

Lack of Labor During Winter Leaves Many People in Labrador in Chronic State of Destitution -- Additional Source of Income Necessary.

Special to Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—
During the twenty odd years which I have spent in Newfoundland and Labrador, I have become more and more convinced of two facts: First, that for all these northern sections, some additional source of income is necessary to give labor during the winter. The fisheries, even in the best years, and at the high prices ruling this year, leave quite a large number of people in chronic destitution. There can be no use in anonymous letter writers or irresponsible editors denying this fact. People are leaving every year, forced out by their inability to get remunerative work in winter. I have on my list now many names of families clamoring for a chance to get out of British Columbia, or any other place where the fear of the wolf of hunger at the door in the long winters will no longer necessarily overshadow them. We have on our register of medical cases, year after year, records of scurvy, beri-beri, tuberculosis, and marasmus troubles of every kind due to no other reason than poverty of diet. Here add there are richer men. Quite a number of our Treaty Shore people have money invested in Western Canada as well as here—money which they are afraid to invest far off, and yet have no safe local investment in which to put it.

A people's co-operative store, like the Flower's Cove co-operative store, Ltd., which has some thousands of dollars capital, every cent of which is owned by the people themselves, has conferred perhaps its greatest boon on these shareholders by giving them a safe investment, which for many years now has paid ten per cent. regularly. Its success is due to its management, I might truthfully say to its manager. But all I wish to emphasize with regard to it is that it has afforded, as has Red Bay co-operative store to the people on the other side of the Straits, a safe investment, as the trade is on a cash basis. In spite of all this success there remains, however, a large proportion, for whom each year we are asked to create work, or provide charity, as the fishery alone has failed to support them. Moreover the call for an old age pension for all fishermen over a certain age, suggests very strongly that it is not possible for the majority to provide for their own old age—or for their children to support them. I for one, am most absolutely convinced that this is the case, and I draw my conclusions from most carefully kept records, so far as our coast is concerned.

Grants of road money and special grants for wharves are still eagerly sought for and sent without any reference to the most economic way of getting good work, or often any work at all. I have signed many petitions during these twenty years for just such roads and wharves, actuated chiefly by the desire that a paltry few hundred dollars might be distributed in the district, though perfectly conscious how inefficient such a use of money is.

The one essential thing we need now is a good high road connecting our villages. This shall never get unless some intelligent Civil Service methods are adopted.

The second fact of which I am convinced by sad experience is that no ordinary agriculture will ever form the alternate source of income in which the future population of this

coast can depend to provide for them the furnishings of life which "even the labouring classes" are rightly learning to demand. Mere tea, loaf, molasses and tub butter, even if fortified with some salt pork and beef and a cheap ham or two, certainly not a desirable maximum to look forward to for life; and unless sensible, skilled effort, fearless of voters, can be found to pay for, in order to develop the resources which I am equally convinced Newfoundland has in her possessions, unpatriotic as it may seem to some, the kindest thing by far to the present generation is to send many of these families to British Columbia and the West where those very capacities with which they are so abundantly endowed, are so greatly needed, and where so many have gone previously, have enormously improved their condition in very short time. As I travelled all through the West last year, I speak from personal acquaintance with uncontrovertible facts.

The answer of many Newfoundlanders will be that there is plenty of work in the mines, at logging, etc. Some men, however, do not like that work, and some men cannot do it. Anyhow it would mean giving up living on this coast, and as our people hear now from Newfoundland and Labrador friends who have already gone West what possibilities there are for them to rise, if once they do move, it will certainly be West. The "patriotic" argument will not and should not keep men who have growing children, and who realize the difference in opportunities, from taking this step to what is only another section of the Empire in any case.

Moreover, most men whom I meet are longing for Confederation, and rightly I think, believing that Canada and Newfoundland should be really part of the same section of the Empire.

We need down here development fostered by capital and specially skilled men. It is ridiculous to resent sending to Timbuctoo if it is necessary, to get the right man. The better fostering of the resources which we have will amply justify the higher pay to a specialist from outside if that is necessary.

Then there must be men to enforce the laws. There are any quantity of good laws, but an utter lack of efficiency in their enforcement and what is more lamentable still, very little fairness. They deter only the weak and the good; the former because he is always the first to be punished, and the latter because he has too much self respect to break them anyhow.

The method of appointing wardens, etc., by political favor and not by an efficient Civil Service has made me blush many times, when outsiders, discovering the farcial work done, have led to think that a matter so serious to our general welfare was simply a joke to make merry at.

Truth is the only real road to progress, and yet experience has taught me that many of our people shrink from publicly expressing opinions which they confess privately that they hold, because of the violence of personal criticism which is so lamentably common in our newspapers; and also they fear the local petty persecution when political favors are being distributed.

No real progress can be made where the man who does the work, whether it be by his hands or his head, does not get a square deal. Efforts to improve his conditions of life are of the utmost importance, but progress cannot be made unless the work is done, and in reality it is as important to the laborer as to the capitalist that it should be accomplished by the most efficient method, so as to get the best results with the least proportional expenditure.

Thus why have not one single main road down here? Such a thing is often a matter of life and death. Perhaps it is better to be concrete. Ireland's Bight, Lock's Cove, Cape Norman, Griquet, St. Leonard's, Brabant, Goose Cove are all within an hour's drive of St. Anthony. If we had a good main road, properly kept up, Conche, Englee, Canada Head, Rod-

dickton, St. Julien's, and all the Straits Shore to Flower's Cove, could be reached within a few hours if there were a highway connecting them. Men and women suffer and die—and now that we have a telegraph we cannot help knowing it—just for the lack of this main road. This loss will mean ultimate expense to the country in relief.

What is the reason we have no proper road? Not because there has not been enough money given for the purpose, but because of the inefficiency of the Civil Department. Surely it is better economy to pay a qualified road maker to make a road than to divide an annual grant among all hands at one dollar a day, people who have no knowledge of how to go about the work, no pride of results, and not even the tools with which to start.

It is cheaper far to have efficient civil servants make the bridges, wharves and public necessities, than to put upon political representatives the onus of refusing their support to that which an evil heritage has taught them to expect of them. Only yesterday we debated with one of our best friends here his own statement that he showed the depth of ignorance in his neighbourhood, that after the member for our coast gave him forty dollars to rebuild his house which had burned down, he should go and vote for the candidate on the other side, whom he thought was the better man.

It is of prime importance, both for progress and economy that in a country of such a small population, where the vote of the individual counts for so much more than in a large country, that there should be a strong Civil Service for all Government employees, entrance into which body is gained only by some competition showing particular merits and qualifications of the men appointed in each special branch. The tenure of office in this body would depend entirely upon merit and efficiency, and as independent of political partisanship as green cheese.

A perusal of our Newfoundland public newspapers would show how the irresponsible position to which the present system leads. I have heard well known Newfoundlanders reel off lists of incompetent political hacks plucked into office; and I have been forced by the facts of my own experience to endorse their criticisms. Our representatives should not be exposed to this. A strong Civil Service would protect them.

My article is too long to add to it now. But apropos of new industries and conservation of resources, the eye of the world is now largely turned to the domestication of wild animals which are of no value to man, and the adaptation of these animals to the environment which exists. Thus, here is a barren headland called St. Anthony Cape. Wild hay sufficient to feed a cow might, with quite unjustifiable expenditure of labour be gathered upon it. Yet on this one thousand reindeer fenced in, and worth anywhere from twenty to fifty dollars a piece, grazed and thrived. This year the same headland can support as many more quite easily.

Over ten years ago we established here a small fox farm, convinced that the domestication of wild animals was no longer an experiment. But through continued discouragements we abandoned the scheme altogether.

We expect this present year to sell \$10,000 of furs. We have already sold over \$3,000, and are expending between two and three thousand dollars on the experiment annually on this coast.

Last spring we were instrumental in inducing a company from the United States to start fox farming in this country on a large scale, and this winter small farms have been established both on the Labrador and one on the French Shore as well. In this respect also my experiences of many years as a Magistrate down here have convinced me that while we have laws made with every good intention, there is no efficient method of enforcing them. General knowledge is not sufficient; only expert and well experienced specialists can expect to give us an adequate code and method for dealing with these problems, which, however, are of vital importance. Game laws designed for Avion are really cruel when adapted at once for the Treaty Shore and Labrador; nor are they enforced.

Only last week I met no less than six men going into the country to fetch out deer which they had killed in the fall. But all carried rifles or guns or both. No one can realize the possibilities of three developments without studying such works as the Blue Book of 1913 of the Alaskan Reindeer Department, or the Quebec Government monograph by E. D. Chambers on fur bearing animals, or the account of what the United States Bureau of Fisheries is doing in Alaska in enhancing the fur and fish wealth.

The rapidly diminishing number of seals all along the coast owing to the destruction of young seals in the ice fields is perhaps the most serious menace to progress this coast is experiencing. There is no defence in the whole realm of science which can justify as economically sound the wholesale destruction of mammals at their breeding time—especially such animals as have only one young. Without any question our children will not rise up to bless us for depleting these seal herds.

WILFRED T. GRENFELL, M.D., Etc.

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Nice light patterns. 15 in. wide 9c. 18 in. wide 11c.

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STAIR CANVAS.
Painted Back 18 inches wide Regular 20c. for. **18c**

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Made of German Wool. Size 90 x 72. Colors, Grey, Green and Blue. Suitable for carriage wraps or camp blankets. Reg. \$1.60 value for. **\$1.25**

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Men's Suits from the spring's latest models, finished in good style. Brown and Grey, etc., comprising style and durability. Price starting **\$6.00**

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P. F. COLLINS, The Peoples' Store.

New Hudson's For Newfoundland.

This new model is selling like ripe cherries. Our second shipment is just to hand. Every Machine sold before we had even time to unpack them. If you're going to cycle this season, hurry up and place your order with us for a Model F. New Hudson, fitted with the famous Armstrong 3 Speed Gear. Hill climbing becomes a pleasure on one of these machines. Call in now and leave your order, next shipment to arrive by s.s. Digby.

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BOWRING BROTHERS, Ltd.

Cable News.

Special to Evening Telegram.
BETTINE, To-day.
The International naval force, commanded by Vice Admiral Burney, of the British navy took possession yesterday of the fortress of Scutari. The International force were escorted into the city by a Montenegrin guard of honor.

Special to Evening Telegram.
LONDON, To-day.
A secret agreement between Russia and China, was signed recently, according to the Peking correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, under which China concedes autonomy to outer Mongolia, whose frontier has been delimited. This agreement, which the correspondent says is certain to create a storm throughout China when it becomes known. It gives Kobdo, Ulaanote, besides all Kirghiz country, to an autonomous Mongolia, which measures more than half a million square miles. No surrender has been proclaimed since 1898, when Fort Arhan and Kison Chau Coups were recognized by treaty.

Drop It.

If you have a habit bad, Drop it.
Be a manly little lad— Drop it.
Hard at first the task may be, But to win the victory, Be determined to be free; Drop it.
Have you learned to smoke or swear Drop it.
If you answer, "I don't care," Drop it.
Do you truant like to play Or your parents disobey? Stop before you farther stray— Drop it.
Be it that or be it this Drop it.
Since you know that wrong it is, Drop it.
Be a manly little lad, Always pure and sweet and glad, If you have a habit bad, Drop it.
MILBARD'S LINTMENT CURES DIPHTHERIA.

Supreme Court.

The Grand Jury found a true bill against Corbett for assault. In Murray vs. Bonaventure S. S. Co. several witnesses were examined.

Here and There.

BEOTHIC SAILS.—The s.s. Beothic sails this evening for Sydney, to load coal for this port.
SECURED TWO QUINTALS.—Mr. Richard LeDrew, of Bay Bulls, secured two quintals of fish on Thursday of last week. The prospects are good, and he is preparing for it.

20 cases Fresh Eggs,

To be sold at Lowest Prices to clear.
JAS. B. KNIGHT,
Commission Merchant

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St. John's Leading Vaudeville House.
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New Songs, Dances, Jokes, THREE REELS and GRAPHICS.
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This property (recently occupied by Mrs. Score) is situated in the East End, and comprises Dwelling House, Stables, Large Store, &c., and Extensive Ground. Commands the very best view of the city and harbour. The property will be sold as a whole or in lots. A splendid chance for investment in real estate. Apply to
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Solicitor.
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WANTED—A Man to take charge of the Retail Department in a store on Water Street, on salary and commission; must have a good education, a capable director and a total abstainer; a good chance for a live man; one with a small sum of money to invest preferred. Apply by letter only to "SUCCESS," P. O. Box 177. Strictly confidential. may9,6ed,tf

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