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G. Knowling

Limited.

Jan 14, 31, 1918

Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - - Proprietor
H. A. WINTER, B.A., - - - Editor

MONDAY, January 14th, 1918.

The Unkindest Cut.

We must at least concede Mr. Coaker the credit of keeping his nose in the game of political poker which he is playing. Bluffing on a hand that contains nothing to bet on, and finding the other side unafraid of him, he has now "raised" the pool. He has done this by causing the arrest, on a charge of criminal libel, of Sir W. D. Reid for the publication of the revelations lately made by him. Unfortunately for Mr. Coaker, this will only make the game more expensive for him and impress none but a few onlookers. It will possibly have a momentary effect upon those who may not know that it is in the power of any corner boy to institute a prosecution; intelligent persons will reserve judgment until the course and issue of the trial, if it ever comes to that. The announcement of this act of offense against Mr. Coaker's part is made by the Advocate in its largest and blackest type. It will be interesting to see beside it, in this respect, the Advocate's report of the final proceedings.

Meanwhile, our attention has been distracted from this important matter by another, not altogether unexpected, and what the general subject of it. Why has the Herald turned suddenly unkind to Mr. Coaker and dealt him the worst blow at the worst moment? It is possible to imagine? The following, from its editorial columns of Saturday, is worth reprinting here:

WHY HE RESIGNED.

"F. A. Mackenzie writes to the Montreal Star, thus:—
"London, Jan. 5.—Sir Edward Morris' resignation from the Newfoundland Premiership was partly influenced by a desire to facilitate conscription. It is realized that such a measure, which is growingly necessary for Newfoundlanders on account of the tremendous part they have taken in the fighting, would be better carried if introduced by leaders popular in the fishermen's party. Sir Edward Morris received much warm commendation on his resignation. The Times places him among the great imperial statesmen of our time, declaring he has played a large part in transforming Newfoundland from being the 'Cinderella of the Empire' to be in a state of prosperity and progressiveness."

We need not dwell upon Sir Edward Morris' part in this. The explanation preferred of his resignation will surprise no one here, since his explanations of it have been many and various, being merely changed and adapted to the particular audience to which they have been given. We will also pass over the peculiar logic of the reception which British audiences seem to have given to this one, contenting ourselves with expressing some wonder at the mental processes of those who see matter for applause in the conduct of a Prime Minister who, realizing fully the necessity of conscription in his country, thinks it the part of patriotism at so critical a time, to delegate to another the task of accomplishing the change, and that other the political leader whom he has just formed an alliance in the "national" interest! Apparently conscription is not a national affair. This explanation satisfies the English, and the act of desertion is hailed as an instance of the highest patriotism. And yet some people are surprised that there should be occasional misunderstandings between the mother country and the dominions!

But the most important aspect of

Coaker. The late Premier is here this matter is that which concerns Mr. Coaker's way to enable him to introduce conscription. This is published by the Herald on the very day on which Mr. Coaker comes out openly as an anti-conscriptionist. He is stated to have said at the British Hall meeting that "it was for the purpose of preventing conscription that he was there to aid the cause of voluntary enlistment." Mr. Coaker will answer this with the qualification that he is "opposed to conscription in any form unless referred to the country."

Supreme Court.

(Before the Chief Justice.)

The Dominion Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., through their counsel Mr. H. E. Knight, asked leave to pay into Court the sum of \$14,400.88 in full discharge and satisfaction of all claims of the plaintiff May King and all the dependents of Edward King, deceased, who met death while in the employ of the said company. Mr. McNelly for the plaintiff, consents to the amount stated.

(Before Mr. Justice Kent.)
The hearing of the adjourned case of Capt. William Davis vs. Smith Co., Ltd., was continued. Mr. J. A. W. McNelly, for defendant, asks leave to add a counter claim, which is objected to by Mr. L. E. Emerson, counsel for the plaintiff.

How Lieut. Tobin Was Killed.

The subjoined letter from Commander H. W. Lewis tells how the gallant Lieut. James Tobin, who was so well known in St. John's, met his death:—
131217 B.E.F.

Dear Mrs. Tobin:—You will have heard the sad news of the death of your son in the great battle of November 20th, and I am now writing to you in the deepest sympathy in your great loss.

Your son was killed instantaneously while most gallantly leading his company in a charge on a bridge which the enemy were holding, and it seems so hard that he should have been killed at the moment of success.

I can only say that the capture of this most important point was due in a very great measure to your son's most gallant leading.

I knew your son well, and had formed a very high opinion of his ability as an officer, so that to me personally and to the whole Regiment his loss is very great.

You will be glad to know that we made a small cemetery close to the front, and that he was buried there together with other men whom he led so gallantly.

Will you please accept my sincerest sympathy.

Believe me, yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) A. L. HADOW,
Lt.-Col. Commanding Nfld. Regt.

Judge Morris

CRITICIZES PROHIBITION ACT.

During the hearing of a case against a resident of St. John's, charged with selling hop beer containing more than two per cent. of alcohol, contrary to the Prohibition Act, Judge Morris, this morning, made a scathing indictment of the law in so far as it was monopolizing our liberties. In dealing at length with the many absurdities of the act, he said that the worst was that although the Licensing Act was suspended by the Prohibition Act, the former was still in full swing in its provisions. He said he was as much in favor of Prohibition and for the elimination of drunkenness in the city as any one, but he was not prepared to see our liberties sacrificed and menaced, adding that the people would refuse to tolerate such much longer and rise up against it. In this case the defendant had been guilty of a breach of the act because he sold beer containing over two per cent. of alcohol, which is the limit prescribed by law. The Judge stated this was a hardship, as he knew as a citizen that even spruce beer was unfit for consumption unless it contained about three or four per cent. However, he had to give judgment as the law read, and was sorry he had to impose the minimum fine of \$100 or 30 days imprisonment on this poor man. In conclusion he expressed the hope that this Government or any other Government would see fit to remedy matters.

Mt. Cashel

Entertainment.

We have again to remind the public, especially the theatre-loving public, that the annual entertainment, in aid of Mt. Cashel Orphanage, will take place on next Thursday and Friday nights, at the Casino Theatre. It is scarcely necessary to point out the worthiness of the object, apart from which the performances, as in the past, will be of such rare excellence as to ensure crowded audiences. Tickets are now on sale at the Atlantic Bookstore, and intending patrons would do well to secure their seats as early as possible.

Reid's Boats.

The Argyle left Placentia at 3 a.m. yesterday, on winter route.

The Clyde, Dundee and Ethie are at St. John's.

The Glenora sails to-morrow at 10 a.m.

The Home arrived at Lewisport at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Reserved Seat Tickets for the Entertainment in aid of Mount Cashel Orphanage will be for sale at the Atlantic Bookstore this evening at 5 o'clock.—li

The Menace to the Country.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Sir,—There can be no possible doubt that Newfoundland is now trembling on the verge of the most vital crisis which has arisen in her history, and those who have a stake in the country will await with grave anxiety the decision that shall be given at the Polls in the near future. The policy, principle, and capabilities of Mr. Coaker and his followers have been very fully displayed during the past six months. Since July, by reason of their numbers in the Executive Council, they have been supreme in power, and the public have been able to judge what Coakerism means when applied to the Government of the country. The thinking portion of the public, I am sure, want the scandal ended, and the menace to the country removed. They have seen, as I pointed out yesterday, Mr. Coaker and his followers declaring from their places in the House of Assembly the responsibility of the Reid Railway Company for the horrible death of eight persons, and they have seen these men clothed with power to obtain justice for the friends of the victims, yet remaining as inactive as the dead. They have seen Mr. Coaker and his followers declaring from their places in the House of Assembly that the whole railway system is a wreck, and a menace to the lives of thousands who travel over the lines, and they have seen no steps taken to prevent the horrors they professed to regard as inevitable. They have seen the Advocate, the official organ of the Coakerites, as silent on these matters as though all that they had proclaimed wrong had been put right, and yet, nothing whatever done to safeguard the lives of the public. They have seen Mr. Coaker and his friends charged with the crime of diverting fifty thousand dollars of the public funds to the improvement of the Union Trading Company's property, and they have seen Mr. Coaker try to justify it, in the Advocate, by alleging that the Morris Government had done something of the same kind for the A. N. D. Company. They have seen Mr. Coaker and his friends charged with the crime of diverting fifty thousand dollars of the public funds to the improvement of the Union Trading Company's property, and they have seen Mr. Coaker try to justify it, in the Advocate, by alleging that the Morris Government had done something of the same kind for the A. N. D. Company.

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