

DISCUSSES THE TONNAGE QUESTION

The Question of Imports Discussed—Committee Formed to Deal With Matter—Salt Problem Most Vital to Country's Interest

Last evening, on the invitation of the Prime Minister and the Board of Trade, the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade, consisting of Hon. M. G. Winter and Messrs. R. F. Horwood, George Williams and Charles Blackburn, and the Committee appointed by the Government, namely, the Prime Minister, Hon. M. P. Cashin and Hon. R. K. Bishop, together with Mr. W. F. Coaker, M.H.A., representing the Fishermen's Protective Union, met in the Board of Trade Rooms to consider the Tonnage Question. The following gentlemen were also present:—Hons. John Harvey and J. C. Crosbie, and Messrs. W. B. Grieve, W. G. Gosling, A. J. Harvey, J. Campbell, Colin Campbell, George Shea, C. P. Ayre, R. Goodridge and J. B. Urquhart.

In his opening address the Prime Minister outlined the present position of the tonnage question. He referred to the general meeting which had been held in the Board of Trade Rooms recently in connection with the matter, to the correspondence between the Board of Trade and the Government, which had resulted therefrom and quoted the following Resolution which had been adopted by the general meeting and forwarded for the consideration of the Government:—

"That this meeting of the Newfoundland Board of Trade having considered the inadequacy of the supplies of tonnage to meet the requirements of the import and export trades of this Colony recommends the President and Council to invite His Majesty's Government to join them in the selection and appointment of a Committee for the purpose of further investigating this matter and of making a report thereon immediately, coupling the same with such recommendations as in the opinion of the said Committee may be best suited to adjust the supply of tonnage to the Colony's requirements."

The Prime Minister also referred to the correspondence that had taken place between the Government and the Opposition, requesting their cooperation, and Mr. Kent's reply, indicating that the Opposition were prepared to view favourably any reasonable action the Government might decide to take, but expressing the opinion that the responsibility should be that of the Executive Government. The Premier then went on to point out that the four matters really of importance were the freighting of salt, flour, coal and general merchandise. Salt was vital to the trade of the Colony. Lack of other commodities might cause inconvenience, but the salt supply was absolutely necessary. If we did not have salt this season our fishery would be valueless. He quoted correspondence which had taken place between himself and Lord Rothermere, in which the latter offered his two steamers, the Alconda and Cranley, which had been released by the Admiralty on the representations of the Newfoundland Government, to go to Cadiz and load two cargoes of salt to relieve the situation here.

Sir Edward then took up the matter of coal supplies, outlined what the Government had done, and intimated that with present stocks in town the market was supplied until the first of June. He was of the opinion that coal dealers and the owners of the wooden sealing steamers would bring about an arrangement by which all the coal required for domestic purposes could be brought here between now and January next.

The Prime Minister then dealt with the flour situation, and quoted figures to show that the average importation of flour into the Colony annually was 360,000 barrels. About half this was taken care of by the Reid Newfoundland Company by steamer from Sydney to Port aux Basques and by railway to St. John's and other points. The balance was brought by direct steam from Montreal and by the Red Cross Line from the

United States and Canada. Last year between May and November several foreign ships had brought 100,000 barrels direct from Montreal, and the balance had been freighted by the Florizel, Stephano and other boats. At present there did not appear to be any ships in sight to look after the flour situation, but he believed it was a matter that the Committee would find a way out of without any increased cost.

The importation of general merchandise would be taken care of by the Furness Line from England, by the Reid Newfoundland Company from Canada, and by the Red Cross Line from the United States and the Dominion. On the whole the Prime Minister saw nothing whatever in the situation to create panic or uneasiness, and he thought that there was little fear of a flour, salt or coal famine, or a lack of other imports, provided the problem was taken up intelligently and a proper organization was formed to deal with the matter. This, he felt sure, would be done by the trade upon whom the responsibility rested, and, as far as the Government was concerned, he gave the meeting an assurance that they would be prepared to co-operate in every possible manner procedure would be to appoint small sub-committees to deal with each of these matters individually and invited the gentlemen present to express their ideas on the various subjects under consideration.

Mr. W. B. Grieve thought that the salt difficulty would be overcome with the aid promised by Lord Rothermere. Already arrangements have been made for a large proportion of the quantity usually imported, and with the addition of the two proposed, cargoes by the Alconda and Cranley, he was satisfied that a satisfactory supply would be assured.

Mr. George Williams drew attention to the great scarcity of cattle feeds in the city, and pointed out that unless supplies of bran, corn meal, corn hay, etc., were not soon forthcoming, a very serious situation would result. These feeds were being mostly at Sydney, and he emphasized the urgency of having them brought on without delay to avert a threatened famine. He thought a steamer should be placed on the route between St. John's and Sydney and operated continually.

Mr. W. F. Coaker considered conditions serious enough to warrant the Government stopping the express for a few days in order to enable the Kyle to move this freight, and also suggested asking the co-operation of the Montreal Board of Trade and the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce with a view to relieving the situation by aiding in the securing of steamers.

In this connection, Hon. J. C. Crosbie offered to send his steamer, the Fogota, for a few trips to bring down supplies, if satisfactory arrangements could be made with the Reid-Nfld. Co.

Hon. John Harvey thought it would be possible to secure the S. S. Stephano for one trip, and send her to Halifax to load flour and feeds in order to help relieve the situation.

Some discussion, in which all present participated, took place as to the possibility of securing a boat for general use to freight flour, coal and general merchandise as required, but it was found that the experience of those firms which had made enquiries in this direction showed the almost utter impossibility of obtaining any kind of a suitable steamer.

Mr. Blackburn thought it might be possible that conditions would improve upon the opening of navigation, when a large number of steamers at Archangel would be released.

Mr. Gosling suggested that a solution of the difficulty might be arrived at through the purchase of a steamer by importers and exporters here, aided by Government assistance.

Weather and Ice Conditions

Seal Cove—Wind N., weather fine and cold, bay still full of ice, no seals seen. Tilt Cove—Wind N.W., moderate, bay well clear. Nipper's Hr.—Moderate all night, bay cased over with ice slob, few bedlamer seals seen. Twillingate—Wind N., fresh, clear, fine and cold, bay filling in with ice and slob, many seals reported yesterday.

Change Islands—Light N. W., fair, ice on land. Foggo—Wind W.N.W., very moderate, mild, fine, ice off still. Bonavista—Very light N. wind, fine clear, ice packed on south of bay, little water to be seen outside about seven miles from shore. Catalina—Light N. wind, fine weather, no ice on North side bay. Flower's Cove—Moderate winds, fair and much warmer, lots of ice. (Tuesday, from Quebec.) Heath Point—Clear north, light close packed everywhere. Magdalen Islands—Clear N.W. close packed ice inshore. Money Point and Scatterie—Clear N. W., heavy close packed inshore. Flat Point—Clear W. light open ice distant. Point Amour—Clear, calm, heavy close packed distant.

AN IMPOSING FUNERAL

Yesterday afternoon the funeral of the late Mr. Justice Emerson took place and was one of the most imposing seen in the city for some time. A large concourse of citizens of all classes paid the last tribute of respect to the deceased Judge. His Excellency the Governor was represented by Chief Justice Sir Wm. Horwood and Capt. Goodridge, A.D.C., and there were in the funeral procession, besides Premier Morris, the members of both branches of the Legislature, Judges of the Central District Court, members of the Legal Fraternity, the Civic Commission and a guard from the constabulary.

The service at the R. C. Cathedral was a choral. Rt. Rev. Monsignor McDermott, V.G.; Rev. Dr. Carter, H. Renouf and J. Pippy officiating, the final absolution being imparted by Monsignor McDermott. Interment was in the family burial plot at Belvidered cemetery.

GOOD RIFLE WORK

Our soldiers are making splendid progress with the rifle at the range. The men are giving promise of more than ordinary proficiency, and Tuesday evening good work was done at the 500 yards range.

The scores Tuesday and yesterday were: 200 yds. Tuesday morning—Job Rose 18, H. Price 13, S. Edwards 17, A. Evox 17, J. B. Grant 16, H. J. Carter 16, D. Peddle 16, T. Carew 16, G. M. T. Pennell 15, S. Roberts 15, James Woodman 14, H. Ball 14, A. Quinton 13, H. T. Granter 13, M. Conran 12, P. Healey 12, T. Evox 12, Total 270. Average 15 for 18 men. 200 yds. yesterday morning—S. Murphy 18, J. Penny 18, A. Quinton 18, D. Peddle 17, F. Evox 17, F. Hannon 16, H. J. Carter 16, H. Price 16, W. Matthews 15, T. T. Granter 15, P. Healey 15, H. Ball 15, W. Brown 13, P. J. Connors 11, E. Reid 10, J. J. Murphy 9. Total 239. Average 14.15 for 16 men.

R. C. CHURCH NOTES

At all the masses in the Cathedral and St. Patrick's yesterday there were large and devoted congregations present. During the day the churches were crowded with people performing the devotions of the Holy Way of the Cross, and at night Lenten Services began.

In the Cathedral the Rosary of the B.V.M. was recited by Rev. Dr. Carter, who also imparted Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Rt. Rev. Monsignor McDermott occupied the pulpit and preached a very eloquent sermon, during the course of which he referred to the mission to be preached by the Fathers of the Passionist Order, beginning on Sunday the 19th inst., and exhorted all to attend and observe faithfully the Lenten fasts, and approach the sacraments frequently.

SEALERS ARRIVE AT CHANNEL.

The S.S. Viking which left here Monday morning arrived at Channel yesterday forenoon after a good run. The Diana arrived there at 7.30 a.m. yesterday after working out of the storm at St. Lawrence. The Seal arrived there from Halifax in the afternoon to sign on her crew there.

As the suggested trip of the Stephano. Both these sub-committees met today and will report to the general committee at a meeting which has been called for Friday night next.—News.

LOCAL ITEMS

Mr. T. Grey who is operator of the Holton Wireless Station has gone Marconi man in the Sam Blandford.

To-day a row occurred on board a schooner between some sealers at Job's wharf and the police who were called quickly quelled it.

The man arrested by Sgt. Mackey for stealing a pair of skin boots exclusively referred to in this paper, was before court yesterday and was sentenced to 30 days.

The corpse of Miss Jennie Oliver who died recently in Boston arrived here by the express yesterday afternoon and was conveyed to her former residence on Bannerman Street.

Yesterday a few bedlamer seals were seen off Nipper's Hr., and Tuesday evening a large number were off Twillingate. No seals have been reported from other Northern points though some have been seen down on the French Shore.

Yesterday two of the firemen of the Terra Nova lost their passage, as they alleged they did not know the sealing hour of the ship. They went along in the Sam Blandford. One of the Bloodhound's men who also missed his passage went out on the Eagle and the men will join their ships North.

At the meeting of the St. Thomas's Men's Bible Class in Canon Wood Hall this evening a Mission Service for men will be held instead of a lecture. The Rector will conduct the service and the subject of the address to be delivered by him is "The man who said he would and didn't."

At the sealing ships that will clear for the North left here yesterday. Only the Florizel and Sable Island will leave St. John's and we join in the hope so unanimously expressed yesterday that all will return quickly and safely and that the spring will be a most successful one.

To-night there will be a very interesting carnival held in the Parade Ring. A large number of masqueraders will skate and no doubt there will be several prizes awarded. The Terra Nova Band will discourse splendid musical programme and all will enjoy a good time.

LADY DAVIDSON AT GRAND FALLS.

Dr. Lloyd, Secretary Recruiting Committee. Lady Davidson delivered a very interesting address at a meeting of the Women's Patriotic Association in the Court House this forenoon. Being introduced by Miss Collins, Vice-President of the Association, who expressed regret at the unavoidable absence of the President, Mrs. Scott. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mrs. Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Pike, carried by acclamation, responded to by Lady Davidson who then examined the work of the work of this Association. The National Anthem closed the meeting. H. F. FITZGERALD.

MASONIC CLUB ANNUAL.

Last night the Masonic Club held its annual meeting. The reports by the various officers were satisfactory, showing an increase in membership and sound financial condition. The following officers were elected:— President—Bro. H. E. Cowan. 1st V.-President—Bro. T. J. Duley. 2nd V.-President—Bro. F. Hamlin. Hon. Sec.-Treasurer—Bro. S. A. Churchill. Committee—Bros. W. Barker, F. J. King, L. A. Diamond, W. A. Thompson, D. P. Duff, G. E. Moty, J. R. Robertson, D. Thistle, A. Wilson, J. Noseworthy. Auditors—J. Cowan, A. Findlater.

V.C. and British Colonel Dark, Mixed IS GREAT. TRY IT At the Royal Cigar Store, Bank Square, Water Street.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH NEWFOUNDLAND

Hon. J. A. Robinson, in The News, this morning, notes that Newfoundlanders in Canada are no shirkers. According to the editor of our m.c. there are in the Canadian 25th Battalion, which has been bearing its share in the struggle around Ypres the past year, no less than 75 Bush Borns. In the 40th there are 37, in the 64th, 45, or 157 in these three battalions.

In most all the Canadian contingents our boys are represented, and from remote British Columbia three are in the ranks. As Mr. Robinson says, we agree with him, a worthy example is thus set for their brothers in old Terra Nova. Com.

A DOG'S DEVOTION

An interesting incident illustrating the devotion and sagacity of a dog and the kindness to one of its fellows, was witnessed in Baird's Cove to-day. A dog had fallen overboard and was drowning in the slob ice and issuing pitious cries for help. Suddenly a poor object looking canine coming down Water Street heard the appeal, dashed down the cove, jumped overboard and getting on a pan of ice dragged the poor drowning brute into safety. The incident was seen by many people, including one of the members of The Mail and Advocate's staff.

BOY SEVERELY HURT

Tuesday evening Ralph Burt, aged 10, son of Mr. Joshua Burt of Whiteway's, while playing on the South Side was set upon by another and older boy who wore a pair of skates and kicked him with much force in the groin. He was severely cut and when brought home Mr. B. Cousins rendered first aid, after which he was attended by a doctor.

BURNT BADLY BY GASOLINE

By the train to-day Andrew Hart of Fermeuse arrived here from North Hr. for hospital, where he was taken by Mr. Eli Whiteway. Yesterday the young man whose leg was effected in some way was being rubbed by his father with the gasoline, was too near the fire, it ignited and he was terribly burned from below the knee up to the hip. He suffered much pain and was rushed quickly to hospital on arrival.

WAS REPORTED MISSING

Tuesday night Esekiah Blundon reported that Priscilla Rendell, aged 60, who had stayed at their home, Scott Street, left there the day before and it was feared some ill had befallen her as she had not put in appearance. Priscilla returned last night "without a feather out of her" and had been lavishing entertained at a friend's house on Long's Hill.

THE SABLE I. HERE

The S.S. Sable I. reached port shortly after 1 p.m. yesterday after a run of two days from Louisburg bringing some coal and general cargo, including a large consignment of oil to A. J. Harvey & Co. The ship which will be commanded by Capt. Jacob Kean will sail from this port for the Northern sealfishery, has her coal on board and will be got ready quickly.

HUNGRY AND COLD.

Edward Scott who only a day or so ago was released from the Penitentiary came to the lockup again last night hungry and cold, was looked after by the guard, Sgt. Carew, and to-day was sent down again by Mr. Hutchings for 10 days.

'SAGONA' AND 'PETREL' HERE

The S.S. Sagona and the wrecking tug Petrel arrived here from Port aux Basques at 4 p.m. yesterday after a run of 60 hours. Both ships had fine weather on the run and met some slob ice. The Sagona some 10 or 12 days ago had some blades of her propeller knocked off in the ice. She will require other repairs besides new propeller blades and goes on the dry dock to-day for a survey.

"Blank seems to be the big man of the town. Does he come of good stock?" "No; but he owns a whole pile of it."

WAR MESSAGES

THE TONNAGE QUESTION

LONDON, Mar. 8.—Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, said that in view of the fact that the services of every officer and seaman were urgently needed afloat, the Board has reconsidered the question of holding a formal investigation into the loss of the steamer Persia. He said the Board had come to the conclusion that an investigation would not produce results of sufficient importance to justify the further detention of the officers and crew ashore, and the considerable expense which would be involved. He stated in the Commons to-day that the Brewers' Society had agreed to a reduction of its imports of brewing materials by one-third. The order to release this tonnage, Runciman stated, would mean a saving of 200,000 tons.

CHURCHILL'S FACE ABOUT CREATES SURPRISE

LONDON, Mar. 8.—Churchill's remarkable volte face has excited surprise, indignation and perplexity as to the real meaning of his outspoken speech. The Times sees in it the expression of popular anxiety felt in regard to the naval position. The Chronicle, a Government supporter, would regret to see the matter become an acrimonious one, but hoped that the services of the greatest original sailor in modern times will once more be frequently utilized for the Empire's benefit. Loyal opinion is that Churchill has done neither himself nor the State any good.

SHIPPING

The S.S. Noreg now 12 days out from Barry should arrive here shortly to load fish for Europe.

The Meigle which have been delayed two days off Placentia by ice, arrived there at noon yesterday.

The S.S. Stephano leaves New York at 3 p.m. to-day and is due here Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning.

Capt. Cross and crew of the Bellaventure left New York by the Stephano to-day. The Bellaventure is now in Russia.

A report was current to-day that the Meigle had two blades of her propeller damaged in forcing through the ice off Placentia. We phoned the Reid Nfld. Co., who say that nothing of the kind occurred.

DETECTIVES ARE BUSY

Recognizing that another crackman is prowling about the city nightly the detectives are again hard at work. The thefts from English's jewellery store, the attempt at P. J. Shea's and other matters exclusively referred to in The Mail and Advocate are occupying their attention, and Tees, Byrne and Tobin will no doubt shortly land their men.

LEAVING WITH XAVIER UNIT

Master Walter Callahan, son of Mr. Rodger Callahan, (finnsmith, leaves here by this evening's express for Antigonish where he will join the St. Francis Xavier Unit, and will go from that place to France to serve with the Red Cross Corps of the Celebrated University at the front.

HAD HAND CRUSHED

As Mr. J. Earle was working at A. H. Murray's yesterday he narrowly escaped being killed. A cask of fish fell from a tier, just missed his head, but terribly crushed his left hand as it rested on another package. He was given first aid at Wadden's pharmacy and was then looked after by a doctor.

S. E. GALE WEST

To-day a S. E. gale with snow later bearing to rain prevails at Port aux Basques and other places West. The S. S. Kyle is three miles off Port aux Basques forcing in through the ice and should arrive this afternoon.

MAKING IN FOR CAPE RACE

Messages were received in the city to-day saying that the S.S. San Onofre, towed by the San Gregoria, is to-day making in for Cape Race and should arrive down here, weather and ice permitting, to-morrow morning. The ship will get a stock of coal here.

OFFICIAL

CASUALTY LIST FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

1568 Private Howard Hulian, Robinson's Station, St. George. Seriously ill, phthisis pulmonalis at Red Cross Hospital, Ayr. J. R. BENNETT, Colonial Secretary.

VON BERNSTORFF REPLIES FOR GERMANY

WASHINGTON, Mar. 8.—The German Government in a memorandum handed to-day by Count Von Bernstorff to Secretary of State Lansing, outlines the details of its position in regard to armed ships. It reviews events leading up to its decision to torpedo without warning all armed merchantmen of its enemies; concedes that international law, as at present constituted, makes no provision for the use of submarines; expresses willingness to operate its submarines in accordance with international law prevailing prior to the war, on condition that Britain does not violate the same laws.

HUN SOW MINES AROUND ENGLISH COAST

LONDON, Mar. 8.—The blockade of Britain by mines, reported as threatened by Germany, is already in existence along the trade route to Holland. According to naval critics the German mines are between the mouth of the Thames and the Galloway lightship. It is in this neighborhood that many disasters occurred during the last month.

Passenger ships, until recently, had been quite successful in dodging mines by making voyages in daylight, but no method is known for guarding against submerged anchor mines.

AROUND VERDUN

PARIS, Mar. 8.—The French, by a strong counter-attack, succeeded to-day in driving the Germans from the greater part of Corbeau Wood, which they occupied yesterday. According to an official statement to-night, the Germans now hold only the eastern extremity of this wood. The Germans, however, have re-occupied Harmondou redoubt. Douaumont, to the north of Verdun, is again being heavily bombarded.

ZEP WAS HIT

LONDON, Mar. 8.—Messages received here from newspaper correspondents in Kent assert that one zeppelin which took part in Sunday's raid, was damaged by anti-aircraft guns. One message stated that a zeppelin, which passed over the Kentish coast, homeward bound, easily on Monday was seen to be in difficulty. Another despatch says it is reported that an explosion took place on board the zeppelin when it was hit. This partially crippled it. A broken portion of the zeppelin's propeller was found.

HUN LOSSES HEAVY

PARIS, Mar. 8.—Prisoners taken at Verdun, estimate that the losses to the battalions which took part in infantry assaults since February 25th, at an average of two-thirds of the total strength.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

NOTICE

Council of Higher Education Nfld.

THE Ballads of British History required for the Primary and Preliminary Grade Examinations can now be obtained from the booksellers at 4 cents each copy.

A. WILSON, Secretary. mar7,4i

FOR SALE—2 Second Hand Return Tubular Boilers with Fittings; one 14 feet long, 5 feet diameter, and the other 16 feet long, 6 feet diameter. Both in good condition, only about one year in service. For further particulars write P. O. BOX 336, St. John's. —mar9,3i

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