"IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE."

Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - Proprietor
C. T. JAMES, - - - - - - Editor

WEDNESDAY, May 15, 1918.

Frenzied Finance.

The proposition put forward by the President of the Fishermen's Protective Union, in his now celebrated and much discussed Special Circular, to secure financial help toward carrying over the current year's busines of the Union Trading and other Companies, is perhaps the most remarkable in the history of this, or any other, commercial community. The appeal is made to members of the Union, who have money in the Banks or at home and coming at such a time is an almost infallible testimony to the fact that "something is rotten somewhere." The opening sentences of the request for cash are blackly pessimistic, but as the writer warms up to the subject, a more visible style of optimism tinges the wording. The music of the "Song of Sixpence," however, will fail to charm the ears of hearers; the unmistakable signs of the times being unfavorable. There s also a coldness pervading the financial atmosphere which the thermometer of the President fails to register. Signs are not wanting to how that the people who originally made up the strength of Union Councils are not being charmed by the voice of the charmer any longer. Like the Missourians "they now have to be shown."

No person would or could object to the Presiding Officer of the Fishermen's Protective Union, making a call for funds wherewith to continue the regular business of the many companies with which he is identified. The response to that call is entirely with the shareholders or prospective shareholders who wish to purchase new tock. As has been demonstrated the objection is to the Union Trading Company becoming a Competitor of the Government of Newfoundland, which competition is not only suggested, by one who is a Minister of His Majesty's Government in Newfoundland, but is supported by the same Minister. This will be considered presently. Plainly, in his frenzy, the President is desirous of creating a division in favor of his own plan when he states flatly that "the Banks won't advance money to anyone." Such an assertion, unsupported by a tittle of evidence would make it apparent that the financial business of this country was in such a condition that the Banks were refusing to make loans on the usual security. "The Banks will not advance money to anyone." What does the President's colleagues in the Government think of this ex parte assertion? If by anyone, this Minister of the Crown, meant the Union Trading Company, why did he not say it straight? He has no right, even in his private circulars to allege such a palpable untruth, for every respectable business man knows that the Banks are granting the usual accommodations on the usual conditi ns. So much for that. The Government of Newfoundland is about to place on the local market an issue of Bonds to raise a Victory Loan, for the purpose of meeting the War expenses of this Dominion. Whether that Loan will be fully subscribed depends on its attractiveness and profit bearing possibilities. It will be a Bond issue running into millions, yet simultaneously with its announcement, the President of the Fishermen's Protective Union and Minister of the Crown heads it off by asking all who have money to invest to put it into the stock of the Trading Company or on deposit with the same concern and an interest at the rate of six per cantum will be paid, "the same rate as the Government Bonds." In other words, the needs of the Trading Company should be placed before those of this Dominion, and whatever money fishermen members of the Union have to spare, they are being solemnly advised to give the preference to the Trading Company, in order that the President of that Corporation can, to use his own words, "drive the merchants to pay a high as possible price for fish." If this is not "frenzied finance" with a vengeance, what is it? In effect the fishermen are asked to give their money to buy their own fish, the price of which, with the purchasing power of their money, will be boosted to the limit, in order, (note the exact words) "that if I pay ten dollars for fish others will follow." Not one word about that "tommy rot" cause of supply and demand; not one word as to market conditions abroad: not one word about the difficulty of obtaining tonnage to carry the fish to market, but a clear cut accusation that the mercants want to down the Union, and that if the money does not come in it will make it impossible for the President to buy the fishermen's fish with the fishermen's cash, and therefore the merchants will pay what they like. Was ever such doctrine preached? There is so much to be considered, in this wonderful and to be historical circular, that space does not permit to-day. With such men being Ministers of the Crown, there is much more need at present for the Churches to offer prayers "for the safety and welfare of this Colony" than ever there was before.

Pertinent Enquiries.

SUGGESTED AND OTHERWISE.

Whether any investigation or enquiry is going to be held by the Customs Department into the alleged presentation of Invoices, under value, for duty, by a certain firm?

Whether it is permissible under the Customs Act, for goods, in Bond, to be stored in a building, the owner of which has not given Bonds for the due security of the duty on such goods, when stored in such buildings?

Whether or not the Minister of Customs is aware that at a certain port of Entry in the Dominion, local goods and foreign (dutiable) goods are mixed promiscuously, when there should be, under the Customs Act, a separate warehouse for each?

Whether in view of these circumstances it would not be quite compatible with the law, to prohibit the landing of any cargo from any foreign steamer, under such conditions, at this particular port of Entry?

Whether Customs Inspectors (so-called) inspect, and whether some of them know how to inspect?

Whether there is anything doing in the Confederation line, and whether the recent arrival from Halifax of the non-resident member for Burgeo and LaPoile has any connection with the previous arrival of the non-resident member for Bonavista, who apparently resigned his seat in 1916, but who resumed it again last week without any formality?

Whether it would not be better for the Government to commandeer some of the surplus war profits made by its supporters during 1917, than to make the present Income Tax retrospective thereby causing much suffering and financial embarrassment to salaried men who come under its provisions?

Is there a relationship between Baron Morris and Barren Results, or is it just a connection?

Would not this talk about titles give anybody a bad pain?

Is this a time for Men in the Govt. to be thinking about, and scheming for such baubles?

Will some titles not be more of a disgrace than anything else?

Have some people now got enough Daylight with John Anderson's Bill in force, to see where they are heading for?

Can they figure out later where they may get off?

What might happen if Simple Simon should meet a really up-to-date pieman?

What is Simon (here) for, and why?

Will Germany win?

Will hens swim?

Is there much German money afloat in Newfoundland?

S S Ethie Ashore.

Special to Evening Telegram.

CAPE RACE, To-day.

Wind W., weather foggy; the Reid Nfld. Company's steamer Ethie ran ashore during a dense fog at 7.15 p.m. yesterday; the latest from the wreck says ship is flooded with water and in bad position; crew all safe. Bar. 29.55; ther. 54.

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House of Assembly

Yesterday the Petitions had their innings, Mr. Woodford presenting two from Hr. Main, on the subject of the price of fish on Labrador. He had the support of Messrs. Kennedy and Young, both of whom pointed out the injustice of the present methods.

Acting Colonial Secretary Halfyard had a sheaf from Fogo, which he handed over to the Departments to which they related, hoping that the right thing would be done.

Mr. Kennedy handed in one from sections of Harbour Main district in connection with the Military Service Act.

The "giant of the bunch" was undoubtedly that presented by Mr. Bennett, which was signed by some 3,000 people of St. John's, asking that some modifications be made in the Prohibition Act now in force. In support of this were Messrs. Bennett, Woodford, Stone, Walsh, Kennedy, Downey and Young. Against it were Messrs. Parsons, Targett, Winsor, Grimes, Moulton, Goodison, Currie and Morine.

Bills respecting the operation of Saw Mills and for the encouragement of Cattle Raising went through all stages.

The Legislative Council's amendment to the Ministry of Shipping Bill was further amended and the Bill amending the Crown Lands and Timbers Act, submitted by the Select Committee was passed.

The House adjourned until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Legislative Council.

The House met at 3 o'clock yesterday, and a Select Committee was appointed to consider the amendment to the Ministry of Shipping Bill, proposed by Mr. Bishop, on Monday. This Bill was re-amended and provision made for a Board of not less than two members, to act in conjunction with the Minister.

The Military Forces Bill was again sent to Committee, when the Hon. President moved an amendment to Section 7, to the effect that members of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment be not subjected to punishment such as is inflicted in the army, other than death or imprisonment. Hon. Mr. Squires seconded the motion and Hon. Mr. Gibbs spoke in support of the amendment. Hon. Mr. Harvey was of opinion that it was ridiculous (which it is) for a local Legislature to impose its laws re Army discipline on the Imperial Government, as when the Nfld. Regiment formed part of the Army the King's Regulations applied and could not be be changed by local enactment. Hon. Mr. Anderson hoped that when the Minister of Militia crossed to the other side he would see that the remaining few of the first "five hundred" be sent home on fudlough. Hon. Mr. Ellis took the same stand as Hon. Mr. Harvey, but had no objection to accepting the amendment which was carried unanimously.

A general debate ensued on the second reading of the Income Tax Bill, and Hon. Mr. Harvey who was the first speaker, said that ther were many many points in it which did not appeal to him. The tax was somewhat excessive when compared with that of Canada and the U S. and its collection from 1917 was unfair.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs asked that further consideration be deferred, until members had been given an opportunity of studying the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Anderson was also of opinion that a copy of Bill should be given members for perusal.

Hon. Mr. Bishop believed it quite impossible to collect the tax for 1917.

Hon. Mr. Squires supported the principle of the tax and regretted that members had not been furnished with copies. The retraction of the Bill was unfair and he did not think it would be possible to collect the tax for 1917 especially from men who had been obliged to live up to their income. The distinction amounts for married and single were not equitable. He begged to make a motion that the Bill be deferred till to-day.

Hon. Mr. Ellis announced that the Government wished to close the House Wednesday, and suggested a night session.

Hon. Mr. Templeman spoke to the question at length, and expressed disapproval at rushing matters. During the session he had heard nothing but "this is taken from the Canadian laws, and that is taken from the Canadian laws, and this is a Canadian Act and something else is a Canadian Act." As everything was Canadian, and he was not sure that we were not into Confederation, he thought it would be just as well to get a few Canadians down here (we have some already) and let them run the whole show. He did not like the way things were going. He could not see through a stone wall, but he could see through a picket fence.

Hon. Mr. Anderson objected to the running of the "House" by a baker's dozen and supported the motion that the debate be held over until to-day.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge asked that the Bill stand over which was agreed to.

To-day's sitting will take place at 3 o'clock p.m.

Coughs and Colds seem to be increasing the past few days. Try a bottle of Stafford's Phoratone. Theatre Hill Drug Store open until 9.30 every night.
may1,tf

To-Day's Messages.

RECEIVES PASSPORTS.

DUBLIN, To-day.

The Lord Mayor has received passports for America, and arrangements for his immediate departure are in progress. This was announced in a report, at a meeting of the anti-Conscription Conference, held at the Mansion House to-day.

MAURICE'S EXPLANATION.

LONDON, To-day.

The Daily Chronicle for a long period was a strong supporter of Premier Lloyd George. Lately, however, it has shown signs of lessening allegiance. It has favored the Associated Press with Major General Maurice's first article, which will appear to-morrow, under the caption "A Personal Explanation." General Maurice deals with two points in the Premier's comments on his conduct, concerning the Versailles meeting, to discuss the taking over of the French lines. General Maurice says, I accompanied the British representatives to Versailles, and was present at the first meeting of this session of the Supreme War Council. During the meetings after the first, I was in the corridor outside the Council Chamber, and in the intervals between the meetings was engaged on work connected with the questions under examination. I held, therefore, that my statement that I was at Versailles at the time was justified. Concerning the Premier's question why I didn't criticize ministerial statements before I left office, General Maurice says, it was not as stated in some reports in the House of Commons when the Premier made his speech on April 9th. That was the day the enemy's attack in Flanders began. Between then and April 20th, when I handed over my work to my sucecssor, I was very much occupied with my duties and part of the time I was in France I had no leisure to do more than glance at the Premier's speech. I did notice a statement about the forces in Egypt and Palestine, but that didn't seem to me to warrant my calling attention to it at atime when every one was very much occupied with other matters. I left the War Office on April 20th, on leave, and then for the first time read a full report of the speech. It was while I was on leave that I heard of Mr. Bonar Law's answers to questions in the House of Commons on April 23rd. I returned on April 29th, and read the report of Parliamentary proceedings but it was not until then that I formed a definite opinion, that in Bonar Law's reply, and the Premier's statements, which I questioned, taken together, put upon the soldiers a responsibility, which in my judgment should be borne by the ministers, and it appeared to me a matter of urgency to correct that impression. I wrote the following day, April 30th, after I had left office, to my late chief, the Chief of the Imperial Staff, pointing out that statements made by the Premier and Mr. Bonar Law were incorrect; I had made up my mind before then that action on my part was necessary. I waited for a reply until May 6th, before sending my letter to the press, and that I conceived to be as long as I could wait, because I had been warned to expect orders to go to France, on or after May 10th, and I didn't wish to make such charges on the eve of leaving the country. As the suggestion has been made that I worked in concert, or collusion, with other soldiers or with opponents of the Government in Parliament, or in the press, I wish to add that I acted entirely alone and that the responsibility for what I did is mine alone, and nothing was further from my mind than to serve any partisan or political purposes.

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Spare Our Blushes.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Sir,—No one is more willing to give the returned soldiers praise for their work in the recent recruiting campaign than the writer. But when the returned soldiers or any person tries to take all the credit for the Selective Conscription measure, they are attempting a little too much. To the Evening Telegram belongs the credit (not all of it, of course), of selective conscription, and your decision, sir, in "nailing your colours to the mast" on the day after the big meeting in the Casino Theatre, backed by your correspondents—Rev. Mr. Darby and others—pulled the wool out of the Government's eyes and let them see that their policy of procrastination would not be longer tolerated; and the result is that Selective Conscription is on the Statute Books—and to The Telegram belongs the credit for forcing the measure.

Yours truly,

May 15, 1918. CIVIS.

Norwegian Fishery.

May 14th, 1918 15,900,000
May 13th, 1917.. 22,700,000

Plenty of Dodd's Pills and Fletcher's Castoria at Stafford's Drug Store, Theatre Hill. Open every night till 9.30.—may1,tf

Exemption Tribunal Again in Session.

The Judges of the Supreme Court who comprise the Military Exemption Tribunal, held their second sitting yesterday afternoon, between 3 and 5 p.m., to consider applications. The following were dealt with:—

No. 6—F. G. Jerrett, Brigus, on behalf of his son, Eric Jerrett, bank clerk, 22 Prescott St., claims exemption on ground B. Exemption allowed.

No. 7—Oliver Brown, Baine Hr., P.B., fisherman, claims exemption on ground C. Exemption granted.

No. 8.—Percy H. Jardine, 48 Plank Road, clerk, claims exemption on ground B. Application granted.

No. 9—K. T. Walsh, accountant, Henry St., claims exemption on ground D. Exemption allowed as long as he continues to be the main support of his mother.

No. 10—James Penneck Cook, Forest Rd., marine engineer, claims exemption. Case to be considered.

No. 11—J. W. Allen, City Terrace, claims exemption. Case to be considered.

No. 12—E. Williams, Bay Bulls Rd., farmer, claims exemption on ground E Adjourned for doctor's evidence.

No. 13—Edward Buckingham, 38 Job's St., marine engineer, claims exemption. No decision given.

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PLUMBERS STRIKE.—A number of plumbers who demanded $4 a day, walked out on strike yesterday.

NOTICE. — Correspondents are requested to accompany contributions with their REAL NAMES, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The editor refuses to accept any matter unless this rule is adhered to.

Our Baseball

PLAGIARISED AND

(All communications in connection with this Column should be addressed "Baseball Editor," care Evening Telegram.)

LEAGUE NOTES.

Last year's four teams will again compete for the "tin mug" this season. Two rounds will be played, as last year, consisting of six games each. Opening Day is set for June 13th. The Wanderers and Cubs will start the ball rolling. Tuesday and Thursday evenings, after tea, has been decided on as the time when the other contests will be run off. The fans will be glad to learn that things this year will be done in Big League style. The "Ump" will announce the batteries through a megaphone and the games will start promptly at the hour called. Any team not having its full quota of men in the field sharp on time will forfeit the game.

The teams will be allowed ten minutes practice each before the appointed time; the challenging team to have first ten minutes. The Scorer will be provided with a bell to announce when practice begins and ends. The proceeds of the first game will be devoted to the most worthy object connected with our war activities. The games will consist of seven innings and the players' benches will be moved back near the fence so as not to obstruct the spectators' view.

JUNIOR LEAGUE.

At the meeting of the League held last Saturday night the question of the formation of a Junior League was given full consideration. The whole matter was thoroughly gone into and

Mr. Morine's Return.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir,—"Democrat's" warning in your issue of yesterday on Mr. Morine's return to town is most timely, if warnings are of any avail just now! Two years ago this gentleman bade adieu to the Assembly in a most touching forewell speech, when most people thought he had resigned his seat, and since that period we have had a continuous series of political juggling and acrobatic performances in our public life that have all pointed to one goal, Confederation. Baron Morris has fled to London, from whence he has also sent us his farewell address; Mr. Coaker has fellen into the arms of Messrs. Cashin and Crosbie, and we have a government of shreds and patches in power, the upheaval of the most corrupt and immoral compact that ever was entered into in any part of His Majesty's Dominions, the foundation of which was also Confederation. The ridiculous part of the whole situation is the position in which we find our Legislature to-day. We have in the first place about 10 vacancies in the Assembly as far as seats go; we have Mr. Morine living in Toronto all the time, paying us a visit to take his seat when he feels like it in the Assembly; we have Mr. Moulton living in Halifax for the past four years doing the same, and we have Mr. Goodison, the late Speaker, leaving a permanent office under the Crown to which he was appointed over a year ago to resume his seat on the chance of his procuring a better job later on, and we have the electorate all over the country patiently sitting down waiting for the next move. Well may we exclaim; "Where are we and whither tending."

Yours truly,

PLEBS.

St. John's, May 15, 1918.

War Grade Flour Here

A shipment of the standard war grade flour which will be the only flour available after a short while, has arrived in the city and is already being used in large quantities at several homes. The bread produced is in every respect equal, if not superior to that produced from the pure white flour; having eaten some ourselves we are prepared to admit that it is more nourishing than the bread made from other grades of flour.

Casualty List.

RECEIVED MAY 15th, 1918.

At 46th Stationery Hospital, Etaples, May 3rd.

2492—Cprl. Thomas Murphy, 85 Long's Hill. Diphtheria (mild).

Improving—May 5th.

3234—Pte. Michael McGrath, 6 Convent Square. (Previously reported).

3050—Cprl. Harold Walsh, Limeville, Battery Road. (Previously reported).

Dangerously Ill—May 14th.

2789—Pte. Ches. Chaffey, Crabbe's, Bay St. George. (Previously reported).

J. R. BENNETT,
Minister of Militia.

Save all your Outside Green Wrappers from Stafford's Liniment. (See advt.)—may1,tf