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The Mail and Advocate

Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

Editor and Business Manager JOHN J. ST. JOHN

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., NOV. 2nd., 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Mr. Blackall's Letter

IN A LETTER to the Telegram (republished below), "Wandering Willie" Blackall says, "A force within me impels me to endeavour to make my position clear..."

As if to prove this remark of ours, "W.W." affirms that "circumstances have arisen which make it due to the office I hold rather than to myself that I should endeavour to make myself clear..."

But those who remember Mr. Blackall's extraordinary activity against Local Option, when he did not hold his present office, will not need any further evidence to convince them that this latest excuse for meddling is only a sham, and that the truth is that "all the king's horses and all the king's men" could not have kept him out of this shindy, in defence of the rum traffic.

The fact is, that as in this small country the average reader cannot or will not separate the person from the office he holds, no office holder should intrude his views on the public, unless compelled to, except his office be one charged with care over the matter under discussion. Mr. Blackall, for instance, is a man whose opinions would be of no importance, and who would possess no weight in the Colony, if it were not for the office he holds, which invests him with a fictitious importance. That office he ought to hold no longer, after this Prohibition campaign is over, for he has managed by his attitude on this question to mix the man and the office in a way which reflects upon the whole Church of England people in this diocese.

This latest "explanation" of Mr. Blackall's attitude suggests that he is preparing for the ministry, and has over-studied. He suggests that as Christ draws, not drives, Prohibition, "which is coercion," should not be attempted, but we should as a community endure all the terrible consequences of the Rum Traffic "until mankind puts Christ in His right place." Here appears once more the fundamental error that it is the "sin" of drunkenness, in its quality as sin, not in its earthly effects, which justifies Prohibition, and that Prohibitionists are teaching that men

should be made holy by legislation.

Drunkenness makes paupers, criminals, orphans; it helps to fill jails, asylums, hospitals, poor houses; it causes destitution and misery; it increases the taxes—it is a public nuisance! Why, then, shall it not be stopped by legislation? Are all these curses to the community, these physical and financial consequences, to be borne in silence until Christ enters into and cleanses the hearts and souls of drunkards and rum-sellers? Because game would otherwise be exterminated, we legislate for close seasons. By law, we say thou shalt not shoot, thou shalt not fish, thou shalt not sell poisons except in certain defined ways. We protect rabbits, but not children; we spare trout, but not women; we prohibit poison of a kind we do not like, but are asked to license the poisons craved for by diseased stomachs.

The nonsense, or worse, men talk and write about this vice of liquor drinking is disgusting. "Let Christ save," says one. "The Grace of God is sufficient," says another. In the way these catch phrases are used they are not true. Doubtless Christ or the Grace of God can save, and save directly, but the drunkards on our streets show that men are still unsaved, and that if their brother men do nothing, thousands more will go the same way to unhallowed graves. If these false prophets would only reflect, it might enter into their noddles to comprehend that Christ saves in His own way, that the Grace of God works indirectly as well as directly, and that since all good comes to men through Him, it is Christ who is in and about this great struggle to abolish the sin-cursed liquor traffic.

It is shocking to witness the spectacle of men in high places, charged with the care of the young of our land, devoting their abilities, and using the influence their high places give them, preaching Christ in the cause of the Devil, for that is what Mr. Blackall and a few others like him are doing. The rumsellers who say, by big posters in their windows, "If you do not want Prohibition, do not vote," and who thus at one and the same time invite to cowardice and threaten punishment, have this excuse at least, that they are fighting for their bread and butter.

But what are the men of the Blackall type fighting for, these guardians of the children and teachers of morals—for the open rum shop, for the open hell, for the bad example, for the reeling forms upon our streets, for deserted wives, starving children, and all the crime and misery that the sale of liquors brings in its train.

Heavy indeed will be the debt such men will have to pay when their accounting comes.

Dear Sir,—I have wished to abstain from any part in the Prohibition campaign, but circumstances have arisen which make it due to the office I hold rather than to myself that I should endeavor to make my position clear. Furthermore a force within me impels me. I therefore ask you to be good enough to afford me an opportunity of making a statement.

My attitude to the question in suggested in a sentence contained in my note of protest kindly published by you a few days ago: "Temperance prohibition by coercion; temperance is a divine means, prohibition a human one." There is on sale in St. John's a picture which likewise gives a clue to my mind in the matter of our conduct in all things. The picture represents a soldier of the great European crusade dead on the field of battle and near unto him the crucified Christ as his fellow. I received the picture of the living crusader in the line of battle—his shield and his sword, for is not Christ by the side of every one of us in every phase of our life—at work or play, in the office or at the bench, in the school or in the home, in the mansion or in the cottage, in the fishing-boat or in the woods, aye, even in the den—our philosopher, friend and guide, our strength and our support? Is not this what Christ wishes all of us, even the vilest sinner, to feel, that He is by our side, right near to us—not to scold but to sympathize, not to imprison but to set free, not to drive but lead?

And is not this what we should teach in relation to drink as in relation to all things? Think you that the sinner would sin if he could realize that the Holy Christ was by his side, that the man who dispenses strong drink could pass the glass to his brother already drunken if he felt Christ near him, or that the father could pass the threshold of the drinking saloon if he saw Christ in the path pointing him to his wife and children at home starved and naked? There seems to me to be suggested to us here the solution of all sin: "If I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." Would that the image of Christ could be burnt in fire into the heart of not only the man who dispenses strong drink to the harm of his brother but of every sinner about to commit his sin!

APPEAL TO FULL BENCH

Case of Abram Kean vs W. F. Coaker and the Union Publishing Co., Ltd.

1914—No. 167. IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEWFOUNDLAND

BETWEEN Abram Kean Plaintiff and William F. Coaker and The Union Publishing Company Limited. Defendants.

BEFORE THE FULL BENCH

Morine, K.C. (Kent, K.C., with him) moved on the motion published below. Furlong, K.C. (Warren, K.C., with him) was heard contra. Kent, K.C., replied.

The Court took time to consider its verdict.

NOTICE OF MOTION

TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, the 20th day of October, 1915, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, or so soon thereafter as Counsel can be heard, motion will be made by Counsel for the Defendants to set aside the verdict and judgment herein and for a new trial on the following grounds:

1 That the whole of the newspaper article in which the libel complained of appeared was not put in evidence as part of the plaintiff's case.

2 That the Judge misdirected the Jury in the following particulars by saying:

(a) That it had been open to the defendants to put the said newspaper article in evidence, and that, therefore, all the jury should consider were the words complained of in the statement of Claim.

(b) That the Inquiry before the Stipendiary Magistrate referred to in the pleadings was a judicial inquiry. That false evidence on oath in such inquiry would amount to perjury. That the plaintiff was charged by the defendants with wilful perjury, and that the defendants' plea that the words complained of did not mean that the Plaintiff had committed wilful perjury amounted to nothing.

(c) That the third paragraph of the words complained of should be treated as an allegation of fact and was not a mere comment and should be as strictly proven as though it had been expressly justified.

(d) That the defendant's plea denying the inuendo in the Statement of Claim could only be treated as an aggravation of the defendant's offence.

(e) That the defendant's plea meant that the Plaintiff knew he was lying, and that by the pleas the defendant's endorsed as statements of fact all that the words complained of said. That such endorsement should be treated as an aggravation of defendant's offence, and that it was invariably the duty of the jury to increase damages under such circumstances.

(f) That neither the Counsel for the defendants nor Counsel for the plaintiff had stated the real facts which led to the sending of a wireless message by the plaintiff to his son Captain Joseph Kean (which message was in evidence) but that the sending of the said message by the plaintiff was due to the receipt by the plaintiff of another message about which no evidence had been given on the trial, but which he (the Judge) sitting in another capacity knew to have passed between the plaintiff and his son.

(g) That it would be a "mad conclusion" to which not one of the jury could come, that the plaintiff had been guilty of the conduct ascribed to him by the words complained of.

(h) That the defence (a) Amounts to nothing, (b) Was frivolous, tricky and trumped up, (c) Utterly falls, (d) That there was nothing left for the jury to do but to find a verdict for the plaintiff.

(e) That the jury had no possible right to find anything but a verdict for the plaintiff. (f) The words complained of by the Plaintiff amounted to a scurrilous libel.

Dated this 16th day of October, A.D. 1915.

MORINE & SUMMERS, Defendants' Solicitors.

HOW TO VOTE

To vote for Prohibition, place the X against the "Yes"

Are you in favour of Prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of spirits, wine, ale, beer, cider, and all other alcoholic liquor for use as beverages?

YES X

NO

A similar set of statistics in reference to the outports would likewise be helpful to a proper consideration of the whole question.

Thanking you for space, I am, Yours faithfully, W. W. BACKHALL, St. John's, Oct. 31, 1915.

Use "Bristelite" Kerosene Oil. P. H. COWAN, Importer.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Presented by the Port Rexton Council of the F.P.U. to President Coaker, on the Occasion of His Visit to Port Rexton, October 29th, 1915.

W. F. COAKER, M.H.A., President F.P.U.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT.—It is with great pleasure we welcome you once more amongst us. We extend to you a warmer welcome than ever. We present this address at this time because of the treatment which you have received at the hands of Judge and Jury who tried the Kean libel case. We unhesitatingly condemn that verdict as unfair, unreasonable and prejudiced, and no sensible man can properly claim that the verdict was in accord with the evidence or the circumstances.

Your battles are our battles, your enemies ours. We don't intend to forego any of our rights in order to appease the antagonistic feeling of St. John's against you or the F.P.U. They will find we are determined to see this F.P.U. movement through.

Your intention to remove the Union Headquarters to Catalina will meet with the warmest approval or Trinity and Bonavista Bay Union men. We will stand by you in the work of building up a town at Catalina. We will give you money and our labour and believe that as all your undertakings have so far been blessed by Providence so will your Catalina venture. A marine slip and electric power will follow your activities at Catalina.

Let your opponents remember at St. John's that they must reckon with the electors of the Northern Bays for any unfairness suffered by you at their hands.

As for Abram Kean, we know him well; a piece of conceited vanity, puffed up by success, brought him through other men's labours. We recognize in him a dangerous enemy of our Union and our Country; and the day is not far distant when the North will demand his removal from a coastal steamer subsidized by the Government.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Presented W.F. Coaker, M.H.A. President of the F.P.U., on the Occasion of His Visit to Champneys, October 27th, 1915.

W. F. COAKER, M.H.A., President F.P.U.

ESTEEMED FRIEND.—We the officers and members of Champneys Local Council, extend to you a most hearty welcome on this your first visit to Champneys. You are come as our hero and our friend, and it is with pleasure that we welcome you amongst us.

We are pleased by the able manner in which you have exposed political wrong doing and waste of the public revenue.

We welcome you to our harbour and homes. We rejoice over the reception you have received at all the harbours you have visited and although we may lack something of outward display, be assured that in our hearts we appreciated your visit and your work, and will endeavour to make your visit a pleasant one.

We sincerely wish that your future may be attended with the same remarkable success which has followed you in the past.

We firmly believe that you are toiling solely for the working classes, and your presence here is convincing proof of the power, progress and influence of the Union; and we are also pleased to know that you are taking a great

We hold him guilty of the cause of the death of the men who died from exposure on March 31, 1914. All the water in the Atlantic won't wash that crime from his reputation, if he has one. Let him come to Port Rexton or any Northern town with his case against where he belongs to. Our patience with him, with the Court and St. John's Juries is about exhausted.

If British fair play cannot be found amongst our foes at St. John's we will have to find other means of securing it. One of those days Kean will find himself taken from the deck of the Prospero and tarred and feathered, for his presence at Port Rexton is now about as welcome as a visit from His Satanic Majesty would be. Let him not forget that he cannot continue to injure our organization with impunity.

Bowring Bros. are no better in the eyes of the Northern men, for if they regarded their honour and standing they would not have insulted the country last spring by sending Kean to the ice in defiance of 10,000 men.

We present you, Sir, with a brief time to be given you at this visit to swell the fund, Union men are subscribing to, in order to meet any demands by St. John's Juries in the Kean libel case. Please accept it in all sincerity, as our means, our votes and our services will be yours whenever you desire the same.

On behalf of Port Rexton Local Council of the F.P.U.,

ALBERT E. BUTLER, (Chairman), WALTER RANDELL, (Secretary), JOHN GUPPY, ISAAC J. RANDELL, WM. T. BARBOUR, ROBERT RANDELL, JACOB BARBOUR. Port Rexton, Oct. 29, 1915.

stand in the cause of Prohibition, which is now about to be ushered in our Island Home. May the 4th of November prove a success for Prohibition. We fall in line with the great army of temperance workers, and let us hope that by God's help we will put down the great evil of strong drink and pray that the blessing of God rest on this great work.

In conclusion may you be spared many years to help and uplift the fishermen and toiling classes. May you at the end of your life here be able to say as Nelson said, "Thank God, I've done my duty."

We extend to you our sincere sympathy in the matter of the Kean libel verdict and assure you of our warmest assurance. Your foes are our foes, let Kean and St. John's remember that.

Wishing you the best of health and an enjoyable visit to Champneys,

We remain, on behalf of Champneys Local Council of the F.P.U., ROBERT BUTLER, SAMUEL PARKER, GILES FIFIELD, JOS. J. WALTERS. Champneys, Oct. 29, 1915.

Expects Big Vote For Prohibition

Elder W. C. Young who returned by the Fogota Sunday from the North reports that a big wave of sympathy for Prohibition is evident at all places on the Treaty Shore and Fogo District. The people are fully alive to the benefits to be derived from Prohibition

and are determined to do their duty on Thursday next. Elder Young has spoken on the subject at 14 public meetings and may well feel pleased at the result of his efforts. Sunday night he spoke at Cookstown Road and had the fullest and earnest attention of his hearers. All present when appealed to showed their determination to vote YES on NOV. 4.

A National Ishmael

WHEN THE WAR is over, the future of Germany will depend upon the choice she must make of two alternatives: either she must continue as a nation outlawed, suspected, and detested by all civilized nations, or she must shed her antiquated form of absolute monarchic government; she repent of her past iniquities, or take the inevitably bitter consequences.

There is no doubting the fact that official Germany stands for the German nation more fully than does any other civilized government for those over whom it rules. No other people in the world have so placed themselves cravenly in the hands of any government, especially in the hands of such a government as theirs, to be treated as plastic human material at the will of their rulers. All that their insensate rulers have done or attempted, the Germans have approved. They have been quite content to have it not "Germany against the world," but "the German people against mankind."

Nobody can doubt that the Germans, since the battle of the Marne, are, in spite of all their devilish schemes, are doomed to ultimate defeat. Their leaders must long since have felt this, and it must now be beginning to penetrate even the duller minds among them. Yet this knowledge has not deflected them from causing as much misfortune and misery as possible to the world before going down in final disaster.

The rights of the neutral States of the world have been trampled upon. Turkey has been instigated, armed, and officered to do what harm she can to Christendom, and by unrestricted barbarity to exterminate Christianity, by wholesale murder of Christian men, women, and children within her own bounds. The Balkan States have been forced into war which can bring aught but a curse. In fact, the whole world has been set by the ears, and soaked in blood, to gratify German malevolence.

The world when the time comes will strike back fiercely and effectively; and the only means by which the German people can escape condign punishment justly due to their organized crimes is to dissociate themselves from a Government which they have inherited from days of savagery, and which has glorified in perpetuating the savagery of those days.

A popular revolution is long overdue in Germany, and until it comes the German people must be prepared to accept and expect all the consequences of their misdeeds. She must be regarded as a national Ishmael; but this were not sufficient. There must be an economic combination to bring about the merited punishment. She has not been nearly so great a military menace previous to and during the war as she has been a financial and economic one. Her whole industrial and financial system have been organized and operated for military ends. She has prepared for war, not with the sword alone, but with science, industry, and finance. She has wormed her way into all the markets of the world, carrying her nefarious system of military and business espionage with her.

She must now be excluded as rigorously as possible from these markets, until she unmistakably manifests a complete change of heart by internal re-organization. She should be allowed no opportunity of recovering, much less of extending her industrial prestige. In other words, there should be a close and persistent boycott of all German products throughout the civilized world. There should neither trade or barter with her where it can be possibly avoided. The stamp "made in Germany" should signify henceforth "not

A SAILOR'S ANTHEM.

A sailor who had been to a cathedral and had heard some very fine music was describing particularly upon an anthem which gave him much pleasure. His shipmate listened for a time and then said:

"I say, Bill, what's a hanthem?" "What?" replied Bill, "do you mean to say you don't know what a hanthem is?"

"Not me." "Well then, I'll tell yer. If I was to tell yer, 'Ere, Bill, give me that 'andspike,' that wouldn't be a hanthem. But was I to say, 'Bill, Bill, Bill, give me, give me that. Bill give me, give me that hand, give me that hand,' give me that handspike, spike, spike. Bill, give me that, that hand, handspike, hand, handspike, spike, spike, spike. Ah-men, Ah-men. Bill give me that handspike, spike, spike. Ah-men, why that would be a hanthem."