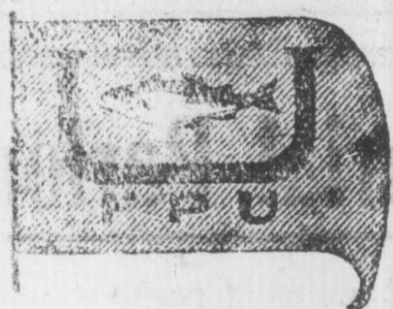


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The Mail and Advocate

Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S Nfld., DEC. 30, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The Sealing Disaster

ON this page we publish a letter from a "Sealer" who belongs to Wesleyville and is one of the most experienced men of Bonavista Bay. The question he puts is just what thousands are asking. To-day it is the foremost matter of conversation and instead of time having eased the situation it has intensified it and made it the chief topic of conversation throughout the Colony. The people are now aroused over this issue. They have seen that another attempt has been made to fool them. They read evidence supposed to be about the disaster that any intelligent man knows is nonsense and not intended to solve the issues which have arisen out of those awful disasters. They hear witnesses say they were prevented from giving evidence they wished to give. That they were only permitted to answer the silly questions put to them and were cut off scornfully when they attempted to give their own version of affairs. All this the people have heard from witnesses who have come on here to give evidence and have returned to tell the story.

They see Dr. Lloyd there, paid to do so by the Government and appointed to do so by the Government. They know he does not represent them, for no one but the Government asked him to make such a tangle of the case for the dead men's relatives.

They see Judges of the Supreme Court coming off the bench they adorned to mix up in a tangle that only experienced sealers could unravel.

They see the Dummy Minister who was kicked out of public life by Trinity fishermen acting for the Government, and they know Squires and Morris cares as much about the slaughtering of 78 sealers as they do about public opinion in the North.

Who on earth does Squires represent? What right had he—a Mummy Minister of the Crown—to be there? Why did not the Commission select Counsel to represent it, and why were not the sealers through the F.P.U. asked to select Counsel to represent the relatives of the dead men?

We reply—and we defy anyone to deny our assertion—the chief reason is that if the F. P. U. had selected Counsel to represent the men the evidence adduced would have amazed the world and stripped Abram Kean of the command of any ship in the future and proved that some wooden ships were no better than floating coffins and that the Southern Cross was no better than she ought to be.

Perhaps some ships that will clear for the icefields this spring would be forced to remain in port if the F.P.U. were allowed too free a hand in se-

lecting the evidence that the Commission would be asked to hear.

Again, we denounce the present proceedings as a farce. No good will come from its stupendous (!) labors. Great harm will flow from the proceedings. For years to come this farce will be remembered by the people. Election after election will find this contemptible trick brought forward against all and sundry connected with it.

For years the Judges of the Supreme Court will be connected with this rotten business. Men will in future lose the respect they always had for the Bench, because of its connection with this sealing disaster muddle.

The name of Morris will stink forever in the nostrils of the fishermen because of his trickery and knavery in relation with this awful destruction of human life.

Gentlemen, this matter must be fought to a finish. On the floors of the House of Assembly the coming winter this scandal and crime against the people will be exposed and out of it those responsible will only crawl after swallowing medicine as bitter as ever administered to a horse.

Past conditions will not now save Premiers, Judges or Dummy Ministers from swallowing their medicine. New conditions have arisen and the people will find a way to bring home wrong-doings and trickery to the perpetrators, no matter what the consequences.

The slaughter of 251 toilers will not pass unavenged and if influence and red tape can sway enquiries and big fees can find legal men ready to dance to the tune of the people's insulters, the people will demand full payment with big interest in their own way and in their own time.

Never again will Trinity Bay elect Dr. Lloyd as their representative. He took his political life in his hands when he defied the F.P.U. in this Commission farce and he will pay the penalty meted out to all traitors-of the people's interests.

This matter will not be dropped until a square deal is afforded the interests of the fishermen, and we care not who is mixed up with this outrage against the people, they will have to swallow their medicine.

He who thinks he can coddle the people in this year of Grace as those in authority have attempted to do over this slaughter of 251 breadwinners will if he lives long enough be a wiser and sadder man.

Thank God, fishermen, for one blessing, and that blessing is that eight true and faithful representatives of the F.P.U. occupy seats in the House of Assembly, and they will do their duty as your representatives fearlessly, or die in the attempt.

One you thought would be true has turned traitor, and the lesson of electing men to represent you who are outside of your own party is being so well learnt that "never again," "never again," has now become your watchword, and who but timeservers will condemn your decision.

WORLD'S PRESS ON THE BIG WAR

SITUATION UNCHANGED

New York Tribune:—Of actual invasion the attack (on the East coast) contains hardly a suggestion. Much as we can admire the skill of the attack, we are bound to feel that the military situation of the opposing fleets and of England's relative safety from invasion remains unchanged.

BELGIUM

London News and Leader:—Belgium—a land of graves, with thousands of half-starved, ill-clad refugees tramping dejectedly through the slush and snow, past the brightly lighted hotels full of noisy, well-fed soldiers to the ruins of the villages where there is not enough food to maintain even the remnant already there.

STRATEGIC RAILWAYS

London Mail:—In Western Russia and Poland, the map reveals vast empty spaces, and railways are very few and far between. The money for the construction of military railways has already been voted in Petrograd, but it was known that the railways could not be completed before 1916, and this knowledge certainly contributed to Germany's resolve to declare war when she did.

BRITISH LOSSES

London Times:—Since the outbreak of the war our Army has suffered losses amounting to 84,000, counting killed, wounded and "missing." These losses are no more than we should have expected, considering the character and the magnitude of the war; but we trust the figures now revealed will bring home to the country some conception of that terrific struggle in which the British Empire is bearing its part.

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A screaming farce-comedy, with some splendid costumes, and surprising effects. YOU OUGHT TO SEE THEM!

SEALER ASKS VITAL QUESTIONS

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—The people have been watching very closely the proceedings of the Sealing Disaster Commission and are hoping that something will be done by it to show the public if anyone was responsible for the slaughter of seventy-eight of our fellow countrymen. Judging from the proceedings so far, the people believe that the investigation will be another bluff of the Government. Surely this Commission does not intend to let this become the same sort of a farce as it was last spring before Judge Knight. As far as one can learn, the public intends to demand that either this commission or one to be soon appointed must decide who is responsible for the disaster. The people do not intend to permit such a massacre of their friends and relatives to go without punishment to the parties responsible.

I hope that these men who compose the Commission of Enquiry will consider that the country at large is watching their actions just as it watched the progress of the enquiry into the losses of the Titanic and Empress of Ireland. Here are some of the questions asked and answered by the ordinary man.

Who is responsible for having signalled the Newfoundland to send out her Crew? Capt. Abram Kean.

Who sent the men away to travel to the Stephano? Capt. Wes Kean, because his father signalled for him to do so.

On what conditions did Capt. Wes Kean send his men to his father's ship? That they were to pan seals and board his father's ship for the night.

Who failed to carry out these conditions? George Tuff, because he listened to Capt. Kean's reasonings.

Why did he do as Kean advised? Because Capt. Kean assured him there would be no weather and it would be an easy matter for them to reach their ship that night.

Who put the men on the ice and made no attempt to rescue them when

the storm broke in its fury? Capt. Abram Kean.

Who could have rescued the men if he had made any attempt to do so? Capt. Abram Kean.

Who refused to bother about the Newfoundland's crew when others on the Stephano were continually asking the question What about the Newfoundland's men? Capt. Abram Kean.

There are many other questions similar to these being asked continually among the masses. Some may think that the writer wants Capt. Abram Kean to be blamed for the whole affair. That is not my intention. What I do want is the Commission of Enquiry to show that it is in earnest about the matter and that it will proceed in a manner which will secure the good-will of the country.

As things are at present, it looks as if human life is less protected than brute animal life. An act was passed in the Legislature last winter which protects a dog from being harnessed until it grows to a certain weight and provides that the dog must be looked after and well fed. But it appears that a man can be destroyed with impunity because he is only a toiler and the widows, orphans and aged parents have to suffer while the destroyer goes without being brought to account for his negligence and his refusal to use common sense, when placed in a position of great responsibility.

If we had had a Coaker to agitate when former evil deeds and disasters took place, there would be no one mourning today over the loss of the seventy-eight who died on the icefloes and the one hundred and seventy-three who sank with the old worn-out Southern Cross. Go ahead, Mr. Coaker, the people are at your back and expect you to keep up the fight. Right triumphs and wrong-doers will be punished. The Northern men will stand by you to the last man on this disaster business. The people now plainly recognise that their only friend is Coaker and their only mouth piece The Mail and Advocate. Come

The Bear's Onward March

In the eastern theatre of war, the success of the Russian Bear seems assured. Winter is coming on—the Russians are prepared. They are a hardy race and cold does not affect them. We in Newfoundland consider ourselves hardy, but nevertheless we must also prepare ourselves to withstand the elements. To be comfortable during winter, dry feet are essential. You can have them by wearing only the Best Rubbers, i.e., Bear Brand. You can buy them from Moor & Co. (have you seen the bear in their window?) W. R. Goobie, Nichol, Inkpen & Chafe, Steer Bros., Jesse Whiteway and J. M. Devine.—dec5,14

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

FOR SALE—One Dwelling House, Store and Work Shop combined. Will sell at a bargain. For further particulars apply to W. J. DOVE, Chance Hr. East.—dec5,14

FOR SALE—We have a quantity of Large Dry Codfish, suitable for eating, which we are retailing at a reasonable figure. Anyone wanting eating fish should see this before buying elsewhere. FISHERMEN'S UNION TRADING CO.—dec18

The "One Dip" Pen—(1 dip and write 600 words). Box of 12 pens, 25c. Box of 12 pens, Silver Plated, 35c. Sample, 5c. THE OLD COLONY SUPPLY CO. AGTS., 213 New Gower Street, St. John's, Newfoundland.—dec28,m.w.sat

NOTICE.—Owing to the Conception Bay Convention to be held at Coley's Point the second week in January, there will be no meeting of Port de Grave District Council until that Convention is closed, when due notice will be given of the time and place of meeting. GEO. F. GRIMES, Chairman, Port de Grave District Council.

men of the North and West; stand by Coaker in his sealing fight and let us win or die. We can't allow two hundred and seventy-one of our fellow toilers to be massacred with impunity.

Wesleyville, Dec. 27, 1914.

Anyone can repair a roof with Elastic Roofing Cement Paint. It is easy and ready to apply. No heating required. You can do the work yourself with an ordinary whitewash brush. P. H. COWAN, Agent.

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.—dec5

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