

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF 6TH SUPREME CONVENTION OF F. P. U., HELD AT CATALINA

(Continued from page 2)
nection with the Sealing Disaster begs to present for the consideration of the Supreme Council, the following resolutions:

The Sealing Disaster Resolution.
THAT WHEREAS seventy-eight of the crew of the steamship "Newfoundland" lost their lives on the 31st day of March and the first day of April last, by exposure from a blizzard AND WHEREAS these men left the steamer "Stephano" just as the blizzard broke and were left on the ice-floe several miles from any ship, AND WHEREAS Abraham Kean, Master of the "Stephano" took no measures to ascertain whether these men were left exposed to the blizzard, and took no steps to inform by wireless, other ships within that vicinity.

AND WHEREAS those men might have been saved had Abraham Kean exerted himself to locate them and called upon the other ships to search for them;

AND WHEREAS, on April 1st the dying men observed the steamship "Bellaventure" steaming within half a mile off them, which ship's officers failed to recognise the dying men, not knowing they had been exposed to the blizzard, which resulted in the death of about 50 men because Capt. Kean failed to inform the ships equipped with wireless of his action on March 31st, in placing the Newfoundland's men on the ice as the storm came on.

RESOLVED that the Members of the Supreme Council of the Fishermen's Protective Union sign a petition to the House of Assembly requesting that Chamber to pass a law prohibiting Abraham Kean from ever again sailing from any port in Newfoundland as the Master of a ship, in punishment for his conduct in relation to the loss by exposure of seventy-eight of the crew of the "Newfoundland" off Trinity Bay, in the blizzard which raged on March 31st and April 1st, 1914.

RESOLVED that the Petition to be circulated for signatures be as follows:—
"To the Honorable The House of Assembly in Legislative Session Convened:—

The Petition of the Supreme Council of the F.P.U. of Newfoundland, humbly sheweth:—

1. That during a blizzard which raged on March 31st and April 1st last, seventy-eight of the crew of the sealing steamer "Newfoundland" lost their lives, and several others were maimed for life.
2. That in the opinion of your Petitioners these men would not have died had proper measures for their rescue been taken by the captain of the "Stephano" which captain placed the men on the ice-floe just as the blizzard came on, and knew their position and all the circumstances.
3. That in the opinion of your Petitioners Captain Abraham Kean of the "Stephano" should have secured the aid of the other powerful ships in that vicinity, which were fitted with wireless telegraphy and should have done all possible to find the exposed men, instead of remaining absolutely inactive, even failing to inform by wireless the other ships in the vicinity of what had transpired.
4. That in the opinion of your Petitioners

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tioners Captain Kean seriously erred in judgment, which error cost the lives of seventy-eight of the "Newfoundland's" crew.

YOUR PETITIONERS THERE-

FORE PRAY that your Honourable House will pass a Bill to prevent Captain Abraham Kean from ever sailing as Master of any ship from a port in Newfoundland. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray."

Respectfully submitted,
A. Targett, Walter Brown, Allan Brown, Elias Chaulk, William Tucker.

It was further resolved that the President take any steps he may deem necessary even to organise a strike, should Bowring Bros. so defy public opinion as to attempt to place Abraham Kean in command of one of the ships cleared by them for Seal fishery or Coastal Service, and every Union man is expected to back the President in carrying out this resolution even by using force if called upon to do so.

It was moved by friend John Loder, seconded by friend George Penny, and

resolved that these resolutions be adopted as read.

Proposed, seconded and resolved that the Council do now adjourn to meet again at 7.30 p.m. The Council adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

SIXTH SESSION.

Catalina, Nov. 18, 1914.

Pursuant to adjournment the President declared the Council open for the transaction of business at 7.30 p.m.

Report of Committee to consider amendments to the Sealing Laws.

Catalina, Nov. 18, 1914.

Mr. President—

The Committee appointed to consider the advisability of amending the Sealing Act passed last Winter by the Legislature, have considered the matter and recommended the following changes:

- (1) Sec. 1, s.s. (h) of the said chapter is amended by deleting the words "wherever practicable."
- (2) Sec. 2, of the said chapter is amended as follows:
(a) s.s. (a) by substituting the words "two pounds" for the words "one pound."
(b) s.s. (b) by substituting the word "daily" for the words "three times each week," and by adding the words "fish may be substituted for beef and pork on Wednesdays and Fridays and soup on Saturdays."
(c) s.s. (c) by substituting the

words "on Sunday" for the words "once each week."

(d) By adding the following as s.s. (g): "In addition to their 'shares of seals chief cooks if 'their services have been satisfactory, shall each be paid 'a bonus of \$30.00, and assistant cooks each \$20.00 at 'the end of each voyage by 'the owners."

(3) Sec. 4 is amended by deleting the words "provided it shall be proved 'that the complaint of any such 'offence against Sec. 2 was made 'to the master at the time it occurred," and by substituting the word "thirty" for the word "seven" between the words "within" and "days."

(4) Sec. 10 is repealed.

(5) The following words are deleted from Sec. 11 "which when added 'to the amount paid the crew will 'be sufficient for the payment of 'the said fares."

(6) Prior to the commencement of the Seal fishery in any year, the owners of sealing steamers engaging therein shall, if possible, cause the estimated amount of crews' shares based upon the average share earned by the crews of sealing steamers sailing from the Colony to the Seal fishery in the previous five years, to be insured, and if no such insurance be procurable such insurance as may be effected, and the premiums for the

insurance shall be a charge against the whole produce of the voyage of such steamers. Any insurance money received, in respect of the voyage of any particular steamer shall be equally divided amongst the crew in the same manner as shares in the voyage. Owners failing to procure such insurance shall themselves be liable for the amount.

(7) The right of property in seal pelts arising from the killing of seals and taking the pelts thereof into possession shall cease if the pelts be not taken on board the steamer by whose crew the seals were killed on the day of such killing. Thereafter the pelts shall belong to the owners of the sealing steamer on which the said pelts are put or whose crew or some member thereof have actual physical possession of the pelts.

(8) The Workmen's Compensation Act 8 Ed. VII, Cap. 5, shall apply to employment on board a sealing steamer. Injury by or from unusually severe exposure while on the ice shall be held to be injury by accident within the meaning of the Act.

(9) The Governor-in-Council may appoint a Board of Inspectors composed of three ship-builders, and make regulations for the performance of their duties, which shall have the force and effect of law

after publication in the Royal Gazette.

(10) No Sealing steamer shall be cleared outwards for the seal fishery in any year without a certificate from the Board of Inspectors that she has within one month of the date of the clearance been inspected and found seaworthy and well fitted for the seal fishery.

(11) The Governor-in-Council may appoint a Board of Examiners consisting of three persons having not less than ten years' experience as masters of sealing steamers, and make rules and regulations providing for examinations which shall have the force and effect of law after publication in the Royal Gazette.

(12) No person shall be employed in any sealing steamer as second hand, or master watch, or Master without a certificate of competency from the Board of Examiners, under a penalty of five thousand dollars for each unqualified person, payable by the owner of the steamer.

(13) If two or more members of any crew of a sealing steamer shall die from exposure due to negligence on the part of the captain, while on a sealing voyage, the master shall not afterwards be employed as such in any sealing steamer, under a penalty of five thousand dollars payable by the

owners of any steamer so employing such masters.

(14) Any penalty provided by this Act may be sued for by any member of any steamer's crew in connection with which any offence hereunder has been committed, or by any other person in his own name who has been authorised so to do by any member of a crew.

Each section was considered and adopted.

It was moved by friend George Bishop, seconded by friend Tobias Howell and resolved that this report be adopted as a whole.

Proposed, seconded and resolved that this Council do adjourn to meet again at 10 a.m. Thursday.

The Council adjourned at 12.30 a.m. Thursday.

(To be continued.)

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