

The Evening Advocate

The Evening Advocate. The Weekly Advocate.

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Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



"To Every Man His Own"

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ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND, SATURDAY, DEC. 31st., 1921.

THE YEAR 1921

The year that is passing away has been one of the most depressing for decades. World trade had commenced to show signs of collapse in 1920 and in six months probably the biggest slump in the financial fabric of the world took place. In one sense it was a blessing that it happened as it did, and brought the world from the height of prosperity to the depths of near bankruptcy. It is when all reach the level of dependability upon each other that a spirit of co-operation is born, and the past year has been one of mutual assistance, until to-day the business-world, instead of sinking, has feet well placed on a solid if small, foundation that enables it to look up with hope for the future. The year 1921 has meant suffering and trials to many, it has meant untold miseries in Russia and other European countries, and at the present time there are no less than five million people in Great Britain who are affected by unemployment conditions to such an extent that their lot is one of want and lack of food.

Unemployment conditions in the United States and Canada are very little better. Thanks to a paternal Government, Newfoundland is struggling hopefully through and every effort is being made to provide work for those who need it. We have, after all, a great deal to be thankful for, in that we are facing 1922 with every prospect that the New Year will bring the blessing of work for all, and lower prices for necessities of life.

The country has had less than its share of insolvencies. There did not lack pessimists last year and this year, who said that misery would stalk abroad before this, that fishermen would have to hawk their fish from door to door, to sell their fish and at nothing but bankruptcy and disaster awaited this country. But these men have been proved wrong. The Providence that has watched over this little country so long and brought it through so many trials and troublous times, has not deserted us. At the very time when these pessimists were shouting that Newfoundland was gone, the Prime Minister had raised a loan on better terms than those realized by a former administration. And the situation to-day is that the Financial World is ready to take up a new issue of Newfoundland Bonds and pay more for them than it did in July last. That fact is sufficient to prove to the outside world that Newfoundland is not by any means facing disaster, that the people of Newfoundland are manfully bucking up against the conditions which world-depression has brought, and that while there are hands to work, they continue to dig from the earth and take from the sea the wealth that makes it possible for this tight little island to exist.

THE MISTAKE MADE.

One of the outstanding mistakes that were made in 1921, was the lifting of the Regulations governing the Export of Fish. The agitation set on foot by political enemies of the Government, helped by the trend of lower prices, literally forced the repeal of these Regulations, and it is only now, when the system of export this fall has fallen down so miserably, that one is able to realize how stupid it was that there was no co-operation among the exporters to work together for the common good.

In the place of control, the codfish industry of Newfoundland has been placed this year in the hands of those who purchase the fish, and whose interest it is to pay as little as possible for that fish. In effect, it is the same as if the flour millers of Canada were to send down 300,000 barrels of flour here and tell us to pay them what we think the flour is worth.

The consigning of our fish to the Mediterranean markets is no more foolish a policy than that would be on the part of Canada, and well do the fishermen know to-day that their best interests are wrapped up in the policy of export control which Hon. W. F. Coaker advocates. The fishermen's earnings have been cut in half by the lifting of the

Fish Regulations, and that is an item which cannot be ignored, because the prosperity of this country depends upon the incomes earned by the fishermen, and millions of dollars lost in this way means a direct loss to the revenue of the Colony.

THE FISHERY RETURNS.

The codfishery returns this year were below an average voyage. The catch will likely be 800,000 qtls. Shore and 450,000 qtls. Labrador. The Salmon fishery was one of the best for 20 years and aided the fishermen greatly in the returns from it.

The Herring catch will be an average one, Bay of Islands having secured a good catch this fall. The catch of Spring Herring was not large owing to the uncertainty of values as packers considered the price would not repay them for barrels, salt and labour.

The codfishery this year will prove unsatisfactory to the fishermen, but exporters, especially the smaller men who export all their collection by December, will come out of the year in good shape. Those with fish to export will not fare as well, but if common sense is permitted to prevail there is no reason why prices sufficient to enable them to come out square cannot be obtained. There is not much more than 250,000 qtls. left for export, and this quantity should be absorbed easily by May.

UNION MATTERS.

The F. P. U. Convention this fall was one of the most successful ever held. Port Union has become a town and a marvel to all who visit it. In our Christmas issue it received much attention and there is little to say here except that the Union Spirit is as strong to-day as it ever was. In the time of trouble, it has proved to be a blessing to those who belong to it, and the members realize more every year that never have their districts been so well administered, when now they have men representing them who visit them and are directly in touch with them and all sections of the districts.

On the West Coast the call for more F. P. U. Councils is insistent and will have to receive full attention very shortly. The fishermen there are ready to join with their brethren of the north and ask that many Councils be organized, with stores started in order that they may derive similar advantages. That this may possibly be done in the near future is the hope of many, who during these years have looked with admiration upon the great work which Mr. Coaker has accomplished. The West Coast is at one with others in desiring a Fishery Policy that will give them decent returns from their toil. The loyalty of the fishermen to Mr. Coaker and the F. P. U. has not waned; it has grown stronger as the fishermen have realized how his efforts have been assailed. They know him as one who wants most to help his country along and who is prepared to take an active interest in those things which help in that direction.

THE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

While there are many indications of a more stable business outlook for 1922, we may touch upon one aspect of the future which opens up prospects of great development and that is the Humber Project which is now before the Government. It involves the starting of a large pulp and paper industry on the Humber, as well as the starting of several other industries, which, it is said, will provide employment for many thousands of men, and mean the expenditure of some seven million dollars in construction work within a few years. If arrangements can be finalized, work in the lumber woods will start immediately. The proposition is a vast one, and is being backed by financiers who would certainly want to be sure that investment was a good one before investing their millions in it. Certainly if they have faith in Newfoundland, we should show our faith that we have the resources which only await development.

THE BEGINNING OF PEACE.

The year 1921 will probably rank as one which, on the one hand, has shattered our dream that the end of the Great War ended all War, and, on the other hand, as the year which in its closing days saw the first real attempt at the beginning of a world peace.

The Arms Conference called by President Harding at Washington on November 12th for the purpose of seeing whether any disarmament might voluntarily take place among the nations of the world, has done, when all things are considered, good work. No one has expected great things of it, because human nature being what it is, it would be impossible to change systems which have grown up with the centuries, and are become just as natural as is the instinct to defend oneself from either a physical or verbal attack.

As we pointed out before, the Conference has enabled the nations to lay their cards upon the table and discuss their intentions regarding future wars. They have decided to limit armament, in theory, and found the usual difficulties in doing it in practice. It is some advance that verbal battles are taking the place of sword play and the nations will have advanced far on the road to a fuller understanding when the Conference closes.

Having settled the complement of capital ships, the present deadlock is over auxiliary craft and submarines.

France holds out for a big fleet of submarines, while Great Britain would abolish them as war weapons.

A Quadruple Alliance of Great Britain, United States, Japan and France has been formed to keep the peace in the Far East, but Japan will not willingly let go her hold on China. All these things make a forecast of final decisions impossible at the present, nor is the Conference likely to end until late in January.

The men who form the various delegations at this notable Conference are shown throughout this issue.

THE IRISH TREATY.

Another Christmas gift, not only to Great Britain but to the world, was made by Mr. Lloyd George when after much tribulation, he evolved an Irish agreement which could be signed by the Sinn Fein delegation as well as the British Cabinet. This document is given in full on page one and cut showing the actual signatures should be a souvenir that many will like to keep. It is a photograph from the original document and is an extremely interesting memento of the Treaty under which the Irish Free State is born.

The British Cabinet has ratified it, and in all probability, Dail Eireann will do so next week, though Eamon DeValera is against it. Sir James Craig and Ulster are against the boundary commission which is to run the line between South and North Parliaments, but doubtless matters will be adjusted in this regard.

THE ROYAL BETROTHAL

Much interest has been aroused by the approaching marriage of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles and it is hoped that on the return of the Prince of Wales from his Indian tour, he will have an opportunity of following his sister's example and take unto himself a wife, who will, in the course of time become his consort on the Throne of the Greatest Empire the world has ever seen.

Our popular Prince of Wales has more than justified his title in his visit to India. Doubts and misgivings of troubles have given way to rejoicings over the fact that he has won his way to the hearts of the people of India as he has done everywhere.

ANOTHER LOCAL GLANCE.

It has been a year of many losses in shipping, as well as one which has cut the value of shipping to a point that is almost absurd. Unfortunately there has been much loss of life, especially this Fall and in this connection we would write a word for the Permanent Marine Disasters Fund, with a request that should any reader wish to contribute to this worthy fund, we should have great pleasure in handing same over to the Treasurer. This Fund cares for those who are bereft by the loss of their breadwinner on "the mighty waters" and the more is received, the better comforts can be given and the better education the orphans of the sailors can receive.

The Parliamentary News would tell of a long session extending into the month of August, marked by the passing of many bills as well as by the verbosity of the Opposition, who were quite "intoxicated" by this "exuberance," and would have continued on December 12th, but that the Government decided that as no one was edified thereby, the curtain would be rung down quickly, and the Opposition were left to voice their grievances "on the desert air."

The many contracts made to cut pitprops this winter through the initiative of the Government are doing much to lessen the unemployment problem in the outports, while the Prime Minister, Sir Richard Squires is even now abroad in an endeavour to arrange that more work shall be in operation at Bell Island; and on other business in the interests of the country.

In concluding this brief review, we may repeat that there are many things for which we may and should be thankful; we are thankful that we can look forward to better and brighter times, that we have passed through the worst of the crisis and can profit by experience in building our future on sure foundations.

With confidence in our country, with faith in her future let us go forward with a determination that as far

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

The close of the year 1921 finds the Royal Stores with a deep sense of gratitude to the thousands of customers who have, by their patronage, helped to bridge over a trying period of trade depression.

We are particularly grateful because we feel that this patronage is a recognition of our efforts to serve the community faithfully. We feel that this Store owes, as a very good reason for its existence much more to the community than just the buying and selling of certain articles which are required by the public. We feel that the function of a big store like this far exceeds that of being simply a trading house, and we feel that to do anything like its duty to the community, it must grow deeper and deeper into the hearts of the people, being looked upon as a great necessity, a public centre, a meeting place where the public may gather for many and varied purposes.

No big store in Newfoundland has yet reached this standard of public service. It is no simple matter to decide upon the functions a big store should perform and then put them into practice immediately. It takes years for their complete development.

Here at The Royal Stores we are trying each day to come nearer to our ideal. We have many departments and a great staff of members of the organization and we are trying individually and collectively to fulfill the requirements expected of the business.

One of the always noticeable features of this store, and one which makes it agreeable to those who visit it every day, is the spirit of goodwill which permeates the building, not only at festive seasons like this, but throughout the year and which is constantly evident in the manners and actions of those young men and women who are cheerfully carrying out their individual duties.

It has been said that it is easier to see a smile at The Royal Stores than anywhere else in the country, and when one walks through the numerous departments, one discovers a great deal of truth in this agreeable little remark.

We look upon the smile, the happy face, the cheerful manner as contributions to the well-being of the community.

It goes without saying that we fully appreciate the friendly spirit shown by our customers throughout the past year and hope that all our many friends will have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

GLEANER.

LORD BYNE OF VIMY



GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

as it does in us lie, we shall, each one, contribute his or her quota to the end that all working as one for the progress and prosperity of this our Home, 1922 will prove to be to all,
A Very Happy New Year.

Bowring Bros., Ltd., Hardware Department

Spike Nails, 10 & 12 inch; Washers, Black and Galv. Iron, Tinplates, Carriage Bolts, Hexagon Bolts, Portable Forges, Drills, Anvils, Electric Blowers, Electric Pumps, Jack Screws.

Bowring Bros., Ltd., Hardware Department