

## Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - - Proprietor

MONDAY, Jan. 21st, 1918.

## A Self-styled Patriot

We do not know with what patience or impatience, interest or unconcern, the general public has followed the controversy that has raged for the last three weeks in the newspapers over the merits or shortcomings of the present Government, but we know the inevitable standard by which the public are wont to judge such disputes. Governments, like ordinary mortals, are approved or censured according to the manner in which they recognize or disregard their manifest duties and discharge or neglect them. There is one paramount and almost sacred duty confronting the Government of this country to-day, which is to make immediate provision for the maintenance of the Regiment at strength. At present the Government is talking about it and doing that very well; the country is still waiting for it to do something. We thought that the Minister of Militia had a plan ready to this end. It appears we were mistaken. He may have such a plan. We are glad to hear it. So too Germany may wait until it is approved and put into execution before carrying out her own plans which may conceivably involve to some extent the fortunes of the Regiment. We will not discuss the matter further, but we will simply tell the Government this, that if the Regiment has to be withdrawn from the line and lose its place in the Division, the responsibility and shame will be theirs and theirs alone.

Meanwhile, we are not surprised that even this subject has been turned by the Advocate, like every subject on which it touches, to the one purpose for which the Advocate appears to exist, the glorification of Mr. Coaker. He appears in a new guise, that of super-patriot. We are glad that he does not claim the credit of enlisting the whole Regiment, but is content with the modest total of 70 men only. These must be the "Coaker" recruits. We will not dwell upon the fact that Mr. Coaker's is the only case in the whole world we have met, or are likely to, of a man taking to himself any share of the praise that is due the performance by others of this greatest, noblest and holiest duty that can fall to the lot of any. It is too nauseating. But it is worth while to consider what real claim he has to the distinction which he boasts with such execrable taste. Mr. Coaker's services to recruiting can be summed up in one sentence—he has made, at the outside, three or four recruiting speeches, and those never by himself, never voluntarily and spontaneously, but always on some special occasion from which it was impossible to eliminate the suggestion of politics, and always in conjunction with others. Previously to that the only interest he appeared to exhibit in the war and this country's part in it took the form of perille and semi-treasonous criticism of prominent men among the Allies, men whom his compatriots delighted to honor. In so doing he did not hesitate to display an ignorance which, if no better motive influenced him, would have kept another silent. Our readers will not need to be reminded of the occasion on which he spoke of German submarines, the enemy's most formidable weapon, as vessels no larger than a fishing punt. Later, being apparently converted to patriotism, he dubbed with his own name those volunteers who happened to come from a certain part of the Island. We think they would choose to be considered as going from a sense of duty rather than in answer to Mr. Coaker's persuasions.

We know many times more about what has been done in the matter of recruiting, and who have done it, than Mr. Coaker does. We were a member of the Recruiting Committee before its functions were absorbed by the Ministry of Militia, and can bear willing and admiring testimony to the untiring, self-sacrificing and invaluable work done by many of those who composed it. We never, however, saw Mr. Coaker at one of its meetings, though he would have been welcomed there. If it were a matter, which it is not, of giving to anyone but the man himself the credit of a soldier's enlistment, there are many who would be as far ahead of Mr. Coaker on such a list as their self-advertisement has been behind his. They are men who have given their sons to the cause, and some of those sons their lives, and neither grudging it; who have worked together, as have the other committees, in perfect harmony and with one and alone in view; who have neglected their private work to do this public duty; who have time and again, at all seasons of the year and in the face of considerable hardship, travelled into the most remote corners of the Island on what has often been a fruitless and too often a thankless errand. They minimize the much they have done; Mr. Coaker exalts his little. If now the Government should at long last perform its neglected duty in this respect, we know who will get the credit of that also. We give our readers one guess.

## The Prohibition Act Again.

The Advocate did not accept our bet—we knew it wouldn't. But it tried to prove he would have lost it—we knew it would. It is good enough, however, to quote the section of the Act which proves the contrary, as far as the first part is concerned. It quotes the definition of "Intoxicating Liquors," with its two divisions, and asks us under which methyated spirits comes. Under the first, dear Advocate. It is contained in the general category, "all . . . liquors containing two per cent. or upward of alcohol by volume." Now think it over and try again. As for the other point and the "Spot on the Crack" case, it is not our fault if the counsel for the defence did not examine the Act. The Advocate says in conclusion, "We think the Telegram might be better employed in helping to close up these loopholes than endeavouring to throw discredit on the Act, and putting obstacles in the way of carrying it out." To which we need merely reply that, as the Advocate knows, we pointed out these very defects and the several loopholes at the very time when the Act was before the House last summer, and went on pointing them out until we gave it up as hopeless. But there was an explanation of our wise legislators' heedlessness. They were too busy at the time making loopholes big enough to drive a horse and cart through, in the Profits Tax.

## W. P. A.

## A CLARION CALL!

Women of Newfoundland:

At this moment when praise of the magnificent deeds of our splendid sailors and soldiers is ringing in our ears, I call upon you to help us all to show them how much their glorious self-sacrifice is appreciated at home. Words cannot help like deeds—their words will not win the war, our words will not ally their sufferings, but deeds can and do. The women of Newfoundland have borne a big part in the war already. Before I ever came out here I had heard what had been done and was still being done by the Women's Patriotic Association, and I know what a great incentive you have lost in Lady Davidson, but we must carry on the work she started.

For the first time we are really uneasy about the funds of the W.P.A. They are lower than they have ever been and the need for socks and shirts and bandages and dressings is unfortunately, greater. As our army in the field increases its needs are necessarily greater, and at all costs to ourselves we must not let our men go short of that little extra which we can send them. We are all tired of the war and the many calls it puts upon us, but if we cannot be so enthusiastic about the work now, we can call upon our patriotism to see us through. Nursing in France in 1915 I had the opportunity of often unpacking the goods that came from all over the world for use in hospital, and I do not know how we should have got on without them. Every bit that we can send over there is more than wanted, and every scrap of work done adds to the comfort of some soldier and detracts from the anxiety of the nurses and doctors when the mud-bespattered men from head to foot, clothes rent and torn, wounds needing to be dressed at once after the journey from the firing line.

Women of Newfoundland, I ask you for what we pray and hope is a last big effort. We must have funds and more funds to buy the necessary stuffs that willing hands are longing to make up. We must fill the workrooms of the Women's Patriotic Association with materials and workers if we are to show our splendid Newfoundland Regiment our appreciation from home.

Yours sincerely,

M. ARMOREL HARRIS,

Acting President W.P.A.

## Last Night's Recital.

Following the regular evening service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church last night, a most delightful organ recital was held. A number of selections of an exceptional classical variety were given by Miss Elsie Tait, Mr. C. Macpherson and Organist F. J. King. "Morning Hymn," by Capt. Campbell, and "Legend," by Mrs. F. J. King, were well rendered. The offertory, which was taken up during the singing of hymn 428, was in aid of the choir fund.

## McMurdo's Store News

MONDAY, Jan. 21, 1918. Here is a summary of recent arrivals: CHOCOLATES, Biscuits, Cakes, Sweets, Boquet Soap (regular size cakes), Splendor Soap (single cakes in individual boxes), Limestone Phosphate, Diamond Dye (including Black for cotton and mixed goods), Dyeing Dyes (including Black-covering of all sizes), Sunset Soap Dyes (a full variety of colors), and D.D.D. Eosoma prescription. There is also Norexin the latest and one of the best remedies for blackheads. Said to be an absolute cure.

Ladies' Dressing Cases, Brush, Comb and Mirror, BOWRING BROS., LTD., Hardware Dept. dec24, eod, 12.

## The Menace to the Country.

Editor Evening Telegram. Sir—Referring to my letter of yesterday's date I would direct attention to the fact that the document from which I quoted is contained in the Advocate newspaper of the 19th July. It is printed in the unusual form of large black type, so as to attract and impress the members of the Fishermen's Union in particular, and the public generally. It is headed "President Coaker's letter to F. P. U. Members." It is dated the 18th July, the day after the late Premier Morris announced the Coalition of his government with the Coakerites. It is signed by "F. Coaker, President," and is therefore a formal and official document. It is an apology to the Union members for his part in the Coalition scheme. It is a labored explanation to the general public of a very reprehensible and crooked transaction by a member of the people's representatives in Parliament. It is the announcement of an unholy, unjustifiable, unpatriotic, and apparently, so far as the Fishermen's Union was concerned, altogether unauthorized sale of Union forces to Sir Edward Morris. It is an attempt to force this bill down the throats of those who have so affectionately named "underdogs" and "tollers," those whose susceptibilities he has played upon like a fiddler plays upon his instrument, those he has managed to fool and cajole, until he has got them to sacrifice their freedom of action, and bind themselves to a political servitude derogatory to their manhood, and to their position of Electors under the law. It is the most remarkable confession of unfitness for any position of trust and responsibility that has ever appeared in our press. IF I OBEY THE DICTATES OF A FREE WILL, I would prefer devoting my entire time to the business of the Fishermen that I am held responsible for." Thus wrote W. F. Coaker, President of the Fishermen's Union, Manager of the Union Trading Company, representative of the District of Twillingate. What a pitiable plea for mercy! What an abject admission of wrong doing! What a cowardly attempt to shift the responsibility for the wrong done on somebody else! Again, I ask, who robbed Mr. Coaker of his "free will"? Who shackled his will—Morris, or the Reid Railway Company?

Does he want the Fishermen's Union and the general public to infer from his statement that his colleagues—Stone, Halfyard, Grimes, Jennings, Winsor, Abbott, Targett and Lloyd—forced him against his will, against his conscience, to enter into that Coalition with the Morris government? Such a charge would be absurd, for Messrs. Lloyd, Stone, Halfyard and Grimes were in his pay as President and Manager of the Union, while the other Union members of the House of Assembly were bound to him by an Oath of allegiance. Who then is the keeper of his conscience? If he entered into Coalition with the Morris government against his "free will," then necessarily he must have been forced by some one. Who is that some one? The Editor in Tuesday's Advocate endeavored to break the force of the criticisms that Mr. Coaker has brought upon himself, by alleging, most untruthfully, that such criticisms are "a campaign to injure the F. P. 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