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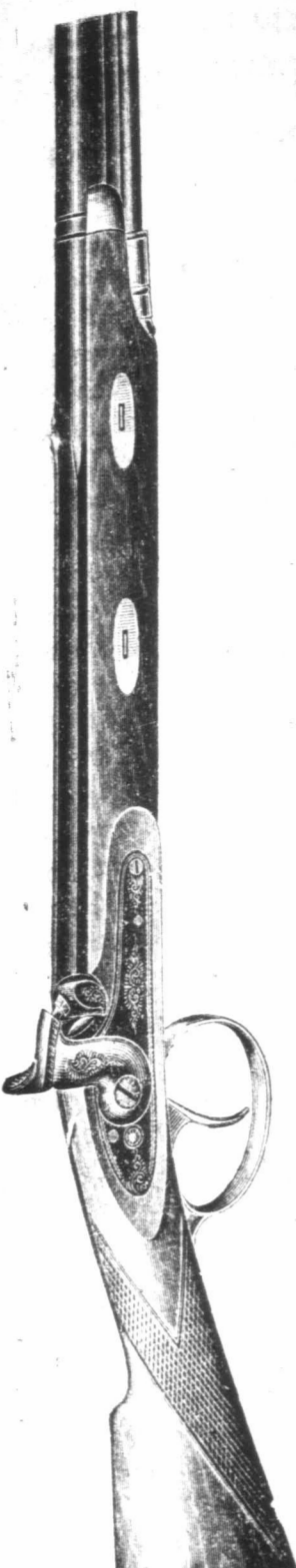
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Aunt Jane Writes on Pit-Prop Cutting

(To the Editor)
Dear Sir,—Will you permit me space in your most valuable paper to make a few remarks concerning pit-props in this place.
Well sir, during last winter there was a considerable lot of pit-props cut here, but it was just awful to how our men were treated. They were robbed of sixteen feet on each cord of pit-props, which meant a loss of \$70; quite a loss for poor labouring men these hard times.
I often wonder why our intended Government don't look after these things; to see that hard working classes should get their right and proper measurement; I think it is quite time for this thing to be looked after.
There is another little item I wish to make reference too. I wonder, Mr. Editor, why it is that our Government allow trout rivers to be blocked with those pit-props all summer.
When last writing to your paper I

was at Boyd's Cove, where I expected Kaiser F. would be pouring oil on the waters of that place; but when I arrived to Gander Bay things seemed to look as if he had been pouring oil on these waters to see the numbers of pit-props he had piled here, but he hasn't used quite enough yet; for there is some in the water here now, which very likely will be drifting away.
There was also quite a lot of green timber cut off our three-mile limit, destroying wood from us poor labouring men; and in different places hundreds of pieces are lying on the ground. We wonder why any man could not pick those up for his use.
As I have but lately arrived I haven't time to write more; but hope to do better next time.
Wish Mr. Coaker and his paper every success, and a triumphant victory in 1917.
Yours very truly,
AUNT JANE.
Gander Bay, Oct. 18, 1916.

Gander Bay will Support Coaker and the Union

(To the Editor)
Dear Sir,—Just a word to the readers of the Mail and Advocate to let them know that we are not all asleep at Gander Bay; but I must say we must all have been drowsy, or else we would have written to this dear old paper before.
Well, first I must say that this have been a poor summer with the fishermen, as the fish have been very scarce, and a worse summer with the lumbering men who have had to go in the woods, get up at early dawn and work until after dark to get at livelihood for themselves and their children.
Well, as I was looking over the Mail and Advocate to-day I saw that Aunt Jane was still alive. Go ahead Aunt Jane and let the readers know that you are not backward in helping Mr. Coaker through.

out of that. Well to say what is true Mr. Editor, they are not men who would work for it, as I can't call them nothing else only fools. If the North Side men would strike for more pay the South Side would back out, so one fool makes many.
Go ahead, Mr. Coaker, the Union men of Gander Bay are at your back, let it come rough or smooth, they help to back you up. So I'll wish the readers of the Mail and Advocate every success, as I am busy to-day potato digging. I'll write more often to let you know what we are doing at Gander Bay.
Thanking you for space,
Yours truly,
UNION MAN'S WIFE.
Gander Bay.
The Wise Father.

I see that you had a few words concerning pit props. What do you think of business men here that have had pit props lying in the water all the summer. Just imagine a turn of wood-lying in the water all the summer. Then take it out and it is like, well to tell the truth, Mr. Editor, it is worse than slush, and he wanted the poor men to take that out of the water for \$1.40 a day, and find themselves

The heir to the peerage was confessing, to his father, his violent love for the famous revue actress, and his faint hopes of winning her.
"How I adore her," he said. "But she's so beautiful, so fascinating, I know I never succeed in winning her love."
"Rot!" said the father. "Lots of other men have succeeded. Why shouldn't you?"

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Patriotism.

(To the Editor) *
Love of country, like love of wife, children and friends, or of such, or of such abstract qualities as truth, beauty, and strength, is sane only as long as it is controlled by a right sense of the proportion it bears to all the other factors governing human lives. Let it be idealized and endowed with Divine qualities, and it creates a false God, or idol, the worshippers of which are let by their unreasoning emotions into acts of madness and folly which bring incalculable harm and misery upon the human race. The world is now witnessing the stupendous and terrible results of such mad patriotism. Germany has been idealized into the god of its inhabitants. "Germany over all is their great cry, their chief desire. In the worship of this deity they are ready to sacrifice prosperity, home, family, life and honour and to trample upon truth, beauty and every other civilized virtue. Yet all these sacrifices in the service of their God are vain and foolish owing to the simple fact that like many other Gods this deity exists only in imagination. There is no such being as Germany. A portion of the surface of the planet may be enclosed by boundaries and called by that name, but the particular land so enclosed has the same characteristics as the remainder of the earth—it is obviously impossible for that land to be over any other part of the surface of this world. If the term "Germany" be applied to the inhabitants, or German nation, it is equally false to conceive it as a Being. A nation is not an individual, but is formed by individuals differing from each other in appearance, taste, intellectual abilities and innumerable ways. It is true that they may all be swayed by a common impulse or passion, but the same is true also of any other congregation of people, and is no evidence of a nation.
Thus the cry of "Germany over all" is pure nonsense if applied either

to the country itself or to its inhabitants. It can have a real meaning only by "Germany" is meant the Kaiser, or even the German Government. But in that case the people, through their insane desires to obtain power for their imaginary deity, are in fact undergoing huge sacrifices of all that makes life worthy living to themselves as individuals in order to face others into the same servile subjection to the Kaiser and his satellites as that from which they have so long suffered. It is quite certain that, if the German armies conquered the whole of Europe, the vast majority of Germans would enjoy no greater power than formerly; indeed, they would bind the chains of slavery more firmly on their own limbs. A sane patriotism is based on the rational principle, which is one of the foundations of a civilized society, that it is the duty of each individual to perform service in return for the service he receives from others. A crude example of this principle is the tailor making clothes for the man who makes his boots; but it is also exemplified in the case of the matter of munitions, docker, or other worker in the home country, who sacrifices his leisure and other comforts in order to assist the soldier, who is facing wounds and death to guard from destruction his family and countrymen. There can be no true civilization without mutual service; and justice dictates that our greatest service should be rendered to those from whom we receive most. Husband or wife, parents and children, employer or employed, rightly deserve our chief devotion; and so, in lessening degree, the folk of our parish, town, country, until we realize also our dependence upon, and duty towards, the whole of mankind. Sense of duty is decidedly not the only sentiment we should feel towards others. Happiness can never be complete unless it is accompanied by love and friendship. But our affections must be governed by rational principles or they are bound to create false values and so lead our efforts astray. It shows a wrong sense of proportion to permit love of country to exceed love of kin; but when danger threatens, the love of kin should strengthen patriotism. Similarly humanitarianism verges on the insane when it causes one to ignore one's duty towards one's countrymen; but the knowledge that the cause for which one fights is for the benefit of humanity should increase the satisfaction of performing patriotic duty. The worship of self is just as insane as the worship of country. A person who regulates his life entirely by considerations of his own advantage is bound to be led into acts of folly. Quite as much as he who makes a religion of patriotism. Such an individual must be entirely lacking in a proper sense of duty. Both the capitalist who tries to take advantage of war conditions to raise prices and accumulate wealth, and the labourer who joins in strikes for higher wages regardless of the effect of such action in limiting the supply of necessities and in encouraging the foe, are unfit to be members of a civilized society and unworthy of the enjoyment of any of its privileges since they ignore the fundamental society principle of mutual service. There has been no more fruitful of false gods, which is

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readily understood when we realize that gods are but the visionary embodiments of human sentiments and passion. The vain worship of power, in whatever form conceived, is the most fruitful of all. To the honour of the British people, their lands have ever been open to others, and foreigners have been permitted to enjoy equal privileges with the native-born inhabitants. Germans have been welcomed and have prospered among us, and therefore they can have no reasonable excuse for repaying our hospitality with savage murder and rapine. Unfortunately, Germany, has become their god, and the Kaiser his prophet, and the lust of power, which is the chief dogma of their religion, has obscured their reason and driven them to commit these crimes.
J. STIRLING.
St. John's, Oct. 2, 1916.

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