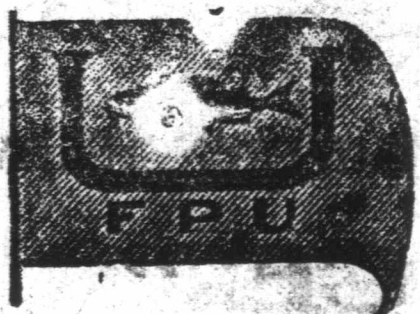


For Sale**\$3,000****Government Bonds.****J. J. ROSSITER**
Real Estate Agent

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



("To Every Man His Own.")

The Mail and Advocate
Issued every day from the office of publication, 187 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., DEC. 30th., 1915.

The Wooden Sealing Steamers

It is understood that Job Bros. has purchased the Newfoundland and will expend about \$10,000 on her during January and February in order to place the ship in good condition for the seal fishery. A new deck will be put in; the whole of the houses on deck will be replaced. If the ship's bottom is solid, the construction of a new deck and the strengthening of the ship's sides will make the Newfoundland good for another twenty years. The Newfoundland is solid and reliable ought to pay well in the freighting trade.

Some of the other wooden ships are good for several years. The Neptune, Terra Nova and Eagle are considered very good ships. If the Ranger is to be continued as a sealing steamer, it will be necessary to rebuild her after this year. The withdrawal of the steel ships will give new life to the old wooden steamers, for they are just as capable of bringing in loads now as they were ten years ago, and as long as the powerful steel steamers are withheld, the wooden ships will be sure to find the whitecoats.

What a pity the owners of those ships could not see their way to fit them with heavy oil engines, and thus enable them to become foreign freighters and be earners throughout the year. All those steamers if reclassified and fitted with oil engines could successfully prosecute the seal fishery and as soon as cleaned up after the sealing voyage, go into the foreign freighting traffic and as freight rates will be good for many years after war is ended, such ventures would be profitable.

What is wanted is confidence in the future and a little go ahead spirit. There is no good reason why those wooden sealing steamers should be "white elephants" for ten months each year. The time is ripe for big changes respecting the prosecuting of the seal fishery, and the foreign shipping traffic, and it behooves the Government to be up and doing at this critical period of the Colony's history and so utilize the opportunity to confer immense material benefits upon the Colony.

It will require courage and initiative to do what is required but surely at such a period some members of the Government will for a moment forget self and boodle and endeavor to do some

thing for people and country. They have so far done nothing but spend Ten Million Dollars on railway branches that they promised would cost but Four Millions. Any dozen school boys could have done as well, and probably much better.

Now is the time for some of them to do the part of men and patriots and forgo the parts they have so long played in the game of personal graft and grab.

Faked War Reports

THERE appeared recently in The Atlantic Monthly an article by a newspaper man which throws light on the conflicting war reports and despatches which have been published in the Press for the past eighteen months. Our readers will readily understand it, as even our local press has been stuffed with war reports which are of the most conflicting nature. The fact is that one can believe little, except the Official Reports.

The article says: "We newspaper men printed a vast amount of rubbish during the war. By reflecting the nonsense of diplomats, chancellors, war experts, statisticians, professors, scientists, and young women just landed from Rotterdam and convinced that the Germans were bound to win, we justified our claim to be the mirror of the universe. Some of this rubbish we printed unconsciously, in sheer ignorance, but a great deal we inserted, I imagine, for relief. As newspaper men we wanted to break the monotony of long columns on the front page. As neutrals we were glad to vary the monotony of long German victories, with a perfectly disastrous bit of secret information regarding conditions in Berlin by way of Zurich and Venice to London and so to us.

"Most of this rubbish was of anti-German cast, and it is these small 'fliers' that the Germans had in mind when they cried out at the campaign of lies that was waged against them. Lies they may have been, but to call them a campaign is absurd, when you consider their purpose, which was mental relief, and their effect which was utter futility.

"I recall clearly the oil casks that the German Admiralty sank off the British coast as storage reservoirs for submarines. I recall the fog bombs that Count Zeppelin invented for the invasion of England, and even German thoroughness could not go beyond carrying fog to London.

"I am not apologizing for the telegraph editor who yielded to temptation and printed news infinitely more gripping than the official despatches, though quite untrue.

"From time to time we have had Ilaire Belloc, the best of all Englishmen, except Spencer Wilkinson; and in the days of Allied adversity, it was stimulating to turn to Belloc and watch him add up the German casualty lists into the millions.

"During the year I must have read several thousand columns of special correspondence—in English, in French, in German, and in Italian—and the vast bulk of this mass of special observation has been meaningless. The will to believe has run riot among the special correspondents. They have reported what they expected to see, or what they might have known without going to see, and only at rare intervals what they have seen with the eye of a specialist.

"We wonder how much of this stuff was ever written in the European capitals at all. Much of the rubbish is 'made in America,' and we have been swallowing it wholesale. We are in a very glib mood usually; and we are getting our 'news' at second hand from a compiler who gets a pretty large allowance for the compilation. We get really less reliable news than any other section of the Empire; for we are dealing, in this matter, as in others, in second-hand goods. The

tribe of Hearst, the American edition of Northcliffe, makes much of this stuff for American consumption; and we are wasting valuable space in giving this rubbish currency.

Patriotic Entertainment

THE patriotic entertainment to be given New Year's night in the Methodist College Hall, in aid of our Sick and wounded, will be the best of its kind yet presented to the public. The promoters—Mrs. Chater and Mr. Hutton—have gone to considerable trouble in arranging matters and a first-class entertainment in every way is promised all those who will be fortunate enough to attend.

The object itself, the providing of funds for our Sick and Wounded, ought to ensure an overflowing house. The entertainment will be in two parts: the first devoted to patriotic songs, musical monologues, dancing and recitations, while the second part will be a playlet and operetta in which our best local talent will be seen.

Begin the New Year well by helping to swell the funds which are urgently needed to provide the comforts necessary for our brave boys in khaki and blue. Tickets are selling fast and may be had at the Atlantic bookstore.

In the War Theatre

THERE are certain cities and localities in the war theatre that we heard little of in the past; we should dig up our geographies and keep track of these interesting places. But as Geography seems to receive little attention in our schools we have been making an effort to keep our readers posted about places which have very interesting history.

Bukovina

Before the Russian retreat from Western Galicia we heard a good deal about Bukovina—the Austrian Crown lands which the Russians partly overran. We are again hearing of this territory for the Russians have returned and are again threatening the north-eastern part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Here lies Bukovina, a duchy and crownland of Austria, with Russia and Roumania to the east, Galicia to the north, and the Hungarian province of Transylvania to the west. The area of Bukovina is 4,035 square miles, about one-tenth the size of Newfoundland, hardly as large as the Peninsula of Avalon; but it has a population of more than eight hundred thousand, three and a half times that of the whole of Newfoundland.

Bukovina has had many masters. Originally it was part of their interest in her mythology Moldavia; it was occupied by the Russians in 1769, by the Austrians two years later, and then by the Turks who later ceded it to Austria. About one-half its area is woodland, its name being derived from the abundance of beech trees. The remaining section is devoted to agriculture, which has made great progress for the soil is fertile and the people are industrious and thrifty.

About two-thirds of the inhab-

itants of Bukovina are Ruthenians and Roumanians, the former being slightly in the majority, one-sixth is composed of Jews, and the remainder are Germans, Poles, Hungarians, with a few Russians. The official language of the administration and of instruction in the University is German. Nearly seventy per cent of the population belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church. The capital is Czernowitz, known as "The Pearl of the East."

Czernowitz is situated on the river Pruth, and it is a clean, modern city with a population of 70,000. Its general appearance is bright, picturesque, and often gay and cosmopolitan, especially on market days when, side by side with people turned out in the latest fashions of Paris or Vienna, you meet peasants of various nationalities attired in native costumes, intermingling with very scantily clad gypsies. Czernowitz contains many fine buildings—the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, finished in 1864 after the model of the Church of St. Isaac in Petrograd, being a splendid specimen of Byzantine architecture. Its population consists of Germans, Ruthenians, Roumanians, Poles, and Jews. It is about twenty miles from the frontier of the Russian Province of Bessarabia.

The Plains of Babylon

The British forces operating in Mesopotamia are now on the Plains of Babylon, a name that throws one's mind far into the past. On its march towards Baghdad, the British army left the city of Babylon on its left flank and thus directed our attention to this ancient landmark, once the seat of imperial power and the home of splendor that has never been equalled in all history.

Babylon goes back to the earliest days of which we have any historical record. For centuries it enjoyed the highest degree of power, and though it fell to successive conquerors, the city still lived. It stood on the highway of the world's traffic, and seemed eternal. Its cultural influence spread to all the known world, and we may trace some survivals in modern civilization to this marvellous city. Babylon was the mother of astronomy, and the twelve divisions on the dial of clocks and watches were ultimately derived through Greek channels, from the ancient system of time division. It was under the Neo-Babylonian kings that the Hebrew race first came into close contact with her culture, in the days when the prophet Jeremiah "sat by the waters of Babylon and wept"; and there can be no doubt that the Jews, during the captivity, renewed their interest in her mythology when they found it presented some parallels to their own. It has been urged that many features in the Hebrew religion and in Greek mythology can only be rightly explained by Babylonian beliefs in which they had their origin.

An Italian Appreciation

The Giornale d'Italia (Rome): The English Premier's discourse constitutes an exhaustive answer

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

December 30

JAMES FRANCIS EDWARD STUART, the first Pretender, died, 1765.
Canon Pilot born at Bristol, 1841.
Sir Alexander Bannerman, ex-Governor of Newfoundland, died in London, aged 78, 1864.
John Dwyer, farmer, Freshwater, buried, 1878.
William Hogan, saddler, died, 1878.
A. W. Smythe died, 1879.
Capt. Thomas Duff died, aged 78, 1890.
Mrs. Frank Maynard died, 1896.

THE UNNAMED DEAD

—By Charles Vale—

EACH day, each night, so many heroes die, unheralded. There is no role of fame. Their final resting place must bear no name. That would reveal them to one passing by. Summer or winter, under an alien sky, They sleep alone, or stacked in some vast mound. No more shall they be known above the ground. Beneath which they contentedly will lie.

Others, who gladly died, have won at least some symbol, great or small, of reverence. We know the manner of their going hence. And give them glory. But, till life has ceased, With toast and wine, with prayer and with bowed head, We shall remember you, our Unnamed Dead!

—From The Forum.

to facile criticisms. What has the British Fleet accomplished? The merest bagatelle! It has purged the seas of German pirates, assured the maritime dominion of the Entente, almost deprived the submarine of its destructive force, and kept England in touch with the Continent. What of the British Army? Occasional discussions about conscription may have led the public to imagine that the citizens of Old England are less sensible than others to the duties imposed by a war of the independence of peoples and the liberty of Europe. But even the most superficial persons are aware that, thanks to the precious aid given by the British forces to the powerful French army, the Germans have failed to gain one rod of ground; nay, have lost their own.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE**REMOVAL NOTICE!****F. A. MEWS**

Barrister, Solicitor, & Notary

ADDRESS:
City Chambers
Water Street
(Over Royal Bank of Canada
1st Floor)
dec4.2w.s.su.th Phone 601.

GARNEAU, LTD.

Wish their many patrons throughout Newfoundland a Happy and Prosperous
NEW YEAR.

BRITISH**THE POWER OF PROTECTION**

Buying a **BRITISH SUIT** Means **PROTECTION** from High Prices

PROTECTION in Material.**PROTECTION** in Style.**PROTECTION** in Fit.

Every Man and Boy Needs

PROTECTION Have It!**The British Clothing Co., Ltd.,**Sinnott's Building
Duckworth Street, St. John's.**BIG REDUCTION IN PRICES FOR Xmas Season**

—IN—

White Table Linen (extra quality), Table Napkins, Toilet Covers, Sideboard Cloth, White Linen Table Covers, Tea Coseys, Carving Cloths, Tray Cloths, Cushion Covers, Centre Cloths.

SHOWROOM

Hats, Wool Caps, Plush Caps, Ribbons (Patriotic), Frillings, Neckwear of various kinds, Ladies' Underwear (Stanfield's and Fleece Lined).

—ALSO—

LADIES' FUR COLLARS, MUFFS and FUR SETS.
All Reduced.

Nicholle, Inkpen & Chafe

Limited.

315 -:- WATER STREET -:- 315

Agents for Ungars Laundry & Dye Works,

Reid-Newfoundland Co. SOUTH COAST SERVICE.

S. S. GLENCOE will sail from **Placentia on Monday, January 3rd,** after the arrival of the **8.45 a.m. Train from St. John's,** for the usual ports of call.

THE BEST IS CHEAPER IN THE END

Order a Case To-day.

"EVERY DAY" BRAND EVAPORATED MILK**Job's Stores Limited.**

DISTRIBUTORS