

The Bowrings Challenge The Power of The F.P.U.

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 9, 1915-2.

A GRAPHIC LITTLE SKETCH

There is a graphic little sketch in the "United Free Church Record" of a Sunday morning in a Belgian loft. There had been a sharp engagement, and the British troops holding a village had been hurriedly forced by great masses of the enemy to retire. In the confusion three Scottish privates and a corporal had been cut off in the streets, and had backed into the first open door they came to. The

occupants had fled, and they made their way up a long staircase, intending to find the roof and watch events from there. But it ended in an empty loft where there was only a skylight beyond their reach. "Better lie low for a while," suggested the corporal, as they stood listening to the terrible sounds outside. The Germans were evidently burning, looting and killing. Now and again they heard screams and the discharge of rifles; sometimes an explosion would shake the building, while the smell of burning wood penetrated to their retreat. This went on for hours. The soldiers knew they would be discovered sooner or later and expected no mercy.

Suddenly the corporal said, "Lads, it's time for church parade; let's have a wee bit service here; it may be our last." The soldiers looked a little astonished, but they piled their rifles in a corner and came and stood at attention. The corporal took out a small Testament from his breast pocket, and turned over the page. "Canna we sing something first? Try ye're hand at the 23rd Psalm. Quiet noo—very quiet." Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale.

Then the corporal began. "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not, therefore. Ye are of more value than many sparrows." As he read there were loud shouts below; doors banged, and glass was smashed. But he went on: "He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it."

He ended, and his grave face took on a wry smile. "I'm no a gude haund at this job," said he, "but we maun finish it off. Let us pray." The corporal stood with the book in his hand, and the others knelt and bared their heads. A little haltingly, but very simply, he committed their way to God, and asked to meet their coming fate like men. While he prayed a heavy hand thrust open the door and they heard an exultant exclamation and a gasp of surprise. Not a man moved, but the corporal went calmly on. After a pause he began with great reverence to repeat the Lord's Prayer. They did not see, but they felt what was taking place. They

heard the click of his heels, and they knew that he also was standing at attention. For a moment the suspense lasted, and then came the soft closing of the door and his footsteps dying away. The tumult in the house gradually ceased and soon afterwards the storm of war retreated like the ebb of the tide. At dusk, the four men ventured forth, and by making a wide detour worked round the flank of the enemy and reached the British outposts in safety.

Population of China

The population of China has never been exactly ascertained, according to H. A. Giles in his "Civilization in China." The latest census, taken in 1902, is said to yield a total of 410,000,000. Perhaps 300,000,000 would be a more nearly correct estimate; even that would absorb no less than one-fifth of the human race. From this total it is easy to estimate that if the Chinese people were to march past a given point in single file the procession would never end; long before the last of the 300,000,000 had passed by a new generation would have sprung up to continue the endless line.

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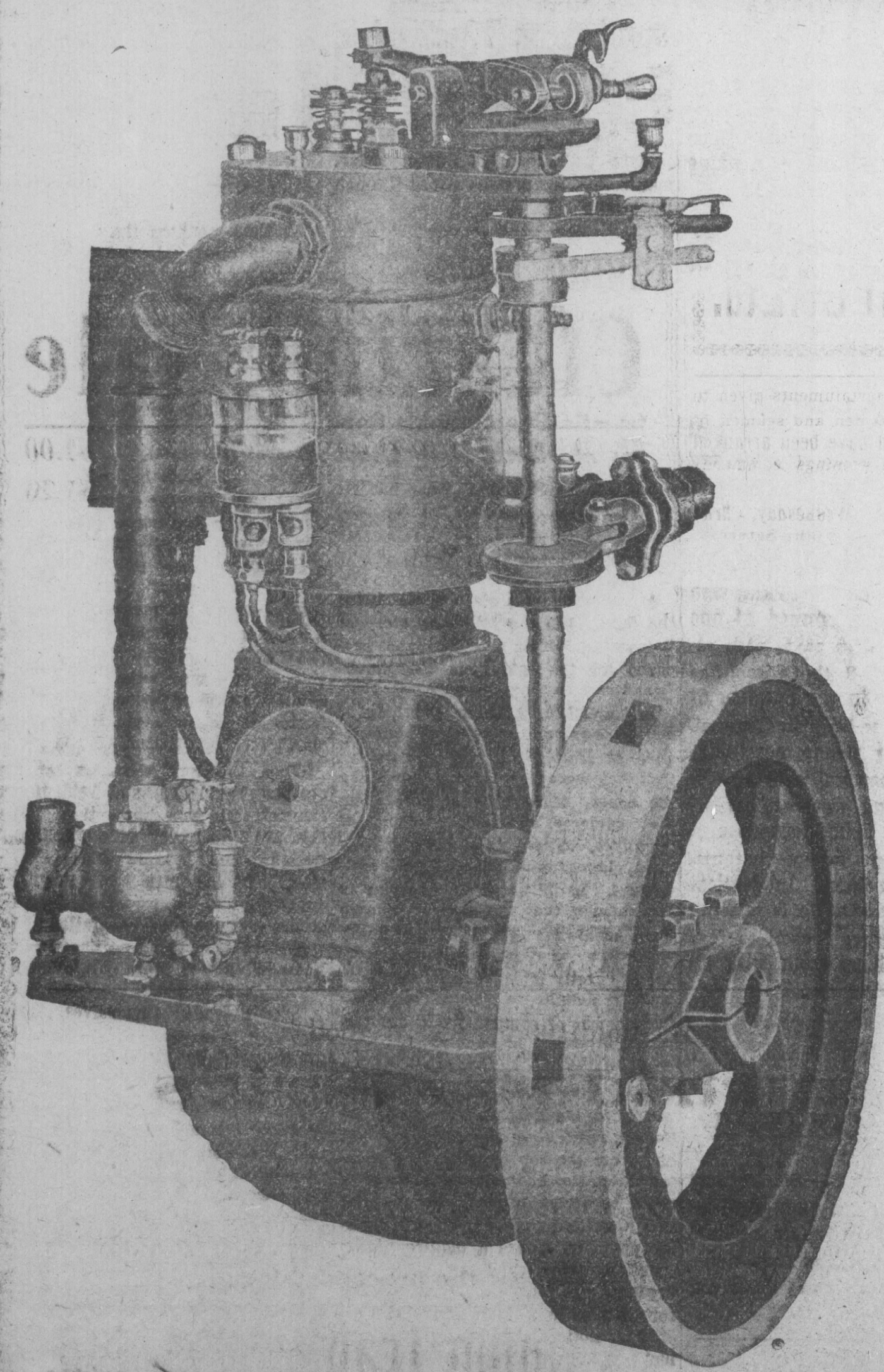
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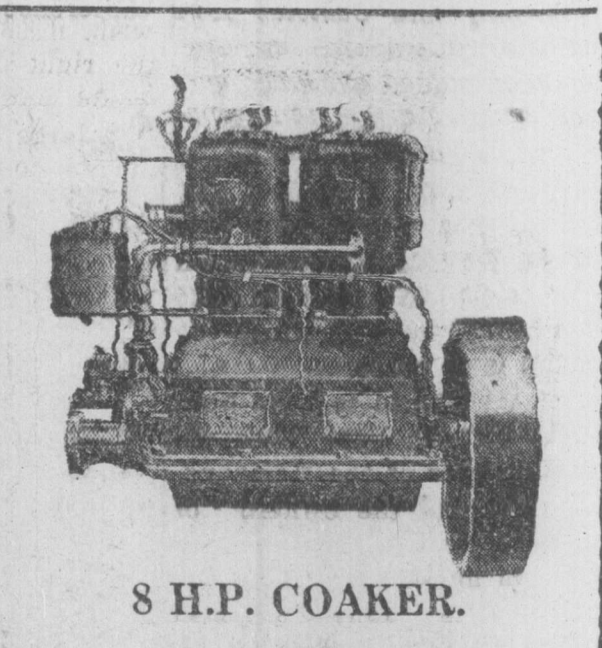
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