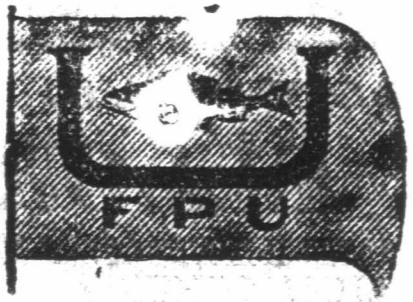


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The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S N.F.L.D., NOV. 12th, 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW

P. T. McGRATH

THE Patriotic Meeting recently held did discuss the action and conduct of P. T. McGrath, in reference to his charge of discrimination against Catholic lads serving King and Country, in matters of promotion.

The Committee's report was not open for discussion, but a night was fixed for such action; yet many present did not hesitate to speak plainly on the matter, and P.T., who was present, felt anything but comfortable.

It is said that the Committee gave Mr. McGrath two weeks to prepare his case, and it is understood that unless he apologizes to the Committee, that the Committee will resign in a body. Funny rumours are going the rounds of the city respecting what was said by several gentlemen present at Monday night's meeting.

THE PLEBESCITE RETURNS

THE Country has again been disgusted over the delay in counting the ballots cast last Thursday. It is now nine days since the election, yet there are no returns for Twillingate, St. Barbe and Fortune.

The F.P.U. petitioned the Government in 1913, asking for an amendment in the Ballot Act, which would provide for the counting of the ballots by the Deputy Returning Officer, thereby enabling the public to learn results within 24 hours after polling. The Government have so far given no consideration to this vital urgent reform.

There are few reasons why such a reform should not be instituted. There are many in favour of the reform. There was a time when such restrictions were justified, but if the people are not capable of being trusted in the matter of counting votes at each poll booth, after the poll closes, they are not fit to possess manhood suffrage. Almost every part of the Country is connected with the telegraph system, hence it is possible to telegraph the returns immediately after the poll is closed. The change demanded is necessary and in the best interest of all concerned.

We trust the Premier will introduce legislation at the coming session of Parliament, giving effect to the proposals of the F.P.U.; otherwise it will be the duty of the Opposition Party to introduce such legislation.

STEER BROS. VS. UNION TRADING CO.

YESTERDAY Judge Emerson heard a case between Steer Bros. and the U.T. Co., which will not be finished until Monday. The Herald attempted last evening to state the facts in this case,

but badly mixed them. The facts are as follows:

The U.T. Co. was approached last spring by Steer's broker, and an offer made of 2000 barrels of Purify flour. The U.T. Co. purchased the 2000 barrels of flour and paid for the 2000 barrels; but when delivery was taken Shea & Co. held back 20 barrels to cover a claim of \$38 due as storage during six days the U.T. Co. was taking delivery.

The U.T. Co. asked Steer Bros. and the Bank of Montreal to whom the flour was warehoused, to see that the full 2000 barrels paid for was delivered, but each repudiated any responsibility. Subsequently the U.T. Co. purchased a portion of a cargo of molasses from Steer Bros, and when paying for the molasses deducted the value of the 20 barrels of flour.

Steer Bros. now asks the Court to compel the U.T. Co. to pay them (Steer Bros.) the value of the 20 barrels of flour short delivered, which the U.T. Co. deducted from the molasses bill. The U.T. Co. counter claim for the value of the 20 barrels of flour which Shea & Co. and Steer Bros. admit were not delivered.

Morine, K.C., appears for the U.T. Co., and McNeilly for Steer Bros.

"THE MARK"

A DOZEN correspondents have written asking us to publish Mr. Bayly's article against Prohibition, which appeared in the paper he edits called "The Mark." The article in question is as follows:—

PROHIBITION

On the fourth day of November, we men of Newfoundland have been notified that we are expected to vote "Yes" or "No" upon a matter of conscience. We are therefore not surprised to hear that men of sober mind and judgment are as yet undecided, how to vote. If it were purely a personal matter, it would be easy to form a sound judgment. But since it affects others so largely, the question is:

Have we the Right by our vote to Enforce Compulsory Total Abstinence?

We must be convinced that the sin of drunkenness has secured a tremendous grip upon the people of this Colony before we can say "Yes" to this question. Whether we view the matter from a religious, a moral, a social, an economic, or a legal point of view, we are compelled to confess that only dire necessity can justify such a drastic departure from the principles of British constitutional law invites us to make. Arguments for temperance (self-control), are not arguments for compulsory total abstinence (State control).

We do not think that those who have organized this campaign have yet proved that the Newfoundland workman is, or is likely to become, inefficient through indulgence in strong drink. Nor is it clear that our workingman (who apparently is the chief sufferer under this Act), is less able to control himself than the other man.

Again, it is not certain that compulsory total abstinence will prove an unmixed blessing. It may be a dangerous experiment. This is not modern legislation. Two hundred millions of Mohammedans are total abstainers. It has been a law of their religion for more than 1000 years. But they are not more prosperous, or more progressive, or more happy than people of other nations. They are addicted to practices which cause quite as much misery as drink, e.g., polygamy, slavery and murder. Even local option is a failure morally. Men who want to drink still drink. It is a question if the sale of certain patent medicines, with a percentage of alcohol, do not exceed all that was spent on rum in days gone by in a certain northern outpost. This is no light matter. And time will tell if this "modern scientific legislation" is sound or not. If it pass, we very much fear that there is bound to be a slackening of moral effort on the part of temperance advocates, and will only result in leading people to change their drinks, and their sins, and weaken morals.

If there is no real need for Prohibition: if it is only an imported cry like most of the literature of the campaign, the passing of the Act will have no greater effect than the passing of the Minor's Cigarette Bill. But, who cares now whether lads smoke or not? The bill is law, and that ends it!

Drunkenness is a damning sin against God and man. If drastic laws are necessary, we should prefer to see them operate against the man who abuses the gifts of God, and despises his Christian birthright. The war is teaching us many things, why not follow its methods and intern, or deport, the drunkard?

But enough! We believe that the grace of God incarnate is stronger than weak human nature, and the best remedy for all sin, and whatever be the outcome of this heart-breaking campaign, we urge all friends of temperance to reply more upon the means of grace given us by God, than upon the best devised laws of their best intentioned fellow-men.

"Self-knowledge, self-reverence, and self-control.—These three alone lead life to sovereign power."

If you want the best light, burn "Britestlite" Kerosene. P. H. COWAN, Importer.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

THE Government has prohibited the export of fish to Greece. Over 50,000 quintals of fish suitable for Greece and mostly intended for Greece remains in the Colony. Fifteen vessels laden with fish from the Labrador are now held up at Gibraltar, as the ports of Greece have been closed against them.

If it was found advisable to prohibit the exporting of fish to Greece, why did the Government not arrange with the British Government for the admittance of our fish into France? Surely the Premier has lost his usual interest in the Colony's affairs.

The Government must get busy at once and find an opening for this fish in France, for France badly need all this fish; but a heavy import tax prohibit the sending of fish. Cannot the Government obtain free access to the French markets? If such can be accomplished when this trouble is adjusted, which ought to be effected in a few days, the price of soft fish can be maintained.

We advise all the fishermen to hold soft fish for a few days, as it is likely the old prices will be paid; but if soft fish is rushed here now, the price will decline to \$4 per qt.

The Government's decision was intimated to the trade in form of a letter from the Collector of Customs to the Board of Trade, which read as follows:—

Nov. 10th, 1915.

Sir,—I have the honour to acquaint you that His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has been pleased to issue a Proclamation, following the terms of that issued by the Imperial Government whereby exportation of fish of all kinds, whether cured, salted, or fresh, shall be prohibited to all foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, other than France, Russia, (except through Baltic ports), Italy, Spain and Portugal. The Imperial Government considers as regards the exportation to Greece, that in view of the existing situation in the Balkans, for the present no exports should be allowed which could be utilized for warlike purposes, or serve to build up the national stocks of supplies. Will you be good enough for to disseminate this information among the trade in St. John's who are interested in the shipments of fish.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H. W. LeMESSURIER,
Assistant Collector.

THE OBJECT

THE object for which we are fighting to-day is not merely the maintenance of the supremacy of the British Empire; it is something far and away above this—it is really, as recent Canadian journal says "The freedom of Europe." As the freedom of Europe is the sure safeguard of mankind the lesser in this case includes the greater; for should there arise a tyrant who would become master of the great naval resources of Europe, he would have little difficulty in domineering over the rest of mankind.

The freedom of Europe is really the first and most important of British interests, in the field of foreign politics. The freedom of Europe means more even than the sublime duty of the liberation of stricken Belgium or the prevention of similar crimes against small nations. It means the empowering of such a State as Luxembourg to declare that it would not tolerate the passage of German armies through its territory. It means the saving of Belgium from the condition in which it would have fallen if it had paid the part of polltroon and consented to be a "road" at the demand of the Kaiser. It means the securing to every people in Europe—and the world—of the right to live their lives in their own way; to

choose the political path which they would prefer to travel. We are fighting for the freedom of France, of Russia, of Italy, of Holland? of Switzerland, of the Balkan States as truly as for the freedom of the most piteous of Germany's victims, that people of undying fame, the Belgians.

In fighting for this, Britain is fighting for her own existence, for the freedom of Europe goes down in blood and dust in this ghastly struggle, the life of the British Empire will not be worth many years purchase—nor will the independent existence even of the United States. No tyrant, not even Napoleon, has ever yet succeeded in bringing Europe under his sway. But if one ever should, the fighting power at his disposal would be incalculable.

Our participation in the fight is a patriotic duty; and we are doing our share to help the Empire. By comparison with the rest of the Overseas Dominions of the King it will be found that Newfoundland's contribution has been extraordinary. Yet in spite of this we rarely, if ever see any recognition of our Colony except in the casualty lists.

Some days ago, an Englishman was "astounded" that Newfoundlanders were actually at the Dardanelles. Surely it is time that our Government would try to make it known to the outside world that there is such a place as Newfoundland on the map of British North America.

Moreover, it should be made plain to the Imperial Government that we are possibly the only Colony which is not getting any returns for services to the cause of Empire. Even the neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia is getting huge orders for ammunitions and other supplies, and as we write, we notice a heading in a Canadian newspaper—Canada's Share of War Orders is \$500,000.00.

SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC

WHEN German submarines were sinking British ships—and drowning crews and passengers—it was asked, why did not British submarines do something? The question was put in such a way as to imply that our submarines could not do what the Germans did. One thing they could not do was to sink crews and passengers because our sailors are not pirates; and at the same time they could not sink German merchant ships for the simple reason that none were about where they could be attacked. The British cruisers soon swept the ocean, and the German flag disappeared.

The Baltic Sea remained to the Germans, and what with mines and patrols at its narrow mouth; they thought they had it safe for their commerce with the Scandinavian countries from which they drew most of their supplies of food and cotton which Sweden had imported largely from the United States.

That supposed safety has now disappeared; and British submarines—said to be those built in Montreal and which we saw months ago in St. John's harbour, got in there somehow, and German freight ships have been going to the bottom with a regularity that must be monotonous to the Hun naval authorities. It is rather a coincidence that with the beginning of the British submarine activity in the Baltic, the attacks on Atlantic shipping has been growing beautifully few.

In the Baltic the British submarines had a target, and they have shown that they can hit the target where it exists. Germany's North Sea coast has long been effectively blockaded, and the blockade has long been effectively carried to her

THE NEW WAR THEATRE

THE port of Dedeagach is now looming large in the public news. It is really the only Bulgarian port of the Aegean, and it has been Bulgarian for a little more than two years. Dedeagach was part of the spoil which Bulgaria took from Turkey after the last Balkan war; but it remained of little value to the Bulgarians till a month or two ago.

The treaty of 1913 left the railway connections of Dedeagach in Turkish hands; and the notorious convention of this summer allowed Bulgaria to link up her system with this port. Though Dedeagach is a haven, it is hardly worthy of the name of harbour. Anchorage is off shore, and cargoes must be worked by lighters. The anchorage even is bad, and the roadstead without shelter; and the only reason why the place has become a port is that between Salonika and Constantinople there is no more satisfactory situation.

Forty years ago, the place was a mere fishing village. Some one then discovered in its possibilities of trade. Close by stand considerable quantities of valonia oak, the evergreen oak which is found all over the Aegean coastlands and islands, and the acorns of which are used in tanning, dying, and ink-making. The export of forest products became of some importance and when about twenty years ago, the French opened the Salonika-Constantinople railway, Dedeagach attracted to itself some business in grain, tobacco, and other agricultural products.

Its progress however has been slow and its trade is not comparable with that which passes through the Bulgarian seaports on the Black Sea, Burgas, and Varna. The population remains small. As is usual in all seaports in the Levant, most of the activity of Dedeagach is Greek, and it has been for many years the seat of a Greek Archbishop.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

FOR some weeks the British Government has been engaged in the creation of a new General Staff to supervise the prosecution of the war. The War Council of the Cabinet will it is assumed confer with the General Staff as well as with other experts from time to time.

The recent visit of General Joffre to London (where he received an ovation) has created a very favourable impression; and it is obvious that matters of vital interest must have brought the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces to London.

It is not known what plans the British military authorities had previous to General Joffre's visit; but those who were fortunate enough to speak with the famous French Commander were impressed with his manner of expressing himself. He had well-thought-out schemes evidently before he arrived and was ready to meet a new situation with a new decision. The British press generally thinks that the British General Staff needs strengthening, and even suggests that an International General Staff is desirable. The newspapers also demand a smaller Cabinet; and in certain influential quarters there is a demand for the creation of a General Staff on the German plan. The General Staff of the German Army is really the brains of the fighting forces of the Teutons.

Baltic coast. This must have been important results on the procuring of supplies, and the operations of British submarines in the Baltic will have important results.

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