

## New York Sees High Prices But Much Gaiety—Complains of Freight Service to Nfld.

New York City, November 28, 1916. — Your letter came duly to hand. The matter will receive our immediate attention. The proposition looks good, and it is quite possible that it will eventuate satisfactorily. I hope to be able to meet your wishes regarding a weekly letter. Regarding shipments, the freight service between here and St. John's is rather unsatisfactory just now, but the agents of the Red Cross Line promise to improve it at an early date.

We can sympathize with you these days over the Anthracite coal proposition; we are pretty much in the same condition as you are in Newfoundland. Today things seem to be shaping up better, and the authorities at Washington have got after the coal people who, as you must know, are really the railway magnates. The Delaware and Lackawanna Railway practically controls the output of the Scranton Valley; and it seems that owing to an abnormal shortage of cars, they are unable to deliver any quantities of coal to outside dealers.

Reports from the coal regions are to the effect that even within close distance of the coal breakers people are unable to get adequate supplies. From Boston comes the news that some of the public schools are obliged to close temporarily owing to inability to secure coal. This is an extraordinary condition of affairs in the United States, but it cannot long continue.

Inquiries regarding fish prospects

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- 100 Cases
- Valencia Onions,
- 200 brls. Apples.
- and to arrive by S. S. Graciana
- 75 Kegs
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- Phone 469.

have not elicited any very definite information regarding the prospects of making sales of any large quantities of your herring; but a Newfoundland firm here—Messrs. Job—seem to be handling a good deal of fish products. Food products have been soaring for some time, and dealers say that the end is not yet.

Market produce, especially, is scarce, and farmers and gardeners are reaping a very big harvest. The poultry men are rubbing their hands gleefully; and it is feared that numbers will be obliged to forego the Thanksgiving turkey owing to the scarcity and consequent high prices of the fowl. Even the cranberry folk are holding out for high prices. If this sort of jumping continues, many will be forced to do without butter and eggs for some time to come. Butter has been selling around fifty cents per pound, and eggs are quoted at seventy-two cents per dozen. Dealers say that there will be an abnormal scarcity of "hen-fruit" owing to fact many of the small poultry men have decided to kill off their flocks on account of the high price of feed. A boycott of the egg dealers is now in progress in this city, and the active agent is Commissioner Joseph Hartigan, of the Mayor's Bureau of Weights and Measures. Mr. Hartigan declares that the whole egg market has been cornered between Chicago and New York. New York householders have already given proof that they can effect a reduction in the price of foodstuffs. They refused to buy meat two years ago at the prices then being asked, and the result was that the prices went down 20 per cent. within nine days. You should get your people in Newfoundland to try something of this kind with your big dealers who seem to have caught the spirit of fleecing people such as the dealers in this country are trying at the present time. We may say in this connection that there is a tendency towards lower prices for fresh meats in the American markets.

We are growing tired of the war business in this country. Of course, we get both sides of the war news here; and much of the stuff peddled out by the pro-German organs is taken with a very big grain of salt. The expression "like a Sayville message from Berlin" is now recognized as being tantamount to a consummate lie.

Some of our enthusiasts are agitating for a peace movement; but it is doubtful if they will get very far. The agitation is being engineered by the pro-German factions, and its purpose is obvious. One of our best informed Americans—Mr. James M.

Beck—former Assistant Attorney General of the United States, replying to the great peace propagandist, Mr. Jacob Schiff, says: "The time is inopportune, and that the United States, through the supine weakness of its Administration, has lost the prestige necessary to leadership now." He scores Mr. Schiff pretty badly, and says: "No one who has travelled in England and France as I did last summer, and discussed the matter with the leading publicists of both nations can have any doubt whatever that England, Russia, and France are confident that they can achieve a conclusive victory, and that they would resent the interference of this country at the very time when they were just beginning to fight with an approach to their full strength. "If such intervention meant only a failure of good intentions, there

might be no objection to the experiment, but the American people should be distinctly warned as, indeed, they have been warned, by the leading publicists of France and England, that any attempt of the United States to interfere would be regarded by them as a hostile act, just as the United States in its struggle for existence between 1861 and 1865 regarded as unfriendly the attempt of European Powers to interfere between the North and the South and compel an inconclusive peace in the supposed interests of humanity. Does the United States wish to pay this price?

"I do not pretend to be a military expert, but it is a fact that the soldiers and statesmen of the Allies have full confidence in their ability to achieve a conclusive victory and for this reason they would resent the intervention of a country whose chief Executive in its behalf disclaimed any interest on the part of the United States in the cause or objects of the war."

Mr. Beck is a deep student of affairs, and his words always produce a far reaching effect. The Presidential Election is now amongst the things that have been. It was one of the most extraordinary elections ever held in this country; and for some days the issue was doubtful. It upset all our election traditions, and in future we can never be sure what is going to happen until the ballots are finally counted. Of course you know that our electoral system is a very peculiar one, and it is regarded by many as a very anomalous one. It is not improbable that within the life of the next Congress the system will be either changed or substantially modified. It seems a positive anachronism in this enlightened age.

As I write, New York is passing through one of the most extraordinary periods of gaiety in its history. The people seem to have become batty over the football games played by Harvard—Yale and the Annapolis Cadets—West Pointers. It is estimated that nearly 100,000 visitors were in the city yesterday. The hotels were crowded almost to suffocation; and tens of thousands had to be accommodated at outside hotels. A daily paper says: "City had a \$1,000,000 foot-ball lark; and New Year's Eve business was eclipsed by the celebration on Saturday night. Every place jammed."

It seems that the New Year's Eve orgy will not be witnessed this year as the last day of the year falls on Sunday, and the hotels dare not provide their patrons with booze. Happily you have no such disgraceful things to tarnish the reputation of your capital as we have in Gotham.

I was very much impressed during my visit to St. John's some months ago. I regard it as the most sober town and the most law-abiding section which it has been my good fortune to visit. I understand that the entire Island will be "dry" after the end of December; this should prove a great blessing. The Prohibition movement is growing apace in the United States; but in many instances, it has been frustrated by the apathy of the legal authorities and by the druggist people in certain sections. The liquor traffic in New York City is one of its many disgraceful features. But we hope for better things in the future. Formerly the saloon interests ran the city, and in certain quarters does so at the present time. We are beginning to clean up some of the worst areas; and in process of time, we shall have weeded out most of the low resorts on the west and the East Side.

Underlying our license and amusement business there is a big political issue; and until we get rid of the ward heeler whose influence hitherto has been very pronounced in certain phases of American life, we must move slowly.

I am glad to notice that your big enterprise at Catalina is receiving a good deal of attention. It cannot be other than a huge success if I may judge from conditions prevailing in the northern section of the Island with which, as you presumably know I have been for some time, in due touch through some friends who are interested in mining properties. There seems to be a good deal of interest in Newfoundland business generally here at the present time, and I notice that Newfoundland mining affairs are receiving a good deal of notice.

Just a few days ago the New York Times had the following: "Important copper deposits have been discovered at Little Bay, about 200 miles north of St. John's, Nfld. A hydraulic plant is being installed to work the lode, which promises to be one of the richest deposits of copper in British North America." The President's Thanksgiving Proclamation has caused an unusual amount of caustic comment, especially in the pulpit. A Jewish Rabbi, Dr. Schulman, says that we should give thanks this year with bowed heads and blushes of shame for the reason that the nation's prosperity is "defaced with greed and besmeared by blood." The greed, he said, was shown by those who

## Bulgaria Now Makes Charges

BERLIN, Dec. 4.—(By Sayville wireless) "A despatch from Sofia says that Premier Radoslavoff has made sensational disclosures in the Bulgarian parliament," says the Overseas News Agency. The Roumanian Government in 1915 at the beginning of the war between Bulgaria and Serbia declared it would remain neutral until the end of the European war. But it was soon evident Roumania had changed its mind. Toward the end of August, the Roumanian minister to Bulgaria, G.C. Dorussi, who had been sent from Sofia returned and spread the report that the Roumanian Government in order to further good relations with Bulgaria, was ready to give back Dobrudja if Bulgaria would observe neutrality in case of war between Austria-Hungary and Roumania. The Bulgarian Government was not deceived by this treacherous behaviour. Premier Radoslavoff refused to grant an audience to the Roumanian minister.

Speaking of the expulsion of the ministers of the Central Powers from Athens by the French vice-admiral Du Fournet, Premier Radoslavoff said good relations continued with the lawful government of King Constantine. The Greek Government, he said, had no power to prevent this violation of international law. Premier Radoslavoff expressed the hope that in a short time the (Teutonic) allied governments would communicate good news to their parliaments, which would be applauded by all the allied nations.

## KAISER GIVEN BIG "FROST" WHEN HE VISITED BRUGES

The London Times of Nov. 20, has the following from its Amsterdam correspondent: Some particulars of the Kaiser's visit to Bruges reach the Telegraaf from its frontier correspondent. The visit took place on October 20 and was very short. Elaborate precautions were taken against hostile public demonstrations, but these apparently were unnecessary, as to show their feelings the population retired within doors and remained there until the Kaiser's departure. Soldiers also showed much less enthusiasm for the Imperial visitor than on a similar occasion earlier in the war. The Kaiser afterwards paid a short visit to Zeebrugge.

Reports continue to arrive of the removal of large numbers of civilians, 1,200 men being taken from Courtrai. Pressure is being exerted to obtain men from Brussels, Antwerp, Louvain and Oudenarde districts and 1,200 have been removed from Bruges. When the Germans demanded this number of the city it refused, even when the Germans threatened a fine of 150,000 marks (£7,500). This fine was paid and the Germans got the men notwithstanding.

The Burgomaster of Bruges has resigned. His son was sent to Germany, it is supposed in connection with the refusal of the city to supply the 1,200 men. Great suffering prevails in Bruges and great depression. The people sometimes relieve their feelings, however, as lately when 150 Russian prisoners wanted for work on the coast passed through the city asking by gestures for food, which Bruges people wished to give them. This was forbidden by the German soldiers. In one street the people shouted, "Long live the Allies." For this a punishment was inflicted on the town, all the houses being obliged to close at 7 o'clock in the evening during a certain period.

have aided the rapid rise in the cost of necessities and the blood money was that taken from Europe for munitions. Our prosperity, he adds, bears upon the backs of the poor. The following presumably should appeal to your readers if I may judge from what is happening in your Island: "There is something wrong with the policy that does not provide in the first place for the comforts and happiness of the country's own citizens. Why should we have to pay more for our necessities because there are more customers to buy them? There is truly a hideous contrast between a prosperity that is proved by commercial statistics and the pinching to which the poor must submit because of the rise in the price of things they are obliged to buy."

Winter seems to be holding off; and it is a great blessing for poor that it is so considerate. We have now very excellent weather, during November, with the exception of last week, when one of the greatest gales recorded in our history swept over the Atlantic seaboard, wreaking fearful havoc among shipping. Yours truly,

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