our Contingent for land service and we need to raise a Contingent for Sea Service, but the special need now is for men-o'-war-men.

There is at present a force, nominally, of 600 men recruited from the Royal Naval Reserve. When the War broke out the roll was 525. A message was sent to the King that this force would be raised to 1000 men, hardy and handy and loyal men from the shores of Newfoundland. And the King has just now accepted the spirited offer. The fishermen have been away on their summer voyage and we have waited for the return of the men to acquaint them of the King's acceptance of our offer. At the present moment the Reserve numbers only 500 men of whom 107 are already serving on board of H.M.S. Niobe.

The Lords of the Admiralty have now telegraphed that they are now ready to take over the Newfoundland Reservists. So it is our duty to respond as soon as possible and arrange for their training.

The Fishermen and Landsmen have responded nobly to the call and we have sent one Soldier Regiment from all the Districts. It is now the Seamen's turn. Let us not fall the Old Country in the great struggle for liberty on which she is now engaged. Newfoundlanders of old have been known for centuries to be staunch and true and loyal to the King. It must never be said that the descendants of the old Sea-dogs, whose Fathers never failed when a blow had to be struck for Empire and for Right, are now absent when the Call is made.

The Admiralty call for 500 seamen from Newfoundland to engage for the period of one year. Let the best of the men of the Country come forward and report themselves on board H.M.S. "Calypso."

GOD SAVE THE KING.
Given under my Hand and Seal at the Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, this 31st day of October, 1914.

By His Excellency's Command,
JOHN R. BENNETT,
Colonial Secretary.

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ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

"UNDAUNTED" DID GREAT WORK

Sent the Four German Destroyers to the Bottom Within an Hour and a Half

London, October 28.—The first good description of the sea fight which resulted in the sinking of the four German torpedo boat destroyers off the Dutch coast by the British cruiser Undaunted and the torpedo boat destroyers Lance, Lennox, Legion and Loyal, is given by an officer of the Undaunted.

"When heading northward," the officer said, "we saw the smoke of four German vessels. The captain immediately ordered us to clear for action and to chase them. We steamed at top speed with the destroyers in chase of the Germans. It was an unforgettable sight. Our nerves were strained and everybody was as keen as mustard over our luck.

Germans Fled.
"The Germans turned about and fled, but we had the advantage in speed and soon they were in range of our six-inch bow chasers. Seeing themselves cornered the Germans altered their position, and answered our fire, aiming mostly at our destroyers.

"Lusty cheering rang from our ships as the first German destroyer disappeared. A shell struck her just below the bridge and she toppled over on her beam ends like a wounded bird, then righted herself to a level with the surface and finally plunged bow first beneath the waves. It was all over with her in two minutes.

Quick Work.
"In less than an hour after we had sighted the Germans the second destroyer was out of action. She was ablaze fore and aft, showing what the fearful shell work was doing. As one shell hit her the funnels, bridge, torpedo tubes and deck fittings all disappeared like magic.

"We actually passed over the spot where the first vessel was sunk and for the space of a couple of seconds as we tore through the water at the rate of over thirty knots an hour, we saw poor wretches floating about, clinging to charred and blackened debris and other wreckage. It was a pitiable sight, but we had two more combatants to put out of action and were forced to speed along and try to forget the sight.

Finished Other Two.
"The second ship, still a mass of flames, had sunk to the level of the water, and we soon had the remaining two holed and maimed. Their firing was poor, though several of their shells flew around and cast shrapnel bullets about us.

"The enemy fired many torpedoes, one of them missing the Undaunted's stern by only a few yards. Fortunately we saw the bubbles it made as it approached and thus avoided the fate of the Aboukir (a British cruiser sunk recently by a German submarine).

"An hour and a half after the Germans were sighted all was over with them and the order was given to save life."

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