

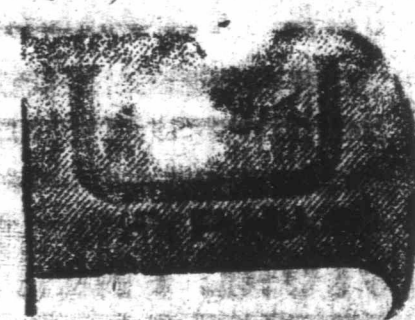
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The Mail and Advocate

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OUR PLATFORM

"THE attitude of the F.P.U. on the great public questions of the day," said Mosdell some short time since, "is clearly defined in the platform adopted at the Bonavista Convention. This platform," said Mosdell, "was remarkable for the absence of all Wild Cat schemes."

"It takes into consideration," said Mosdell, "the most pressing needs of the Country and of the People and advocates Safe, Sound and Economical methods for meeting these needs."

"Now the F. P. U.," said Mosdell, "from the direct way in which it enunciates popular needs, department failures and administrative necessities proves that Coaker, the man chiefly responsible for outlining this F.P.U. policy, has given the question of the day the most careful thought and has Brains, Courage and initiative enough to evolve a cure for the ills of our body politics."

"With this expression of opinion over twenty-three thousand fishermen agree. When the F.P.U. was first started many doubting Thomases were found who never ceased to belittle the object of the Union. Many they were who never ceased to misconstrue the real aims of the Union. In fact the most heinous, the most uncalculated for misrepresentation of the Union's business was hurled broad cast throughout the land."

But the fishermen never faltered. They had faith in Coaker; faith in themselves and they kept the even tenor of their way despite the army of calamity howlers who shouted blue ruin till they were black in the face."

Now the man or men who stand on what is now known as the Union Platform, i.e., the Bonavista Platform, does not need to swear out a search warrant to see where he is. This Bonavista Platform cannot be construed to mean one thing in the North, another thing in the South and cannot be explained a still different way in the West."

This platform was carefully thought out. It was unlike Morris's Election Manifesto, simply so much barbed wire to catch the people. Unlike Morris, the framers of the Bonavista Platform intended to deal honestly with the people, because as Mosdell said, "No other was better fitted to know the needs of the toiler than Coaker."

MOSDELL'S

BOOMERANGS!

NOTHING more clearly indicated the true character of W. F. COAKER than invitation to Sir Robert Bond to lead the Union Forces during the recent campaign.

A less cautious man or one more self-conceited would, in COAKER'S position, have essayed the task himself. But, sinking personal ambition and keeping an eye single to the interests of the F.P.U., the President (COAKER) secured a practical politician for the position.

AND SO THE COUNTRY LEARNED THAT COAKER IS A MAN WHOSE HEAD IS NOT TURNED BY SUCCESS AND ALSO THAT HIS

PRESENT POSITION DOES NOT REQUIRE MUCH SELF-SACRIFICE AND NO LITTLE DIPLOMACY.

It is a foregone conclusion that under his (COAKER'S) Leadership, the Fishermen's Protective Union will eventually become THE GOVERNING POWER OF THE LAND and thus in elevating the Toilers to this dignified position, which is theirs by every right of manhood, W. F. COAKER HAS WRIT HIS NAME LARGELY ON THE PAGE OF NEWFOUNDLAND HISTORY.—MOSDELL, in The Fishermen's Advocate, December 20th, 1913.

for Coaker had lived amongst them, he had studied their needs and he possessed their confidence." He was then, as he is to-day, the only man in public life in this Colony who can honestly claim that he represents the fishermen of Newfoundland.

Coaker as the candidate of the people, not of the politicians, is ever watchful of the interests of the toiler. He has waged war, and will continue to wage war, on all and sundry who would fatten at the expense of him "who earns his living by the sweat of his brow."

If Coaker was the "selected" one of the interests, the hired press would advertise him as extensively as a druggist would some patent medicine. It is a well known fact that within recent years money has been freely spent by those who are not in politics for the good of their health to finance a boom for Morris and at the same time to stampede the people into regarding this cheap bluff as a "Saviour of his Country."

Now those monied interests who have so eagerly handed in their "hard earned money" to campaign funds did so with a two fold purpose. The first of course was to secure for their "candidate"—Morris—a return to power so that they could still fatten at the expense of the toilers and, secondly, they would, so they thought, crush to atoms this man Coaker and the F.P.U.

But the fishermen being tired of being systematically fooled by scheming politicians rebelled and sent back to represent them on the floors of the People's House—those who were ever-ready to serve at any price—candidate of the greedy capitalists—but representatives of themselves; men who would be faithful at all times to their interests.

This turn of affairs was of course a sore blow to the monied interests, and they immediately sought new agencies whereby to continue their work of destruction.

Under which flag will the Newfoundland fishermen stand? Will he stand under that of Coaker, who boldly utters his convictions and who battles for the people; or will they stand under the flag of Morrisism or some otherism, one who is willing to accept any platform made by the monied interests, in order to reach the Premiership of Terra Nova?

Morris's record tells us he is a ever shining example of a "selected" agent, not of the people, but of the few who live in luxury while the many want.

For years past the Newfoundland fishermen were being despoiled by a political tyranny. They had pleaded for justice but their pleas were scoffed at because they had no recognized leader; they had no Coaker to fight their battles and no Union through which they could make themselves felt. They were growing restless and impatient, and so when Coaker hunched the Union it was not surprising to see its ranks

quickly grow with the hordes and sinew of the country.

Those commercial pirates and place seekers who would now ask the fishermen to still endure the same tyranny as of old may just as well try to prevent the mighty ocean from following its onward course as to try and kill the F.P.U. and Coaker. The people propose to take a hand in public affairs now and the programme as outlined in the Bonavista Platform will be carried out in the near future.

A bit of advice, injudiciously administered often seems to be a sledge-hammer knock.

It is better to take a chance on a party-line telephone than to put foolish thoughts in love letters.

W. F. COAKER SAYS FISHERMEN OF NEWFOUNDLAND WILL WIN

President of F.P.U. Says They Will Rule the Country—Confederation Now Farther Off.—People Developing Wonderful Prosperity.—What the Outlook is.

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—"When the elections take place in 1917 the fishermen of Newfoundland will be the party returned to power through their organization—the Fishermen's Protective Union. I shall lead that party in the fight, but have too many other interests in connection with the Union, of which I am president. I work 14 hours every day on the union in its fight for recognition, and some else will be the head of the party in the house."

This was the assertion made by W. F. Coaker, member of parliament for Twillingate, Newfoundland, and president of the F. P. U.

At the last election we ran ten candidates, and worked in co-operation with the Liberal party under Sir Robert Bond. We took nine of the seats, and the Liberals got two others. The Conservatives had twenty-one and the balance went Liberal Union.

"Those five men of ours have been in the house for two of three years, and have gained experience, and when the next election comes we shall fight our own fight, and there is no doubt but that the representatives of the Union will hold the majority."

There are 22,000 members of the Union, divided up over 250 branches, and when it is remembered that the total population of Newfoundland is only a third of that of Montreal, and that the Western shore fishermen are not yet organized, although they will try good stroke of business, and "one before the elections—it can easily be seen what power the fishermen have."

"There has been more done for the fishing industry in Newfoundland during the last two or three years than in the previous fifty—and yet the fishing industry is one of the greatest sources of wealth for the country. The revenue of Newfoundland is \$4,000,000 a year."

Mr. Coaker said that Newfoundland was prospering, owing to the splendid prices obtained for its produce during the past year. This was due in great measure to the work of the Union of the cabinet and leading opposition members, and I am pleased to find all companies, which deal with the fish, are much interested in Newfoundland, ports and exports in such a way that the fishermen were done away with, doing her part to keep the old fish the fishermen having reaped \$4,000,000 flying free to the breeze."

Mr. Coaker is accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. E. Collishaw, of St. John's, and when times are prosperous and H. V. Jennison, of New Glasgow.

THE HARVEST OF THE SEA

INTERESTING AND USEFUL TO THE FISHERMEN OF THE COLONY

DO CODFISH MIGRATE?

THE answer to this question has a special interest for our fishermen. They have all sorts of theories about fish generally; but, as in the case of seals, our local fishermen have no means of determining anything about the habits of our great source of wealth. Scientists, however, who have devoted much time to the study of fish life are able to enlighten us.

A Danish authority, Professor Schmidt, tells us that young cod fry generally seek the colder waters of the north just as soon as they have passed the larval stage. There they remain until a year, or even two years old. When about a foot long—being then about one year old, they move out into deep water and return at tides inshore for food. They spawn invariably in deep water. After spawning they seek inshore waters in quest of food and find it on the banks and shoals.

We know from experience along our shores that fish come to the land in great numbers in June and July following the large schools of caplin which are so plentiful from the early days of June. These coast migrations are limited and Professor Hind states that "the schools of cod frequenting a particular coast may be said to be indigenous to it." Spencer Baird, in the United States Commissioners' Report (1889) says that the cod "is a local fish and the different schools have their different

habitats." Adolf Neilsen, who was at one time head of our Fisheries Commission, says that the cod is a local fish as well as salmon, and he points out that each group has its local resort and the local varieties can be readily distinguished, a George's Bank fish being known from any other kind of cod on the other Banks. So can a Cape St. Mary's fish be distinguished from any other kind of cod in Newfoundland, and a Trinity Bay fish from a Placentia fish.

This may seem an extreme view; but it is endorsed by such authorities as Spencer Baird who says "no fish will come from surrounding localities to take the vacant place." Fish bear a particular relation to particular spots and fishing out one locality is thus like emptying a keg of lard, the space left does not become again occupied.

The disappearance of fish from any particular locality may be the result of many and various causes; but the restoration by incoming schools from other areas is very slow. Fish may migrate from one locality to another, attracted there by more abundant food, and the disappearance of fish from certain

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

FEBRUARY 25

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY instituted, 1837.
John Power, blacksmith, died; he was thirty-eight years an officer in the Mechanics' Society; 1866.

localities may be traced to that cause.

It may also happen, as doubtless happened last year along the Southern Shore, an unusually large body of ice may force large schools of cod to the land; and from what we know of last year's Southern Shore fishery, it seems that the quality of the fish caught differed very materially from the usual Southern Shore fish which is usually of medium size, and by no means fat.

Strong currents also affect the movements of fish; and when the ice pack is heavy to the northward, there is generally a heavy current to the southward in the early days of Spring. These currents have a very marked effect on young fish and especially on fish recently hatched.

Sir Christopher Wren died, 1723.
Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Bond born, 1857.
Star of the Sea Society founded, 1871.

Mrs. William P. Walsh died, 1875.
Capt. William Jackman died, 1877.
William Frew married, 1878.

Fergus Donnelly wins skating championship, 1896.
J. L. Slattery appointed Secretary to Municipal Council, 1898.

One hundred guineas reward offered for apprehension of person or persons who destroyed the windows in the Scotch Church, 1846.

Principal Hutton, of Deaf and Dumb Institute, Halifax, died, 1891.

Thermometer 12 degrees below zero, 1899.

Valentine Keough, father of "manus," died, 1888.

Reid's railway resolutions passed Assembly, 1898.

Four-mile skating race, at Parade Rink, won by Frank Simms—time 15m. 58c., 1890.

Some men are so reckless with their coin that they even use it for paying debts.

FISHERMEN, ATTENTION!

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THE new issue of Shares in the Fishermen's Union Trading Company, Limited, are now offered to the members of the F.P.U. Those Shares represent the additional Capital of \$150,000 recently authorized. The Shares are \$10 each. The new capital is to be used to extend the Company's business. A dividend of 10 per cent. has been declared for 1915. Thirty-eight per cent. dividends has been paid during the four years the Company has been in operation. The Company also possess a Reserve Fund equal to 40 per cent. of its capital and if it was possible to place the Trading Company's shares on the stock market, one share would easily fetch \$15. No better or safer investment exist in the Colony. Why bank your earnings at 3 per cent. when such a first-class investment is obtainable? Apply to Agents of the Trading Company where stores are operated or to the

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