The Fishermen's Advocate

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION OF NEWFOUNDLAND

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NOTES OF THE WEEK

By TOBY B.

At last, the day has come for the closing of the House, the ceremony took place, Tuesday afternoon.

* * *

Monroe Toryism is responsible therefore for the longest and the latest session that any of us remember, extending from the end of the sealing season till the beginning of the partridge and rabbit shooting season.

* * *

On Thursday we are likely to have another of those hypocritical editorials from Robinson of the News, congratulating Monroe on the Session's work, but, forgetting of course to remind the readers of that paper that the Honourable John told us in 1924 Monroe would open the House early every year and close it before the Spring.

* * *

But as John Alexander is trying to work his passage in the Executive Council in place of Morine, he will lay the brush on thick now in painting Monroe as an eminent statesman. But if there is no sign of the Tory Government letting in John Alexander, then we need not be surprised to see Robinson, Currie and Puddister getting in the sulks and eventually turning down the Tory Premier.

* * *

Tho' some people think the signs of the times are for a general election this fall there is nothing official to confirm this. The greater likelihood is for a spring electon followed by the reopening of the House in February next, and its closeing about the first of May.

* * *

A surprise was created in the Legislative Council last week when Monroe's cousin, Alderdice the rope-walk magnate, made some strong criticisms on the weak points of the Humber-Gander deals. But, it was the same old story he repeated, as did others who did not like the deals, that he felt he would have to support them rather than be a party go defeat them.

* * *

An astounding revelation in Sir P. McGrath's speech, shows that it was Mr. A. B. Morine, who virtually framed the bill relating to the Humber-Gander deals with him, and that when Morine left the country the wording of the bills as in their present stage was then practically concluded.

* * *

The future only can tell whether they will be a cure-all or a killall for poor old Newfoundland, but, the fact that it was Morine and Patsy McGrath who appear to have dressed up the deals is one that lessens very much the hopes we have that they will turn out favorably for the people at large.

* * *

The Legislative Council made another commotion also over the Buchan's Mine bill by inserting a clause therein that the A.N.D. Co., should make of this "an open town." The Lower House however, threw this out and a dead lock arose which it is hoped to overcome before the House opens this afternoon for its final sitting.

* * *

In the House on Monday night the Speaker, Mr. Cyrl James Fox, came to wordy blows again with the fearless and popular member for Ferryland, Mr. P. J. Cashin.

* * *

The latter had been rebuking the Government over their apparent inability to put through their legislation, without having to submit so much to the dictates of the Upper House, and then declared, because of such impotence, it was their duty to resign.

* * *

The pompous Mr. Fox considered Mr. Cashin was overstepping the rules because of this remark and therefore promptly called him to order. Rather than change the tenor of his remarks, or withdraw them, the latter gentleman rightly stated he would take no further part in that day's proceedings and accordingly left his seat, backed by the approval of all present.

* * *

This was not the first time that Mr. Cyrill ran counter to the popular member for Ferryland this session. But, no one is surprised at the evident soreness of Fox since the electors of St. John's East turned him down in April last and proved to him that as a people's representative he is most lamentably behind hand and therefore only a first class graduated "has been."

* * *

The visions of that night on Bell Island, when, before the miners there, Mr. Cashin trimmed the Tory trio who though they could pull the voters at the last moment, are a nightmare to Monroe, Fox and Walsh since then. Hence it is easy to understand why Cyrill bristles up when his able, popular opponent stands up in the House to deliver his popular speeches, such for instance, as those he delivered on Bell Island, which put Fox to the mat there, and caused him to retreat from Bell Island in the midnight darkness, a beaten and discredited representative of St. John's East.

Two Ships Left of Britain's Once Mighty Sailing Fleet

"Five British sailing ships after the war——"

Along came a storm one day, and then there were four. Thirty years ago when the sailing ships of Great Britain darted over the waves of the seven seas, the red ensign was the most familiar emblem seen on the ships which depended upon wind power. Mightiest of all the sailing fleets in the world was Great Britain's. Englishmen were proud of their sailing fleet; their writers made the "windjammers" the locale in novels; their poets laureate sang about them.

After the Great War there were only five left, and one was wrecked in a storm. People interested in marine matters were talking sorrowfully of "The Last Four." There was a movement in England to get up a fund to preserve the picturesque quartette of sailing vessels, last of the thousand which once skimmed the seas.

"Four British sailing ships skimming the sea——"

One was scrapped, and then there were three. In recent years it had become an increasingly difficult matter for a British sailing ship to secure a profitable freight in face of steamship competition. It was particularly difficult in the Baltic, where windjammers saw the handwriting on the wall. The mariners' club held meetings—something had to be done about it, they said. Every scrap of information about the surviving ships was lovingly recalled and diligently recorded. There were only three left. And the steamships were not without their woes. There was talk of transoceanic air liners, which, in a few years, would undoubtedly be able to carry freight cheaper and quicker and better than steamers. If the steamers should have to compete with the airships, how could the poor old sailing vessels possibly get into the picture?

"Three British sailing ships, journeys almost through——"

One was sold to Norway, and then there were two. One was the William Mitchell, the other the Garth Pool. The Mitchell was one of several windjammers which recently rounded The Horn in what was rumored to be her last journey under the red ensign. Her next trip, it was said (if she ever took another trip), would be under the Finnish flag. The Finnish Hougemont, a steel four-masted barque, had once been British; the Italian Ponape, 2,464 tons, had been British; the Killoran, 1,757 tons, British built, was not Finnish owned.

"Two British sailing ships, their courses almost run——"

If the Mitchell goes to the Finns there'll be only one. When last heard from the Garth Pool was somewhere in the Antipodes, trying to load grain for home. There was a dispute recently between the grain growers and the steamship companies. Pathetically the Garth Pool was trying to stage a come-back—trying to get one more run for its money.

The end is in sight. One by one the windjammers are going. On the high seas today they are curiosities. When the Garth Pool hits port will she ever leave it again? And the clippers of the Finns, the Italians and the Danes—when they wear out—what is to replace them? They are building no more square-riggers.

When the Garth Pool and the William Mitchell are sold or scrapped, it will mean more than the erasure of two names from the British ship registry. That day will mark the end of an era more glorious than any other in Britain's history—the era of sail.

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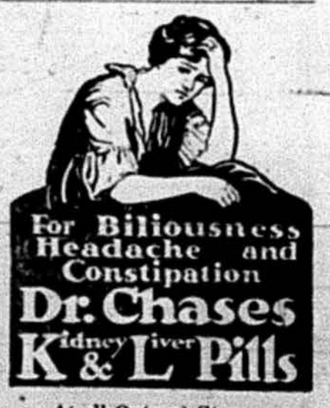

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Dr. Mosdell Delivers Able Speech

Re The Labrador Boundary Awa[illegible]

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Sole Agents for Newfoundland, St. Pierre and Miquelon.

DR. MOSDELL: I cannot see how the Honourable Mr. Cramm and the new Executive Government have gone the Colonial Secretary one better in the course of the debate. I thought that both those honourable gentlemen and a good deal of the Opposition condemned by what they are pleased to term the [illegible] of the licenseholders on Labrador. The honourable the Colonial Secretary's contention was to the effect that these people paid their money for these parcels in good faith. The Honourable Mr. Cramm's contention was that there was perfectly good faith displayed on the part of licenseholders. There are a good many aspects of this subject very puzzling to the average layman, but there is one that I find the most puzzling of them all. It has been shown through the information tabled in this House by the honourable the Minister of Agriculture and Mines that the majority of the leases to Labrador timberlands were issued after the Dickie Controversy at Hamilton Inlet precipitated the dispute between Newfoundland and Quebec as to the ownership of Labrador. Now, how could gentlemen who took out licenses any time after the commencement of that dispute and before its settlement by the Privy Council, intend or expect to carry out the terms of these licenses? These gentlemen made application to the Government of Newfoundland and they obtained their licenses; they specifically undertook to carry out all the provisions of the Crown Lands Act involved, because no alteration was made in the terms or in the engrossed conditions of the licenses. Now, they knew they could not observe the law and they must have hoped to keep their lands illegally. They gambled; they took a long gamble as to the chance on developments and on the attitude of whatever Government happened to be in power when and when a settlement of the dispute in favor of Newfoundland was reached. The point is that they undertook to observe the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, when they knew they couldn't live up to such undertaking. As a matter of fact, they made no attempt. How, then, can it be argued that they took out their licenses and paid their rentals in good faith or that they displayed [illegible] all through the proceedings? I fail to see where the alleged good faith comes in at all, and I suggest that only those predisposed in favour of the licenseholders could find or imagine he had found the slightest trace of it. When the Opposition presented their supplementary Amendment to the Commissioner's [illegible] it provoked from the honourable the Colonial Secretary the indignant declaration that he, [illegible] enough to entertain [illegible] from these people they had [illegible] act of piracy [illegible] was carried out by [illegible] were of the act of extension, undertaken by the Government, is another case of puzzlement to me, as to all intents and purposes, the people have fulfilled the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, why on earth have the Government butted in on their affairs at all? If they were in unlawful possession, why this amazing intrusion of the Government on matters with which the Government had and could have no concern? What inspired the extraordinary intervention of the Executive? Surely there can be but one satisfactory or really comprehensive explanation. These licenseholders did not have a clear title to these Labrador areas; they recognized the fact; they could not dispose of the lands until the Government granted them such a clear title, so they applied to the Government and were accomodated at the expense of Newfoundlanders generally.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to be permitted to reiterate my contention that, instead of pursuing the course they did, the Government should have tested the legal hold of these parties on those extremely valuable Labrador lands. That was their undoubted duty, their obvious duty, and they failed to

(Continued on Page 3)

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Dr. Mosdell Delivers Able Speech

(Continued from page 2)

perform it. What appals us here on the Opposition side of the House is the fact that the Government without making a strenuous and determined effort to oust these timber speculators, without making any effort at all, has calmly acquiesced in the complete and permanent alienation of these areas from possession of their rightful owners, the common people of Newfoundland. The preponderance of public opinion supports me in thinking that there is something mysterious about the displayed anxiety of the Government for the interests of these people and something most peculiar about the action of the Government in preferring the profit of these people above that of Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders generally. After all, if we had taken this milk-and-water, namby-pamby attitude during the course of our years of dispute with Quebec we would have fared badly indeed in our attempts to be confirmed in ownership of the whole of Labrador. Yet, having won a generally great and glorious victory in our battle for the ownership of the whole Labrador territory, we not only calmly agree to the best portion of that territory being wrested from possession and ownership of the people who sarificed and strove for it, but aid and abet private interests to deprive us of the chief portion of the fruits of our victory. It is an astounding position in which the present government has not only acquiesced, but which it has indeed made possible of creation.

My claim, Sir, is that the Opposition Amendment offered a chance to retrive some of the lost territory if not all of it. I regard it as extremely unfortunate that the Government should have decided to throw out that Amendment purely on the technicality that the Opposition is constitutionally incompetent to introduce money bills in this House. The Opposition drew up that Amendment in good faith and with the utmost care, endeavouring not to be tyrannical or oppressive in respect to licenscholders, the while they sought to effect the restoration of the timberlands held by them to the people of Newfoundland. Hence the provision for the return to these people of the total amount of rentals paid, together with interest thereon. The Government could have accepted the rest of the Amendment, if only for purposes of debate, but saw fit to reject the whole, because of the inclusion of a clause which could have been omitted without destroying the general principle or effect of the suite of resolutions.

There is just one other reference which I would like to make to a statement made by an honorable gentleman from the other side of this House. When the Opposition Amendment was brought in the Honorable Mr. Cramm spoke in contradiction of the preamble which stated "it is desirable in the interests of the country" to cancel licenses the terms of which were not fully carried out, and contended it would be "to the eternal detriment of Newfoundland" to adopt any such course. Now, to make such a statement and to prove it are two radically different things. The proof submitted by the Government in respect to ownership of the lands affected is anything but conclusively in favour of those whose licenses are extended or will be extended on application. I contend that, until that has been done and until the Government has shown its good faith in the transaction in which it is now implicated; until in fact, it has established any moral and legal obligation where under is should confer the great favor it has just done private interests on Labrador it must stand discredited. The Government have established no such position; the Government have not proven the utmost was done to protect popular interests and it is to the eternal detriment of that Government that the common people has sustained such a great territorial and financial loss on Labrador.

It strikes me as peculiar, Mr. Chairman, that although Labrador has been confirmed in our legal possession for some months, no arrangement or tentative arrangement has been made by the present Government for a complete and accurate survey of that territory. Until such an undertaking is completed we can, obviously, have no exact knowledge of the natural resources of that area. Until we are in possession of that date, we cannot of course, proceed to fix prices or rates on the territory, either as a whole or in part. If we are to follow the example of Quebec and rate our timberlands to the utmost of their value to the taxpayers of the country, then we must have exact knowledge of what we have to offer and what we ought to charge therefor. This knowledge should be in our possession at latest by next session of the Legislature when the first applications for timberlands and waterpowers will be made under the provisions of this Bill. We have no such knowledge now and we have not taken even the preliminary steps necessary to securing it. The first thing to be done, and that without delay, is to have a survey made of Labrador. The factor of cost is not so great as is commonly imagined nor need the undertaking occupy a very great period of time. Survey methods have been greatly modified and expedited of recent years by the employment of airplanes. Where formerly and by the old ground method, only about fifty square miles could be surveyed per year, aviators make complete and satisfactory surveys of as much as forty thousand square miles per year, which was the record established by the Canadian aerial survey force in 1926. The cost to the Canadian authorities averaged three dollars per square mile. Evidently, then, aviators could survey the whole of the commercially valuable woodlands of Labrador in twelve months and at a total cost of not more than a quarter of a million dollars.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I beg to insist on my contention that the Government should take up the coudgels more aggressively on behalf of the people and against timber speculators on Labrador, who have asked for and are being granted extensions of the period of their licenses. I urge that mineral areas should be surrounded with as ample protection of the public interest therein as is being provided for the timberlands and the waterpowers, that there should be no further delay in making arrangements for an aerial survey so that we may speedily arrive at a proper conception of the extent of our holdings in square miles and the value thereof, either on a basis of outright sale of the territory or of annual rentals and royalties for portions thereof.

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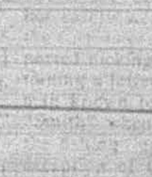

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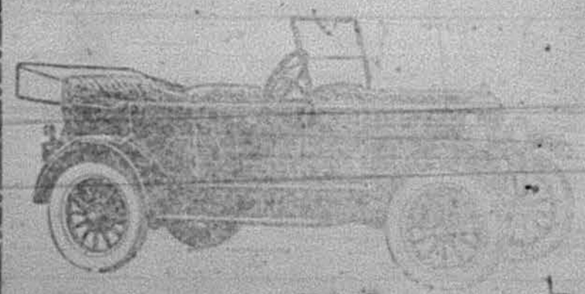

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Football Match

A return football match between Port Union—Catalina and Bonavista, was played on Snelgrove's field, Catalina, the results being a win for the former by 2 to 0. The winning team were:—

Goal, R. Russell, Back, H. Russell, F. Harnum, Halves, N. Harnum, T. Rose, V. Russell; Forwards, M. Sheppard, D. Bursey, W. F. Webber, G. Davis, W. E. Woolgar, (Captain), Dr Baggs, Catalina, Manager.

This gave even matters between these two teams, each having a win to their credit. Next year will likely see some spirited games, but it is hoped an early start in the season will be made. Well merited praise is due to Rev. G. L. Mercer, Methodist Minister, and his willing lady helpers, in providing the sumptuous repast for the visiting team and the home boy's.

The days event was brought to a close by a dance in the C. of E. Parish Hall, Catalina, which was throughly enjoyed by all present.

The Bonavista team left for home by motor cars at midnight.

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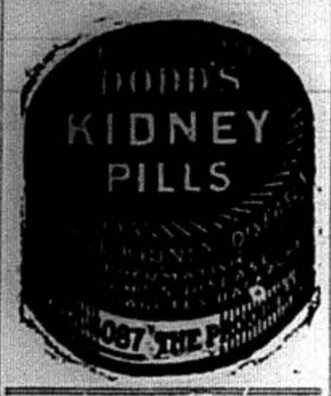

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D. White	1.00
Thomas King	50
S. W. Mifflin	2.00

NOTE OF THANKS

We hereby thank all those who in any way helped or assisted us in our recent bereavement and sorrow.

NELSON BROWN,
Port Union, Sept. 8, 1927.

The Delphic oracle said I was the wisest of all the Greeks. It is because that I alone, of all the Greeks, know that I know nothing.—Socrates.

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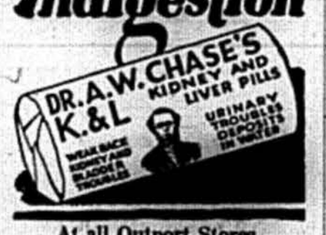

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Davis & Lawrence Co. Prop. Montreal.

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OBITUARY

SOLOMON CLOUTER

At Catalina on Sunday, August 14th, there passed peacefully away to the Great Beyond Solomon Clouter; having reached his 80th year, just two weeks previous. He was active and smart until August 11th, when he was taken very ill, Dr. Baggs was called and everything possible was done for him. Left to mourn the loss of a kind and loving father are, six sons—Gilbert at Toronto, Allan, Robert, Lionel and Theo. at Elizabeth, N.J., and John W. at Catalina, his wife having predeceased him twelve years ago. He was laid to rest in the United Church Cemetery attended by a large number of friends and relatives and also by members of the L.O.A. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Geo. L. Mercer who preached a very effective sermon, taking for his text, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

I shall see them again in the light
of the morning,
When the night has passed with
its tears and its mourning.
Where the light of God's love is
the sun ever shining;
In the land where the weary ones
Rest.
I shall know them again though
ten thousand surround them;
I shall hear their dear voice,
mid the blessed ones round
them;
And the love that was their's on
the earth shall direct them
In the land where the weary ones
rest.
Would I wish for them back from
ther bringht home in Heaven?
No! in patience I'll wait till the veil
shall be riven.
And the Saviour restores me
the friends he has giveyn,
In the land where the weary ones
rest.

ONE WHO KNEW HIM
Catalina, August 28th, 1927.

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M. S. POWER, D.D.S.
(Graduate of Philadelphia Dental College.)

"How long will thou sleep, O Sluggard?
When wilt thou rise out of thy sleep?"
Proverbs vi. 9

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