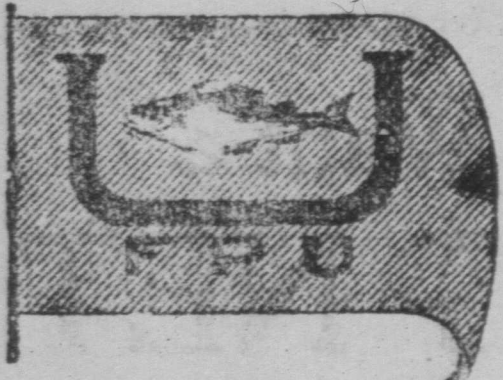


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(To Every Man His Own.)

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JUNE 1st, 1914

**OUR POINT OF VIEW.**

**A CONTRAST**

OF MORE than ordinary interest to the people of Newfoundland is the announcement made in the cable message to-day regarding the investigation of the terrible "Empress of Ireland" disaster.

The collision that sent the big liner to bottom with upwards of a thousand of her human complement occurred in the early hours of Friday morning, May 29th; on Saturday, the 30th, hardly twenty-four later, it was announced that the Dominion Government was taking immediate steps to probe the matter to the bottom.

To-day, according to the cabled message, legislation will be introduced in the House of Parliament at Ottawa, authorising the appointment of a specially constituted Commission of three members, one of them, with special experience in Admiralty matters, to be appointed by the Admiralty.

More than this. While the proposed commission is to enquire specially into the circumstances surrounding the wreck of the "Empress of Ireland," it will be retained as a permanent body to deal with any cases of extreme gravity that may occur in the future.

The Canadian authorities are to be commended for the promptness of their step. Over a thousand precious lives were snuffed out in a few minutes by the disaster, and the Dominion Government at once recognized it was incumbent on them to inquire minutely into all the circumstances and to place any responsibility in the proper quarters.

But, other countries—other manners. Two months ago almost four-score lives were lost at the icefields from the crew of the steamer "Newfoundland." A few days later, the "Southern Cross" with a complement of one hundred and seventy men was given up as lost with all hands.

Except for the holding of an abortive magisterial inquiry, on coroners inquest, the authorities of this country have done absolutely nothing in the matter. Two hundred and fifty of our population were victims of the two marine fatalities, but nobody

seems to bother a bit about it, excepting, of course, the many families who mourn the loss of breadwinners. Think of it! The disasters to the crews of the "Newfoundland" and the "Southern Cross" caused the death of one man out of every thousand of our population and saddled the country with the care of thousands of helpless women and children. They have made this country the subject of world-wide charity, yet it seems to be nobody's business to probe the occurrences and to establish the question of liability.

Canada suffered somewhat by the loss of life in the "Empress of Ireland," but our loss in human lives this spring was, proportionate to population, much greater than that of the Dominion by the recent disaster.

Yet Canada does not allow a day to pass before deciding to take immediate steps to investigate the affair, while in the case of this country weeks pass into months and still nothing is done, nor are we even in a position to state that a competent Commission of Investigation is to be appointed by the Government of this Colony.

Apart from anxiety to punish, if necessary, the parties in any way responsible for the recent disaster, Canada is, doubtless, actuated by a desire to restore faith in her shipping, and in the safeguarding of human life in her great waterways.

What is the secret of the dilatoriness of the authorities of this country?

Are the Government actuated by motives of political expediency? If so, the curse of a bereaved country will forever blast their party ambitions at the first opportunity.

Or, do they regard the appalling loss of life to our seafaring population as a matter of little concern?

Then the men who now occupy office as administrators of our public affairs have sealed their own political doom and our electors will henceforth regard them as utterly unfit for preferment to places of honor.

No matter what the motive for the delay, the fact remains that the Government of Sir Edward Morris has dallied with a question involving such important issues as life and death, and there can be no question at all that they have thereby owned themselves undesirable in public life, and as beyond doubt unfit to hold office as stewards of the public interests of Newfoundland.

**ANSWER TO "INDIGNANT"**

WE WILL refer the matter to Downey and the sheep buying to Mr. Coaker. It is likely he can ferret out all the doings of the Agricultural Commission.

Your complaint seems well grounded for it has come to our ears too. Although Downey received \$125 per month expenses to purchase those sheep, he did not do the buying at all, but let the job out to his political friends, who bought the scrub of Cape Breton and paid from \$3.50 to \$5.00 a piece for them. One could purchase carloads of the same kind of sheep among the Cape Breton farmers for three or four dollars.

These miserable scrubby rams cost the country \$10.00 a piece at Sydney. Car loads of them were brought in and scattered over St. George district. They were dumped off in bunches of six, and in some cases, there was nobody to take the animals after their landing. At Robinson's Head the sheep were "left on the parish" to run wild, but what mattered it. Downey got his graft, and the sheep were landed.

Of some of the car loads it was said that if you were to search all the wide district of St. George's you could not find a half car load of so shabby a lot of sheep.

The whole question needs a thorough overhauling, and we promise our correspondent "Indignant" that when Mr. Coaker gets on the trail, there will be complete investigation.

The Morris agricultural policy has been one of the greatest hoaxes and frauds ever perpetrated on a people. It has been the source of much corruption. It began by the irregular and illegal appointment of Downey and others. The appointment of those commissioners struck at the very root of an honest and independent parliament, and was in itself an overt act of dishonesty, and part of a gigantic policy of boodle and corruption.



him another chance to bring about our country's complete embarrassment. We elected him again to power, and we were induced to commit the blunder, because we allowed our religious prejudices to sway our judgment.

Then came one boasting of his being a native, and a lover of the land of his birth. How has he proven his love of country? Ask of any person on the street and he will answer. He will point to a once prosperous country brought to the verge of bankruptcy through the bungling and blunders of Morris. He will point to a country at the mercy of a remorseless contractor. He will point to increased salaries on the one hand and to increased taxation on the other. He will point to a deficit in the revenue, and an empty chest. He will point to largely overdrawn accounts at the bank and Morris's failure to secure a loan in London.

All these he will point to, then he will show you how the country's business is reduced to a low ebb, with the bigger concerns reducing their staffs and nothing new being undertaken.

He then will tell you how the country's eyes are turned in confidence to the one man who is capable of helping us. Coaker is looked upon as the hope of the country. He has the power behind him and he has the will and the ability to extricate us from the quick-sands into which the corruption and villainy of Morris has led us, and to put us on the solid ground, where runs the road to prosperity.

**TO THE EDITOR.**

**TO CORRESPONDENTS**—We are always glad to receive letters on matters of local and general public interest. Correspondents, however, should make their letters as brief as they possibly can, as we are receiving scores of communications daily and have only a very limited space in which to publish them.

We use practically every letter received, at some time or other, but there must, in view of our large correspondence, necessarily be some delay before some of these letters appear in The Mail and Advocate.

We are particularly anxious to receive notes of news from all round the island. Let our young people particularly get busy and help us make our paper the newest in the country.—Editor.

**NOT THE MAN.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir,—Some time ago there was published in your paper a list of the names of people said to have received money from the Government for expenditure in this place. Amongst these was one J. H. Pike.

Now, I am the only J. Pike in Freshwater, my full name being J. M. Pike, and a good many people think that this money came to me.

This is not the fact, however, for I have never yet received money from any Government.

**STILL PROGRESSING.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir,—I am glad to report that the Local Council at Port de Grave is still meeting with much success and that new members are continually coming in to swell our numbers. The reason for this is that everybody recognizes that the Union has been a great power for good in this place and that it is to the advantage of all to stand by President Coaker and the organization fathered by him.

At the elections last fall, the Union men of this District gave practical evidence of their great faith in the F.P.U. and I am quite sure, Mr. Editor, that with us there will be no going back on the principles of Unionism in the future.

—JOHN B. PECKFORD, Chairman, Port de Grave.

**EXPENSES OF DREDGE**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—Your publication a few days ago of the expenditure in connection with the dredging done by the Priestman, is arousing considerable interest, not to say indignation, in the minds of your numerous readers.

Why should we have to do dredging at fifty-two cents a yard, when we may have it done for twenty-two, as LeMoine did it during the Bond Administration, or for twenty cent as the same party offered to do it if given a long contract?

LeMoine undertook to bring his dredge and scows from Montreal to Fortuque and back again in order to earn twenty-two cents per cubic yard, and here we are paying more than double that price for the same kind of work, by our own dredge, in our own waters, right on the spot so to speak.

Who is making the pull out of us? Who are the grafters? Can't we get after them, and put a stop to the scandal? We are indeed a pretty tame lot to have submitted so long. If it were not for Mr. Coaker and his fearless paper, we would not know anything of how we are being fleeced.

The railway building policy of the Morris grafters is of the same kind, but greater in degree. We have been duped, robbed and cheated on all sides by arch offender Morris. At every turn he has wronged the country he gasses so much about, till he has reduced us to a state of beggary, never before approached.

The agricultural policy, the branch railway building, and dredging, are all gigantic bluffs.

It would be worth Mr. Coaker's while to investigate Downey's doings in Cape Breton. It would be of interest to the country to know just how he got all those scrub rams, and how much per head he paid for them.

There is a great deal of complaint among the people of St. George's about the quality of those sheep, and also about the quality of the seed potatoes.

—INDIGNANT.

**AFTER THE PHILOSOPHER.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—The Twilling Sun some time ago had an editorial headed "The Philosopher" and his remarks would give the general public the idea that the Road Board elected here was composed of Union men only. Now, this is not so.

Magistrate Scott called a public meeting and explained the nature of an elective board and the measures to be taken to secure one, stating that the membership should consist of twelve men, although as many as wished to could offer themselves for election. On the night of nomination only twelve were put up for election and it so happened that eleven of these were F.P.U. men.

As the total membership of the board was to be twelve and no option offered, the Magistrate declared these twelve men elected.

Uncle Billy, however, objects to the proceedings of this meeting and commenting thereon says that the F.P.U. men have an idea that they have a monopoly of honesty while it is evident from the opinions which he expresses as "The Philosopher" that he thinks we have very little more than a speaking acquaintance with honesty.

As for his statement that the North Side is not represented on the board, that is entirely false and as far as honesty and good statesmanship are concerned, I believe the public of this place will agree with me when I say that the board, as recently elected, is composed of some of our very best men.

**THE HOLIDAY.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir,—From several standpoints, Monday is the very last day in the week that should be as a general holiday for this city.

There are hundreds of mechanics and clerks who used to take advantage of the Wednesday holiday to go out of town trouting and enjoying themselves generally and it was then the common thing to see the train crowded with holiday makers on the evening previous to the day set apart. Now, according to the new arrangement, unless Sunday is included in the programme, this pleasant and health-giving recreation usually looked forward to by so many, has to be given up.

Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Davidson.

**To-Night!**

Methodist College Hall,  
**All English Program**

INCLUDING  
**SECOND ACT FROM "MARTHA"**

IN COSTUME BY  
**MME. SCOTNEY**  
AND ASSISTING ARTISTS.

Tuesday Night:  
**Grand Opera Program**

INCLUDING  
Shadow Song from "Dinorah," by Mme. Scotney.  
Quartette from Rigoletto.

Wednesday Night:  
Mme. Scotney will Sing Polonaise, from "Migon" and "Ave Maria."—Bach Gounad, with Cello Obligato and Organ.

Full Announcement Tuesday.

**TICKETS---ATLANTIC BOOKSTORE.**  
Good Single Seats at \$1.00 and \$1.50.

porters and others who have their country seats and it also suits those who have no scruples about breaking the Sabbath. Many of us would not be surprised to see a Sunday trout-train leaving town for their convenience.

It is a pity that these importers, the most of whom profess to be God-fearing men, did not see that while they were enjoying the comforts of their homes on Sunday many others were doing violence to their consciences and were kept away from the Sabbath from all the restraining influences of the city churches.

The Importers' Association, as a public-spirited body of men ought to do the straight thing every time but they have taken the wrong direction in connection with the whole holiday. Instead of building up the moral tone of this community, they are helping to pull it down and are, at the same time, depriving hundreds of conscientious toilers of their one and only means of recreation.

—TROUTER.

**A WELL-WISHER.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—The majority of our people are behind President Coaker in the noble fight he is putting up to protect our fishermen and seamen. The two Keans, father and son, who were particularly concerned in the Newfoundland Sealing Disaster, would certainly be deprived of their certificates if the fishermen of this Country had their way. I fully believe that every fisherman in Newfoundland would strike if these two captains were allowed to go as masters of ships again to the seal fishery.

I contend that if the whistle of the Newfoundland had been kept going that night until 12 o'clock, pretty well all the crew would have succeeded in getting on board. As to the question of how far a steamer's whistle can be heard, that depends upon the nature of the atmosphere. When the barometer stands at 29.80 or 29.90, the atmosphere is very light and sound should carry a long distance by that a glass usually shows that a Southerly wind accompanied by snow, rain or fog, is likely to blow up.

I feel sure that you can hear the whistle of any of those steamers a distance of ten miles when the glass stands at 29.80 but with a change of wind or the glass dropping to 29.50 it

would be impossible to hear the whistle at that distance.

I cannot understand how anybody can regard this disaster business as anything else than manslaughter.

In conclusion, allow me to call your attention to a reference made in your paper early this month to the drowning which occurred off Penguin Islands some time ago. Your statement is not quite correct as there was a boat on the Island well fitted with trap bearings, sails, oars and lines, although your paper stated that there was no boat available.

—LIGHTKEEPER.

**FUTURE OF THE F.P.U.**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—Although it is some considerable time since anything from this place has appeared in The Mail and Advocate it must not be inferred that we are losing interest in the Union. Quite the reverse. The advantages secured to us by the F.P.U. are stronger than ever and we are thoroughly convinced that the only way to secure equitable Government is by making the F.P.U. the dominant factor in our civil administration.

The excellent record of our F.P.U. representatives since the last election has amply demonstrated their loyalty to the people and their ability to inaugurate a sane, sober and economical regime.

It has been said that great things spring from small beginnings and this is surely true of the F.P.U. which

at its inception was certainly one of the small things of the earth but which in a short time has become the greatest movement this Country has ever known and certainly is destined by reason of its economic nature to become the controlling factor in our future.

The experiences of the past have amply proven that with Mr. W. F. Coaker as the head of this great organization it is bound to attain to political possibilities hitherto undreamed of.

We have held our annual parade here and although the weather was somewhat rough it did not deter us from walking two miles around the settlement and back again.

As a token of respect for those lost in the recent sealing disasters, there was no cheering, firing of guns or other manifestation of rejoicing.

After the parade, we proceeded to the church where we listened to an appropriate sermon from Pastor Newman. Mrs. Robert Evans acted as organist.

After the service, we repaired to the F.P.U. Hall to partake of a bounteous repast served by the Union ladies who deserve every commendation for their generous efforts to help on the cause of the F.P.U.

—RADICAL.  
Northern Arm.  
**ST. ANDREW'S CLUB DANCE**  
The members of St. Andrew's Club are having a dance at their rooms to-morrow evening.

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