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Last Night's Public Meeting

Of Citizens--Passing of Resolutions Establishing a Permanent Sealers' Disasters Fund to Relieve the Dis- tressed--Liberal Offer From the Dominion.

Last night at the Supreme Court Chamber a large, representative and public spirited gathering of citizens met to take prompt and practical steps for the relief of the distressed in connection with sealing disasters. The meeting was opened by Sheriff Carter who said that not since the introduction of the sealing industry there never had been a tragedy so appalling and one that has caused such intense suffering and affliction. It is beyond contemplation to say that eighty of Newfoundland's most ablest sons, full of life and vigour, should be swept away by the terrible blizzard that overcame them at the ice fields. We are now brought face to face with fatherless, brotherless widows and orphans in their affliction and it is our bounden duty, as well as it is our privilege, to do all we can to assist and provide for their sustenance.

His Excellency Sir William Howard, administrator, who acted as chairman, followed, intimating that the terms of the notice, convening the meeting were comprehensive, "to consider what provision can be made for the families of those who have lost their lives during the present season's sealfishery." It might be objected that we do not know the full extent of loss of life and that that may be regarded at the present time as undetermined. There was still a possibility of hope from the sea, however faint. But that was a question that everyone has to form his own judgment on, but we are asked to consult ourselves on the circumstances as they present themselves to us to-day.

—the cry of widows and fatherless that are heard all over the land. That was the purpose of the meeting and promptitude was essential, as "relief quickly given is of double value." He then read the following message received from England:—

To Officers Administering the Government, St. John's:—
Sir Edward Morris and I have arranged to open a fund in London for the benefit of the sufferers from the disaster on the ice. We publish tomorrow a signed appeal in the London Times and Daily Mail. Lord Northcliffe, whom we have seen, has already subscribed five thousand dollars. The Governor subscribes five hundred. We suggest St. John's Committee should make known to representative friends in centres such as New York, Boston and Montreal, that an appeal has been made in England, and invite their co-operation and ask them to take such action as may commend itself to them.

DAVIDSON.
He also read a message from Hon. George Knowling, accompanied by a donation of \$1000.00 towards the fund.

His Lordship the Bishop of New-

foundland in rising to move the first resolution said it required no words of his to make it commendable or acceptable. We are here together not for the purpose of making or hearing speeches; but for action. There is no need to dwell upon the harrowing details of the sad tragedy. Every newspaper has given expression to the grief and sympathy of the whole community; from every pulpit the solemn lessons from this mournful event have been expounded and enforced, sufficient to say that we are face to face with the greatest disaster known within the memory of man. Last week we thought we knew the worst, but we cannot conceal that if our worst fears are realized that the extent of the disaster will be trebled and we shall be called to mourn the loss of well nigh 250 brave men instead of 77. Our hearts go out to those who are agonizing suspense and who are abandoning hope of ever seeing dear ones again in this world. There is truth in the saying that "there is hope from the ocean." God grant that it may be so in the case of the Southern Cross, but the very possibility that a still greater calamity than that of the Newfoundland is hanging over us should increase the duty for which we are met to discharge. At the magnificent enquiry when all the facts will be investigated and the just conclusion will be drawn wisely, faithfully and truthfully. We are here to consider what provision can be made for those parents, wives and little children whose breadwinners have been so suddenly snatched from them. His Lordship was confident that the appeal that would go forth from the assemblage would meet with a liberal and ready response from every corner of the Island. To this end we have already received the most generous encouragement from those outside our own borders. Messages of sympathy and promises of financial assistance are pouring in, not only from the Mother Country, but from quarters of the Globe as far distant as Canada, Australia, and British East Africa; and I doubt not that as time goes on and the full extent of our trouble is realized, we may expect the same from almost every part of the British Empire. It is, therefore, with complete assurance and hopefulness that I submit the Resolution which has been entrusted to me and which I will read:—

RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS Disasters, unprecedented in its magnitude, has plunged the whole Island of Newfoundland into mourning, leaving heart-breaking and suffering in many a home, from which husband, father, brothers and sons, beloved, have been suddenly taken, whilst many widows, little ones and dependents are left insufficiently pro-

vided for, and without apparent means of support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by this meeting of the Citizens of St. John's that a Relief Fund be established forthwith to meet the needs of the sufferers and that the co-operation of residents in every section of the Island and of Newfoundlanders and friends of the Colony abroad, be solicited with a view to lessening the arduous of those who have been thus called upon to suffer through the loss of the Bread-Winners.

MGR. ROCHE.

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. Roche said. — In rising to support the resolution to which I have been asked to speak this evening, before addressing myself directly to the subject matter of the resolution I desire to associate myself fully and cordially with the expressions of sympathy and sorrow that have fallen from the lips of the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, with reference to the great affliction that has come to the Colony and its people. Although I take it that the main object of the meeting is a practical one—to meet a grave emergency that affects large numbers of the people—still, it is right and fitting that the element of sympathy—the sentimentality of the moment—should not be altogether absent. It is little to say that this great catastrophe has moved to its depths the heart of Newfoundland, and has evoked all its warm and generous sympathy. That the sympathy of the community is deep and mutual is evident from the large and representative character of the meeting assembled here this evening. We have come here this evening irrespective of class or creed, impelled by a common sense of duty, inspired by a common sympathy, united in a common sorrow, and, I have no doubt,

determined by a common effort, to alleviate, as far as at least as it is humanly possible to do so, the misery and unhappiness and distress which must inevitably follow in the train of this great calamity. Newfoundland to-day is stricken with grief, prostrate with sorrow. She is mourning the loss of well over four score of her stalwart sons, who have gone down to their death in circumstances too horrible to contemplate. Unhappily, in our Colonial history, we are only too familiar with ocean horrors, with marine tragedies of all kinds, great and small. They have been of frequent occurrence in our history, and in the nature of the case, they must be of frequent occurrence, owing to the hazardous and perilous nature of the avocations of the majority of our people. Our fishermen around our coasts have to battle with the billows for a livelihood; they have to win their wage on the bosom of the deep. And year by year do the relentless waves exact from our people their ghastly toll; year by year too many of our brave and hardy fishermen go down to the sea in ships, but return to their homes no more. There is not a cove, or hamlet, or village around our storm-swept coasts, that has not paid, and many of them many times over, their terrible tribute to the demands of the deep. But the catastrophe that now throws a gloom over the whole Island is without precedent, without parallel. I do not merely say without parallel in our local annals, but I venture to say without parallel in the annals of any sea-faring, any maritime people. If our worst anticipations are realized, it will mean the decimation of the best manhood of our Colony; and it will mean between two and three hundred of Terra Nova's brave sons, one in every thousand of our population, and every one of them a bread winner and a wage-earner, have been stricken down by one fell and fatal blow. It will mean a drain on the best blood of the Colony, which we can ill afford to stand; it is not surprising that the sympathy of the world has gone out to our stricken Colony during these days of sorrow and distress. We are this evening to face the consequences and the results of the dreadful calamity. There are many sad homes, many aching hearts, many impoverished homes to-day throughout the length and breadth of the land. The widows and the orphans and the other dependents of those who have gone to their doom in this disaster are now a sacred charge on the people of Newfoundland. I do not say a charge on the charity merely, but on their sense of justice and right. The intrepid sealers who perished on the frozen floes, were as truly doing the work of the Colony as they were winning bread for their loved ones at home. And as they died in the Colony's work, Newfoundland is bound to take her care in keeping the stricken and bereaved ones they have left behind. The Colony and its people are bound to see to it that their irreparable loss is minimized to the least degree; that they are put beyond the possibility of poverty or want; that the number of their orphaned children be not debared from the benefits of education by this terrible accident that has deprived them of their natural protectors. This is the obligation and the responsibility that the Colony and its people are face to face with to-day, and that Newfoundland will willingly recognize, and gladly accept the responsibility there

can be no shadow of doubt. In every emergency of a similar nature this has arisen our people have always made ample provision for the dependents of those who have been lost. We have had at least four gigantic marine disasters within the last fifteen or sixteen years. In every case the sympathy of the people was enlisted, and their assistance was given—I will not say freely and generously, but even super-abundantly. Any I have no doubt that the appeal that will go forth as the result of this meeting will meet with a response proportionate to, and commensurate with, the magnitude of the occasion that calls it forth.

The resolution was then put by the Chairman and unanimously adopted. Hon. J. R. Bennett, acting Premier, was the next speaker. He was in deep sympathy with the movement and hoped something would be done for the distressed. He then read the following telegram from the Premier of Canada and moved the second resolution:—

Ottawa, April 7.

Hon. J. R. Bennett,
Acting Prime Minister,
St. John's.

With the consent of your Government I propose submitting to Parliament an appropriation in aid of the families of those lost in the recent calamity, and of the survivors. Kindly let me know whether your Government will approve. I hope you have news of the Southern Cross.

R. L. BORDEN.

[The following reply has since been sent to the Canadian Premier:—
St. John's, April 8, '14.
Right Hon. R. L. Borden.

Ottawa.
Have submitted your message to Ministers who greatly appreciate the practical expression of sympathy from the Government of your great Dominion. Government and people here will gratefully accept such contribution as you may offer in behalf of the sufferers by the sealing disaster. Regret that up to the present no tidings have been received of Southern Cross, but search is still being prosecuted by two steamers.

JOHN R. BENNETT.

Acting Prime Minister.]

BE IT RESOLVED—That the collection and distribution of this Fund be left in the hands of a Committee to be appointed by His Excellency the Administrator, and that the said Committee shall be further empowered to establish another and permanent Fund for the relief of sufferers from Marine Disasters in Newfoundland, to organize Branch Committees throughout the Island, to collect funds from year to year with this object in view and to seek such charters from the Legislature of the Colony as may be deemed necessary or advisable.

The resolution was unanimously adopted. Mr. James M. Keen, M.C., leader of the Opposition, in seconding this Resolution thought an appeal for support was unnecessary as the whole country was ready and willing to render aid because of this terrible disaster, whilst the heart of the wider world throbbed in sympathy. The resolution contains a proposal that a committee be appointed for the purpose of collecting and distributing a fund for the relief of those upon whom the heavy burden of this disaster will fall.

Mr. John S. Mann, President of the Board of Trade, said that while the primary object of the meeting was to

arrange for the collection of a fund, it was necessary to have all our seamen protected, and in this connection a permanent fund was imperative. The chief reason of a permanent fund was to meet any deficit that would be liable to crop up after 12 or 5 years. He then moved the following resolution:—

BE IT RESOLVED—That sufferers through the loss of the schooners Grand Falls and 'Checkers', or through any disaster at sea which may hereafter occur, may be the beneficiaries of such permanent fund as which any surplus from the former Sealers' Fund may be devoted after the expiration of 15 years and from which any deficiency in the amount received for distribution to sufferers from the Sealing Disaster may be made good.

Hon. John Harris, President of the Legislative Council, in seconding the resolution endorsed all that had been said.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

VOTE OF THANKS.

The Rev. Dr. Cowperthwaite eloquently proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. William Horwood for presiding at the meeting. Touchingly and impressively he dwelt briefly on the awful disaster and, said it seemed to him that these brave men had died as martyrs to the industrial conditions of the land in which they lived. The calamity had thrown gloom over the land and hearts went out in tenderness to the bereaved families who have suffered an irrevocable loss, and he hoped every one would help by contributing to this fund now opened. Deputy Mayor Martin, in fitting terms, seconded the vote of thanks. The city grieved for those lost at the sealfishery and he had no doubt that all would do their utmost for the relief of the distressed.

After the vote was acknowledged by the chairman, the meeting closed.

RELIEF COMMITTEE.

The Administrator has nominated the following gentlemen to serve as a Committee to give effect to the Resolutions adopted at the public meeting held at the Court House last evening: The Judges of the Supreme Court, The Bishop of Newfoundland, the Members of the Executive Council, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the President of the Legislative Council, Monsignor Roche, V.G., Rev. Dr. Cowperthwaite, the Mayor of St. John's, Hon. John Harvey, Hon. W. C. Job, Hon. J. A. Robinson, Hon. P. T. McGrath, the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, the President of the Board of Trade, R. H. Anderson, Esq., P. W. Ayre, Esq., David Baird, Esq., Eric Bowring, Esq., John Browning, Esq., Sheriff Carter, H. E. Cowan, Esq., W. H. Crowdy, Esq., Ed. Dawe, Esq., Geo. Davey, Esq., M. A. Devine, Esq., Dr. Fraser, A. C. Goodridge, Esq., W. H. Goodland, Esq., E. M. Jackman, Esq., R. E. Goodridge, Esq., Gerald Harvey, Esq., J. C. Hayburn, Esq., R. Herwood, Esq., P. Knowling, Esq., S. H. Logan, Esq., A. Macpherson, Esq., C. Marshall, Esq., Dr. Macpherson, Brigadier Morehen, James Monroe, Esq., A. Montgomerie, Esq., Dr. McDowell, W. S. Monroe, Esq., H. Ouseybridge, Esq., J. A. Paddon, Esq., James Parker, Esq., J. C. Paddison, Esq., H. D. Reid, Esq., A. S. Rendell, Esq., George Shea, Esq., R. C. Smith, Esq., Hon. R. Watson, Gordon Winter, Esq.

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Sealers' Disaster Fund.

Any amount sent to this office for the above fund will be acknowledged daily.

The Evening Telegram \$500
R. C. Russell \$500
Wanderers' Baseball Club \$250
W. G. Dryer \$500
Associate Class, Meth. College \$500
Frank Seymour \$500
Robert Mercer \$500
Wesley Church Bible Class \$500
J. T. Johnston, W. B. Lawrence \$500
Terra Nova Investment Club \$500
Joseph J. Long \$500
J. Wellman \$500
"Theobald" Relief Fund, per Rev. Dr. Curtis \$22.50
Mrs. Geo. Neal \$2000
Wm. R. Neal \$1000
Mrs. W. R. Oke \$500
Mrs. J. C. Oke \$500
H. R. Oke \$100
Mills & Co. \$100
Margaret Ida Hall \$250
Capt. Axford \$250
Richard Morris \$1000
"Theobald" Relief Fund, per Rev. Dr. Curtis \$22.50
Gower St. Pinner Mission Circle \$100
P. Suzor, French Consul \$100
W. J. Pike \$500
St. U. F. No. 5 \$500
Truckmen's Union \$500
Ernest Hamlyn \$500
C. A. Ellis and family \$500
G. S. Marshall \$500
W. J. Redstone \$500
W. H. Parsons \$500
A. W. Miller \$500
J. M. Walsh \$500
R. K. Oke \$500
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C. Mander \$500
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C. Quick \$500
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W. Martin \$500
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M. Fleming \$500
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A. Rice \$500
J. Fowles \$500
P. Whittle \$500
Miss Gallsinaw \$500
Miss Kavanagh \$500
Miss Murray \$500
Miss Alyward \$500
Miss Walsh \$500
Miss English \$500
Miss Roll \$500
Miss Sparks \$500

SOCIETY UNITED FISHERMEN.

St. John's Lodge, No. 5.
St. John's, N.F., April 8, '14.
Editor Evening Telegram.
Dear Sir.—At the meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 5, S.U.F., held last night, a vote of deprecate sympathy passed to the families of the brave men who lost their lives in the late sealing disaster. Also the sum of fifty dollars towards the Marine Disaster Fund.

WM. R. SMITH, Parser.

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for signature of E. W. GROVE, Cures
a Cold in One Day. 25c. —April 8, '14.

St. John's, April 8, 1914.

Macintosh's Investment Review

—for April contains a two page sketch of the Sherbrooke Railway & Power Company's progress; a three page article on the Eastern Car Company's mammoth plant; a summary of the Maritime Mail Company's annual report for 1913, and a four page review of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company's evolution from a modest riverside forge to its present huge proportions.

—As an "afterthought" we included at the end five pages of helpful investment suggestions. Altogether it is a very readable little magazine. Put this ad. to your letter and a copy will go to you instantly.

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25 Cases Valen
10 Cases Lemon
150 Sacks Sote

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