

Toilers Final Fight For Liberty

F.P.U. Fight Now Against Bowings, Whose Word Is No Longer Their Bond, History of Trickery and Dishonor Exposed. Munn and Eric Bowring Responsible.

MUNN AND YOUNG BOWRING SCORN VERDICT OF 'GUILTY'

Rendered by the Planters of Conception Bay—Greatest Court in the Land Of Public Opinion—Sentenced Kean To "Loss of Command"—Which Sentence Munn Treated With Contempt

MUNN'S CONDUCT WILL COST BOWRING'S FIRM \$50,000 YEAR WILL DIE OF BROKEN HEART

All Union Men Dealing With Bowring Bros. Will Now Be Supplied by the Trading Co.—Export Co. Will Purchase Their Fish and Oil—Morris Few Years Ago Said "All Merchants Wanted Was To Squeeze Fish and Oil From the Fishermen"

It is only confessing knavery to say that any private man has the right to dictate to any business firm as to how it should run its business, but it is another matter for a man representing 220 settlements in the Country, embodying 20,000 men, to approach a firm as the recognized agent of those men, and lay before the firm a proposal that every reasonable man will recognize as proper and justifiable.

Mr. Coaker's position as Leader of the F.P.U. and Leader of a Political Party in the Legislature should have entitled his proposals to every consideration at the hands of any firm, but when it is recognized that as a servant of the 20,000 members of the F.P.U., he was authorized by the unanimous resolution of the delegates representing those 20,000 Toilers, to demand from Bowring Bros. a promise that Kean should not again sail as captain of a sealing ship belonging to the firm, because those 20,000 men held Kean responsible for the death of 78 of their fellow countrymen and fellow toilers.

Then the question follows: How could any man, including Munn, refuse consideration of such proposals without seriously arousing the people who sent Coaker, against them to an extent that would justify them in taking any reasonable action to resent such an insult?

To that must now be added the further affront contained in the act of deception in reference to the cable one day saying "Kean is withdrawn," and to another four days later saying "we can't consent, we can't interfere."

Should Take Care And Exercise Common Sense

And that is not the whole case for those very men met and decided to cut fat one dollar per quintal, without as much as recognizing in any way that the men were partners in the business and their labour paid for the ships' fitout and for the use of the ships. Yet they were not permitted even to know whether fat or skins were really lower in value, or what proof there was for the story that last year's skins were still in the hands of the buyers and unsaleable, while some of the buyers at New York say that the statement that last year's skins are still on their hands and unsaleable is not correct.

Mr. Munn has run his nose against a wall and if he don't take great care and exercise some common sense he will find the wall won't move for his nose and thereby the nose will become flattened and will henceforth be to him a curse instead of a blessing.

Mr. Munn forgets that only one month ago the delegates representing 4,000 Toilers had met at Coley's Point and resolved that the stand taken by President Coaker respecting Kean was right and proper, and that Bowring Bros. should be requested to agree to the wishes of the Supreme Council, and not permit Kean to sail again as master of their steamer.

Coley's Point Convention, which represented Conception Bay, went further and expressed the opinion that Kean was to blame for the loss of the Newfoundland's men, and further, that the people would back up any action taken to enforce the resolutions adopted by the Supreme Council Catalina Convention.

Will Back Up Action Taken By President of the F.P.U.

The Coley's Point resolutions have been published, but in order to make it plain that the people have demanded Kean's punishment and that Coaker's request to Bowring Bros. was the people's and not Coaker's, we again publish those resolutions passed by the 50 delegates of Conception Bay Council of the F.P.U. a few days ago.

Respecting Captain Kean:

RESOLVED, that this meeting record its approval of the stand taken by Mr. Coaker against Captain Abraham Kean commanding a sealing steamer clearing from Newfoundland and the determination of the fishermen of Conception Bay to support any measures he may adopt to carry out the Resolutions of the Supreme Council passed at Catalina Convention, and we call upon Messrs. Bowring Bros. to be courteous enough to concede the fishermen's demands, respecting Captain Kean and remove further friction amongst the people in reference to this unfortunate matter.

We pledge ourselves to stand by President Coaker and we respectfully request him to take such measures as he deems expedient to prevent Captain Kean from sailing as Master to the seal fishery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED—

That in our opinion the 78 members of the Newfoundland's crew who died on the icefields in the blizzard of March 31st and April 1st last, would not have died in that storm had Capt. Abraham Kean not been in the vicinity and we are convinced that the least punishment due Captain Kean is that resolved by the Catalina Convention of the F.P.U., and we respectfully request that Bowring Bros. be urged by all the power and influence of the F.P.U. to accede to the just and reasonable demand of the people to uncaptain Abraham Kean.

The Verdict of Fifty Newfoundland Planters

The above verdict of 50 Newfoundland planters should be enough to compel any sensible man possessing human feelings to hang his head in shame for life and teach him that his fellowman regard him as belonging to a class that are usually discarded by the meek and lowly.

Kean can never again be what he was before he sailed to the icefield last spring. Munn can never again be what he was before this Florizel plot was hatched.

The verdict of the Coley's Point Jury was that those men would not have died in that blizzard had Kean not been in the vicinity of the Newfoundland. Their verdict was "Guilty," and their punishment was "Loss of Command."

The Bowring Boy and Munn received the verdict with scorn and contempt, and resolved to defy the Verdict of the People; but let them mark this, that if Kean sails in the Florizel as commander, Kean will at no distant day stand at the Bar of the Court to answer for his conduct on the 31st of March and April 1st, 1914.

Will Be Sorry For Their Actions of March, 1914

It won't be, "lose the command of a steamer, but it will be a far more serious matter that he will be charged with."

If he ever stands before a Court of Justice to answer the charge, he will have no one else but Munn and the Bowring Boy to Blame for such a position. Squires won't always be Minister of Justice and Morris won't always be Premier.

The People generally get their way, Abraham Kean, and as sure as the sun shines you will be sorry for your actions of March 31st, 1914.

Munn and Bowring will be considered two fools by all reasonable men long ere this matter is disposed of. They had the chance when the Stephano was withdrawn to let Kean down easy and close down all further agitation over the sealing disaster, but they were too pigheaded and stupid to know in what direction the firm's truest interest lay.

They had a chance on Saturday when we published that article headed Abraham Kean to close the whole matter. They were asked by us as late as Tuesday night to act sensible and manly towards the People and to promise Kean would not go in the Florizel and end the matter.

They would listen to no proposals. They were resolved to send Kean, in defiance of every man in the Colony. They have made their own bed and they must now lie upon it.

"They Will Die Broken-Hearted Men"

They have compelled their honoured house to break their word of honour and thereby rank with men that broke their solemn engagements. They will die broken-hearted men, for if there is anything a gentleman cherishes and cannot exist without is "honour."

All this has been done in order to defy the People's expressed and formulated request that one man be withdrawn as a sealing captain. They will find that what they have so foolishly done will cost them \$50,000 a year for many years. They were the last firm in the Country expected by the People to act as they did. To consider their honour as the Germans did their obligations towards Belgium—"merely a scrap of paper."

"We have decided to withdraw Kean from this year's sealing fishery" they cabled on Thursday, and on Sunday they signed the warrant of their business honour by stating that their answer to President Coaker was sent without "full knowledge arrangements previously made."

What an awful struggle must have been experienced by this hitherto honoured house when compelled to cable such words—words that dishonoured their reputation and words that were untrue although to them were no doubt believed to be true. Those words were forced from Bowring's Liverpool House by the action of Munn and Eric Bowring.

We will now show how very dishonourable the action was and our readers can judge as to whether falsehood or truth was involved in what transpired. On Wednesday the owners met and decided they would send the ships to the seal fishery and fixed \$3.75 as the price of seals. That evening we asked Bowring Bros. if there was any reply to our letter of the 11th of January, which they sent to the Liverpool Managing Directors. The answer was that "no reply had been received."

"Mark the Words—FULL KNOWLEDGE"

We at once dispatched our cable, which reached England on the following Thursday. The reply was promptly sent and stated that they had "decided to withdraw Kean." Their subsequent cable stated that previous to Thursday the 11th—"arrangements had been made of which they had not full knowledge."

Mark the words—FULL KNOWLEDGE. They don't state that they had "no knowledge"—but that they did not have "full knowledge of what had been done here." We will analyze the meaning of those words.

Munn had received our request, he had sent it to Liverpool for decision because he considered the Managing Directors the proper authorities to decide whether Kean should go or be withdrawn.

No word had been received re Bowring-Kean decision because the matter of sending the steel ships had not been decided until a few days previously. That being so, Munn of course had not up to then arranged with Kean to go in the Florizel, if he did, he played a double game of deception, for he was pleading with the other owners in support of the proposal for a close season.

Unworthy of the Respect And Esteem of Any Man

Surely he was not base enough to support a close season on the one hand and arranging with Kean on the other to go in the Florizel, in view of his having submitted that matter to the Liverpool firm for their decision. We must therefore conclude that the statement "that arrangements had been made" prior to Thursday, of which the Liverpool house had not "full knowledge," was impossible.

The cable was sent us on Thursday, and in view of the facts stated we do not believe Munn base enough to have entered into any binding arrangement with Kean to go as master of the Florizel—if he did, he is unworthy of the respect and esteem of any man. Munn was of course apprised of the Liverpool decision at the same time as President Coaker was, and why did he not get the Liverpool Managing Directors to acquiesce immediately of his local actions?

It was Saturday before the Liverpool house would consent to sign a warrant to assassinate their honourable name and reputation. It was on Saturday Munn and the Bowring Boy probably cabled their intention to resign as local directors if Kean was withdrawn as the Liverpool house had resolved.

Munn had no time to make an honourable arrangement with Kean before the Liverpool firm sent Mr. Coaker their decision. The decision to send the steel ships was not reached until Wednesday, and there had been no reply from the Liverpool directors as to what they had decided to do about Kean until they cabled Mr. Coaker on Thursday night.

The Old Adam Of The Merchant Lord in Him

If Munn and the Bowring boy made arrangements to send Kean in the Florizel—that arrangement could not have been made until after the decision of the Liverpool House was received by Mr. Coaker—if such existed prior to that—then Munn committed a bigger piece of deception than any one ever believed him capable of doing and his honour is doubly stained.

Which version of the matter does he say is true? Upon which horn of the delimita does he intend to sit—for which ever he selects the tip of the horn will reach his honour and tarnish his reputation?

Munn at any rate succeeded in getting the Liverpool House to tarnish their honour in order to defy the F.P.U. and place Kean in a position that they should know would be indignantly resented by the People of this Country.

Munn showed that the old Adam of the Merchant Lord was in him and that he belonged to the stock that had for generations made slaves of the fishermen of Terra Nova. He sprung from those taskmasters that Sir E. P. Morris a few years ago, in a speech delivered by him in this City, stigmatized as pursuing a policy that would squeeze all the "fish and oil they could out of Newfoundland" without any regard to its permanent advancement.

Sir Edward Patrick Morris And Water Street Merchants

Sir E. P. Morris at that time was no lover of Water Street upstarts. They were his bitterest foes and he was their unalterable enemy.

Here is a sentence or two of this remarkable speech which was published at the time in the newspapers. It reads

now more like a Coaker speech than a Morris speech, but it is an acknowledgment to the Merchants.

Here are his words:—"If our Merchants were at the present time to adopt the bag and baggage policy and clear out of the Country to-morrow, they would not leave behind them a solitary institution to remind us that they ever existed among us."

"In other lands, many of them have given bountifully towards public institutions and public charities, but such has not been the case in Newfoundland. Son succeed rather in the conduct of the business, but never has anything been done to show their appreciation of all that they have got out of the Country."

"Their policy has been to squeeze all the fish and oil they could get out of Newfoundland without any regard to its permanent advancement."

The Same Old Blood Runs Through Their Veins

No words that Coaker ever uttered were as scathing as those of Morris above quoted against the Water Street Lords. Morris then did not care if they all got out bag and baggage. He was positive that if they did, nothing would remain behind to show that they ever existed amongst us. All the millions of dollars they had grabbed had gone somewhere, but he was convinced nothing would remain behind them to show they ever existed.

Morris accuses them of having given bountifully towards public institutions in other lands, but said he such has not been the case in Newfoundland. All they desired said Mr. E. P. Morris was to squeeze all the fish and oil possible out of Newfoundland fishermen without regard to anything but their own selfish ends—to grow rich as quick as possible and get away to the Banks of the Mercy and the Clyde.

Apparently the same old blood still runs through their veins, for when one firm can pack away \$170,000 profits out of poor Newfoundland in one year and that the first of the greatest war the world ever witnessed—then it would not be a very great loss even if such a firm packed its bag and baggage. It is easy to understand why they do business. Who supposes—but themselves—that they operate solely to benefit the Country and fishermen.

The Underdogs Earned That Money

One hundred years ago the business was started here with less than \$1000 capital, and to-day the Bowring's own property, goods and cash equal to \$5,000,000. They have \$2,000,000 worth in Newfoundland. Where did it come from? Did the Fairies bring it? Did it drop from the clouds? Did it come from Water Street? It came from the toil of the fishermen—the Underdogs earned that money. But the Underdogs are now told by Morris—one of the family of Munn's who laid Harbor Grace as flat as a pancake—that he don't intend to be dictated to regarding how he runs his business or who he places in his steamers.

Munn forgets that the fishermen heard that same haughty talk hundreds of times in days of yore from their Merchant Taskmasters. Munn forgets that had there been no fishermen to catch fish and go to the seal fishery, that he would not be able to put \$60,000 into the Bowring business. That \$60,000 was a part of \$240,000 left by his father, all of which his father made by buying fish and oil from the fishermen North and manufacturing seals they fetched from the ocean in mid-winter at the risk of their lives.

(To be continued from day to-day.)
WATCH FOR THE PAPER TO-MORROW.