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St. John's, Newfoundland.

THE "BOTTLEWASHER" EXPOSES HIS VENALITY

And Writes Himself Down a Liar of the Most Despicable Quality

"OUR WAR ON COAKERISM AND NOT ON UNIONISM."

(Mosdell in the St. John's Daily Star, June 7th., 1915.)

"Unfortunately there is no such spirit of moderation and tact displayed by the newest organization in Newfoundland labor field--The Fishermen's Protective Union. The policy it has, thus far, pursued is that of antagonizing any body and everybody who dares to look askance at the schemes and projects of the man who embodies all its functions in himself--Mr. W. F. Coaker.

"This undesirable feature of the Fishermen's Union is solely due to the fact that a man of uncertain temperament and very erratic ways has usurped the dictatorship of that organization; the rank and file have no more to do with its affairs than has a native of the Fiji Islands. It is true that once a year there is held what is called a Supreme Council Convention of the Fishermen's Protective Union, but that gathering is chiefly concerned with adopting stereotyped forms and recommendations prepared at the Head Office here by President Coaker long before the Convention meets. Thus the present head of the Fishermen's Union is in the unique position of being able to draft his own address here in St. John's and of taking it, and the reply thereto, to the Convention town, to be signed by the members of the Committee, to whom happens to be assigned the "duty" of reporting on the President's address.

"It will be easily seen, then, that Pres. Coaker is responsible to nobody but to himself. What he says goes. If, for instance, he is dissatisfied with the size or qualities of a motor boat, he has but to embody his demand for a new or improved one, in his address and the committee signs the favorable recommendations already prepared and he gets his boat, the order for which, not unlikely, was placed before the Convention met at all.

"That is a small point of course, but it illustrates the manner in which the business of the Fishermen's Union is conducted. This organization is a democracy only in name. The ordinary member is not consulted as to the policy to be pursued in business or in politics. He is virtually told that the President wills that things be done thus and so, and has to be content with being dictated to by a man who, after all, has shown much less intelligence and far less self-control and moderation than the humblest of his followers.

"The fishermen, then, are absolutely unshackled by an autocratic system, one that is far more cast-iron in character than any the self-elevated despot who occupies the President's position could ever pretend to emancipate them from. The right of free speech is virtually denied them, for President Coaker has the right to expel any member, and there is no appeal from his decision.

"There have been many such autocracies in the history of the world, some of them on a far larger scale than that which has recently been established here, but they have ultimately developed into tyrannies, which the people themselves have, sooner or later, made haste to abolish. As our readers know full well, the Coaker autocracy has developed many

behind those countries that are but of yesterday, as compared to our antiquity. Newfoundland has been so engaged in the struggle for a bare existence that she has had neither means nor leisure to cultivate the more refined side of life.

Our towns are unkempt, our streets and highways are the rudest paths, and all around are signs of poverty and lack of employment. There is little hope that we will ever be better, seeing that those who have taken charge of public affairs are so profligate, dishonest and lacking in public spirit.

By this latest piece of legislative infamy, the Carbide Contract, we have thrown away a golden opportunity. If the Reid's and those associated with them, wanted those water powers, they should have been made to pay for a lease, and pay a reasonable price.

Could treachery, combined with insolence go further that the vile insinuation that the promoters of

such features--we speak now with regard to its manifestations towards members of the union itself. For instance, President Coaker notifies his Councils thus: "I have heard that Thomas Roberts is offering \$5.00 for his fish at Seldom. I hereby expel him from the Union." That is hardly what would be called a democratic proceeding. No intimation is given that Mr. Roberts has been proven guilty of wrongdoing; there is no hint of investigation; no judgment passed on him by his peers, or equals, just "I heard.....I expel," and Roberts has to go.

"And surely every intelligent man can see the pernicious effect that is bound to be created, in business affairs, should Coakerism obtain general sway. Every man is entitled to liberty of action, to liberty of speech and to liberty of thought. These great principles Coakerism opposes, in that it claims and exercises the right to punish a man who buys and sells just because it is reported to Mr. Coaker that he has taken a certain line of action which is in itself perfectly legal and perfectly legitimate.

"But they are foolish, extremely so, to submit themselves to a galling thralldom under a man whose ways are so uncertain and entirely undesirable. If the fishermen are members of a Union, supported in all its undertakings by their own hard-earned and carefully-saved money, then they, and they alone should have the final voice in the direction of the policy of that Union.

"And at present they have scarcely the semblance of such a control. They are dictated to, they are expelled even, by a man about whom they know nothing except what he cares to tell them himself, and, of course, he naturally doesn't err through shrinking modesty. Surely they can see that every editorial in every circular; every editorial in every issue of The Mail and Advocate; every claim every pronouncement, every move, virtually spells but one thing and one thing only--Coaker.

"What is the reason for this? One that is as simple as can be, and one that has actuated thousands of self-seekers right down through the centuries of world history--the desire to impress on his clientele his absolute indispensability to them. Here then you have what is known as a "vicious circle." The Union can keep Mr. Coaker in a nice position at a nice fat salary, and Mr. Coaker can keep on attempting to bluff the Union into believing that he is the modern St. George, specially raised up to slay the dragon, who, he asserts, would pray on them. So, new notes have to be adapted to this Coaker trumpet blowing at various times, so that the tune may be attractively varied, and that the blast has to be augmented more and more, lest any ears that may be aware of the constant sound may miss anything of the music.

"Here then, you have a Union that is not a Union; an organization that tends to elevate and to empower one man and one man only; an organization that yearly becomes a greater menace to its own members than it could ever be to those whom President Coaker falsely and persistently represents as its deadliest enemies."

he big plunder have dealt very generously with us.

Are we then the bondsmen of the greedy crew that we should be thankful to them for having robbed us of a great natural asset, and given us nothing in return. Are we a leaguered city capitulating on the terms of the conquerors.

How have the promoters dealt generously with us, as insinuated in some quarters. Was it, by not robbing us of everything to which we have a natural right.

Must we be grateful, that we have been permitted the right to live, and shoulder the burden of increased administration, which a big work of the kind proposed is sure to entail, while not getting one cent in taxes from the concern.

Surely this is not a great and glorious privilege, to be thankful for.

Wallace's Chocolates R most excellent.--ap12,t

"ANOTHER BRILLIANT GEM FROM 'MAIL AND ADVOCATE.'"

(Mosdell in the St. John's Daily Star, June 7th., 1915.)

"But the other letter referred to was signed. It is true that it bore the name of John Guppy, but nobody will be a bit deceived at this, for the hand was but too plainly the hand of the "man higher up."--President Coaker. We may be wrong in this surmise that Mr. Guppy is merely the tool of the President, but he happens to have his schooner at the Union Wharf just at present--or did when that letter appeared in The Mail and Advocate--and Coaker methods are writ all across it.

"If Mr. Guppy did actually pen any more of it than his signature, we take this opportunity of representing him as an apt pupil in the Coaker school of vilification and abuse. But, then, who but President Coaker himself could pen such pre-eminently Coaker expressions as "enemy of the masses"; "vile instrument of a clique"; "degenerate and unprincipled sectarian fire-bugs"; "foul and false sheet"; "false and traitorous reptile?"

"Mr. Guppy is, we believe, a resident of Port Rexton, and, we understand, is an honest, industrious fisherman. It is therefore, a matter of much regret to us that a man who would, if he had listened to the dictates of his own native good sense, have acted decently, and at any rate, has allowed himself to be made the dupe and the tool of President Coaker. Providence has endowed most of us with enough good sense to guide us through life with the minimum of errors--providing we exercise our private judgment." If, however, as in the case of Mr. Guppy, we take our opinions from others; if we allow a second party to judge for us and to dictate our course of action, we are bound, inevitably to fall into the most grievous errors, more particularly when the dictator is so erratic and so unscrupulous in his methods as is Pres. Coaker, Dictator of the Fishermen's Protective Union.

"Mr. Guppy, by allowing himself to be made a 'ool of the dictator, has foregone that independence, which is the most cherished possession of every rightly balanced man. For Coakerism means the thralldom of our toilers of the sea; it means the crushing of individuality; the careful preservation of honour and preference for one man and one man only--Mr. W. F. Coaker. Mr. Guppy has erred, because he is absolutely ignorant of the character of the man he defends; but we trust that his ignorance is not of that steel-clad variety that is absolutely impervious to reason. If it be, then his experience, sooner or later, will be that of many others, and he will learn that President Coaker does not hesitate to attempt to break those whom he has used as tools of his, once he is persuaded in his own mind that their usefulness to him has departed, or that their labors for the Union are likely to bring them into a prominence before the public that may eclipse some little of his own greatness.

"We do not deny the fact that the members of the Fishermen's Protective Union did make a contribution of socks to the Patriotic Fund. That's true enough. But it was an Union act, not an act of Mr. Coaker. Mr Coaker

has persistently set himself against the Volunteer and Patriotic movement since the institution thereof; he has sneered at the women who have devoted themselves to making provision for the men in the trenches; he has abused those who have contributed of their substance to the Patriotic Fund; he has done all that mortal man could possibly do to discourage the people of this country from doing their share of the fighting for the British Empire. Abundant proof of these assertions is to be found on page after page of the Mail and Advocate and we shall presently quote them for the benefit of Mr. Guppy and of others whose memories seem to be failing them in this respect.

"Surely Mr. Guppy remembers that in his circulars President Coaker declared that Premier Morris should not have offered the contingent to Great Britain. If that date is too far back for him to remember, perhaps he will recall a Circular sent out since the editor of this paper left The Mail and Advocate, in which the President tells Union folk to stop collecting for Belgium and to invest their money in the Trading Company and its branches.

"This paper stands for law; it stands for order; it stands for independence of speech and action, and in defence of these great British principles it will fight the menace of Coakerism to the last ditch.

"This paper stands for equal rights to all; it is wagging and will continue to wage a stern fight against the class distinctions and the class antagonism that Coakerism is endeavoring to incite and to maintain for its own selfish ends.

"Threats of personal violence cannot intimidate us, nor can personal abuse head us off. It is not a question of Mosdell fighting Coaker, it is a question of a public journal defending the commonest public rights against an insidious system that would sweep from its path everything that it regards as an obstacle to the personal advancement of one man--Mr. W. F. Coaker.

"There was one expression used, however, and it rather caught our attention. It was "venomous reptile." We were immediately led to think of that Circular Letter of President Coaker's in which he denounces the Liberal Party in private to his members, and then we thought of that fulsome flattery of his to Messrs. Kent, Lloyd and other of the Liberal following, in The Mail and Advocate the other day. Was it not a striking example of a man stabbing in the dark, and professing ardent friendship in the light? The serpent loves the devious days of the jungle; it likes to strike down its victim unawares; it prefers to inject its venom into his veins when he is all unthinking of danger from such a source. He lies low, hides himself, bites the hand that foolishly fondles him and the victim is dead in reputation, slain by the most arrant treachery.

"Now of whom might that epithet "venomous reptile" be most truthfully applied? Surely to the man who slays the reputation of his friends in secret, while in public he pretends to boast them. His name is Mr. W. F. Coaker, and he holds the office of President of The Fishermen's Protective Union."

WORKERS PAY GOES DOWN

While the Cost of Living Goes Up

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,--I would like to ask a few questions pertaining to the welfare of the country in general.

In Morris's manifesto he promised to do great things for the people of this country. Amongst other things he promised that the labouring man should get \$1.50 a day, but we find that his pay today is down to \$1.20. The men who were working here cutting pit props were paid \$1.40 a day in the Spring, but now the pay is down to \$1.25, while taxation has made the cost of living considerably higher. Is there no law in this country to govern the paying of wages?

I see that your paper is unearthing some of the waste and extravagance in connection with public

moneys. It is about time to cry halt and to have a change of affairs. We find now that the Morris Government has put 10 per cent. on motor engines. In our opinion they should be more careful over the expenditure of public funds instead of making the fishermen suffer for deficits.

I don't think, either, that all the Grab-balls are up in town for we have a few down here in Lewisporte, as we see in the cutting of wages from \$1.40 to \$1.25 for the men who are handling pit props. It has too long been the rule that the poor man pays for the merchant's sport.

I congratulate you, Mr. Coaker, upon the stand you have taken in behalf of the labouring man, and in the election to come in a couple of years time, you will find this whole country at your back.

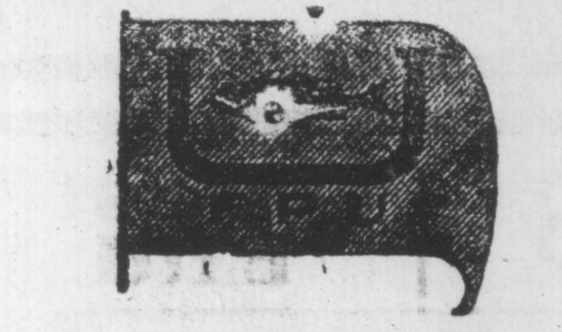
—PIT PROP.
 Lewisporte, June 1, 1915.

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J. J. ROSSITER
 Real Estate Agent

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE"



(To Every Man His Own.)

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., JUNE 8th., 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

The New Reid Deal

WHAT would have been the upshot had an alien enemy come in and abrogated to himself one hundred and fifty million dollars worth of Newfoundland public property, while at the same time declaring himself exempt from taxation for ever.

Would his specious and off hand promise of giving menial labor to a few hundred of our fellow countrymen, be accepted a sufficient. Would anybody be so utterly bereft of sense as to hail the buccaneer as a public benefactor, who having rifled the Country of her natural wealth, offered us a few days of ill paid labor, and made us his slaves. What is the wage earner in any big corporation of this kind by a wage slave, unless his country protects him against injustice and low pay.

In effect this is just what has been done here, by the giving away to the new octopus, under guise of legislative enactment. No alien power has robbed us 'tis true, but the robbery has been very effectively accomplished, and we find very little consolation in the thought that the robber is not an armed invader, but a peaceful, powerful, insinuating and insidious foe who accomplishes his aims through legislative puppets. Where an alien foe to have come in and done as the Reid's and others have done in the case of the new Reid Deal, otherwise known as the Wilson deal, the country would be cowardly in not taking up arms to oppose the robber and despoiler. For less grievous matters nations have been plunged in bloody warfare.

And did anybody attempt to take by force what we have so foolishly bartered away, Newfoundland would be up in arms, and the nation would be called in to defend us against the tyranny. Future generations will see more clearly the folly of our doing, and will have to pay the penalty for our lack of foresight.

This country has been, and is cursed by rulers, who seemed to have a regular mania for giving away. No lesson from the past or from the wisdom of other countries ever seems to get into the pates of our would be legislators.

What curse is upon this unfortunate country!

Is it the curse of idiocy on the part of our public men, or the curse of corruption in politics? Whatever be the cause Terra Nova must suffer. Her progress must be barred and her upward way along the paths of national advancement effectually blocked, and we are thrown back into the old rut and a splendid opportunity for material progress thrown to the wind.

We have given away in one reckless and outrageous swoop, more than enough to have paid off our whole public debt, and to have placed Newfoundland well up to the front in the procession of nations in the matter of all that marks a people as being up to the times, in all that speaks of culture and refinement. Whereas, now we lag away behind even