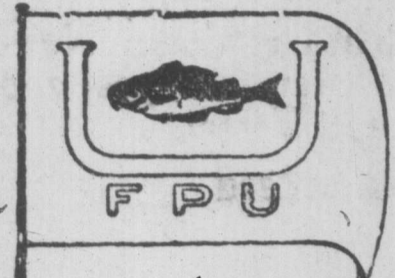


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(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

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Letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only and the real name of the author should be attached. This will not be used unless consent is given in the communication.

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., SEPT. 11, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

That Surtax

It is generally considered that the surtax charged by the Customs on the duties imposed on provisions by the Legislature last week is illegal, and the Union Trading Co. has instructed its Solicitor, Mr. Morine, to bring a test case before the Supreme Court as speedily as possible.

Hard Treatment

A man by the name of Osmond was recently convicted by Magistrate Miffin of a breach of the Game Laws and fined \$250 and costs, or two months imprisonment. He is now serving his term in the penitentiary.

The offence was that he held six foxes in his possession which the court held were taken after the close season. Osmond claims that he secured the foxes before the 15th of March when the close season becomes effective. No evidence whatever was presented showing that he did not take the foxes before Mar. 15. The only evidence before the court was that Osmond possessed the six foxes, four of which were pups.

To confiscate the foxes, which were worth at least \$1000, and place a nominal fine ought to have satisfied the demands of the law, but to fine the poor man \$250 and costs and confiscate the foxes or serve two months in the penitentiary seems unjustly cruel in a layman's eye.

The fox laws are an outrage. A man can't take a brood of pups worth to him \$2000 or more because a few get-rick-quick fellows at St. John's wanted a monopoly of the fox business, and as they either compose the Inland Fisheries Board which makes those laws or are influential enough to get their way with the Board, any poor trapper catching a fox or a brood of foxes must run the risk of the loss of all, and a big fine in the bargain or two months in jail.

Foxes are not scarce. There is no need of protecting them. Therefore the sole object of the law is to protect those who own fox farms and give them a complete monopoly of the whole alive fox business of the Colony.

Mr. Coaker brought this matter before the House last winter and showed how unfair the law was. The matter is not one that the House can deal with. It is now left solely with the Inland Fisheries Board so called.

The only cure for such wrong doings and cruel injustice and the prevention of the schemes of scheming get-rick-quick sports here, is to repeal the whole farce and hand the making of the game laws over to the proper representatives of the people.

Mr. Coaker and Mr. Kent on Saturday in the House criticized the tendency of the Government to hand over control over almost every subject of legislation to the tender mercies of a Governor-in-Council. The protest they made was fully justified and one that will have to be given careful consideration.

Any trapper should be at liberty to dispose of foxes to the highest bidder, and it is immaterial what season he catch or sells foxes alive. The close season was intended to protect the slaughter of foxes when the fur was valueless, it had no reference to foxes sold alive for breeding purposes. The fox farms—so called—in Newfoundland can sell foxes when they choose and they can buy foxes confiscated by the law. That of course is proper in their estimation.

Again we say the whole thing is a farce, intended to fleece the poor man and to enrich get-rick-quick sports.

The law is unfair, unjust and of no benefit to the country in general. That law must be altered. Foxes should be sold at any time and to the highest bidder if for breeding purposes, and an export tax of 20 per cent. should be imposed in order to secure for the Colony a fair proportion of the enormous profits secured by those concerned.

Thirty thousand dollars worth of foxes were exported in one lot some time ago, \$6000 of that sum should have gone to the Treasury.

The House of Assembly members must wake up, and get down to business in reference to this outrage.

The only course open now is for Governor Davidson to release Osmond who, if he did any wrong, was sufficiently punished by the loss of his six foxes and the serving of several days in confinement as a prisoner. To keep that man in prison longer for such an offence is nothing short of a crime against common sense, justice and fair play. He did what every man in the Colony would do if in his place—captured two old foxes and four pups in order to make himself richer by \$1000 or more, and in view of the fact that the foxes were safer in his possession than if running wild, what crime was committed against any law of right or common sense?

The only law broken, if broken it was—and there is no proof to that effect—was the law made by interested sports here, who want to monopolize the fox business in order to make themselves rich quick at the expense of the poor trappers and the country.

Apalling Atrocities

EVER since the present war began, numerous stories of the atrocious methods by which the Germans wage war have become current. The Belgian authorities appointed a commission to inquire into these stories and reported that, in the main, they were quite true.

"We found," said the report, "evidence of the violation of the laws of humanity on the German atrocities committed" at certain places specifically named.

"The Germans shot inoffensive pedestrians, cyclists and peasants. They robbed public treasuries, commandeered food, burned and pillaged houses and towns. They interned women in churches and outraged them. Captured hostages, men, women and children, are compelled to march before the German troops, showing a white flag, in order to induce French troops to approach."

In the first of this month King George gave audience, at Buckingham Palace, to the members of a mission sent by the Belgian authorities to protest to the United States, as a neutral power, against the barbaric savagery of the Germans. In their address to His Majesty the Commissioners said: "Our adversary, after invading our territory, has decimated the civil population; massacred women and children; carried off the wounded; destroyed undefended towns and burned churches, historical monuments and the famous library of the University of Louvain."

"At Diest, a mother and her daughter of twelve were shot to death; a young man was bound to a tree and burned alive and two men were buried alive with their heads downwards."

"I personally saw," said one of the Commissioners, "the bodies of a father and son, non-combatants, cut all to pieces by German bayonet thrusts. I have reliable information that the Germans held women and children before them in the same neighborhood."

The PROGRAMME for the WEEK-END at THE NICKEL

THE LUBIN COY. PRESENT IN TWO PARTS:—

"THE SEA ETERNAL,"

This is a wonderful story of the sea coast. Corson, the miserly fish dealer, of Roreys Point, sees an opportunity to get rid of his business rival, John Mason. Noticing his friendship for the pretty wife of John Topley, he succeeds in circulating scandalous reports about them; they are sighted crossing the bay in a storm and are given up for lost—then,—this is a powerful story, featuring Arthur V. Johnson.

THE PATHE ALL-STAR CAST IN A TWO-PART PRODUCTION:—

"THE DEPTH OF HATE,"

The story deals with the bitter hatred of a lodgekeeper's wife, who believes that her daughter has been killed by remorse. Her lover deserts her for the beautiful woman who owns the estate on which the lodge is located. Powerful realism here.

THE ACTRESS AND HER JEWELS.—THE CONSTABLE'S DAUGHTER.—THE BARBER'S CURE. (Three rattling, good, laughable farce comedies.)

BY REQUEST, De WITT C. CAIRNS SINGS TOSTI'S "GOOD-BYE." Professor P. McCarthy, at the Piano; Joseph F. Ross, Master of Effects. Extra Pictures for the Children at the Bumper Matinee Saturday.

WRITING The London Times, Frederick Harrison says: "These abominable crimes against humanity and civilisation call for condign condemnation by the whole civilised world. The whole German military and civil order are responsible for this poisoning of the moral sense of their nation."

"I know that nine-tenths of the German people accept their leadership and adopt their infernal code that 'Might is Right.'"

"Under these inverted doctrines of right and wrong, German millions are now committing enormities as horrible as those of Dahomey and the African savages of old."

"Let us hear no more about 'German culture,' but let us make the whole world ring with our sense of horror!"

RICHARD HARDING DAVIS, is in Europe at the front as the correspondent of one of the most influential New York papers. As the citizen of a neutral nation, and a well-educated, well-balanced man, he is extremely unlikely to assume any attitude of pronounced partisanship, unless facts lead him to decide that one side or the other is in the right.

Also, by virtue of his American citizenship, he would have all the facilities available for seeing things as they actually are.

Mr. Davis is as pronounced in his attitude of hostility towards the Germans as is Mr. Harrison.

"Germany," said Mr. Davis, "is fighting foully. She is defying not only the rules of war but all the rules of humanity."

"In six other wars all that I have seen that was outrageous was not so terrible, so unnecessary, so wanton, as the outrages of the German army. Their conduct throughout can be explained in only one way."

"They are men who know they are in the wrong; that their case is unlawful; and, like a man who enters a house as a burglar, they do not hesitate at murder. In no other way can you explain their casting floating mines among innocent fishermen; their dropping bombs from airships upon sleeping women; their wrecking churches, universities and libraries and their execution of non-combatants."

ON the whole, then, the mass of evidence seems to justify the charges made against the Germans. To the onlooker it seems that no better conduct could have been expected of a nation that violates all its treaty obligations and plays false to every dictate of honor is extremely unlikely to play fair in the grim game of war.

Violation of the rules of humanity follow as a matter of course upon violation of the rules and agreements of nations.

Labor Party Wins

A cable message intimates that the Labor Party was victorious in the recent general elections in Australia, so that Hon. Andrew Fisher once again becomes Prime Minister of the Commonwealth.

It will be remembered that, while the Labor Party secured a big majority in both Houses of the Australian Parliament in 1910, they went down to defeat in the succeeding general election before the party led by Hon. Joseph Cook, who, however, had a working majority of but one vote in the House of Representatives after the election of the Speaker.

The figures in the recent election give the Laborites a working majority of nine in the House of Representatives and of twenty-eight in the Senate.

LOOK OUT NOW!

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Colin Campbell, 85 Water Street.

WORLD'S PRESS ON THE BIG WAR

THE WAR'S ONLY FRUIT

Manitoba Free Press:—"The moral strength behind Great Britain's whole-hearted participation is derived from a widely diffused hope that this war will, somehow, put an end to the medieval military system which dominates continental Europe and breeds periodic wars; and thus widen the bounds of freedom. While the world has War Lords it will have wars. Democracies may fight; but War Lords must—it is a law of their being. If the present war does not make an end of military control of civil power it will be fruitless, whatever changes it may make in the world's geography."

MENACE OF SECRET DIPLOMACY

London Daily News:—"Can Europe ever again tolerate the appalling peril of secret diplomacy? Can we ever again play about on the deck with sails and compasses, making our little laws and imagining that we are self-governing, while down in the hold of our ship of state there is a powder magazine, the very existence of which we are not permitted to know? Secret diplomacy belongs to the traditions of autocratic and personal government. It has no place in a democratic world, and the example of the United States must become the model of the civilized world on this vital matter if Europe is to be free from menace in the future."

THE DISCIPLINE OF DISASTER

Broad Arrow, London:—"Apart from their consciousness that right is on their side, the Grand Alliance has another source of moral strength, each of its members has been purified by the stern discipline of national disaster, each of them having passed through the valley of humiliation, England in South Africa, France in the war of 1870-1, and Russia in the Far East. The Belgians are fighting at once to repel the invader from their soil and to re-establish their reputation as one of the finest martial nations in Europe, lost, through no fault of their own, at Waterloo."



NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Patriotic Association of Newfoundland in the C.L.B. Armoury on Friday, 11th inst., at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of receiving reports of committees.

VINCENT P. BURKE, sep9 Hon. Secy.

In short, the opponents of Germany have the same spirit which she had up to 1870, while hers more nearly resembles that of France under Napoleon in his decline."

IS GERMANY WAR-WEARY?

Boston Transcript:—"Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador, is an experienced diplomatist, and despite his habitual loquacity we cannot believe that he failed to weigh his words when he declared in an interview recently that Germany 'is ready for peace at any moment.' As the representative of Kaiser Wilhelm in the United States, Count Bernstorff may be presumed to know the imperial 'private mind.' Certainly what he says he says as German ambassador. When he puts forth a statement of the attitude of his Government, he is no longer Johann von Bernstorff the individual. Is his assertion thrown out as a 'feeler,' under instructions from Berlin? If it is, but one construction can be placed upon it, and that is that the German advance on Paris is not at a rate satisfactory to Kaiser Wilhelm and his staff."

BELGIUM'S OFFENCE

Pittsburg Dispatch:—"As Belgian is fighting only for her neutrality guaranteed by German and England, there cannot be very much fault for her people who sympathize with her. Her offence is in lying between Germany and France and having a seaport. Many people will say that this is no reason why she should be wiped out by half a million men."

THE INHUMAN SEA-MINE

St. Louis Post-Dispatch:—"When the Amphion struck the floating mine placed in the North Sea by the Germans, not only 130 British perished, but it is said that 20 German prisoners of war, captured a few hours before, lost their lives. If this is true, it shows the inhuman practice and generally blameworthy nature of the practice of sowing the high seas with explosives. This violation of the spirit of international law as a blockade of the free pathway of the seas should have explicit definition in The Hague code."

A STERILE GOSPEL

London Public Opinion:—"That is no gospel for the twentieth century; lacking one's way through the world is not the last word in ethics, and those blundering admissions convict the Kaiser and his Government of an infamous crime for the basest and most selfish ends. They are an affront to the moral forces of the world, against which even Bismarck gave warning. The very words are their own eternal condemnation and are a proof of the blood-guiltiness which provoked the war. They run well with the offered bribes to Great Britain to sell Belgium and the French Colonies—to tear up treaties and betray her friends."

WE SHOULD WORRY!

Hardly, but advertisers should worry, and that's a sure thing. Almost every newboy in town sells The Mail and Advocate, as well as a large number of shop agents, in different sections of the city and outports.

VOLUNTEER CITIZENS

Prize, Match, and Competition Shooting day and night. Martin and Winchester Rifles, Defence Shooting Gallery, Adelaide Street.—sep10,tf

TO THE EDITOR

Terrible Roads

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—If traveller or tourist came our way, he would certainly admire our roads where they are driven over by motor cars and such like, and we would feign have him carry away an exalted opinion of our ability as roadmakers and caterers to the comfort of the gents who ride on motors, but we have a certain road about a hundred yards in length. It extends from the public wharf. It is the most useful as it is the most used road in Witless Bay.

To say this road reverts to a state of nature is putting it mild. Some say the neglect is caused by a wish to serve the railroad. More likely it is to spite the men who voted the other way. It is certainly not a benefit to the parties doing business in that section, whether selling or buying fish or goods.

We would fain invite our visiting friends to come and see a disgusting picture of spite and incompetency.

—VERULAM.

Witless Bay, Sept. 9, 1914.

Bad Government

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—We are being convinced that the Government is using every means possible to crush the life blood out of the poor electorate by placing extra taxes on the necessities of life while it pays large salaries to its officials, some of whom are of no use to either King or Country. I cannot see how anything but starvation can prevail here this winter as most of our people who are on the Labrador have no fish at their stations. The cry of the people has changed since last fall. I wish that there was to be another election this fall for Morris and his Party would certainly be compelled to submit to the F.P.U., and then our little Island Home would be ruled by a good wholesome Government.

Morris speaks of our outport people not coming forward to volunteer. We would like Sir Edward to know that our outport boys are scattered all over the coast of the Labrador enduring the hardships of the sea in order to get a square, honest living that they have not responded to the call for volunteers.

The people are indignant over the Premier's putting another 25 cents on a barrel of flour in this time of need. I do not think it right for the pedlars of Spaniard's Bay to put that 25 cents on the flour which had been in their store for weeks before. And after they do that, they turn around and ask for a subscription to the Patriotic Fund when there are people with nothing to eat and no work to do. If Sir Edward Morris would live up to his promises and furnish some employment for the men who are so badly in need of it, we would be able to help the Patriotic Fund.

Referring to salaries paid to useless officials, I would like to mention one instance. A few years ago we did not have any tidewater because there was no need of one, nor is there any need now. And yet, at the present time, when money is so scarce that the bare necessities of life have to be taxed, there are two men getting fat salaries for doing nothing.

—AUNT JANE, JR.

Spaniard's Bay, Sept. 8, 1914.

LABORITES WIN IN AUSTRALIA

San Francisco, Sept. 11.—The Labor Party has been victorious in the Australian general election, according to information received here.

The new alignments will be, House of Representatives, Labor 41, Liberals 31, Independents 1; Senate, Labor 32, Liberals 4.

Table with 2 columns: SUGAR CROP and various sugar production statistics for 1912-13.

War has been the active force in the great advance of prices of sugar during the past two weeks. On Aug. 1st the price of raw sugar was 2.29 cents and refined sold at 4.16 cents. That day saw war declared between Russia and Germany. By August 7th the price of raw sugar rose to 4.26 cents, and refined advanced to 4.90 cents. By August 10th the price of raw was 5 cents, and refined was 6 cents. By August 13th raw sold at 6.52 cents, and refined at 6.86 cents. In other words, the price of raw sugar has almost doubled, and refined is 65 percent higher in two weeks. Some of this advance was naturally due to interruption of ocean shipping; some of it, no doubt, was caused by desire of holders to take advantage of future possible or expected demand; some of it, again, based upon Great Britain's need of drawing sugar from some other source than that of its chief supplier, Germany. In this connection it may be worth noting that all the countries now at war, except Great Britain, are producers of beet sugar, Germany, Austria and Russia especially so. The following table shows the production of beet sugar in the countries at war, the total production of beet sugar in Europe, and the total production of all kinds of sugar in the world:

Table showing sugar production in tons for various countries in 1912-13, including Austria Hungary, Belgium, France, Germany, Russia, and Serbia.

Total six countries . . . 6,866,000 All Europe . . . 7,808,000 All beet . . . 8,438,000 Cane . . . 9,545,000 Sugar crop . . . 17,983,000 It will be seen that the six continental countries at war in Europe, in 1912-13, produced 87 per cent. of Europe's total sugar production, 81 per cent. of all the beet sugar of the world, and 38 per cent. of all the sugar in the world. This year's yield of beet sugar was expected to be larger than for the year mentioned. With Europe an armed camp, with millions of men withdrawn from agriculture, and with beet sugar fields the scene of actual battles, the prospects of beet sugar production and prices are, to say the least, problematical.

SHIP CAPTURED WITH COAL COAL

London, Sept. 10.—The Admiralty announced today that a British warship had captured a German collier in the Atlantic with 5,000 tons Welsh coal on board.

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(Next door to F.P.U. office.) Jan 20, 1914, sat