

# The Coal Famine-- Barefaced Robbery

THE HERALD yesterday attempted to justify the robbery of the poor of the sum of \$14,000 on coal, and published interviews with Alex. Harvey, J. C. Crosbie, and Morey & Co., all of whom explained that the advance in the price of coal was intended to prevent extravagances in using it during the coming winter. What fools those mortals be! Patsy published such rubbish, hoping his old trick of fooling the people would succeed once more. What need is there to rob the poor to the extent of \$2.80 per ton on coal in order to compel them to economize. How many poor laborers wives or widows will burn two buckets of coal where one would suffice? Only a deliberate rascal would advance such a plea for such rascality. We are positive that no householder is buying coal this week who will be able to afford to waste an ounce or would waste an ounce even if coal was \$5.00 per ton. The excuse is but a pretext for the wholesale robbery of the poor, for every ton of coal that was in stock on Monday that sells at \$10.80 per ton will be regarded as nothing short of robbery by every fair thinking man in the Colony.

Don't talk to the people P.T. about contracts made by coal dealers that will be filled and must be filled at old price. Catch Alex. Harvey or Jimmy Morey accepting binding contracts of this nature, in view of conditions apparent to all since July. Go talk such nonsense to the lunatics at the Asylum. P.T. and E.P. wont find such bluff so easily swallowed as their ugly nightmares on Goddess Schools were in 1913. Get off your despicable roosts and try to be men once during your miserable existence, and get coal for the poor at \$6.50 per ton, and give up excusing the rascality of men who on Monday demanded \$10.80 for what they were selling on Friday at \$8.00. What is the use of Governments in war times if a ship owner can ask \$5.00 for what was worth \$1.50 six months ago. If the enemies warships had captured our carriers or gained mastery over our seas then all would calmly submit to the inevitable, but the only enemy encountered is the grabber of gold filtered from the miseries of the people under war conditions, when hundreds of the sons of those who are the severest sufferers are dying for their King on foreign soil, thousands of miles from Home and Country.

Shame upon you Alex. Harvey and Jas. Morey! who would be base enough to despoil the widows and the very poor of \$1.40 on one half ton of coal on the one hand, while on the other they are posted as Patriots and idolized by the King's representative. If the \$2.80 was put on as Messrs. Harvey and Morey claim in order to compel economy in the use of coal, then hand over the \$2.80 taken per ton to the ladies of the Dorcas and St. Vincent De Paul Societies, who will see that those who suffer most will benefit by the charge and not those who are living on the fat of the land and fare sumptuously daily.

No one but an idiot will swallow P.T.'s excuses or John Alexander's excuses, or accept the logic advanced by the men who are pocketing not only \$14,000.00 on soft coal but another \$11,000 on hard coal, or a total of \$25,000; all because they don't want the poor to use much coal at \$10.80 per ton. Fancy piling on \$2.80 on hard coal, which supply is normal, in order to keep the poor widows and laborers from using too many ounces of soft coal per day at \$10.80! Robbery! Why robbery is too tame a word for such rascality. Those men should be taken by the populace and compelled to walk barefooted through the City streets, and then placed in the Penitentiary for five years. Talk about Government for the people and by the people! Who will deny that the Morris Government is not a clique representing about 20 per cent. of the electorate, that has done all it possibly can to kill "government for the people and by the people?"

Three months ago we publicly called the Premier's attention to conditions and pointed out that there would be a shortage in the coal supply unless he did something to overcome it. The Erik, Terra Nova and Eagle could have made six trips each since November 1st and landed 7000 tons of coal. These ships were available under certain conditions. They were not utilized because no one in the Government is sufficiently interested in the people to get busy and make a business deal with the owners of those ships. In addition the Bloodhound, Ranger and Viking could have made six trips each to Sydney since November 1st and landed 5000 tons. These could have landed all the coal that was necessary had they been used. They were allowed to remain at their anchors in the Harbor all this season while the cry for coal was loud enough in November to reach any hearts but that of the so called Government of Newfoundland. If there had been \$20,000 saw-offs or \$20,000 slices of timber areas, or shares in mining claims, something would have been done, but as it was only the poor laborer and the hard-pushed-large-familied mechanics that were to suffer by a coal shortage, then the reply was "to H— with them, let them fudge for themselves; we are here for what we can make for our pockets, and let them shiver!"

The Government possesses the only key to unlock the door of this outrage and let Morris take possession of all the coal,--hard and soft,--and sell the soft to the poor at the cost of it, while the hard coal should sell at \$13.50,--the price fixed by the local Germans--and the profits given to the charitable societies to buy soft coal for the poor. The Eric, Terra Nova and Eagle could be commandeered and operated at the value of \$150.00 per day each. They could make a trip to Louisburg in ten days. They would bring 2500 tons of coal each trip. The cost to the Colony would therefore be as follows:--

Total cost of 3 steamers per day, say at \$500 for a 10 days trip.	\$5,000.00
Freight on 2500 tons of coal at \$2.00	5,000.00
Cost of coal at Sydney, per ton	3.40
Cost of landing and cartage, per ton	.90
Cost of incidentals	.20
Cost of freight	2.00
	6.50

These are war times and our ship owners have sold their ships in order to make large profits and any Government working for the interest of the people would be justified in taking those steamers two months ago, or for the next six weeks, and delivering coal to the people at \$6.50 per ton, and the Colony would not be asked to pay one cent for the blessing.

If the Opposition Party in the House were entrusted with the Government of the Colony to-day just such action as above outlined would be taken, and those who would not like it could dislike it. And if Morris does not take similar action, he should be branded as a slave to local German interests, a vile enemy of the City and the Poor, and a coward of the most despicable quality. Come, Mr. Kent, your constituents are looking to you for action in their hour of betrayal. Will you arise to the opportunity and convene a Mass Meeting of the Citizens of St. John's and demand immediate action by the Government or their immediate resignation?

Come, Billy Higgins, you, who the Poor of St. John's elected to the honor of being an M.H.A. for the important District of St. John's East, will you be false to the interest of those who confided in you two years ago, and sit silent and tame while St. John's citizens are being outraged by Government inaction and coal dealers grabbing? Will you be a party to the betrayal of the interests of the citizens of St. John's, or will you prove yourself worthy of the confidence reposed in you two years ago by the fishermen and working men of St. John's East? If you hold up your finger and demand action to protect the interests of your poorest constituents as well as every right thinking elector of St. John's, the Premier will not dare to deny you what is proper. Will you avail of this crisis to prove yourself a true man and forever reign in the esteem of your fellow citizens, or will you cower and fear and be written down a coward of the most wretched description and forever be despised by every free thinking man in the community? Let the citizens of St. John's watch Mr. Higgins, for he must take some action or die politically. Mr. Kent has declared his willingness to back the Government in any proper way and is ready to lead a new Government which will immediately take action as above outlined.

Mind readers, coal will still advance in price if the Government wont act immediately. Instead of \$10.80 the price will be \$14.00 by the end of March if the local Germans are to be allowed a free hand to do as they have been doing. Is it any wonder the people are expressing their indignation outwardly and without restraint. Is it any wonder they are proclaiming the Premier to be the Greatest Bluffer the Colony ever produced and classing John Alexander to be the most noted hypocrite that ever trod Newfoundland soil, while P.T. is regarded as the most despised journalist ever known to the people of Newfoundland.

### The Herald And The Coal Barons

In a desperate attempt to conceal the real facts of the case, The Herald last evening, published what it pleased to call "interviews with the coal dealers," thinking no doubt, that by adopting such a course public indignation would be somewhat appeased. It was the same Herald, the Official Organ of the Morris freebooters, which shouted some few weeks ago that the Premier was dealing with the matter; and that things would be immediately made right. We must now take it that the Premier failed to deal with the matter, and instead of coal remaining at the old price, the Premier's efforts have resulted in an extra \$2.80 being clapped on every ton of coal which the Coal Barons of Water Street have had in their sheds for weeks. Was it intended as a New Year's gift from the Premier to his people? Truly this is on a par with what every one expected when they read in The Herald that Morris was attending to the matter. No one expected him to deal intelligently with such a problem. He has failed in this, as he has in all other matters, he has taken in hand since the unfortunate day he got the reins of power.

We notice that The Herald last evening advises the people to economize. For downright gall in solid slugs this easily takes first place. Patsy McGrath advising the laborers of this City to economize! Why McGrath should be ashamed to write the word economize. If the Government of which he is a well paid heeler had to economize a little during the last six years our people would not be so badly off to-day as they are. McGrath has scooped

in thousands of dollars for junketing trips, printing, compiling public messages, etc., and now he has the bold audacity to advise the poor half paid laborers of this City to economize. Verily! he has an exceeding overflow of gall.

In the interview with the Coal Barons, which is really a cloak for the Premier's shortcomings in the matter, we notice Mr. A. J. Harvey deploring the fact that the laboring people must suffer. To read that gentleman's explanation of the sad facts one could almost see him shedding tears. "We raised the price of coal," says Mr. Harvey, "so as to stop large quantities from being sold out and to PROVIDE FOR THE INCREASED FREIGHTS ON FUTURE SHIPMENTS." Here's a new kind of patriotism for you. To provide for the "increased freights on future shipments" we have added \$2.80 a ton! says Mr. Harvey. Well now what's to prevent the grocer now from adding a dollar a barrel on flour to-morrow to provide for the increased freight rates which may come into effect in 1926? Mr. Harvey we suppose has given in his cheque for the Patriotic Fund. Quite true is it that it was acknowledged in Mr. Harvey's name, but who really furnished the "bucks?"

Again: "We must keep the factories going" says Mr. Harvey. "Sure thing, pop! If the factories stop the fat dividends which Mr. Harvey and the other patriotic gentry on Water Street scoop in will of course stop and that must be prevented, even if coal must be sold to the poor of St. John's at \$20.00 per ton. Isn't this about right, Mr. Harvey?" "If the factories close," says Mr. Harvey, "many will of course be out of employment." There is no fear of the factories closing

down when the Directors can gather in the coin, and in this connection we have had our eyes for some time on some factories; and we will have something to say about conditions in them in the near future which will make the public sit up and take notice.

As regards hard coals, we note Mr. Harvey says, "that there is sufficient for the City's needs, if people do not rush along and buy up large stocks in order to be on the safe side." Very good news, indeed, but; suppose the people do rush along with their orders, would Mr. Harvey raise the price of hard coal a few dollars a ton to protect himself against increased freight rates next fall? We wonder would he!

Mr. Harvey, like the Editor of The Herald, advises the laboring man to economize as much as possible. Well, isn't that rich! Does Mr. Harvey think the laboring man of St. John's are paving their backyards with the "black diamonds"? We take it that the laboring man, the mechanic, the clerk and the widows of this City have been doing quite a lot of economizing the past two years. How much did Mr. Harvey and the Water Street gentry do in the way of REDUCING the cost of living the past two years? Are Harvey's biscuits any cheaper than they were? Away with such tommy rot! Too long have our people been compelled to live on this hot air talk. They are now about sick of it.

In concluding his address to the public, Mr. Harvey desires them to know, "that his firm is, or was yesterday, negotiating for the charter of a steamer to freight coals here." Mr. Harvey well knew months ago what quantities of coal his contracts for factories and other public institutions called for. He also knew how much coal he then had in stock; and must therefore have formed some idea of how many tons of coal he would be short for the City's fall and winter trade. That was the time to worry? about chartering a steamer and not now when the situation is acute. Perhaps he was waiting for "Nifty" Ned to do something. If he was, he was sure to meet with disappointment.

Continuing, Mr. Harvey says: "We are now making arrangements, looking about, to see what can be done to get ships for next spring and summer to freight coals to St. John's." Well, if we are not all frozen stiff by that time we may be able to get a bucket or so at the rate of \$???. per ton.

Hon. Mr. Crosbie is also in a h— of a quandry as to what the outcome will be. Poor man he is simply worried to death over the unfortunate affair! So much has he been worrying that he has no idea of what the other Coal Barons are doing to meet the crisis. Poor fellow! He didn't know of course a week ago that the price was to be raised after the New Year. No; honest injun he didn't. If he had any idea of such a thing being done he would have kicked against it, and made the price—a few shillings higher. So eager was Hon. Johnny to help out the poor of the City that he has actually cleaned out his shed, and now 'low and behold! the "Susus" will not be able to sail for the North coast because there is not enough of coal left in the shed to fill her bunkers. Too bad, isn't it?

Hon. Mr. Crosbie thinks, that he rise in the price may be due to the fact that some of the coal lately being sold was taken by firms of the "piles" they had for filling contracts, and this of course must be replaced by new imports at increased freight rates. Of course Mr. Crosbie doesn't supply any Government institutions, so this does not apply to him. These

Coal Barons who supply the Government Departments have tendered so low that they will lose money on their contracts! Mr. Crosbie goes a little better than Mr. Harvey, for he says, "if the people use coal sparingly the wooden ships IF they go to Sydney may fetch enough to pull us over the winter" whereas Mr. Harvey says, "we must wait till the spring or next summer."

The third "cold weather" dealer to be interviewed by The Herald is our friend Mr. Jas. Morey who does business on Queen Street. Mr. Morey, too, deprecates the exceedingly high rise in freight rates, and says, "he, too, has been selling coal to the City trade which he had to fill his Government contracts," and, "that he must, too, charge the extra \$2.80 to meet the increased cost of importing further shipments to meet this deficit in his "Government coal bin."

It strikes us that the coal dealers are very solicitous for the Government offices. Of course it would be cruel to have these hard working gentry working in a place insufficiently heated! Now if Mr. Harvey would direct his attention to the firemen of these buildings we think he would find good and just grounds for suggesting them to go easy on the "diamonds." For those of us who visit the various public buildings well know that the heat is something unbearable. We quite understand of course that it may be necessary to keep all furnaces going in such a place as the General Hospital; but take the Custom House for instance. At times the heat here is enough to sicken one; and of course it is the laboring man who is taxed and taxed to death to pay for it.

In order to differ a little, from the other two gentlemen, Mr. Morey takes us over to Naples and tells us of the increased cost of coal there, and ends his interview with the Official Organ of the Government, by gently disclosing the information that the price may yet increase and that if we behave ourselves and say nothing but "cough" up the "coin" we may be able to hook a few bucketfuls later on.

This whole business in one huge brazenfaced grab. It is unwarranted and uncalled for, and is one that deserves the severest condemnation that is possible to call forth upon it. Talk of Patriotism! This is Patriotism with a vengeance! Selling coal to-day for \$10.80 which was sold three days ago for \$8.00 is nothing more or less than a barefaced piece of robbery!

The public should exert themselves in this matter and set up a howl that will at least appal the shameless robbers.

As we pointed out yesterday, the Government have the remedy in their hands, will they apply it? Will Crosbie and Co. pull Morris by the nose and prevent him from doing the right thing in the interest of our City laborers and mechanics?

Patsy once informed us that Morris said "to h— with the mechanics"! It now looks as if Edward the Bluffer would send them there to thaw.

If the public take this latest piece of rascality without a kick they will wake up some fine morning and find their lockers empty, their wood pile gone and themselves the prey of the Water Street Czars.

Now what are they going to do about it?

### ANOTHER BRUTAL ASSAULT.

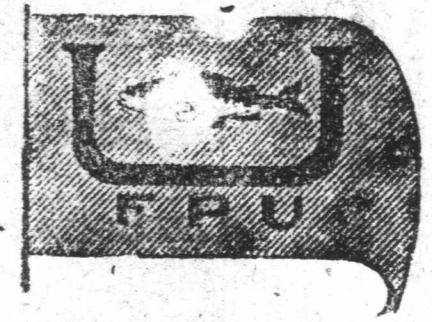
Another atrocious assault was committed last night on a little boy, the son of a prominent citizen, by an imbecile, who was arrested, and who is being dealt with to-day. He will likely be sent to the Lunatic Asylum

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("To Every Man His Own.")

### The Mail and Advocate

Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

Editor and Business Manager  
**JOHN J. ST. JOHN**

ST. JOHN'S, NFDL., JAN. 5th., 1916.

We have received an illustration of what the people doing business here think of the poor. Within the past 48 hours Inspector O'Brien, fearless official that he is, has had to destroy 400 lbs of poultry held so long by dealers to squeeze the big price out of the poor that it became unfit for human food.

This is a crime in the face of a beneficent Providence. Many a poor invalid would be the better of some of this food if it were sold at fair price at first, and many a delicate woman or sick child would benefit by it. The Almighty in His goodness has so shaped things for us that we can afford to import such food. Then why abuse His goodness in this way.

This is a crime and outrage, and the perpetrators are beneath the contempt of Christian people.

### GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

January 5  
HENRY D. WINTON, Sr., proprietor Public Ledger, died, 1885.

Elfrida Pike murdered at Harbor Grace, 1870.

Right Hon. W. E. Forster, Vice-roy of Ireland, died 1886.

William Vinnicombe, pilot, died, 1897.

James Cox's houses, Water St., burnt, 1892.

Late A. H. Seymour appointed Sheriff Northern District, 1892.

Philip Halley, H.M.C., died, 1894.

Hon. William Taylor (a Newfoundland resident of Boston), died, 1894.

Father Labelle, Quebec, died, 1891.

and should have been placed there long ago.

## Reid-Newfoundland Co.

### Columbia Ignitor Cells.

We have just received a shipment of the world-celebrated No. 6 DRY CELLS.

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