

Toilers Final Fight For Liberty

F.P.U. Fight Now Against Bowings, Whose Word Is No Longer Their Bond, History of Trickery and Dishonor Exposed. Munn and Eric Bowring Responsible

Russian Serfs Are Better Treated

"ONE man, a supplying merchant, who knows little it may be about anything, excepting pounds, shillings, and pence, will direct the actions of thousands. In many instances, not one of his dealers will dare to exercise his own judgment, upon matters that deeply concern his own welfare. There is not and cannot be, a more baneful-soul-enslaving, despotic influence, exerted in any country than the system of supplying on credit, which pervades this country."

"I have seen men waiting, watching and scrutinizing the motions and features of their supplying merchants or his agent, that they might find him in a good humour, then hat in hand, present themselves to ask for a barrel of flour, a few pounds of butter, or a few gallons of molasses. Even the former serfs and slaves of Russia were more to be envied than some of the poor down-trodden fishermen of Newfoundland, who are thus compelled to humble themselves before their fellow man."

"The former are better clothed, better fed, and have less to do than he, who it may be has a family, more or less numerous, to provide for, and who after toiling and sweating, and enduring the hardest bitings, of wind and weather, finds that all his voyage, will not pay his account, and lay in his winter's stock of provisions."—REV. PHILIP TOCQUE.

TO every thoughtful man who can spare time to sit down and think seriously and to go over in his mind all the problems that surround the position of Newfoundland, it must be all too apparent that there is a something wrong. Here he sees a country that has for two hundred years been producing wealth from a source that has often been compared to the silver mines of Peru or Mexico, and the comparison too is favorable to Newfoundland. We have an inexhaustible store of wealth in our fisheries, whereas mines in time become exhausted. Wealth untold has been brought to our shores, and is still being gathered from the stormy sea, by our hardy sons. But what are they the better for it. Where are the evidences of that wealth? Do we find it in the hamlets or towns and villages of the fishermen. If you do you will find its evidence in

"Courtly mansion that rears its head To shame the meanness of the humble shed."

You will find it all in one or two houses in the town, and these houses are not the abodes of the fishermen, but of their lords and masters. You will not find any evidence of the vast wealth that the poor fisherman has earned and brought to the feet of his owner, or pays into the greedy maw of his Country's treasury, in the appearance of the town. There you will see but pathetic testimony to that longing which is in every human heart for some of the refinements that civilization is supposed to bear. Generation after generation of fishermen has labored and borne the toil and privation of the day. Generation after generation has heaped up its store of wealth on the counters of the merchant princes, or poured its stream of gold into the public treasury, and yet, to all outward appearances, as far as public utilities go we are in a barbaric state of rudeness, that fair-shrieks of misery, poverty and want.

There is no place, the abode of white men, English, Irish and Scotch, that presents such a spectacle to the eyes of the world, after its two hundred years of settlement as does this poor-rich Country of ours. Even St. John's the capital city of our little Island Home, is in a deplorable state of backwardness. There are mining towns in the West, that are only of yesterday, and comparable to mushrooms that spring up of a night, that have more evidence of twentieth century civilization about them, with their broad and well laid out streets, and their comfortable dwellings and fine

hotels. In the town of Cochrane, in Northern Ontario, is an hotel that would do credit to any city in the East. Yet that town is but of yesterday. We speak of these things merely to emphasize our remarks relative to our backward condition in this Country. Our backwardness is not because we have not the natural production and natural sources of wealth, that go to provide those appendages of civilization, but the wealth we have produced has been wrongly apportioned between the employer and employed, between the men who buy the fish and other products and the men whose labor brought the fish to market.

From the very dawn of our short history there has been a contention between the fisherman and the merchant, and the merchant because he had the power for good or evil that wealth always lends, had the fisherman under heel. The spirit of the people was well nigh broken, but the spark of life that long subdued is being again rekindled, and hope and buoyancy are again lifting up the masses of the long downtrodden and wronged. The merchant class were becoming more human and disposed to give a fair deal, and the beacon light of a high hope shone out across the waters. That light has been dimmed by the conduct of the Bowring firm. But the light though dimmed lives yet, and when this struggle is over will shine more brightly than ever.

Let not the fisherman be disturbed. This last big kick against the curb put on the domineering class, may be lightly regarded. It is but in a way a sort of reflex action, the last spasmodic kick of a dying tyranny. Their attempt to foist Kean upon us is an act of contempt for the people that does not credit to its perpetrators. It savors of an age of tyranny long since dead, and brings disgrace upon the men who have committed in the twentieth century an act that belongs to another epoch.

It is a folly too, for the Bowring have yet to learn that such a foul slap in the face is not going to be suffered meekly by the men of to day, however it might have been borne by our forebears. We publish to-day in this series some words from the writings of that astute and scholarly gentleman, Reverend Philip Tocque. Mr. Tocque was a pretty clear sighted man, and saw the evils of a system that we are endeavouring to crush out. His plain and convincing language bears out the most emphatic way the leading idea of the subject of this article.

**BOWRING BRAVERY MEANS EGOTISM AND COWARDICE
LET THE PEOPLE JUDGE**

"**C**REAT is the voice of the People" —Vox Populi Vox Dei—"The voice of the People is the voice of God." What puny man is it, or what coterie is it, or what circle is it, who will hope to succeed when the great trumpet call of population demands redress?

The public demands and the power to secure is theirs; the public inquires, and the search light of publicity tells to them the truth—the public will have a thing done and it is done. The public looks to the welfare of its weaker brother—and their protection is his refuge. The public will decide the right, and it is right, for the voice of the People is the voice of God.

There is no use in one or two or fifty or a hundred men declaring that a case is as they would have it be, when the great public says "it is wrong, or unjust, or cruel." The axe that a man or a body of men has to grind must be flung aside, and the purpose of its attainment abandoned when the People declare against it.

Power, and wealth and influence and title and the tools of oppression are of no avail to stop the voice of the mighty people when they "we will" or "we will not."

This is the position the public stand in to-day. They are the Judges of Coaker, of Bowring and of Kean. The situation has been made plain to them, every detail of the incident has been placed before them, as it would be placed before a Jury. There has been no hiding of matter, no tampering with facts, no designing insinuation, no disfiguring of a case that bears the significance of horrible truth. Everything has been laid before the general public, in a plain unvarnished fashion, and we ask them to Judge.

We have said that Capt. Abram Kean is not to go to the seafishery this season, and we have shown in the plainest manner why we make that statement.

We have stated facts and figures, which go to prove that this man has been guilty of gross negligence,—gross and horrible in the utmost meaning of the word, because sacred and human life has had to pay for it.

If Capt. Abram Kean had through his neglect lost a billion dollars, or a hundred ships, or ten thousand loads of fat, this contention which we are now waging would trouble us not at all, but Kean by his blundering and neglect in allowing those seamen to leave his ship, has been

guilty of the loss of something far more precious than the wealth of a million worlds.

Do Messrs. Bowring and Munn really understand the enormity of this question? Have they for a single moment given serious consideration to what a human life, a living, breathing, active life of man means? Do they grasp the consequences of the horrible negligence of their employee Kean?

Can they picture for one moment those dying, perishing, crazed creatures of God, throwing their bodies down to die?

Do they realize the terror, and dismay and sorrow and death which cast themselves over the thousands of homes in Newfoundland, when the fatal news went like a voice of destruction throughout the land "Kean has blundered, and our fathers, our sons and our brothers are dead?"

Do they understand this picture—a real one, a sad and tearful one?

Surely the Messrs. Bowring Bros. and Mr. J. S. Munn do not for one moment deny that Capt. Kean did not make a terrible mistake when he allowed those men to leave his ship under the weather circumstances that then existed?

How can any man, or any body of men, excuse Capt. Kean in this matter.

We read of cases every day where captains forfeit their certificates because of mistakes which have carried with them none of the frightful consequences which marked the 1914 seafishery.

Facing this question or "braving" it out as the Bowring people are doing, are not points of courage here, nor is their egotism, or apparent hardihood, a feature to be applauded.

The really brave man is the really merciful and considerate man, and the man who will admit a fault or error is the man who shows the most exalted courage

As already pointed out, this is not a case of Coaker vs. Bowring or Capt. Kean, it is the preservation of human life against chances of Kean's again blundering.

Leave Coaker out of the question altogether, and does the case present a less guilty or unpardonable aspect? Are the facts less obvious, or the awful features of the situation less distinct?

All this must be most distinct and plain to the public view. The straightforward man must admit the Justice of the cause, irrespective of political thoughts, irrespective of personal feelings, irrespective of personal enmity or good feeling,—cause for protestation still exists, and false, and heartless is that man who would say that our contention is wrong.

(To be continued from day to-day).

Mr. R. Hibbs F.P.U. Kelligrews

Asks How Can a Once Honored Firm Descend to Insulting and Ignoring the People

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—Great indignation is expressed on all sides over the outrageous manner in which the once honoured firm of Bowring Bros. are handling the Kean case.

"Whom the gods' wish to destroy they first make mad." We trust those notable words are not applicable to that famous house which forms one of the strongest landmarks in our commercial history.

Can a firm that owes its present prosperity and greatness to the Toilers of this Country, and whose hitherto mutual and reciprocal transactions as between dealer and supplier have been the fundamental basis upon which their business was built and constructed?

Can this firm we ask descend all at once to the process of ignoring, insulting and flaunting the opinion of those thousands who have placed them in the position to own a sealing fleet to-day?

Ignoring and Insulting the People

And all this for what? Simply to uphold the action of the costliest blunderer in this unfortunate Country.

And I venture to predict that if Bowring Bros. are so indiscreet as to insist on adding insult to disaster by this latest move, then they will be butting up against a dangerous problem, namely, the outraged public opinion of ninety per cent. of this Country.

Council Established

May Providence otherwise direct this. I have to report that a Council of the F.P.U. was established at Topsail on Tuesday, 10th inst., and the following are the officers elected.

Chairman, Reginald Hibbs.
Deputy Chairman, John Dawe.
Secretary, John M. Butler.
Treasurer, Alec Squires.
Door Guard, Ed. Smith.

We may look forward to good results from this Council, as its members are composed of the right material and know where their future interest lies.

R. HIBBS.

Kelligrews, Feb. 18, 1915.

[We welcome Topsail Council to our ranks and compliment them on their decision to enroll themselves among the Toilers who are endeavouring to uplift Terra Nova.—Editor.]

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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.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., FEB. 25, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

SOW MORE SEEDS

WE are of the opinion that it is opportune for the Government to bestir themselves to meet the situation arising out of the soaring cost and growing scarcity of food products.

If they have any faith in the farming possibilities of this country, now is their chance to show it, by inducing the people to pay more attention to the raising of garden and farm products. Daily the growing scarcity of farm products and the enhanced price of flour are making themselves felt.

People should be taught the value of every foot of soil that is capable of growing a potato. Let every encouragement and every help be extended to those who may have a plot of ground to sow. Should the war continue for another year, as it is very likely to do, it is just as well, that we meet the situation by an effort to raise whatever roots or grain it is possible for us to raise. We depend too much upon flour, when potatoes should be made more of a staple than it is to-day. Peas and beans should be sown in every corner, for they serve as a very wholesome addition to our daily fare.

Soon we will have the spring and, therefore, it is time that a beginning be made to get the ear of the people, and to impress upon them the desirability of cultivating every inch of spare ground next spring. A little seed dropped here and there and carefully tended will mean much to the country, as it may be made to furnish fresh vegetables for the table through the summer, and many a dollar might be saved that now goes to the purchase of flour.

Nearly every house has a plot of ground in which something could be grown. But the main idea is to get the suburban people and the farmers to put forward an effort to grow just a little bit more, to plant more seeds and to clear more land.

Nobody can tell just how long this war may last. It is just as well then that we look the situation square in the face. We should put forward every effort to raise as much food for ourselves as we possibly can. The more potatoes and turnips and other vegetables we raise, the less flour we

will have to buy, and flour is soaring high just now and likely to go much higher. Should it by any means transpire that our markets be cut off, and our shipping idle, sunk or captured, it would be very comforting to know that we have enough food within our own borders to carry us along.

Flour may reach to ten dollars per barrel or even higher yet. In Canada, the farmers are in a peculiar position just now. On the one hand is the Militia Department saying to the young men, "Enlist, enlist," and on the other hand is the Agricultural Department which tells the young men that they can better serve the Empire by remaining on the farm. And to us this latter is the more sensible argument. War cannot be fought unless the soldiers are fed, and who is to feed them if not the farmers, and non-combatants have a right to be fed as well as the fighters. After all the soldiers cannot go to war unless the producers who do not fight, keep up their producing. The farm hand and the factory hand is doing his share, for he must feed and pay the soldier, as well as clothe him and find him guns and gun-powder.

The soldiers are not doing it all. Millions are being spent on soldiers and guns and powder, while the countless thousands starve at home.

The soldier has something to cheer and urge him on, he has the excitement of the marches and the battles; the dreadful array of mighty hosts, with all their pomp and show. All these things appeal to human nature, and to the normal being are as a stimulus to brave deeds. Now, the people who stay at home have to foot the bills, have to toil and sweat to find powder for the soldiers to explode. The soldier is clothed, fed and transported from place to place at the expense of the people who stay at home.

This being so, and as we are forced to feed and clothe and pay the war-millions, it is the duty of the government to help the people to a better way of providing for themselves, and the armies they are told it is their duty to maintain.

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You Can Help--Also See A Great Show! Come to THE NICKEL--Big Value

Wants To Arrange Tourney

(Editor Mail and Advocate.)

Dear Sir.—A number of followers of the good old English game of billiard's are trying to arrange a series club, and from what I learn, only one or two are holding back arrangements. Such an idea is very popular in the club-rooms at present, and a big patronage is anticipated.

It has been suggested that the British Hall or T. A. Armory would be ideal places for such an event, which would create a great deal of interest and at the same time provide much amusement and also encourage the game in the various halls. I have been requested to drop you those few lines to get the thing going, as I believe nearly every club in the city would be represented. The receipts would be large, and if

donated towards relief of those in need of assistance, would still be greater. In asking you, sir, for your support, I remain,

REST PLEASE.

Famine Threatens Austrian Capital

Vienna, via Rome, Feb. 19.—Vienna is seriously threatened with a bread famine owing to the increasing scarcity of flour. The so-called "war bread" is being sold at 20 cents a pound. Efforts of the Government to keep down the price have proven fruitless.

The price of beef has increased 50 per cent, and is now beyond the reach of the poor, who are threatened with starvation unless the Government intervenes immediately.

Ten Commandments—New Version

Private Andrew W. Dickson, of the 27th Field Butchery, A.S.C., writing from the front to a friend gives an amusing and original version of the soldiers' "ten commandments."

He says—"As I am not allowed to discuss the war, I send you a copy of the soldiers' ten commandments now in use on active service. They are as follows:"—

1. When on guard thou wilt challenge all parties approaching thee.
2. Thou shalt not send any engraving, nor any likeness of any airship in heaven above, or any post card of the earth beneath, nor any drawing of any submarine under the sea, for I the Censor am a jealous Censor, visiting the infidelities of the offenders with three months' C.B., but showing mercy unto thousands by letting their letters go free, who keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not use profane language unless under extraordinary circumstances, such as seeing your comrade shot, or getting petrol in your tea.
4. Remember the soldiers' week consists of seven days. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work, and on the seventh do all the odd jobs.
5. Honour thy King and thy country. Keep your rifle well oiled and shoot straight, that thy days may be long upon the land which the enemy giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not steal thy comrade's kit.
7. Thou shalt not kill (time).
8. Thou shalt not adulterate thy mess tin by using it as a shaving jug, between three representatives of each.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy comrade; but preserve discreet silence on his out-goings and incomings.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy sergeant's post, nor thy corporal's, nor the staff-major's, but do thy duty, and by dint of perseverance rise to the high position of Field-Marshal.

20 Heroes Of Newfoundland Are Asleep in the Deep

BUT THEIR MEMORY SHALL NEVER DIE

"TOLL FOR THE BRAVE—THE BRAVE THAT ARE NO MORE."

The latest reports to hand confirm the dreaded tidings that the Clan MacNaughton, converted British cruiser, has been lost with all hands.

The loss of this ship brings home to Newfoundland, as did the loss of the Viknor, the terrible realities of war. Twenty of our brave men are known to have been among those who went down with the Clan MacNaughton, and to the relatives of these sturdy Sons of Terra Nova, we extend our most heartfelt sympathy.

They died in their glory, in defense of what they regarded as sacred honor, and they have won imperishable fame, and shed lustre on their Island Home, that they never more may see.

How they died whether by an act of the enemy or went down in a tempest is not known. It is likely that one of those secret mines, those deadly instruments of destruction crossed their path and sent them to their sailors' bed of glory deep down among the corals and ooze.

Old ocean will wave her floral wreaths above their quiet resting place, and the winds will sigh along the deep, singing a glorious psalm of praise to the heroes that are gone, and Terra Nova will ever cherish green in the memory a recollection of her brave sons who died in the fight.

Requiescat in Pace.

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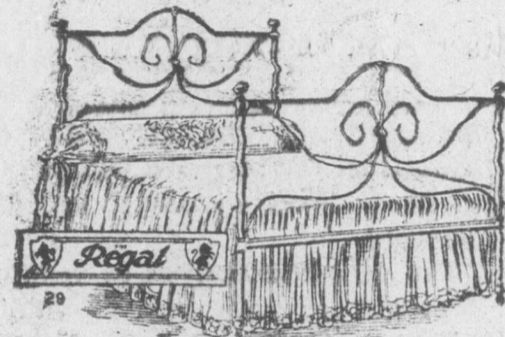
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