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J. J. ROSSITER

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(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., FEB. 23, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

**Spaniard's Bay
And Port-de-Grave
Convention Meetings**

MR. GEO. GRIMES and Mr. J. G. Stone left by this morning's express for Cupids to attend the Annual Meeting of Port-de-Grave Council, at Cupids. Both will proceed Spaniard's Bay to-morrow.

Mr. John Abbott, M.H.A., and Mr. A. Targett, M.H.A., are due at Spaniard's Bay also to-morrow to attend the F.P.U. Convention.

President Coaker, accompanied by Mr. W. W. Halfyard, M.H.A., will leave by to-morrow's express for Spaniard's Bay.

The Convention will be attended by delegates from every portion of Conception Bay and its chief business will be to decide the people's course of action towards Bowring and Kean.

It will be the most important gathering that ever took place in Conception Bay and its decisions will be looked forward to with intense interest by all the country.

The people always get their wish sooner or later and this fight started by Bowring's dishonourable conduct towards the people's reasonable demands and Munn's contemptible trick in reference thereto will not subside until the enemies of the people are subdued and the creature who is the cause of all this uproar is landed inside of the penitentiary walls, and answers for his negligence before the Bar of Justice.

They hurled this insult and outrage into the face of the people and before this matter is ended those responsible will have to swallow some bitter medicine.

Fine Indeed

It would be a fine thing indeed for certain politicians were we to refrain from making adverse criticism because forsooth the nation is at war.

We do not at all hold the opinions of either the Twillingate Sun or News that all matters of local differences be dropped.

We do not believe in that sort of patriotism, which would abandon entirely to the tender mercies of a horde of political montebanks the safety of our country, or permit them full sway in all their doing, just because the nation is in trouble.

We hold it to be our bounden duty to look well to the interests of home concerns and to keep a pretty strict tab on all the doings of those who have the power in their hands at the present time. It would be sheer folly to commit ourselves to a policy of silence or to withhold our criticism and thus give free rein to a party of political pirates and to lay open the breast of the country to rapine and plunder.

Do the Sun and News wish us to believe that the nation at war has persecuted the community of evil? Do they wish us to believe that the tribulations of the Empire have made political purists of a gang of hardened freebooters?

Then may we ask what are their impressions respecting those patriots who put up the cost of flour and sunk the price of fish the moment war was declared.

Are we to lie down supinely and

permit these vampires to suck the life blood from us on the pretext of war. Must we submit our poor country to be overrun by a horde of plunderers, because some oily-tongued individual tells us it is not patriotic to protest while the nation is at war.

For the benefit of those who think this is a time when we ought to be silent respecting the doings of those who have been put in place to protect the interests of the public, we may say that it is far from our line of policy, and far, far away from what we consider to be our duty.

Take this Bowring-Kean business for instance. Is there a man of any sensibility or a notion of what is right and just, but who feels that it is grossly wrong to permit Abram Kean to take charge of a sealing steamer, or is there a man who, knowing that a wrong is being attempted, who has such an exaggerated notion of what duty to country means, that he believes that that duty should compel him to be silent and let the wrong go on.

A nice state of affairs we should soon have were we to act according to the principles laid down by the News and Sun. What a splendid chance for evil doers it would be, if all had the opinion of these two papers.

Fancy the state of affairs, who can, that would ensue. Even with the Argus eye of the public press upon their actions, and the thundering voice of public disapproval ringing in their ears, public men cannot tread the straight and narrow path, what might be expected were they to be given carte blanche, and knew that because of the Empire's troubles they were immune from castigation.

We leave the answer to our many readers to decide for themselves.

What 'The Standard' Has To Say

On the Bowring-Kean Controversy—Thinks Kean Should Stay on Shore

When the head office of Bowring at Liverpool wired Mr. Coaker to the effect that Kean and the Stephano was withdrawn from the seal fishery, the Country's general expectation of a fairly satisfactory solution of a critical question has been knocked on the head, and a situation created that may well occasion regret, and deep concern if not consternation. From the Mail and Advocate article to hand to-day we learn that on Sunday last, four days after the Liverpool Directors had sent the message announcing their decision "to withdraw" the S.S. Stephano also Captain Abraham Kean from this season's sealing voyage, a second message to this effect was received by Mr. Coaker:

"Our reply to your cable was sent without full knowledge arrangements previously made; must now leave matter Florizel sealing master entirely in hands local Directors.

(Signed) BOWRING.

Mr. Coaker thereupon telegraphed on the 15th as follows:

"To Bowring, Liverpool.
Your first cabled decision published paper Saturday. Country will look upon last cable as act of deception, dishonourable. Ruin firm's interests Newfoundland. Only solution withdraw Florizel otherwise matter will cause strike and probably riot. Reply to-day otherwise will initiate agitation paper immediately, to which a reply was received the same day, as follows: "Decline interfere decision St. John's Directors."

Mr. Coaker then wrote the local Directorate taxing the Bowring firm with "deception," and threatening to raise "an agitation such as this Colony never experienced, in the interests of the fishermen and to protect their lives."

The local firm, the Mail and Advocate says, afterwards in conversation with the F.P.U.'s solicitor, (Mr. A. B. Morine), intimated that Captain Abraham Kean was going as Master; but it is to be hoped that they will reconsider their decision in the interests of the country in general.

By referring the matter of the demand of the F.P.U. that Captain Kean be not permitted to go to the ice as master to the Liverpool Directors, they committed themselves to at least do their utmost to carry out the decision of the Liverpool Directors regardless of what it would cost. If they, unwisely, in view of last season's happenings and public opinion, made an arrangement with Captain Kean to send him out in the S. S. Florizel, they made a great mistake in referring to the Liverpool Directors the matter of Captain Kean's going in the form they did. Captain Kean can do a wise and patriotic thing, one that will do much to gain for him the good opinion of the country, if he would decide to stay at home, and thus extricate the firm he has so long had connections with from an

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anomalous position, and end a situation that threatens to be very grave. Even if he were thoroughly in the right, he could well do that in the country interest. No one wants agitation of Labor against Capital in its acute stage, no one wants disturbance of the peace on perhaps a gigantic scale, during this perilous crisis and it is up to the Firm and Captain Kean more than any others to obviate this.

We would also depreciate anything savoring of nasty or violent action on the part of the other side. They are convinced they have a grievance. As our readers know, we are of the same opinion.

We think, too, that what they asked for was only a rough measure of justice. But it would not be wise to go beyond the area of what is lawful to enforce even reasonable demands. We should all remember in our zeal for the Right that the mill of God grinds slowly and to be sure that the hand we are allowed to put on it does not make it move out of gear, and so spoil what is turned out, and make things worse than ever. No matter how this matter goes, if the Union men unite wisdom and lawabidingness with firmness they will win victory and the betterment of their condition

even out of the jaws of apparent defeat. But nothing that can be said of their responsibility can diminish the responsibility of those that have allowed such a serious situation to develop and which as we have already said can be amicably adjusted, and should be adjusted in the interest of all concerned.

Wants To Know

Somebody asked us to-day if we had any idea when the Kaiser was coming back? Not the least, but presumably when annul sets in, and pleasure-seeking grows tiresome.

Morris is too well acquainted with the game of "bluff," not to know what's what by this time. In the meantime Munn and Bowring are ably filling his place here—and so the game goes on.

VERITAS.

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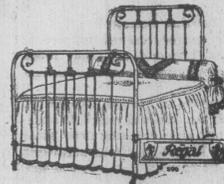
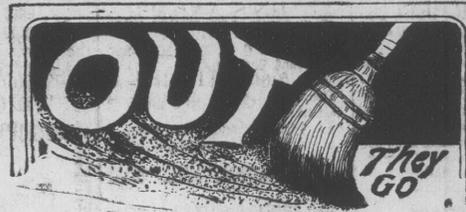
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Feb. 20, 23, 25.

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