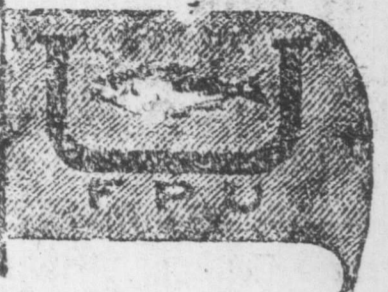


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**The Mail and Advocate**  
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ST. JOHN'S, NFDL., JULY 27, 1915.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

**The Swimming Box Removed**

THE swimming house at Long Pond has been moved from off the clear passage to the water. The swimming club has learned the lesson that it is always better to consult the rights of others. Had they but had a little regard for the rights of others they would have saved themselves a lot of vexation and not a little expense.

We expect now to be voted a member of the Improvement Association, because whilst administering a rebuff, we have at the same time given the club a very nice lesson in the art of having regard for others.

We hope we have improved the gentlemen. The next time they contemplate a bathing house they will remember their first effort, and be more considerate.

**High Explosives**

THERE are few people today who do not believe that cotton is an absolute necessity to the manufacture of high explosives (thanks to ignorant scribblers). Therefore we hear the cry on all sides keep cotton from Germany and you will soon bring her to her knees.

The idea is evidently a false one and is not entertained by men of scientific turn, as the following message will go to show:

London, July 16.—W. F. Reid, inventor of a process for making smokeless powder and former president of the Society of Chemical Industry, declared at a meeting of the society to-day that "there was no truth in statements made by some scientists to the 'production of high explosive shells'.

"There is practically no cotton used in the manufacture of high explosives," Mr. Reid declared. "The whole thing is a great fraud. There may be some trace of cotton in the explosive but the bulk of it is coal products.

"Eminent scientists have made erroneous statements on this subject. If people associated with science would only speak on the branches with which they are connected the advantage would be very great."

Mr. Reid says, that the bulk of high explosives is a product of coal. This may be so or it may not, but it is a fact that the Germans have long excelled in the chemistry of coal, by the destructive distillation of which they have succeeded in obtaining an almost limitless number of products, among which are no less than seventy odd dyes, about half of which are permitted to be used

by the United States. Pure Food Laws, as coloring matter for sweets and other articles consumed either as food or confectionery.

It is quite possible that men of such scientific ability as the Germans undoubtedly are have a method of making high explosives from coal.

Coal dust when intimately mixed with air is a highly dangerous explosive mixture as mining men have learned to their cost. But the knowledge gained through painful experience and by experiment has taught men to use protective means against the menace to life and property. Dry mines are being sprinkled to keep down the dust, and a great many explosions are annually prevented by these means.

Dust explosions in mines are exceedingly dangerous, in that, unlike gas explosions they are not merely local, but may spread to all parts of the mine, providing only that there is dust enough in suspension to carry the flame along, in a manner as a trail of gun powder if ignited at one end will burn by a series of explosions from one end to the other.

Explosions have been produced at the Pittsburgh Testing Station of the United States Bureau of Mines when there was only .032 ounce of coal dust suspended in 500 cubic feet of air. In order to produce combustion it takes all of the oxygen in a cubic foot of air to completely burn .123 ounce of the dust.

In France ignition was obtained in one case with as low a weight as .023 ounce to a cubic foot of air. It has been discovered also that cereal dust in a mill is a dangerous element, and often causes violent explosions.

It has been discovered also that cereal dust in the air is capable of taking fire even at a much lower ignition temperature, and is much more violent than coal dust. Static electricity is sufficient to cause explosions in flour mills.

It is estimated that a sack of flour suspended in 4000 cubic feet of air (a room 20x20x10) when ignited would generate sufficient force to throw 2500 tons 100 feet high.

Many bodies if finely divided and mixed intimately with air form explosive mixtures, such as iron filings, powdered resin, etc., and it is quite possible that the German scientists may know of a method of treating any of those substances to form high explosives.

Sugar, which is a substance raised in great quantities in Germany, if treated with nitric acid, in the manner in which cotton is treated to make gun cotton, may be made into an extremely powerful explosive.

Glycerine also when treated with nitric acid forms the very dangerous explosive dynamite. In the form in which it is commonly used dynamite is largely mixed with a fine earth called tripolite, which diminishes its explosive qualities very greatly.

Potassium salts, such as for instance potassium chloride if used with sugar forms a very efficient explosive even when clumsily made.

Thus it may be seen that cotton is not at all an indispensable article to the manufacture of high explosives, and it is very doubtful to our mind if Germany is using cotton to any great extent in the making of gun powder. The number of explosive mixtures is almost infinite. Even water itself when superheated forms a violent explosive, as we often witness in boiler explosions.

We are aware that we are not teaching anything new in this writing, or something not already well known to those who read much, and we apologize to those people, and excuse ourselves on the plea that we are writing for those who have not had time or opportunity to read much, in the hope that it may prove interesting and in some way instructive.

**THE HARVEST OF THE SEA.**

Interesting and Useful to The Toilers of the Sea.

**BRITISH FISHERIES**

**ACCUSTOMED** as we are to ancient and conservative methods of fishing, it will be of interest to learn of the importance and methods of the British Fisheries, as the shortage in the British catch will likely have an important bearing upon our fishing industry, at least as long as the war lasts.

The chief methods of sea-fishing carried on in the United Kingdom are: (1) Trawling; (2) Line Fishing; (3) Net Fishing.

**Trawling**

Trawling with British fishermen means fishing with the beam-trawl, and differs consequently from our "bultow" fishing. The beam-trawl is a triangular bag-like net towed along the sea bottom by steam vessels or ketches. The mouth of the trawl-net is attached to a frame, consisting of a long wooden beam supported by a triangular hoop of iron at each. These trawl-heads, or runners, glide along the bottom and raise the beam three or four feet above it, the upper side of the net is attached to the beam, the sides to the trawl-heads, while the lower edge of the mouth of the net is formed by a thick heavy tarp which is a great deal longer than the beam, and thus lies on the bottom between the irons in a deep bight.

The size of the trawl varies according to the size of the vessel working it, but for deep-sea fishing the beam is 36 to 50 feet long, and the mesh of the net is always about 4 inches at the mouth to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch at the "cod" end. The trawl is towed by means of two "bridles" attached one to each end of the trawl-head, and a cable or rode, the end of which is fastened by a shackle to the bridle.

The trawl is always carried along the rail or bulwarks on the port quarter, extending from the after chains to the taffrail. When the trawl is "shot," it is towed from either the port or the starboard quarter, according to the wind and tide. The trawl is hauled in over the bows or amidships by small winches.

On the east coast of England the greater number of trawlers belong to Hull, Grimsby, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Ramsgate which fish, in winter, on the Dogger Bank, and on the banks off the Dutch, German, and Danish coasts in summer.

This fishery now has been completely demoralized owing to the activity of German submarines; and the facts given above will explain why there is such a shortage of fish in the eastern English ports. If we are well informed some of the Grimsby trawlers are now fishing off the Nova Scotia coast, with headquarters at Canada. These trawlers (off the east coast of England) do not come in to land their catches; but steam-carriers are employed which bring the fish to market daily.

The principal trawling ports in the south-west of England are Brixham and Plymouth. The autumn and winter fishing is carried on off the respective ports, but in spring and early summer, nearly all the boats fish south of the Wolf Rock off Mount's Pay, or off the north coast of Cornwall.

In many places steam-tugs combine trawling with their ordinary work, shooting their trawls when on the lookout for ships. This is the custom with steam-tugs of Falmouth and Cardiff, the boats from the latter place fishing west of Lundy Island. There are a few trawlers at Tenby, and this kind of fishing is also carried on from Whitehaven, Fleetwood, Blackpool, Southport, and Liverpool, the trawling grounds on the north west coast lying between the Isle

of Man and the mainland, and off the Welsh coast.

In Scotland there is a large fleet of trawlers at Granton, Leith, and Aberdeen.

In Ireland, Dublin is the centre of a large and important trawl fishery. The Irish fleet fish between the Isle of Man and the Irish coast. Trawling is also carried on to some extent in Dingle and Galway Bays.

Trawling can be carried on only over fairly level bottoms. It is a very expensive fishery, as even without accidents the trawl-nets soon wear out, and even on the most favorable ground, they sometimes hitch in sunken wrecks, or isolated rocks, or lost anchors, and are of course torn to pieces.

The principal fish caught in the trawl are all kinds of flat fish, viz.: halibut, turbot, brill, soles, plaices, flounders, dabs and other less familiar forms called by different names in different places, such as lemon soles or merry soles, megrims, witches; and all kinds of white fish which feed to a great extent on the sea-bottom, such as cod, haddock, whiting, pouting, pollack, coal-fish, hake, ling; and other miscellaneous species as gurnards, red mullet, bass, breams, dories, and congers.

**Line Fishing**

Hook and line fishing is carried on by hand-lines and long-lines.

The "long-line" fishing is really our bultow or "bultow" fishery. The lines on the east coast are always baited with mussel, and the hooks are baited on shore by the wives and children of the fishermen. Each man of a crew contributes a certain number of lines of his own; each line when ready is coiled up in a separate basket, made of wicker-work and very shallow; it is known as a creel.

All the hooks are laid in the centre of the coil, and as they are baited and placed in position fresh grass is scattered over them and among them, so that the bait remains moist until the line is "shot."

Very long lines are used, and they are worked by vessels of about the same size as trawlers, but having a compartment of the hold to which sea-water has access, and in which the cod (the principal fish caught) are kept alive. These lines are each usually about 7000 fathoms long altogether when "shot," or about eight ordinary miles and carry 1680 hooks. The bait most used consists of whelks.

Whelks are the ordinary periwinkle. They are the commonest mollusks of the northern parts of the northern hemisphere, occurring from low-water mark to 100 fathoms. Whelks are not only used as bait but are much used as an article of food by the poorer classes in England. Whelks are boiled and eaten with vinegar and pepper.

We have often wondered, and we have asked some of our bank-skippers, why they do not use whelks for bait, especially for their fall trips. For the past two years they have been spending weeks searching for squid bait; and if they would arrange for a supply of periwinkles, we believe their Labrador trips would be successful. Will some of our enterprising skippers take the lead in this direction, and thus solve one of our very serious fishing problems?

Tons of periwinkles are to be found around the shores of Conception and Trinity Bays, and on the South Coast.

Fishermen on the south coast of England call these long lines "bultows" (our bultows).

They use squid bait generally when it can be procured. The squid is procured from the trawlers who scoop it up in their nets.

Hand-line fishing on the British coasts is practically conducted on lines similar to our own, and on the south coast of England the chief fishery is whiting.

**Net Fishing**

The English fishermen use seines and moored nets as we do;

but the chief fishery for seines is the pilchard fishery off the coast of Cornwall. These pilchards are the sardines of commerce, or at least, what we usually get under the name of sardine.

The pilchard fishery is one of the great industries of Cornwall, in the south-west of England. Forty thousand hogsheads, or 120 millions of pilchards have been taken in the course of a single season, requiring 20,000 tons of salt to cure them. The fishery gives employment to about 10,000 persons, and a capital of nearly Three Hundred Thousand Pounds is invested in it.

The headquarters of the fishery are Mount's Bay and historic St. Ives.

Pilchards are cured in cellars, and are packed in hogsheads for export, each hogshead containing about 2,400 fish. These casks are usually exported to Naples and other Italian ports—whence the fisherman's toast "Long life to the Pope, and death to thousands!"

Drift Nets are used by British fishermen very largely, in the capture of herring, and mackerel, and they are sometimes used in pilchard fishing.

**THE HERRING FISHERY**

The Fishing Gazette, of New York, says:

"The demand for herring is good. Holland herring is all going to Germany, perhaps. There is none coming here. Scotch herring which sold a year ago at from 35 to 40 shillings, has now reached the astonishing price of a hundred shillings."

Think of it fishermen, Scotch herring selling at about \$20 per barrel!

Editorially, the same periodical says:

"Newfoundland herring in this market have been fetching good prices as a substitute (blacy type ours) for other foreign herring. A shipment of several hundred barrels was sold on the dock recently without going to cold storage."

Why we ask, must our herring be selling as a substitute for other packs when our product is a decidedly better article. Can we not remedy this trouble which which amounts almost to disgrace? We can remedy it; and we must if we are to get sale for our herring.

The whole trouble seems to be with the package just now. Formerly it was the packer. We remember when "prime Labrador" went off the Labrador coast—branded and inspected? of course; but when the barrel was opened the contents revealed other products than herring.

Who is to blame? The Government of this Colony which tolerates gigantic swindling under the guise of inspection.

**COD OIL**

We notice the following item regarding Newfoundland cod oil in The Fishing Gazette:

"The trade in fish oil was amused during the week by a report of \$80 per barrel for Norwegian cod oil. Upon investigation we found Newfoundland cod oil selling at \$38. Why should buyers pay \$80 for other cod oil when they can buy oil equally as good for \$38?"

We notice that the price of cod oil in the New York market is 50 cents per gallon!

The following is taken from a recent exchange:

"A report just received from Christiania announces fear of a fish famine in Norway, due to the demand in the belligerent countries, especially by Germany. Norwegian fishermen are said to be getting as high as 80 per cent. above normal prices. All along the coast German buyers have been busy cornering all they could of salt and fresh fish. Prohibition of the export of some varieties of fish is even being considered."

We commend this to the Adelaide Street personages who have been prognosticating woes unnumbered to the hardy toilers who have gone down to Labrador.

**INCONSISTENCIES**

(From The Ottawa Citizen)

**DISCUSSING** the attitude of the United States in the European war, a local contemporary bases its remarks upon the following:

The United States and Germany were joint signatories of that convention of the Hague Peace Conference of 1907 which specified that the territory of a neutral state should be held inviolate by belligerents. In 1914 Germany attacked Belgium without provocation.

The exact position thus established as between Germany and the United States was as if two able-bodied men had made a compact with each other to respect certain things which included the protection of a weaker person, and that then one of the two men savagely assailed the weak person without provocation.

What sort of man would the other party to the pact be thought by any decent spirit if he neither did nor said anything?

It is quite true that the United States and Germany were joint signatories of the Hague Peace convention regarding the neutrality of Belgium but it is equally true that the United States signed the articles relating to Belgium and other neutral states with a formal disclaimer of any right or obligation under these articles to interfere in any European dispute which might arise solely among European nations.

As a nation which maintained the right to interfere in all American affairs which might involve European nations, as the upholder of the Monroe Doctrine, the United States could not consistently as the right to meddle in a strictly European dispute involving neutral nations. She, therefore, cheerfully restricted her privilege, if it may be so called, in this regard.

If the United States had interfered at the beginning of the war, on the ground that Belgium's neutrality had been violated contrary to the Hague convention, she would have made herself the laughing stock of Europe and of America—it would have been a worse blunder than Von Bethmann-Hollweg's scrap of paper incident and would have wrecked whatever good The Hague conference had accomplished.

Many good Americans are anxious to see Germany defeated but many have never given a thought to the treaty obligations of their country. They are the people who profess to be horrified at Germany's callous indifference to such obligations—yet they would have their own government do likewise!

The same is true of many Canadians and Canadian newspapers. It does not appear inconsistent to such to blame Germany for treating its international obligations as scraps of paper and in the same breath invite a neutral nation.

Germany is a very large consumer of fish; and this will account very likely for the shortage in prospect amongst the Norwegians.

"Saturday Night" of Toronto says that the large consumption of fish in Germany is due to the doctrine of German Kultur. The idea of German Kultur, it says:

"Has been to sweat the laborer, skilled or unskilled, to the last ounce of his endurance, and to feed him on the coarsest food as a reward for his efforts. In recognition of his virtues he has the honor of being kicked into the gutter by swaggering sergeants—perfecting their candidacy for the Iron Cross. When he craved meat, there was horseflesh if he had money to pay for it, and in some parts of Germany the flesh of dogs. A highly educated German, from Hesse-Darmstadt, told the writer two years ago that it was not for the cheapness of fish in Germany the working classes could not survive. We hear much of the German frugality. How could the German be otherwise than frugal under such conditions?"

such as the United States, to do likewise.

Even more remarkable, perhaps, is the sudden importance that many journals attach to The Hague peace proceedings in these circumstances. Usually the belligerent newspapers are scoffing at The Hague conventions as the dreams of dreamers. But when it is necessary to invoke The Hague sessions to make a point against the common enemy these conventions assume an aspect of the weightiest character and any violation of their provisions is pointed to (when committed by the enemy) as certain proof of the utter lack of national morality on the part of the foe!

Certainly the war has made for much confused thinking among ourselves as well as among the German press and people.

**TOWARDS NATIONAL GUILDS?**

Before considering the details of the new proposals as sketched in The Times, we should like to congratulate the press generally on having recovered some of its ancient and honorable freedom of speech. As we foresaw might be the case, the coalition by absorbing each section of the press from partisanship, has really invited it to become a national organ once more.

The thought now being put into the writing of journalists is, we venture to say, greater and more sincere than at any time during these last fifty years. And even if it results, as it does, in a confusion of tongues and a welter of counsel, the stage is intermediate and transitory, and may give place to parties of public opinion in the press aligned upon principles rather than upon the old caucus wires.

It is gratifying to us in particular to find that as the press becomes independent it becomes revolutionary. We never expected, we confess, to read in the journals of all parties simultaneously, opinions hitherto exclusively withheld in these columns. Nevertheless they are there, plainly enough to be recognized by any body.

The Times, The Express and The British Weekly call, for instance, for the abolition of profiteering—for the duration of the war at any rate. The Times, The Daily Mail and The Star refer to National Guilds by name and tentatively commend the proposal. The Daily News, The Manchester Guardian and The Nation specifically adopt the suggestion of a partnership between the state and the unions.

A summary of the present drift of press opinion would show, in short, that our seed has not been sowed in vain, though we have had to wait for necessity to water it. Four ideas at least, now beginning to flourish, are enough to make a revolution. They are as follows: the recognition of the trade unions as the junior partners of the state; the establishment of both employers and workmen as state servants; the abolition of profiteering, and the national organization of all industry. With these we are well content as the fruit of eight years' propaganda.—The New Age (London).

**GETTING AT HOARDED GOLD**

Between the beginning of the war and the end of January, the Bank of France added \$18,000,000 to its gold reserve. In exactly the same interval the Bank of Germany increased its gold \$199,800,000. Since the second week of May, after the Bank of France had completed its \$40,000,000 gold shipment to London, that bank's gold holdings have increased \$14,000,000, whereas the gold holdings of the Bank of Germany have in the same period increased only \$4,000,000.

It was in response to an urgent Government appeal that the German people, in the closing months of 1914, turned gold into the Bank of Germany in exchange for notes. In the four months from September 1 to the close of December alone, the Reichsbank's gold holdings increased \$126,000,000. While \$80,000,000 of this came from the Spandau "war chest," and possible

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