The Bowrings Challenge The Power of The F.P.U.

Letters of Interest

From Mail and Advocate Readers

An Interesting Personal Story

Mr. Brown Tells of his Early Trials and Later Successes —Also Complains of Unjust Treatment

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir,—I desire to ask space in your valuable paper to insert a statement in reference to my condition of affairs and the manner I am treated concerning my property and voyage. Since the death of my dear son his wife has laid certain claims against me concerning my property and voyage, without will or agreement respecting the same.

My father died when I was a boy of seven years. I was left without house or home, and had to be taken in by strangers and work without any boots on my feet, and very little clothing. As soon as I became able to earn for myself, I saved a little money and purchased a small house and took my aged mother and two sisters with me and supported them as best I could. In addition to that I reared my own family by the sweat of my brow, working night and day with very little rest under masters, some eight or ten miles from where I lived. After serving these men (namely Barbours) for quite a number of years, they gave me a vessel for a trial as master, in which I succeeded, and forthwith had the pleasure of going master of five other vessels for the said Barbours. After such experience, I thought it wise to start for myself, inwhich I succeeded, sailing for Messrs. Job Bros. for a few years. I then came over to Bairds and after two or three years' dealing, succeeded in getting the second vessel which we now have as our own. Energy and good conduct brought me the situation I am placed in up to the present time.

It wasn't looking for fat jobs and percentage on monies through law that I worked up, like the man who wants to take away my property and starve me in my sixty-second year. Had Magistrate Mifflin worked and toiled for his bread as I did, from Cape Spear to Cape Mugford, he wouldn't have the heart to treat his own flesh and blood as he is trying to do. I also tried to educate my children the best way possible. Went from home some four miles and pealed birch rind, and sold it to pay my school fees. To-day I have a son in St. John's teaching the College, and never received one cent from the Government towards his support. To-day I am deprived of my support, if it can possibly be done, as far as Magistrate Mifflin can do, simply because it means quite a sum of money to him, which every money-grabber is after.

The property referred to above is my schooner and gear, and voyage concerned. The widow, after the death of her husband (who was my son) acquainted Magistrate Mifflin and an estate was made out claiming to be owner of $2000 without the voice of said owner interfering until documents were signed and entered ito law. I should like to know if that was legal or not? In my humble opinion on the matter it's not legal. Suppose I made a will and left my property to all my sons, and after my death the oldest claimed that it all belonged to him, would the others be satisfied with that answer? I think not. Neither am I satisfied with one side of the story; the whole must be told, and I'm prepared for it whenever it is convenient. I don't suppose there's enough of paupers on the list asy et, or they wouldn't be so anxious to deprive me of my living, and give me a pauper's dole, that will be just my lot in the remainder of my days, after turning in so much revenue to the country and never grasping after a soft job, or anyone else's money which wasn't my own.

There are men supposed to be looking after the welfare of the country and the people's interest, and are very popular with a few of their own class, but, thank God, the dark cloud is getting removed from us, and a revealer of secrets has risen up amongst us, and the fishermen are now beginning to realize their former mistakes. Therefore, the times are changing, and equal rights to all and special privileges to none must be shown. Had I been a Government official I venture to say an increase of wages would have fallen to me, as it came to many in the past, but owing to being a worn-out toiler, it happens to be the opposite, trying to take away what I have and bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. I was master for over twenty years, without chart or pilot, but I managed to clear Horse Island ock. I was also fifty spring to the icefields, with one exception. During these many years of toil, one can imagine the hardships undergone. Often drenched to the skin and fatigued and worn out for want of rest, whilst our so-called representatives for our country's interest could, drink and be merry, sporting on the toiler's hard-earned money. Remember these are not mere phantoms, but real facts, as men whom I have served could answer for me, and every toiler has undergone the same. These were the hard times when no Coaker resigned; now the scene is changed, and to whom does the credit belong? Not to the grabbers, but to President Coaker and the F.P.U. What a pity he didn't come years before. These are the forces that are going to rule old Terra Nova, and be the toilers' friends. Every toiler in Newfoundland who is a right-thinking man, and looks back at the past years and compares them with the present, cannot but answer in the words of common sense, that the scene is changed, and in the near future the toiling masses will have control of the exports of Newfoundland's wealth and all brought about by Coaker and the F.P.U. I, therefore, warn anyone who may be stiffnecked, not to harden their heart any more and listen to the catch cries that Coaker can do nothing. I warn you to pull the scales from your eyes and look back a short time from now, and count the few in number at the first meeting, at Herring Neck—only nineteen. To-day nearly twenty-five thousand are members. Were there ever such an organization with such a rapid growth? Many things now-a-days the toiler is shown a favour which in the former days they were compelled to do or go about their business, and the answer to it all means "Union," for on one in the Union who grasps the full view of it cares two straws for any of them. **Only to-day a Union man asked for a berth with Capt. Abram Kean and because he wouldn't sign "to stand by father," got no berth.** They attacked him about Coaker and he told them had there been a Coaker twenty years ago, there would be many who wore short coats now would be wearing long ones. Said he, "I'd rather stay on shore than go against the Union.

With these remarks I have made I congratulate President Coaker on the stand he has taken up up lift the toilers, and he can rest assured on the Union for his support. All are eager for the word of command, as never before in the history of the Colony.

MESHECH BROWN.

Pool's Island, Feb. 23, 1915.

Maledictions of A People Betrayed

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

It is said our Kaiser-in-Fustian Morris, expects a baronetcy as a result of the part he played in the great war. It will be sir Ned with a vengeance. It matters little to us, however, what sort of title is bestowed upon this unprincipled time-server and gigantic political fraud. We know what place he will occupy in his country's history. Therein posterity will read the true story of our local Castlereagh, and what a black page it will be! Future generations will read with scorn and loathing the tale of a country's betrayal. Mark it well, Sir Edward, that day will come, perhaps not in your lifetime, but come it will as surely as the sun shines, and breezes blow. In that terrible chapter will be set forth the story of as shameful a series of episodes as ever disgraced the government of a colony.

It will tell of the deliberate deception practiced on the electors, the lying, chicanery and fraud which culminated in the saddling of a frightful burden of debt upon the already weakened shoulders of this poor Colony. It will set forth, in letters of fire, Morris's promises and Morris's deeds. It will tell the story of a man who, with his eyes wide open, and with full knowledge of the consequences, spent millions upon millions of dollars, mortgaging the future prosperity of the country for many years to come. Yes, posterity will look upon Morris, not only as an unscrupulous tyrant and a deliberate wrecker of his country's future, but as a man without conscience, without religion, and without the shadow of patriotic principles. What a heritage to hand down to posterity, my countrymen!

Better to be a poor, honest fisherman, without hope of future advancement, than to be a baronet, a baron, or a duke, and leave this world, not with the sweet consolation of a life well spent in his country's cause, but amid the maledictions of the people he betrayed.

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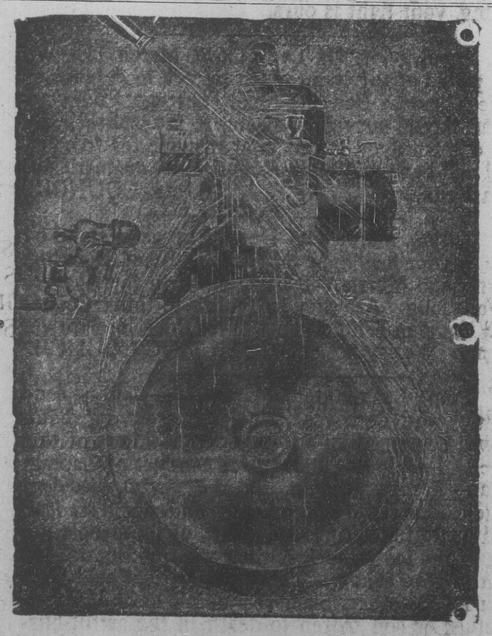

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