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The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., NOV. 3, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Another Recruit

LAST night a grand Union meeting was held at Portugal Cove when Mr. Arthur English was initiated into the Fishermen's Union. Portugal Cove Council is becoming famous for its noted members, for it will be remembered it enrolled Honest John Dwyer last Spring, and now it has added another talented son of Terra Nova who carried the Liberal-Union flag into St. George's District last Fall.

Mr. English delivered an inspiring address, which was listened to with rapt attention, and he was repeatedly applauded.

Mr. English will attend the Convention at Catalina and will report the proceedings and assist the Secretary.

Portugal Cove Council, although but a short time in being, numbers over eighty names on its roll, and forty others from Broad Cove have signified their desire to become members.

WORLD'S PRESS ON THE BIG WAR

RUSSIA'S EMANCIPATION.

London Telegraph.—The Northern Empire is no longer the abode of an irresponsible autocracy, still less is it, as the Germans dare to suggest, the home of Muscovite barbarism. In many ways the development has followed the lines of modern progress, and the Tsar's prompt recognition of the rights of Poland is only one sign among others of Russia's gradual emancipation. That is the reason why the present war has brought into unison all the different elements of the Empire, and proved to a sceptical world that reformers and revolutionaries can, under the stress of a great emergency, work hand in hand with Constitutionalists and even Grand Dukes. Moreover, the Russian works and lives and fights under the inspiration of a deeply-felt religion, and we know that to Faith is granted the power and privilege to remove mountains.

GERMAN ETHICS.

London Daily News and Leader.—Herr Dernburg, who knows what logic is, tells the American people that "international treaties must not be overrated." This is Germany's contribution to international ethics, stamped with the life-blood of a little State that no treaty, no obligation, no pledge can stand in the way of Germany's "interests." Six hundred years ago an English King had inscribed upon his tomb as his political testament these words: "Keep your pledges." One hundred and fifty years ago Montesquieu, a Frenchman, and one of the master spirits in political philosophy, demonstrated that all civilization rests upon fidelity to the pledged word. It has remained for Germany in the twentieth century to relegate by word and deed all this to the refuse heap of outworn barbarism. German culture is on the march.

THE MIGHT OF THE WAR GOD

The shout of the war god rends the sky. His voice is heard afar and nigh; Over the earth spreads the fearful thud Of the war god's tread in his thirst for blood. The drums are beating, the bullets whirl, The troops march by, the flags unfurl, The cannon flash by day, by night— This is the height of the war god's might.

The war god's strength is seen on high.

Destruction lurks in the glowing sky. His iron heel has crushed to earth The meek, the low and high of birth. The fields that shone in the evening sun, Are blackened and charred by this awful Hun.

For the weight of the war god's mailed hand Has been felt throughout the wide, wide land. Commerce and labour have felt the blow, And the lamp of knowledge burneth low.

The orphans' moan and the widows' plea He heareth not, and he does not see The wasted cities, deserted homes And monstrous death, which ceaseless roams.

Tho' the war god, now the sceptic sway, Beyond the gloom lies a reckoning day A day when the war god's kingdom will cease, And in his stead reign the Prince of Peace;

Then no more shall the war god's might be found, No more shall his voice o'er the earth resound, No more his mighty carnage sound; But his sword and spear shall till the ground. When his deeds are done and he's passed away, On earth will dawn a brighter day, When all men shall as brothers be And throughout the earth form one family—

When the might of the war god's kingdom cease, On earth shall be Justice, Love and Peace.

C. HARRY SYNARD.

TO THE EDITOR

CIVIC MATTERS NEED ATTENTION

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—I noticed in the weekly report of the Civic Commission that a special meeting is to be held for the purpose of adjusting the placing of new lights about the city, and would like to draw attention to the fact that while so doing they will consider the placing of one at the corner of Buckmaster's meadow on Pennywell Road.

As has been noted in the columns of our various newspapers from time to time, many assault cases have been committed in this locality, and, as this is the extreme city limit, it would be a very convenient place for a light, as well as a safeguard to pedestrians. I trust the Commission will give this their just consideration.

I also notice that the drains on Pennywell Road are being put in condition. It would be a good idea if the Government would pay a little attention to the lanes on this road, connecting with Freshwater Road.

At the present time they are in a fearful condition, only what can be expected when they have not received the slightest attention for the past thirty or forty years.

CITIZEN.

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S FISHERS TAKE A HAND IN POLITICS

The American Review of Reviews Discusses Pres. Coaker, the F.P.U., Its Origin, Its Methods and General Operations in Business and Public Matters Generally

(Continued from page 1.)

methods, and are doing their best to curtail the "supplying system." Recent statistics, however, show that for an industry yielding about ten million dollars a year, the annual issue of "supplies" on credit is about six million.

Economic Changes.

The past quarter-century, moreover, has seen a new development in colonial politics, the building of a railway through the island to develop the dormant minerals, forest and agricultural wealth, creating a new industrial class, not depending on merchant or planter, but selling its labor to the highest bidder and finding in later years keen competition for the same and consequent greater independence among the masses. The control of the Legislature passed, in the early part of this epoch, to Sir William White-way, a progressive lawyer, who in turn was succeeded by Sir Robert Bond, a country gentleman, from 1900 to 1909. He gave place to Sir Edward Morris, the present Premier, another lawyer who had been his Attorney General up till 1907 and who, leaving him then on a question of policy, organized a party which in the general election in November, 1908, divided the country evenly, each leader securing eighteen seats. The deadlock that resulted was only broken by a second election in May 1909, when Mr. Morris carried the country with twenty-six seats against ten.

Coaker Appears.

About that time the first evidence of a new figure on the political horizon appeared when William F. Coaker started "The Fishermen's Protective Union," designed to help the masses, or "under-dogs," to secure justice from the classes or "grab-balls," as he described them.

His movement represented a revolt by the common people against conditions which they asserted were most unjust and unfair. The fishermen contended that after the control of the merchants, politically and industrially was broken, they still, by a combine in St. John's, dictated the price of fish every year and paid the toilers only what they felt like and not what the foreign markets warranted; and that in the same way they maintained the prices of provisions and other articles at unjustly high rates and further burdened the fisher-folk.

Slow Progress at First.

Launched in the northern districts early in 1908, his movement comprehended the organization of the fishermen for economic and political control, but it was not taken seriously at first, though measures taken by him as its spokesman in disputes with the merchants over the crews of their sealing steamers with the prospect of a strike in the background, added greatly to the Union's prestige. In the elections of 1908 and 1909 its promoter threw his influence with the Morris party, though then it did not count for much. But after the election of the Government, when he planned, according to his critics, to play the part of a dictator and control the policy of the administration, and Premier Morris refused this, he went against the Government and became a very aggressive opponent.

Covered the North.

Gradually the Union spread over whole of the northern section of the island. Coaker proposed that it put

so defined—decided to resign and withdraw from public life, which he did in an open letter to the press. This withdrawal of his was followed by the decision of his supporters to sit apart from the Coakerites as an independent body in the Assembly, and on this basis the Assembly organized recently.

Industrial Activities.

So much for the political activities of the Union, which stand out most prominent. But the total of its industrial activities must not be overlooked. At the fifth annual convention of the Union held in St. John's, in December last, its president quoted various statistics regarding it, of which the following will be of interest: At the first convention, held in Change Islands, in 1909, nine delegates attended; at Catalina, in 1910, thirty-eight attended; in Greenspond, in 1911, eighty attended; at Bonavista, in 1912, one hundred and fifty attended; and at St. John's, in 1913, one hundred and sixty-one attended, which number, he said, would have been increased, only for the great distance from the remote northern districts. He stated that the Union had now one hundred and ninety local councils, corresponding with electoral constituencies, an increase of one; 17,700 members, an increase of 2700; and a fund of \$8,000.00, although the expenditure for 1913 was unusually large, as the Union paid the election expenses of the ten candidates nominated.

Trade Branch.

The Union has an offshoot, The Union Trading Company, a business enterprise in which every Unionist can become a member by taking one or more \$10 shares. This Trading Company forwards, in return for cash, provisions, fishery salt, fishing implements, coal and other requirements, to local councils, to be sold to the members, also for cash; and there are now twenty-four permanent and seven temporary Union stores in operation in as many outposts. The trading concern has a warehouse premises in St. John's with headquarters and stores, and the business of the company increased nearly 250 p.c. during 1913. The Trading Company purchased a steamer last year for \$40,000, to do its freighting, and additional subscriptions for shares were invited to pay off a mortgage of \$10,000 on her purchase money.

General Operations.

The Trading Company employs eighty persons and sold, the president said, 15,000 barrels of flour, 4000 barrels of beef and pork, 150,000 pounds of butter, 40,000 pounds of tea, and 20,000 pounds of tobacco to the stores and local councils during the year,—a large increase on the previous year's sale. Then, to secure the necessary publicity, a weekly paper, known as *The Fisherman's Advocate* was started and it is said to have a large sale, and President Coaker and his allies express confidence that within the next few years the movement will spread all over the country and enable it to dominate the entire politics of the island, as well as maintain the price of fish at high rates by pooling catches for this purpose and reduce the price of foodstuffs through the competition of the Union stores.

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