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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MARCH 9, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Kelp and Gypsum

THE March number of "Popular Mechanic" contains an article on the Kelp Beds of the Pacific, inspired no doubt by the search for other sources of various potassium salts, seeing that the German supply is practically cut off by the war.

Kelp and other fuoid forms of vegetation contain considerable amounts of these salts, and to these plants attention is at present being directed as a possible source of supply. There are vast beds of sea weeds around our Island that it might be worth while to investigate. This matter has been spoken of before by other writers, among them Mr. P. G. Butler, of this city, who also referred to the abstraction of iodine from these growths, which now are largely permitted to go to waste on our shores.

Hundreds of tons of sea weeds are annually used by the farmers of the West Coast, as a fertilizer for potatoes, for which they are highly useful because of the large amount of potassium salts they contain.

Besides kelp as a source of potash, we have possibly a mineral source of that element to which no attention has been paid. In this country we have considerable gypsum deposits and potassium and sodium salts are generally associated with that mineral, as also is sulphur in different forms. Gypsum itself should be worth our while to investigate, for it is a substance in very considerable demand, either in the crude state or calcined and made into plaster of Paris. The United States offers a big market for this substance.

It would be worth while to have an exhaustive study of our gypsum deposits made with a view of directing capital to the development of this mineral wealth. A thorough investigation by the Geological Department might discover the presence of valuable deposits of potassium salts, associated with the gypsum. That potassium and sodium salts and sulphur do exist in association with our gypsum deposits we have absolute proof from personal observation.

From these valuable salts are now going to waste, are leaching out and

finding their way into the sea to be lost to us forever seems a pity. Gypsum is a widely distributed mineral in Canada. It is found in different sections from Nova Scotia and Cape Breton to British Columbia and on the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers. It is found in Manitoba and Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec. It is also found in the Arctic regions. Parry in his third voyage, discovered beds of it in Prince Regent Inlet, and the writer also found veins of its traversing bituminous shales in Strathcona Sound, N.W. Baffin Land, and he has also in his collection a beautiful sample of the fibrous, silky kind known as satin spar, which he dug from a small seam in the Cave of the Winds, Niagara Falls. Gypsum is found in a variety of forms, in crystals, fibrous, earthy and massive. In thin sheets it is transparent as glass and resembles mica.

It is found in a variety of colors, according to the amount and kind of impurities found in it. It is pink, red, brown, blue, black and white. Commonly it is white.

A Goodly Amount Must Be Realized! Take In Every Show!

Monday and Tuesday:—

HEARST-SELIG NEWS—Lord Roberts reviews 1,500 men from offices in London, who volunteered and formed the 10th Fusiliers Other items of fresh news interest.

"THE POOR FOLKS BOY"

A two-part Vitagraph drama. Held in the grasp of a greedy landlord, the poor widow is robbed of her all. The old rascal tries to hold her boy in bondage. She rebels and clings to the child, defying her persecutor and the world. Annie Schaffer, Paul Willis and George Stanly are the cast.

HIS WIFE AND HIS WORK—A veritable two-part triumph.

TAMING TERRIBLE and THE VILLAIN STILL PURSUED HER—Two side-splitting comedies of unusual interest.

You Can Help--Also See A Great Show! Come to THE NICKEL--Big Value

Last Night's Sealers Meeting in T. A. Hall

St. John's and Outports Clasp Hands Together--Citizens Cheer the Sealers and Sealers Return in Kind.

Mr. Coaker Outlines F.P.U. Attitude Towards Kean--Predicts Early Defeat of the Morris Ministry

ALTHOUGH all the Gulf steamers sailed yesterday and very few sealers remained in the city, the F.P.U. decided to use the T. A. Hall—as it had been engaged two weeks ago for five nights of this week, and while about 250 sealers were present, about 800 town sympathizers found their way to the Hall, and one of the best public meetings ever held in the town was the result.

President Coaker opened the meeting at 8 p.m. and spoke for ninety minutes, delivering one of the best addresses heard from him at St. John's. He reviewed the resolutions of last week, and of the reply of the seal buyers who thought prices would be fair and if not acceptable to the sealers when fixed on the arrival of the front ships, the matter could form the subject of further negotiations.

The reply of President Coaker was that the men would be "willing to have prices fixed when the first ship arrived but if prices were not acceptable to the F.P.U. the Board of Arbitration as proposed at the Sealers' Meeting of the 4th inst., should fix the price, which decision all should abide by.

The buyers had met this evening and replied but their reply had not reached him yet. He understood they had agreed to permit the men to take their part of seals and sell where they wish, if so, that would be a step in the right direction. He said that they would manufacture the seals.

A large number of sealers were due by to-morrow night and the reply of the buyers might be submitted to-morrow night, if not on Wednesday night when final action would be taken.

He spoke of the proposals of Catalina Convention regarding the amendment of the sealing laws, and explained the Union's attitude. He referred to the refusal of the Government to accede to the request of the people—of the 4000 electors who had already sent in petitions demanding Kean's arrest—of the responsibility which the Premier would be called to account about.

Mr. Coaker stated that every legal, manly, and Constitutional method for securing the observance of the Peoples wishes respecting Kean and his conduct last Spring, had been availed of to secure action by the Government that would protect the sealers' interests and safeguard their lives while at the icefields, but that the Government had held that Kean was innocent, did no wrong, and would not be arrested.

He said Kean, Munn and the Premier would forever rue their conduct towards the People and that Kean would never see another peaceful hour, for if he went in the Florida the curses of 50,000 persons would go with him. Upon the Premier's head must fall the blame for Kean's actions and for the contempt showered upon the People's requests.

On Thursday a big F.P.U. Sealers' Demonstration would be held—order-

ly and peaceful—which would parade the streets of the city and all the citizens of St. John's who sympathized with the bereaved relatives of the 78 dead breadwinners who went to their death in the Newfoundland disaster and who condemned the conduct of Bowring's Munn and the Government would be invited to take part.

The parade will start from the T. A. Hall on Thursday night and it would be the Peoples reply to the conduct of the Government and others who allowed with indifference 78 breadwinners to go down to their death and 21 others to be crippled for life, and those whose conduct allowed those men to perish from exposure surrounded by powerful means of succor which were never utilized would read in the Demonstration of Thursday night what the Peoples thought of such inhuman conduct and the failure of Justice in bringing such conduct to its just desserts.

Mr. Coaker would not permit any action that would break a law, and if the Union's enemies were hoping to see a mob or a row in which Union men attempted unlawful actions they would be disappointed, for if Constitutional methods failed to punish Kean's conduct after what had been done by the people the last few days, then Kean could go to the ice, but when he sailed a chorus from 250 harbors would start that would not cease until Morris was in the position he so unworthily occupy.

If Kean went it would mean the coming of the waters into a resolve to give no quarter until Morris was ousted from his place, never more to return. It would be a sorry day for Munn and Bowring's and it would make Kean the most hated man in the Colony.

He wished Water Street to understand that the F.P.U. were ready to recognize them in their proper place but never again would forty thousand producers be walked over by twenty men on Water Street. That was the fight now confronting the toilers, and that was the issue that must be decided. Water Street was behind this Kean-Bowring outrage and by defying the people they were placing ropes around their necks as a Water Street clique that must control the Colony.

The speech was a splendid effort and called forth hearty cheers at the close. The sealers were asked a question about this Kean-Bowring outrage when all loudly responded their determination to stand by the F.P.U.

Mr. Coaker then asked the town men where they stood and a response that was a great surprise was the result. Now, said Mr. Coaker, you St. John's men are plucky and you sealers should show your regard for their great sympathy and the sealers cheered the St. John's men, while the St. John's men cheered the sealers and their Union. It was an incident that will live long in memory.

Mr. Stone was called upon by the

audience to speak and he did speak in slashing style which carried the audience by storm.

The audience then called for a few words from Mr. Grimes, who responded in a splendid manner, captivating the audience.

Mr. Coaker closed the meeting and asked the audience to sing the National Anthem.

The meeting to-night will be addressed by President Coaker who will continue his remarks on Sealing and Fishery matters. The price of seal matter will be further dealt with. Every sealer is invited.

Freaks Played By Bullets

A sapper in the Royal Engineers tells the story of an extraordinary escape which one of his comrades experienced. A bullet took his cap off and cut a groove through his hair, without injuring the scalp, in such a manner that it looked as though he had carefully parted his hair down the centre.

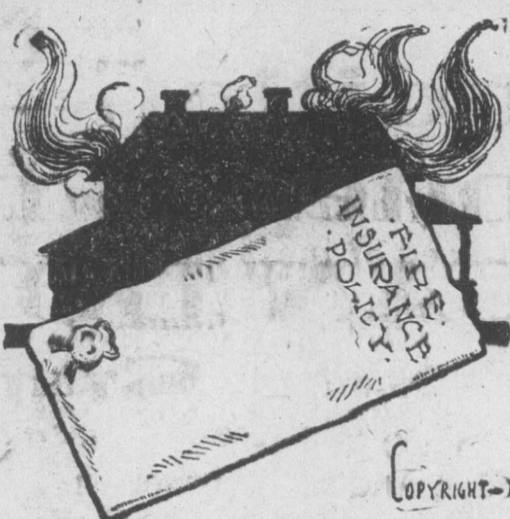
This is but another illustration of the tricks that bullets play at times. It is doubtful, however, if any soldier in the present campaign has had such marvellous escapes as Lieut. A. C. Johnson, the Hants County cricketer, who relates how, shortly before he was slightly wounded, a shell hit the wall six inches above his head, while shortly afterwards a bullet hit the ground half a yard in front of him, bounded up and hit him on the body, brushing his ribs. Then a bullet hit him over the ribs, but was spent before reaching him, and when in the hospital he picked it out of his left-hand breast pocket and sent it home to his wife.

A charmed life, too, seems to be borne by a private of the Manchester Regiment, who relates how, while smoking a cigarette in the trenches, a bullet took the "tag" out of his mouth, while another cut the crown of his hat, leaving the peak still sticking on his head. And it is characteristic of the humor of "Tommy," even when the fire is hottest, that when a bullet beat off the top of a tin of bully beef which another private had in his hand, he looked at it, coolly turned around, made a bow in the direction of the enemy and thanked them for saving him the trouble of finding a tin-opener.

A curious escape from what might have been a mortal wound was that of a Royal Scots Fusilier. During a severe fight he suddenly felt the shock of a bullet. "I am hit," he said to his chum. Looking down, struck a clip of cartridges in his top left-hand pouch, but had done no other damage. The first cartridge must have been a little loose, and as it twisted round when it was struck the bullet was turned off instead of going straight through the soldier's body, as it would have done had all the cartridges been firm.

Mr. Frank Scudmore relates an extraordinary incident which occurred during the Sudan campaign, when he saw an officer, a friend of his, go down, apparently shot through the head. "To my surprise," he says, "I met him walking about after the battle, apparently none the worse for wear, saving that his head was bandaged. Then he showed me how the bullet, striking and deflected by one of the hooks of his helmet chain, had run around his forehead, cutting a groove under the skin, and had then glanced off the helmet hook at the other side.

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The annual entertainments given to the sealers, fishermen and seamen in the Grenfell Hall have been arranged for the following dates:

Tuesday, 2nd; Wednesday, 3rd; Thursday, 4th; Friday, 5th; Saturday, 6th; Monday, 8th; Tuesday, 9th; Wednesday, 10th; Thursday, 11th; Friday, 12th March.

The entertainments will consist of moving pictures and as many naval and military films as available, relating to the war will be shown. Admission is free to all sealers, fishermen and seamen.

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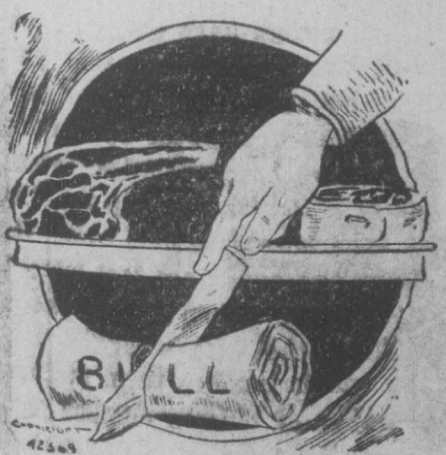
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