

THE FIGHTING TRIO

Higgins, Vinnicombe and Fox the Choice for St. John's East.

Most Inspiring Meeting in History of District --- Monster Audience Acclaim Popular Selection --- Tremendous Ovation Accorded Prime Minister --- The Premier's Liberal District Holds to its Traditions --- True Blue Higgins, Popular Vinnicombe and Eloquent Fox the Winning Team --- No Reform Candidates Need Apply.

Last night's meeting of the Liberal Progressive Party in the C.C.C. Hall for the selection of candidates for the District of St. John's East, was a revelation. Intended at the outset only as a committee meeting, the multitudes present warranted the change from committee to general, and consequently it was changed in- to such. The speaker, C.C.C. Hall was thronged and the lowest estimate of 700 voters is a conservative one. All classes were represented—not a man from either was absent, and had it not been for several steamers in port discharging cargoes, the working men's attendance would have increased the gathering to at least a thousand. St. John's East always enjoyed the reputation of being enthusiastic wherever addressed by Liberal candidates but last night it certainly smashed all previous records. Never before in its political history, did it present such a united front against a common enemy—in this instance the Squires-Coaker combination—or evidence such stern resolution to send back to the House of Assembly the candidates of the popular and progressive party. Influential men, of both the Liberal and People's Party were present, all having mutually made up their mind that the Liberal Progressive Party, led by Sir Michael Cashin, is the real heir of the one-time powerful Liberal organization that swept the country in a succession of victories.

The gathering was a magnificent testimony to the district's desire for clean, honest government, and its espousal of the cause of the Liberal Progressive Party is a sure index of Newfoundland obtaining "government by the people, for the people, and of the people." St. John's East has ever been faithful to Liberalism, and its endorsement of the Liberal candidates, Messrs. Higgins, Vinnicombe and Fox sets the standard for the ideal successors of that powerful cause. As Liberals they are ready and willing to follow the banner of Sir Michael Cashin, himself a Liberal of 27 years' political standing, and one who because of his association with such great Liberal chieftains as the late Sir William Whiteway and Sir Robert Bond, is eminently fitted to carry on the policy which the lamented death of the one and the regretted retirement of the other, stopped for a while, but which is now to be continued.

Shortly after 8 o'clock the meeting was called to order by Hon. W. J. Higgins, who asked that a Chairman and Secretary be appointed. On motion of Mr. Roland Morris, son of Deputy Mayor I. C. Morris, seconded by Mr. W. E. Brophy, a prominent young business man of Holytown, Mr. Arthur Hiscock was appointed Chairman, and on the latter's motion, Mr. Jonas Barter was selected as Secretary by acclamation. The purpose of the meeting, which was to nominate three candidates in the interests of the Liberal Progressive Party for the District of St. John's East, was announced by the Chairman, who on looking round, he said, was reminded of a gathering in the British Hall six years ago, similarly called and constituted. Many faces in the gathering were familiar and he felt the response given then in support of the men nominated to represent the district would be duplicated at the present meeting. As on the previous occasion he wished to ask that the coming campaign be conducted on clean lines and devoid of personalities, because on winning along these lines there would be greater pride in being victorious, as Messrs. Higgins, Vinnicombe and Fox were bound to be. His remarks were received with hearty applause, and he then called for the nomination of those considered best fitted to represent the "old and important district of St. John's East in the interests of the Liberal Progressive Party. The proposer of Messrs. Higgins, Vinnicombe and Fox was Mr. Jas. P. Crotty, whose activities as a Liberal in the past are known to all in the district. Now,

he said, that the old Liberal Party has been replaced by one led by Hon. Sir M. P. Cashin, and which lived nearer to the ideals which the title Liberal stands for than any other bunch using that name, he had no hesitation whatever in supporting it. It dated only a short time back and should not be confounded with other administrations. He paid a tribute to the manner in which the business of the district had been carried on by only one representative, Hon. W. J. Higgins, during the last few years, and had great pleasure in nominating him and his colleagues. He trusted and firmly believed the Liberal Progressive Party would be recognized and supported as it should and would be. Judging by what had been done since Sir M. P. Cashin had taken up the leadership a few months ago, the Party was the one for St. John's East and was bound to win. The nomination was seconded in a brief but enthusiastic address by Mr. A. Snow, a leading fisherman of Quidi Vidi, who was present in uniform, having only quite recently returned from the front and who is still suffering from the injuries received while playing his part in the big game, as he has always played it at home, both as an ordinary citizen and sportsman, notably on the pond. The gathering was then asked by the Chairman to show its approval of the nomination by standing, whereupon the assembly rose as one man and at the call of ex-Serjt. J. Robinson, a prominent member of the G.W.V.A., cheered till the rafters shook. Three cheers and a tiger were again given at the call of the Chairman, who then asked Hon. Mr. Higgins to address the meeting.

In opening the leader of the East End team Hon. W. J. Higgins, took the opportunity to express his pleasure and sincere appreciation at the honor conferred on him and his colleagues in being nominated. Six years ago he had gone to the district and the electors had done him the honor of making him their representative. In the interim, Mr. John Dwyer, a man of sterling worth and a true representative of the best district in the country, had been called to his reward. To his memory he paid a high tribute. The Hon. Mr. Kent stood for all that the Liberal Progressive Party represents and his name would linger in the district for many years to come. He could sincerely say he was deeply sensible of the work Mr. Kent had done and his colleagues had done and as the only survivor of the trio elected a few years ago, was not ashamed to stand and be nominated by Mr. Crotty, who had been actively opposed to him at that time. He was further proud to be seconded by Mr. Snow, a fisherman of Quidi Vidi, who had returned from service in behalf of the Empire, wounded, after doing a man's job. Surely this was a good augury of what was to follow. This was really the christening of the child, the Liberal Progressive Party, born the previous night at the meeting of the West End Committee in the T. A. Armoury. It had grown to be a lusty boy overnight. The organizing meeting had grown to be practically a public one over a child 24 hours old, and as the meeting indicated, this child would prove the healthiest ever reared in St. John's East. The father of it, Sir M. P. Cashin, is the type of man we all feel we can give a chance to. All had assembled under his leadership to form the new Party and all shades of opinion had been brought together because the man in charge was the one found stroke to win. The makeup of the crew did not matter so much, all depends on the stroke, and Sir M. P. Cashin is the man who can stroke to victory. It was a happy augury that the name selected was one that appealed to all. This Party does not talk of reforms but of the principles of Liberalism, of the policy of "Whiteway and progress" and had taken up the motto on a new trip for Cashin and advancement. He appreciated fully the honor of being nominated to lead a team which would go through to victory because it was able to. He was privileged to be as-

sociated with Messrs. Vinnicombe and Fox, who were too well known to need any introduction from him and to be one of the youngest team to face any district. By the time they were through, however, they would roll up a vote that would stand as a record for years, a vote that would show how the electors had come out and shown how they valued the traditions of their district. He predicted a bumper vote both in and outside the city, and a substantial majority for himself and colleagues. In introducing Messrs. Vinnicombe and Fox, he referred to the associations of both and of their families with the district, his remarks calling forth hearty cheers. He would not touch upon the Party programme, as it was to be made known by the leader in a few days, but was assured it would meet with the approval of all. It was one that was to be expected from such a leader, in whom the attendance indicated widespread confidence. It was only fair to remember that Sir M. P. Cashin had only started to form his party a few months ago and that he could not, therefore, be held responsible for deeds of administrations in years past. St. John's East could take him by his character and the respect shown him in his native district which had returned him for 27 consecutive years to the Legislature. If he was good enough for Ferryland for such a period, he was worthy of a trial here. Continuing, Mr. Higgins said there is no division as to principles in the Liberal Progressive Party, which is under only one leader and not party under several, as are their opponents. He looked forward to this one reason, their confidence in the result of the election. As far as the campaign was concerned, no personal word would be said against opponents, as all had a right to their opinions, he had colleagues who would conduct the fight in a manner worthy of themselves, their supporters and the district. The Party was under the unquestioned leadership of Sir Michael Cashin, who was a man of high standing and whose name was a happy augury, as so sure as the sun shines the house divided against itself must fall. The Party must be judged by its manifesto and taking the record of the leader, it was such as must justify confidence in him by all. Again take the record of the Party since its formation a few months ago and watch how it is shaping. State servants who deserved better pay have received an increase, and this is but an instance typical of the courage and bigness of the man who is of the type that all realize will be needed in the future. In scathing terms Mr. Higgins dealt with the worn-out cries of blue ruin and the catch cries, which are but an insult to the intelligence of the electorate. The Progressive Party appeals to the reason and common sense of the voters, and do not expect their support through a call to prejudices. They want the votes of the people not because of the personnel of the party or team, but because they can put forward arguments and policy that will appeal to reason, and prove that the Liberal Progressive Party is the one most likely to do the best for the country. He appealed for the straight ticket vote, and expected himself and colleagues to get them on the merits of their policy. Continuing, he dealt with the cries raised at every election time as to the country being headed for the rocks of disaster and showed that such had always been proven false, and then went on to show that except for the irreparable loss of our brightest manhood, Newfoundland was better fitted to face the ensuing problems than any other country engaged in the great struggle. Never was there greater prosperity in the country, and in Sir M. P. Cashin we have the man to grapple with adversity if it arises. He compared the conditions of 20 years ago to those existing at present, and showed that whereas in the past we depended on practically one industry, the fishery, our future prosperity lies in developing our other resources, if we are all to live here, our hope for ourselves and children is in greater opportunities for work. Sir M. P. Cashin

is not the one to bank at progress, and will give the country and people the chance to advance in every way. For himself and colleagues he promised to work in a way worthy of those on the East End Committee, and live up to the best traditions of the district. The watchword, he said, would be: "The Straight Ticket and a clean fight," because the fight was for a clean party and leader who had nothing to be ashamed of in any way. As Mr. Higgins took his seat, cheers were given for him, his colleagues and the Party, the applause lasting several minutes.

Mr. N. J. Vinnicombe being introduced by the Chairman, took the floor amidst the wildest enthusiasm. The outburst was as generous as it was sincere, and a complete demonstration of the popularity of Mr. Vinnicombe. After the applause had subsided, Mr. Vinnicombe delivered a very practical and honest address. He explained his position as an opponent of the senior member of the ticket in the 1913 election. He was then a follower of Sir Robert Bond, but he was not prepared to see Sir Robert's position stolen by a usurper, who had styled his party the Liberal-Reform Association. What did we Liberals of the East End do, said Mr. Vinnicombe, that necessitated this scrap crew to make an attempt to reform us? It is an insult to the intelligence of the grand old Liberal voters of St. John's East, and one that we greatly resent. Why, said Mr. Vinnicombe, there is not a Liberal among the whole Squires-Coaker combination. The answer to this was the presence of hundreds of the Liberals who supported Kent, Shea and Dwyer in the last campaign, who would not be calumniated or bullied by the lightning change artists of the Squires-Coaker combine. He was a Liberal first, last and always, but there was not the slightest tinge of Liberalism in the gang that were posing as opponents of the Liberal Progressive Party. Someone had mentioned in the street during the day that he would be a poor friend of the workingman. But he wanted to point out that he was always their friend, and if there was any doubt about it, for his opponents, to make a canvas of the district and just see where he fitted in. Politics with him was a matter of sincere concern, and if he believed that the Liberal Progressive Party had not the interests of the people at heart, he would be one of their strongest opponents. In Sir Michael Cashin the country had a leader that was honest, sincere, and with a following behind him that represented the best intellect of the country. They were men of probity and high standing, representatives of every walk of life, fitted to assume the responsibility of carrying on the work of the country when only men of big and broad views should be at the head of public affairs. Personally he was in the fight to a finish. He would not slack up until the last ballot was polled, and he had no doubt that when the returning officer made his announcement, that Higgins, Vinnicombe and Fox would have the biggest majority ever recorded in St. John's East. In conclusion, he asked for a strict party vote. Personally, he did not believe the fight was to be decided by the Squires-Coaker combine and elect the Liberal Progressive Party.

Mr. C. J. Fox, an orator, who can thrill his audience, followed Mr. Vinnicombe, and spoke in part: I am sensible of the compliment that has been paid me in receiving nomination at your hands to-night; and I sincerely appreciate the honor that you have conferred on me. I accept nomination not merely because it represents the necessary initial step in the course that now lies before me, but because it means to me beginning public life under a leader I admire, with colleagues I respect, and in a district whose political traditions have been and will continue to be to me objects of veneration and affection. So firmly am I imbued with the latter idea that I can truthfully say that if political ambition ever stirred within me, it was never with the thought that I would enter the public life of this Colony otherwise than through the portals of St. John's East. Therefore, I stand before you this evening on the brink of whatever political career the future may hold for me, in the proud possession of three essentials, without which I would have never entered the present contest, namely, a leader to whom I may look up; colleagues upon whom I may depend, and a district whose lofty ideals may well serve as the highest incentives to the finest effort a man may put forth in his country's cause. And the complement to these vigorous forces is what?—the co-operation of a loyal and enthusiastic committee. And surely as we look around to-night we are safe in saying that our most bitter enemy must admit that within these walls we have found that committee. This brings me to the very pleasant duty of thanking you for your attendance this evening. Believe me, gentlemen, when I say that I am at a loss to adequately express my gratitude to you. This is the first time in my life that I have been prominently identified with a political meeting; and I must confess that I am deeply touched by the evidences of goodwill and support I see around me. Do you realize the magnificent spur it is to a man's endeavor to know that he has the support of his friends in the task to which he has set his hand? Do you realize the feeling of

supreme confidence it gives a man to hear behind him as he marches, the tramp of loyal supporters? Do you realize the feeling of security it gives a man to know that surrounding him on all sides are men determined and enthusiastic in the cause that he is espousing? Do you realize the spirit of victory it engenders in a man to see extending on either side of him a solid phalanx of men indomitable in their resolution to win? Do you realize the deep and abiding sense of gratitude the recognition of these factors towards success awakens in a man towards those whose co-operation and assistance are thus made manifest? If you do, then, Sirs, you have some idea of my feelings towards you to-night. I can say no more, except once again to assure you of my heartfelt appreciation of your goodness. It is proper that I should tell you why I decided to enter politics, and in particular why I decided to join the administration of Sir Michael Cashin. In the first place, I regard it as a man's duty to do his share in the public service of his country. The part he may be called upon to play may be great or small dependent upon the abilities he possesses, and the opportunities he may have of exercising them. But provided he is of ordinary intelligence, is inspired by worthy motives, honestly feels that he can be of some assistance in the public interest according to the talents God has given him, and the call for his service comes, then, Sirs, I say that his covetousness of citizenship blinds him to no principle. If a man should think seriously and well before he disregards that duty and declines that honor, for honor 'tis on the principle that no greater tribute could be paid a man than to be asked to take part in the deliberations of the councils of his country. Upon the doctrine of service rests the foundation of our social structure. If it were otherwise and men were at liberty to seek their own individual, selfish pursuits, and shirk responsibility of public life, the machinery of government would stop, conditions become chaotic and human society cease to exist. But fortunately inbred in most men is the desire to justify their own existence and add their quota to the public service; and thus are honourable men induced to take up public life. It does not follow that because a man decides to enter public life, he thereby dubs himself a self-confessed egotist, boastful of his talents, but smugly content to allow his country to use them; or that he fondly imagines that he has a Heaven-sent mission to save his country and is heroically prepared to take up the task. No! There is nothing either egotistical or heroic about it. It is simply the decent desire of a decent man to fit into whatever niche of usefulness his country thinks that he can fill in the public interest. That, briefly, is my position. The opportunity came for me to enter public life, and I availed of it on principle. If the electorate before whom I shall presently appear, think that I can be of some use in the administration of the public affairs of this Colony, then I am ready—and, in fact, regard it as my duty—to place whatever abilities I may possess at the disposal of my country. I have no object beyond this: I aspire to serve. In the second place, why did I decide to join Sir Michael Cashin? Simply because I believed in him. I saw in him a man fitted and trained by ability and experience to form and control an administration that would work in the best interests of this country—a man in whom the people might repose the greatest confidence and the utmost trust. We are all aware of the upset the war has brought upon the world. Rightly or wrongly, we feel that a period of uncertainty is approaching, during which God alone knows what may happen. During the past few years this country has enjoyed a prosperity unexampled in its extent. It is true the war has caused us the irreparable loss of the flower of our country's manhood—a loss that no prosperity, however great, can compensate us for—a loss that will serve until the last pages of our history are sealed as a memorial to the sacrifice Newfoundland was called upon to make in the cause of Empire. But in lesser respects this country has escaped practically unscathed—an escape for which, when we consider the sufferings of other countries, we ought to be devoutly thankful. But the swing of the pendulum may soon be in the other direction. The days that are to come may bring with them tasks difficult to meet; and it is therefore incumbent upon us to provide our country with an administration competent in all respects to face whatever troubles the future may hold in store for us. In Sir Michael Cashin I believe we have the nucleus around which may be formed such an administration. I therefore decided to support him, placing my faith in his ability, his experience, his independence, and, above all else, in his personal integrity and honesty of purpose. I admit publicly to the personal allegiance I bear him—an allegiance to which I am prepared to subordinate all party affiliations—except my principles. In other words, I joined Sir Michael Cashin believing in his bona fides, and on the assurance that he will inaugurate and carry through a policy that will have for its object the advancement of the best interests of this Colony; that in the execution

(continued on 8th page.)

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