

Toilers Final Fight For Liberty

Spaniard's Bay Convention, February 24th, Demands the Arrest of Kean on Charge of Criminal Negligence

MUNN AND BOWRING MUST NOW REALIZE THEIR SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY and CONDUCT

Being Censured so Severely by the Representatives of 5000 Men Places Them in a Very Awkward Position Which Few Will Envy Them—If Morris Refuses to Arrest Kean, and Kean Sails in Florizel, Will be Beacon Light Flashed to 200 Outports

WHICH WILL INITIATE STRUGGLE THAT WON'T SUBSIDE UNTIL COMPLETE SATISFACTION SECURED

Kean or no Kean Can Ignore Action 70 Representatives of 5000 Men, Demanding Arrest For Criminal Negligence—Kean's Departure For Icefields as Captain of Florizel Would Probably End Further Recruiting in Northern Outports

A SECRET RESOLUTION PASSED BY RECENT F.P.U. CONVENTION

The Spaniard's Bay Convention Resolutions published by us on Saturday set the town seriously thinking and gave Kean, Munn and Bowring something to worry about for the coming few weeks. The F. P. U.'s attitude respecting trade with Bowrings has now been defined and Bowrings cannot blame but themselves for what losses this will entail. The F.P.U.'s attitude respecting the renewal of the Coastal Contract, which is worth some \$70,000 net profit annually to Bowrings is another matter that they cannot reasonably grumble about. They are anxious to secure a renewal of their Coastal Contract, but the Spaniard's Bay Resolution puts a renewal out of the question. The contract has three years to run from April next. It will never be renewed.

That is not all that Resolution meant to Bowrings. A Convention of chosen men representing 5000 fishermen of Conception Bay resolved unanimously to place on record their opinion of the conduct of Jack Munn and Eric Bowring and the verdict must have sunk deep into the hearts of those men who hitherto stood well with the community. It is no easy matter for any man to pass lightly over such a serious position. The fishermen, having found Munn and Bowring acting as no Bowring ever acted before,—guilty of conduct that both of them will feel deeply ashamed of in after years, as time adds to their experience of men and things—conduct that caused a Convention of Conception Bay toilers to condemn in words that would reach the heart of the most indifferent man.

They were regarded as men lost to a sense of honor and undeserving of the regard of the fishermen of this Colony to be looked upon as men who have attempted to plunge our Country into a maelstrom of discord and strife. What for—in order—asserts the Convention—to uphold the conduct of a man who sent 78 fellow creatures into eternity through blundering incapacity.

The Scripture says, "What can a man benefit if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul." The Country is now saying, "What have Munn and Bowring gained in return for the losses they have and will sustain through their dishonorable conduct towards the fishermen of the Country? They will lose business. They will lose a coastal contract. They will be disregarded in the future by the people. They have placed themselves into a position that is not envied by the meanest and poorest man in the Country. They are not in the peoples opinion what they were a month ago. They have spent many weary hours thinking over what they did, since we started in to defend the people against their conduct and expose their doings nearly two weeks ago.

Mr. Munn is said to be a changed man. He is said to be a worried man. He is said to be cranky and bad tempered since his conduct compelled us to handle him and his associate as no other business man has ever been handled since Newfoundland became Newfoundland.

What other men in the Colony at any time was ever the subject of a resolution unanimously passed at a Convention that consisted of 75 chosen representatives of 5000 fishermen, and what is more—those very resolutions will likely be unanimously passed by the representatives of 20,000 men later on in this very city.

This matter is not one that will be passed over and forgotten. It will be placed constantly before the public until those guilty and responsible for the agitation will wish they were never born. This matter will ring in the ears of Munn Kean and Bowring while they remain in Newfoundland. The fishermen will never forget it—their contempt for those three men will never subside.

Munn is angry—very angry so his friends says. Well we told him that he would be, but he defied us and the people, and said "go ahead, we don't care what you do."

What man would feel happy over the publication of a vote of censure passed without one dissenting voice in an assemblage representing 5000 men residing in the heart of the Colony—Conception Bay. It is something no one ever expected to behold in reference to J. S. Munn, but the unexpected has happened and those who defy the public will in the future have to swallow the medicine prepared by the people for special cases like Munn, Kean and Bowring. If what they received was all, it would be bad enough and bitter enough to most men, but the bitterest has not yet been administered. They are up against one of the most persistent fighters the Colony ever produced when they get up against Coaker. He knows no defeat!

Backed by the men he has served so faithfully and consistently for six years, he will never recognize defeat, no matter what the present may appear. That petition to the Crown asking for Kean's arrest on a charge of criminal negligence came as a bolt from the clear sky on Saturday. No one expected such a move. The people of this city were dumbfounded. They immediately concluded that it was a proper move and fully justified.

It is not a comfortable position for anyone to be in—that of having a petition signed by the representatives of 5000 men—asking for one's arrest—and that petition bears the signature of six Members of Parliament. If the Government ignores that petition, it will mean another severe struggle for the Colony. It will mean the death blow to further outport recruiting. It will mean the bitterest political fight at the next elections that the Colony ever experienced. It will mean the Government defying the North and in order to save Kean from arrest for a few months—for his arrest must now come, be it to-morrow or some time in the future.

It will mean a big fight in the House of Assembly that will exceed all the struggles of recent years. It will mean a struggle that won't end until the fishermen have overcome their enemies and possess the Government of the Colony. Let Morris refuse to arrest Kean and permit him to sail in the Florizel if he dare.

The people have taken every reasonable and constitutional course possible in order to settle this business of having public opinion defied by the madness of one man backed by two brainless lads whose fathers happened to be lucky enough to be supplying merchants and thereby enabled to accumulate a fortune.

If the reasonable and constitutional efforts of the people to be protected against a dangerous man and to punish him for his conduct last Spring fails; then let those who will drive the people into open revolt against the Government be held responsible. Let us warn all concerned that this agitation won't cease if Kean goes to the ice as captain, that fact will but carry the agitation into a most critical period and will be the beacon fire, meaning a call to duty amongst the outport fishermen that will reach from North to South and won't subside until satisfaction is secured.

Two hundred outports are waiting the word of command. That word may or may not be given. It won't be given if Kean is arrested and held for trial. It won't be

given if Bowring withdraws Kean voluntarily—but if Kean sails in the Florizel as captain, he won't be outside of St. John's before those 200 outports will demand the reason why.

The Spaniard's Bay Convention unanimously passed a secret resolution dealing with this question that demands satisfaction should Bowring dare to send Kean to the ice as master or if the Government refuses to accede to the petition of the Convention. They resolved to see this thing through, no matter how long it took or what it cost.

It is not now what Coaker thinks or says or does, as so many foolish men like Munn imagined all along; it is what the people say and have decided. Coaker is bound by an oath to abide by what the people decide and when he refuses to stand by the people he will be the first victim of their anger.

We knowing the feelings of the people and their determination to fight this matter to the end, ask the Government, Munn and Bowring to consider well where they intend to stand in this matter. We want no trouble. We have endeavored from the beginning to settle the matter reasonably.

The F.P.U.'s wishes were as reasonable as any man could expect. They asked only for Kean's withdrawal; that request was granted by Bowrings' Liverpool firm who were removed from bitter local interests and were able to consider the issue upon its merits and deal with it impartially. That impartial decision was cabled to Mr. Coaker, and it was so resented by the two brainless boys occupying the position of local directors of Bowrings' firm here, that they moved hell and earth to get that decision rescinded, even to threatening their resignation as directors if their demands were not granted in Liverpool.

The Liverpool firm was forced to own their dishonor and cabled rescinding their decision. That is the one blot upon Bowrings' house that will never be erased in Newfoundland.

Munn and Kean had a splendid opportunity to save their faces, when the Stephano was withdrawn. They could have utilized that action to save their faces and end a bitter agitation.

It looks as if Munn had decided in January to send Kean in the Florizel, for it has transpired that the Marconi operator on the Florizel—who is the same man as testified regarding the disaster messages sent by Capt. J. Kean to his father on March 31st—was transferred from the Florizel at Liverpool on her last trip there, to another steamer sailing to South America.

This fact was known by Bowrings here when the Florizel sailed from Liverpool on February 2nd, and Kean knew it soon after and his counsel admitted it in Court when the libel case came up a few days after. The transfer must have been made in order to remove from the Florizel an official that would not be over acceptable to Kean if he sailed in that ship to the sealfishery as captain.

If this is so, Bowrings here had decided to appoint Kean as master of the Florizel if she went to the sealfishery, sometime in January, and Munn's action in submitting Mr. Coaker's letter to Kean's withdrawal, to the Managing Directors at Liverpool for their decision, was but a pretence and a trick.

The more one closely considers this dishonorable piece of business the dirtier and blacker it appears on the part of the Bowring firm here.

(Continued from day to day)

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of Keels Local Council held on February 24th the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS the whole Country holds Captain A. Kean responsible for the death of 78 of Newfoundland's breadwinners through his blundering on March 31st and April 1st, 1914;

AND WHEREAS twenty thousand F.P.U. men ask that Captain A. Kean be uncaptured as a slight punishment for his blundering which caused 78 heroes to die and 11 others to be maimed for life;

BE IT RESOLVED that we place on record our contempt and disdain for the firm of Bowring Brothers at home and abroad for insulting the people of this Country in relation to this Captain Kean incident;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also place on record our determination to support the action of W. F. Coaker who is simply carrying out the wishes of the people of Newfoundland.

- HENRY HOBBS, Sr.
- JOHN FITZGERALD
- HENRY MESH
- JOHN PENNEY
- ALEX. MESH
- WILLIAM WHEELER
- MICHAEL FITZGERALD
- JOSEPH MESH
- ROBERT WHEELER
- HUBERT MESH
- ALFRED JOHN PENNEY
- GEORGE PENNEY
- ROBERT PENNEY
- RICH. MESH of NATH.
- CHAS. MESH
- JOSEPH HOBBS of JOHN
- MICHAEL CAREW
- RICH. MESH of JOS.
- JAMES WHEELER
- WILLIAM J. PENNEY
- WILLIAM QUINTON
- JOHN HOBBS of JOS., Sr.
- GEORGE HOBBS
- FRED. PENNEY
- WILLIAM HOBBS
- WILLIAM YETMAN
- FRED MOSS
- JAMES DAY
- WILLIAM J. HOBBS
- THEOPHILUS MOSS
- ANDREW HOBBS
- JAMES CAREW
- THOMAS WHEELER
- WALTER HOBBS
- PONATHAN YETMAN
- JOHN MESH
- CHARLES ELLIOTT
- EDWARD CARPENTER
- THOMAS PENNEY
- HENRY QUINTON
- JOSEPH HOBBS of SAML
- THOMAS WILL PENNEY
- CHAS. HOBBS
- ROBERT HOBBS
- EDWARD FITZGERALD
- ELI HOBBS
- THOS. HOBBS of THOS.
- WM. MARSHFIELD
- JOSEPH WHEELER
- JOSEPH MESH of RD.
- JAS. YETMAN
- JNO. HOBBS of JOS., Jr.
- JAMES FITZGERALD
- JOHN MOSS
- BERNARD FITZGERALD
- JOSEPH HOBBS of THOS
- HENRY FITZGERALD
- DAN CAREW
- JOSEPH MESH of CHAS
- THOS. MESH
- SAMUEL HOBBS
- WILLIAM PENNEY
- ALEX. MOSS
- EDWARD PENNEY
- WALTER MANSFIELD
- JOS. HOBBS of THOS., Sr.
- THOMAS HOBBS

The foregoing resolution received on Saturday from Keels Council ought to convince Munn and Morris where the people stand in this matter. That it is not a personal matter between Coaker and Kean but a national one. The Keels resolution is definite and open and any grown up boy ought to be able to grasp its meaning.

It is a criterion of the feelings to-day of all the outports from Portugal Cove to Quirpool respecting this Kean Bowring outrage.