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Letters of Interest From Mail and Advocate Readers

Proud of Coaker--The Union Fulfilling its Mission

(Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir,—Please grant me space in your esteemed paper for a few words from here. I am a constant reader of the Mail and Advocate, and was one of the first men to join the Union here. We are proud of our President and the manner in which he handled Kean and Bowring. Our eyes are being daily opened to the evils around us. Things have come to light through Coaker which never would have been known but for him. The greatest educational factor to-day in Newfoundland is the F.P.U., as far as the fishermen and toilers are concerned.

How could Kean have the heart to again visit the scene of last spring's disaster. No man with self-respect would do so. What must Kean be made of. He will hear ringing in his ears the shrieks and cries of agony of those poor fellows he left on the ice-floes on the night of March 31st last. All through his life the faces of those seventy-eight sealers will ever rise up before him, and follow him to his grave. The whole evidence given in the late Commission plainly point to Kean as being a guilty man, and one who should not have been allowed to sail again this year in command of a steamer. There is a day coming when captains, like Kean, will be put in their proper places. The names of Bowring, Munn, Kean and Morris are held in contempt to-day over New-

foundland. It is seen there are laws in this country for the rich and laws for the poor. Kean, because he was Kean, has been allowed to go scot free, while many a poor man for a lesser offence has been sent to jail. We are all awake down here and praying for the day of vengeance to come. Every dog has his day, and ours is now at hand. When President Coaker and his faithful followers take their seats on the Government side of the House, the day of our deliverance will truly be at hand, but then and not till then.

This government is by far the worst that ever held office. They have defied the wishes of the people re Kean and allowed him to sail as Captain of the "Florizal" in spite of the finding of the Commission and in face of the numerous petitions presented by President Coaker from 20,000 souls of toil. A few words re the close season for rabbits. I think it was a mistake for us to have a close season. More bunnies will be killed in close season than otherwise.

It is indeed a great help to us poor toilers to have a man like President Coaker at our head. We are with him to a man and trust God will spare him for many years to be the faithful leader of the poor under-dogs of Terra Nova.

UNION MAN. New Bay, N.D.B., Mar. 18, 1915.

Notes From Newtown, B.B.

(Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir,—We wish to congratulate the Mail and Advocate and President Coaker on the great fight they have put up against Abraham Kean, Munn and Bowring. We can assure you we are with you, President Coaker, to a man, and you can rely on our help and support in any measures you may adopt in the future to deal with these three lords of Water Street.

We are strong Union men down here. Each one is doing his best to advance the best interests of the Union. Day is near when we toilers will be in the position which our task-masters are at present. Won't it be great to see these grab-all merchants taking a dose of their own medicine.

We hear to day all the steel ships are going to the ice this year, and most of all the wooden ones too. We hope Kean will show more consideration to his crew this year than he has done in the past, of course, we have no faith in him or Bowring now. Bowring may be happy now that Kean has gone in the Florizal, but the day is not far off when we shall see Justice done and Kean made pay the penalty of his blundering last spring. He cannot and must not be allowed to escape the Courts of Justice.

Beware, sir, of the man with the thick glaze on. I met him a few days ago, and he had his glass on. I don't know how he managed to get here if his sight is as bad as he says it is, unless he smelt his way like the animals do.

You can rest assured, sir, we fishermen of Newfoundland will stand firm and true to President Coaker and give him all the help we can in order that he may secure for us toilers a new era of justice and liberty. The few grab-allers around this way are getting scared to death at the great growth of the F.P.U.

The North last election showed its loyalty to Coaker and the F.P.U. I am safe in saying Morris would be able to get a man to contest any district north of St. John's.

SAILOR BOY. New Town, B.B., Feb. 27, 1915.

Dogs and the Law

(Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir,—I would like to see your columns to ask why it is a poor man is not allowed to keep a dog. Many a poor fisherman is put to many hardships on account of not being allowed to have a dog. What is the right law about dogs? If Mr. So and So can keep a dog and let him roam at large, why is the poor man deprived of his? Dogs are a great help in winter time to many a fisherman and we think we ought to be allowed to have a dog for our own use, provided he does no harm to anyone.

"DOG MAN." Loo Cove, March 15th, 1915.

Fair Islands, F.P.U.

(Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir,—On Feb. 15th, last, the Union men of Fair Islands held their annual parade. We were favoured with a fine day, so our members turned up in their full strength. The March was around the harbour. We called out as far as Mr. Moses Waterman's. As we marched through the small settlement we cheered again and again for our noble President and our grand old Union which has made us fishermen believe that a brighter day is coming for the sons of toil. Some of our friends walked a distance of 7 and 8 miles to take part in the parade.

On returning to the L. O. A. Hall we were surprised to find a nice tea awaiting us which we all enjoyed. We wish to express our sincere thanks to Pres. Coaker for what he has done for us Union men (and I might say non-union men too.) We shall in the future, as we have in the past, stand firm to the principal of Unionism and we already see a great difference in the general order of things as far as us fishermen are concerned.

If Sir Tax Morris sends any members down here next election we shall be sorry for the poor dopes who will be so foolish as to come.

CHAIRMAN. F. P. U. Fair Island, B.B., Feb. 27th, 1915.

What's Wrong at Post Office?

(Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir,—What is wrong at the General Post Office? Some one there has committed himself. Is it true? It is in the air, there is never smoke but there is fire. What is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander. Did the matter come under the notice of the authorities? Have they investigated it to bring the guilty party to justice?

The timely letter in your paper last week signed "Human" deserves the best consideration of the general public, especially the many who signed the petition to release that poor unfortunate, thoughtless boy from the Penitentiary, that he might go to the front and fight for King and Country where every young blood is required, that he might come back victorious, pay the few paltry dollars he owes, and be a man.

I endorse every word that "Human" says and I appreciate him for the manly way in which he brought this matter before the public.

The names on that petition were quite sufficient as a guarantee to the Governor to let the boy free to fight the battle of life and relieve his poor mother from the worry over the thought of her boy being behind the prison bars.

A mother's appeal ought to melt the heart of a stone. No grander name can be mentioned than "Mother." It should come home to every one that has a mother's.

This boy took a few dollars from one party. The other, if reports are true made use of the public's money that was given in his trust, and cloaked up through a certain dealer who has been making big grabs off railway arbitrations and other pickings. He pretends to be a power with the Government and to have a pull at his own free will, who has already been snowed under twice (in the two last elections) and sent home with his tail cut.

It is only through your paper that the truth can be told in the public's interest, and through your paper the public demands an investigation, and a straightforward answer will be patiently awaited.

They say the amount is about two hundred dollars, and the grab-all has kept in the position, to pay the other half in instalments. Is it possible that this report is true and only now leaked out after three or four weeks when they thought everything was all-right, but such dark deeds cannot, nor should not be cloaked in the public's interest.

What is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander.

JUSTICE. March 25, 1915.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

Wants to Know Why

Kindly grant me space in your paper to make a few remarks from Spantard's Bay. Things here are generally quiet at this time of the year. The action of the Government in delaying the opening of the House until April 7, meets with strong disapproval around here.

The Government showed their weakness in not opening the House in February and placing the true condition of our affairs before the public. The general impression throughout the District is that Sir Tax Morris did not want to deal with the F.P.U.'s request re Abraham Kean and so did not open the House before the sealers sailed for the ice-floes.

We people of Spantard's Bay are indignant at the manner in which those in authority treated the relief notes which were given out here. Instead of a man being allowed to go where he liked, he had to go to some Government beeler, and some of these think they can never get enough. There will, I think, later on, be some fun amongst those Government officials. Some will be making a noise when they find out some one else has got more than him.

There are quite a number of poor men like myself here who sooner be allowed to go where we liked than be compelled to go to someone we disliked.

THREE ARTICLES. Spantard's Bay, March 20, 1915.

Clarenville Affairs

Dear Sir,—It is too late to lock the stable door when the horse is stolen, is a saying so old, that its originator cannot be traced, and its truth has been brilliantly borne out through succeeding citizens. To-day some person or persons of Clarenville, are suspected of thievery, which we believe could have been averted if the necessary steps had been taken as was asked of the Post Master General more than two months ago.

Note—Was my complaints in long letters to the Postmaster General, written under a pretext of duty to gratify malice? Go to the Court and see, learn of Clarenville P. T. O. and understand. The office, here, before the present scandal had a history that brings it no glory. Yet I have no wish to stir up the settled dust of years, nor to drag forth into the light a true record of past history. Still, if the Postmaster General, is willing to always listen to Government employees under his control, I shall feel most unwilling to curb my pen. What I wrote to the Postmaster General concerning Clarenville P. T. O., I can prove. Therefore I repeat that that honorable gentleman had taken the necessary steps or been guided according to his information, the office here would be saved from a talking scandal and this place would not be suffering under the disgraceful epithet of rogers as it is today.

M. L. BUTLER. Clarenville, March 22nd, 1915.

Munn and Bowring Despised

(Editor Mail and Advocate.) Dear Sir,—Kindly grant me space in your widely-read paper to say a few remarks concerning the self-styled commodore of the sealing fleet—our Abraham Kean. Munn and Bowring can think, if it does them any good, that they have scored a "brilliant" victory over Coaker and the F.P.U. in this matter. The time is far distant when they will realize how foolish is their empty boast. The name of Bowring—once an honored one throughout this Colony—is now spoken of with scorn and contempt.

Abraham has made history for himself. Since he took charge of the Prospero, rocks, cliffs and anything unknown off have been discovered by this careful commander. Brass buttons and a cheese-cutter cap have had a decided effect on him. Kean has gone to the ice in defiance of the wishes of the people of this country.

Well, sir, all I can say is, that he laughs best who laughs last. While on this subject, I would like to make a few observations as to the way passengers on the Prospero last fall were treated. I know of one man who stated he had nothing to eat from dinner-time till 11 p.m. that night. I myself, while making a passage last fall, had two slices of bread for dinner and a few soda crackers for tea, of course, why should I kick when Abraham had the same bill of fare.

In conclusion, I would like to ask the question: What would have happened if the Prospero was wrecked when he bumped her off Horse Island rocks if she had one or two hundred passengers on board? Had she life boats enough to accommodate all these passengers? If Kean is let go on the way he has been going the past two years, I fear, sir, we will one day read of a marine disaster equal in proportion to that of the Empress of Ireland or Titanic.

It gives us, sir, a little hope and courage to know that at least one man is watching out for our interests. That man is known and respected to-day all over Newfoundland. I need hardly say, sir, his name is Coaker. We are with him hand in hand in this great struggle for liberty and justice. We believe he cares for no man's frown or craves no man's favor. Keep up the fight, Mr. Coaker. We are here and will do our part when the time comes.

Lush's Bight, T.B., Mar. 18, 1915. INTERESTED.

Kean Must Take His Punishment

Dear Sir,—Coming events cast their shadows before! We see the shadows today and they are indicative of events which will affect the whole country. Already we have experienced tremendous changes brought about, but judging from how the wind blows now, there seem to be a greater tendency than ever before, on the part of the masses to make their influence felt in the land. Proof of this is seen in the voice of the people over the Kean-Bowring outrage.

Probably Kean and his associates are gloating at an apparent victory over the people's will, in that he still retains his position; but let them remember that the people have spoken, and that sometime, be the time near or distant, their wishes will prevail and their voices will not be gained. Do they imagine, that in this conflict they will eventually win out. If so, they will think quite differently before the affair is settled, for the F.P.U. is not in this fight to lose.

One would suppose that Capt. Kean possessed enough intelligence to convince him of what he was up against, and to show him that the wiser thing for him to do was to back down. Had he done that, he would have at once appeased the people, and saved his reputation. But his actions since goes to prove that he did not use his common sense. He simply rushed on, as if bent on defying the people, until today he has aroused them to a pitch of indignation, that will not be appeased until the medicine that they have prescribed for him has been administered.

Truth for ever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne, yet the scaffold sways the future, and in spite of all that Kean has done or can do, as sure as the sun shines the will of the people will triumph. It does not require much foresight to see that.

It has fallen to your lot, Sir, to lead. Behind you, and with full confidence in you, is an organization determined to fight for truth and right.

Lead on to victory, and be assured that "thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just."

Yours truly, S. SODER. Thoroughfare, March 20, 1915.

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