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(To Every Man His Own.)

**The Mail and Advocate**

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., AUG. 11, 1914.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

**WHAT IS THEIR OBJECT?**

THE public is becoming very restless regarding the inaction of the Government respecting the financial situation and seven-eighths of the people endorse the position set up by this paper since the war opened.

Conditions are steadily growing worse. Flour in Canada and the United States advanced eighty cents during Saturday and yesterday, beef, pork, and sugar have steadily advanced every day since war was declared. Tea is now eight cents per pound higher than before the war. Men in town who held large stocks of flour before the war came, have sold at five times their usual profits.

Fish is down to \$5. No one should sell at that figure. Unless \$6 is paid no fisherman should sell for at least two months.

Lobsters are \$12 per case, yet the whole pack is not enough for one firm to handle. Lobsters should find ready sale in England, France and America and should go to \$25 before December.

No packer should sell until late unless he receives the price we name from time to time. Not one scion has the Government taken except that of offering to the Home Government 1000 Naval Reservists and 500 ordinary volunteers from the Brigades, which offer in view of Sir Edward's utterances in England two years ago, when he stated Newfoundland could supply men enough to man ten dreadnoughts if such was necessary—places the country in anything but a favorable position as regards Imperial support in time of war.

The Government has utterly failed in its duty to protect the peoples' interests and if any crash comes no one but Sir E. P. Morris will be to blame. We give him ample notice, now whatever comes will be laid to his door.

Some of his grabat followers are hoping with savage delight, that the Trading Co. will go down before the financial cyclone which they think is about to come.

They were never further astray. All that Reid or Morris or any of their henchmen can do to injure the

Trading Co. will fail, and recoil upon themselves.

The Trading Co's. affairs are as sound as the best firm operating in Newfoundland.

The Company can defy the efforts of all and sundry to injure it.

Their longing wish so eagerly voiced during the last few days that this crisis would destroy Coaker and the Trading Company will never be realized.

Their great hope of securing Confederation on Reid's terms—that is Reid's interests to be taken over by Canada and give the skimmed milk to the Colony—will never be realized even though war and a depleted Treasury confront the Colony.

We will die fighting before we will allow one politician to become re-elected out of Confederation at the expense of the Colony.

We intend to handle everyone of those hoping to thrive at the public expense without gloves as we will have power enough to prevent any of them from knifing poor old Newfoundland.

We know what the Premier and others have been talking the last few days and we care as little for him or Reid or all of them as we do for the worst case in the Lunatic Asylum.

Let them beware. Their talk and their contrivances, even with the help of the Bank of Montreal, will be to the Trading Co. as water upon a duck's back.

If they could only smash Coaker and the Trading Co. the road would be free of all obstacles and a straight march could be made for the goal so long desired.

Only one man now stands between them and the accomplishment of their dream.

But that man holds the key.

They imagined that our interest in the commercial standing of the Colony is founded on our anxiety to secure what may assist the Trading Co. and they concluded that the Trading Co. was getting into deep water.

In reply we assert that along the whole of Water Street there is not a firm whose standing is more secure or satisfactory than that of the Trading Co.

What will the fishermen whose \$100,000 hard earnings are invested in the Trading Co. think of the unscrupulousness of creatures who conspire to destroy their investment in order to crush the only man in the Colony they cannot overcome?

Arouse yourselves men of the North. Men of the F.P.U. be ready at a moment's notice to assert your rights and administer punishment to creatures that would destroy your earnings in order to trample upon your rights and rob you of your heritage.

When we say the word response like the sons of those who in days past fought to maintain their liberties and protect their rights.

We will let those contemptible creatures who have bled our country white in recent years know that they cannot longer continue their base contrivings with impunity.

The patience of the people is about exhausted and they will have a square deal in future or know the reason why.

Now then Premier Morris and Czar Reid and Autocrat Patten, start your mine and see whether the explosion won't destroy yourselves instead of Coaker.

The fishermen should to-day thank God more sincerely than ever before that they have an F.P.U. and a Coaker, for it is all that now stands between their task masters and their rights.

The F.P.U. was organized for a glorious purpose and just in time to strike a blow to save Terra Nova.

It will do its work and in doing it every enemy to the great cause will receive his just deserts.

**WHAT IS MORATORIUM?**

MANY good people are puzzled by the statement in the cable despatches that the French Government has granted a moratorium and that the British Government has followed suit.

Briefly, a moratorium is a legal right given to debtors to delay payment of their obligations for a certain time. Only in the gravest emergencies do the heads of a country's government decree a moratorium.

The object is to protect the financial condition of the country, to prevent panics and runs upon monetary institutions in times of emergency or crisis, and to safeguard individuals against undue pressure of ruinous distraint by Shylock creditors.

**WHERE ITALY STANDS**

GERMANY realises the difficult position in which she is now placed and most probably understands the impossibility of the task she has so recklessly set herself, and Germany is showing that realisation by the desperate efforts she is making to cajole or to bully Italy to throw in her lot with the other two members of the Triple Alliance in the present war.

Italy, however, has little or nothing to gain by doing this. In fact, she would be playing the game of her real enemies if she acceded to the demands of her German and Austrian allies.

As a matter of fact, the Triple Alliance was a good thing for Italy in "piping times of peace," but with war's alarms sounding all over Europe Italy is better outside its entanglements.

With Europe at peace the Triple Alliance was a national asset to Italy, in that it secured for her the backing of two powerful nations. But with the Triple Alliance involved in war Italy is better neutral than actively engaged in hostilities.

Italy's attitude toward the Triple Alliance with a great war in progress has long formed a subject of speculation amongst diplomats and a couple of years ago, when the Alliance was renewed, an English Press Correspondent made the following comments on her position:

"Italy," he said, "is immediately interested in maintaining her alliance and her good understanding with Austria-Hungary for naval, military and Balkan reasons; Italy is equally interested in maintaining a close understanding with France, England and Russia for naval, military, Balkan and North Africa reasons; Italy is interested in maintaining a good general relationship with Germany for reasons of commerce and general policy, but there is no reason visible to the naked eye why the Italo-German Treaty of Alliance should contain any clause or rider directed against France or against England."

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The shrewd statesmen who control Italian policy may be relied upon to safeguard the interests of their country while incurring as few risks as possible, and to surround the renewal of the Triple Alliance with such guarantees that it will perform remain what it has always professed to be—an element of equilibrium in Europe—without destroying the equilibrium of the Mediterranean."

Recent Italian history has been a record of great progress. The Italians have developed an enormous trade in the Mediterranean; they have built up a fine merchant marine and have laid the foundation of a great sea power. And if they united with Germany and Austria in the present war they would risk all these great national assets, with the chances all against them.

More than this, they would be playing the game of a rival power, or Austria began the war with Serbia primarily to obtain a Mediterranean sea-coast, and, once in possession of this, she would be a dangerous competitor of Italian trade.

Italy neutral will conserve her own strength, obviate the exhaustion that would result from a long disastrous war and at the cessation of hostilities will be in a position to participate in the big revival of trade that will then result.

Besides, and this is a most potent reason for the neutrality of Italy, the Italian popular sentiment is too strongly favorable to France and to Great Britain to permit of Italian diplomats, however strongly inclined toward it, to declare for war with the Triple Alliance and against the Triple Entente.

**FACES THE WORLD**

GERMANY against the World! That is the amazing situation that has developed thus early in the present war and that is the terrific proposition that the Kaiser and his forces are now called upon to face and to overcome,—if they can.

And just here the question arises: Did Emperor William and his advisers foresee such a contingency when they declared war on Russia, or did they just blunder into the amazing position in which they now find themselves?

If they deliberately planned to tackle the big undertaking of whipping practically the whole of the civilised world of Europe at once, then they were either extremely fool-

hardy, or else they were obsessed with a magnificent idea of the powers of Germany. On the other hand, if the situation arose without anticipation on their part, then of tacticians they are the greatest failures and of blunderers they are the chief.

At any rate Germany and the German Kaiser have proved the great aggressor in this year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Fourteen, and as a result of the extreme provocation they have given the other Powers, all Europe is now an armed camp.

The situation, of course, was made possible by the fact that the control of the navy and of the immense army of Germany is absolutely in the hands of an irresponsible one-man form of government—the Kaiser.

There is no parliamentary control, no popular control, no consideration of world-wide public opinion.

Such a condition of affairs is highly dangerous to free institutions such as these we live under.

It is plain that Great Britain cannot, for her own national safety and well-being, afford to put herself at the mercy of such an enormous fighting-machine, seeing that at present it is controlled by such irresponsible hands.

Britons are bound in self-defence to fight for liberties and freedom, for the liberties and freedom of France, for humanity at large when this mighty organisation is turned against us and them.

Associated with the German Kaiser is a second organisation, also largely German, and welded into a fighting machine under the irresponsible control of the Emperor of Austria, whose word is law over parliament, public opinion and the institutions of mankind.

The struggle is between modern freedom as against a mediaeval feudalism controlling a fighting machine equipped with all the latest discoveries of modern times.

Such is the Autocratic fighting machine of Germany, even as of Austria.

What have the two Emperors planned to do?

Let us give them the credit of supposing that they foresaw all contingencies and that in 1914, even as in 1870, when war broke out it was but a matter of selecting the campaign plans suitable to the present contingency and fighting along lines mapped out in definite detail.

"Germany against the World" would be the proper label for a set of campaign plans to deal with present contingencies.

And what a stupendous undertaking!

It means fighting England and her navy, fighting Russia on one frontier and France on the other, the little south-eastern states (Serbia included) at a third. And it means certainly also the French navy, and in all likelihood Japan and her navy.

To do this he must seize and occupy Holland and Belgium, invade France, resist French invasion, resist Russian invasion, and fight at sea to keep the German mercantile marine in service and to get in food stuffs from outside wherever he may be able.

Can the Kaiser and his single ally accomplish so much against the embattled forces of the other great nations of Europe?

Hardly—unless the usual course of events is reversed.

Rather it seems that the German Kaiser was far too aggressive, and somewhat shortsighted—in brief, he appears to have very much overreached himself.

**THE COCKPIT OF EUROPE**

ONCE again the little Kingdom of Belgium has become the central field of battle of a whole continent in arms. As far back as the days of good Queen Bess, when England was struggling with Spain for the supremacy of the seas the struggle on land between the two contending nations was carried on chiefly on Belgian territory.

Upwards of a century later, William, Prince of Orange, afterward King William the Third of England, fought many a battle against the forces of Louis XIV. of France on the same stricken soil.

Then when war arose over the question of the Spanish succession, and England became embroiled, Marlborough won the glorious victories of Ramillies and Oudenarde in that portion of the Netherlands which now forms the southern part of the Kingdom of Belgium.

Later on when the Austrian succession was the cause of an international war the opposing forces fought several battles on Belgian soil and it was in this country also that the power of Napoleon was crushed at the battle of Waterloo.

Territorially, Belgium is a small Kingdom, but it occupies an important strategic position as the gateway between Germany and France. It consists of but 11,373 square miles, or about one half the area of Nova Scotia, and yet into this small territory is crowded a population greater than that of the Dominion of Canada. According to the census of December, 1910, the total population of Belgium was 7,423,784. Of these, 2,822,005 speak Flemish, and 2,574,805 French. About 700,000 speak both French and Flemish. Other languages employed are German, Dutch and, in some few cases, English.

In recent years the Belgians have given a great deal of attention to military training. This was due as much to the foresight of its administrators as to their desire to take such precautions as the lessons of a stirring past had taught them were necessary. Belgian statesmen have long realised that whenever war arose between Germany and France, the Germans were bound to attempt to force their way through Belgian territory to strike a blow at the French nation.

Recognising this fact a measure was introduced into the Belgian legislature last year providing for a scheme of general service to place the army of the Kingdom on an effective basis. This measure provided for a first line army of 150,000 men, which were regarded as sufficient to ensure the full garrisoning of all the fortified places of the country and which was to be further supplemented by a second line army of 180,000 men, making a grand total of 330,000 men in the army of Belgium.

The general revenues of Belgium amount to about \$150,000,000 per year, and as the people are fairly well to do, the country is in excellent condition to stand the strain to which it is now being subjected, even better indeed than some of the so-called "Great Powers" of Europe.

As their history proves the Belgians are pre-eminently a martial people and are exceptionally brave, resolute and patriotic and their recent conduct has amply proven that they still possess these characteristics to a marked degree. It is therefore no exaggeration to characterise their army as one of the best trained and most perfect fighting machines in the world.

Of course it would be ridiculous to expect the Belgians with all their wonderful heroism to be able single-handed to prevent the passage of the German army. At best they can but "hold the foe at bay" pending the arrival of the allied English and French armies. But while they are doing this, and the longer they continue to do it, the better they are playing the game for their national independence and the more effectively will they help the forces of the Triple Entente which are hastening up to the battle with the German aggressor.

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