Manifesto of Mr. John R. Bennett

(Continued from 8th page).

surgical or other aid through these institutions will result.

POOR ASYLUM.

Three and a half years ago Sir Richard Squires in his Manifesto declared that "The Poor Asylum is an institution "which is a disgrace to the Colony. * * "The method required is not the scat-"tering around of large additional "sums of money, but rather the in-"telligent administration and expen-"diture of present votes."

Not a single step had been taken by the Squires-Coaker Party while in power to do anything to better "the disgraceful condition" of this Institution as described by him in his Manifesto. The accusations regarding this Asylum were used as a stick with which to beat his opponents in the campaign, and having served that purpose, no further thought was given to the institution or its inmates. Our policy as to other institutions, outlined in the paragraph above, applies equally to this. My Party will endeavor to improve conditions there and as soon as the financial condition of the Colony admits, a new Poor Asylum willl be provided.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

As a member of the Morris Government I participated in establishing the Old Age Pension Fund. Sir Richard Squires, I need not say, promised at the last election to increase the allowance of $50 a year and to extend the pension to old women as well. Also, I need not repeat, he disregarded this promise as soon as elected. He went further, for he and his party voted against a motion at the first Session to carry out this promise, at the same time that they were doubling the salaries of Departmental Heads and increasing the Sessional Pay from $200 to $1,000.

My Party will give sympathetic consideration to the plea of the aged and afflicted, and hope to be able to extend the scope of the Old Age Pension as the circumstances of the country will permit.

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

The need for the industrial education of our blind is recognized by everybody except the present Government, who have turned a deaf ear to all representations on that behalf. My Party will take steps as early as possible to assist in the relief of those so afflicted.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Dealing with the Housing Problem in St. John's, the present Premier in 1919 promised to "assist any economically "sound proposition to make easier the "erection of homes for the working class-"es," and to enact legislation against absentee landlords. But here again he was merely making promises which he had no intention of carrying out. He could easily have introduced a bill against absentee landlords but never thought of it once the election was over. In the matter of housing, the conduct of the Squires-Coaker Government was criminally reckless and shamefully dishonest to the community. They endorsed a scheme for building 30 houses on a co-operate plan. Many prominent citizens were given as backers of this movement, and the houses were started, but it was found that the total amount subscribed for the 30 houses (estimated to cost $1,500 each or $45,000 in all) was $2,250, or only five cents out of every dollar needed. Then the promoters went to the Government for the balance. The houses were completed with public funds. They cost, in round figures, $3,000 each or twice the estimate, and the Colony must now lose much of this money, because they will not fetch nearly their cost. No Government honestly desirous of safeguarding the public funds should have advanced public money to a scheme so financially unsound as this, or without thorough investigation. To-day these 30 houses, built mainly with the taxpayers' money, are too expensive for any but well-to-do people to live in, and the needy working people derive no benefit whatever from them.

On the other hand, the St. John's Municipal Council undertook, on their own account, the building of a number of houses; and did so on business lines and without any waste of money. Their plans were balked by the Government's participation in this scheme, but my Party, if elected, will co-operate with the Municipal Council in the revival of activity in this respect, and will assist the City authorities in promoting a sound housing policy.

THE WAR VETERANS.

The present Premier made as lavish promises to the veterans of the Great War as he did to any other class in the country; but failed as signally to carry them out. After his return he did everything possible to reduce the expenditures on their behalf and only after persistent agitation and pressure were they able to induce him to live up to the understanding that the Canadian rates of pensions and allowances should apply; and to increase these accordingly. A call has recently been made upon the Opposition to declare its policy with regard to the Returned Men, and in reply thereto I have great pleasure in stating that the Opposition Party will loyally adhere to the understanding that Canadian rates of pension shall be paid, and will not consider any reduction of them until Canada does; and then only after a full enquiry into local conditions by a Board on which the returned men will be fully represented; that the claims of the Returned men to positions in the Civil Service will be sympathetically considered and recognized wherever possible; that membership of the Pension Board shall include a Returned Man whose fitness therefor will be generally recognized; and that our best thought will be given to a scheme for the Insurance of Returned men and have it put into effect if found practicable. As several of our Party had members of their families serving with the forces they can be relied upon to see that the Returned Soldiers and Sailors receive the best treatment at the hands of a grateful country.

PROHIBITION.

Sir Richard Squires attacked the late Government for its stand on the Prohibition question and denounced its enforcement of the Proihbition Act. He pledged himself, if returned to power

"To enact such an amendment to the "present law as to do away with class "distinction at present existing in the "practical enforcement of the Act and "to take such steps as may best con-"serve the business and social inter-"ests and moral life of the commun-"ity."

This was the declaration of Sir Richard Squires in 1919, and it is needless for me to ask the country to say how he has lived up to that pledge. In no respect has the disregard by the present Government of its election promises been so conspicuous as in the matter of the Prohibition Act. The moral sentiment of the country has been outraged and nothing left undone to show contempt for everybody and everything favorable to prohibition. The individuals and the organizations identified with it have been rolled in the mud, and their protestations scoffed at. None could conceive of a worse travesty on the Act than exists to-day, when every line of the Prohibition law is violated and the Controller's Department is converted into the instrument for so doing. In former days, when the liquor law was in existence, the Department of Justice and the police were able to enforce the laws as they existed. To-day the Department of Justice is muzzled, the police are powerless, and those in control ridicule the complaints of the pulpit, the press and the people. The "scrip" scandal is the worst of all; and some of the most daring and unabashed offenders are the strongest supporters of the Government. In his Manifesto of 1919, Sir Richard Squires used these words:

"The system which makes it pos-"sible for certain medical men to sell "for large fees 'scripts' for intoxicat-"ing liquor to be used as a beverage "must be abolished. It is common "knowledge that the prescriptions of "medical practitioners are frequent-"ly sold on the streets of St. John's "and are trafficked in as an article of "commerce, with the result that those "who have wealth may get such sup-"plies of wines and liquors as they de-"sire, while the poor man when he ap-"plied to his medical man in a bona "fida case, may be told that his month-"ly allowance is used up and the case "cannot be helped."

If this was a true description of conditions then, the truth to-day is that under the Squires-Coaker regime conditions are a thousand per cent. worse. At that time there was a limit of a hundred prescriptions monthly for each medical man; today there is no limit. The law is openly defiled by those in the closest touch with the Government. They can issue as many scripts as they like. They do their part in this evil traffic without the slightest compunction or cloak of secrecy, and the man who permits this cruel outrage is the very one who penned the words above recorded and who pledged himself that as "the working out of the "Act has become a practical farce and an "injustice, the Act must be amended, be-"cause, as is well known, the present sys-"tem makes it utterly impossible for 99 "out of every 100 poor men in Newfound-"land to have any alcoholic stimulant at "home, while as at present enforced it per-"mits the man in high office and who has "abundant wealth to secure all that he de-"sires for himself and his friends."

The man who is, more than anybody else, responsible for the scandals associated with the Prohibition Act is Sir Richard Squires, the Prime Minister. Without his connivance none of these disgraceful conditions could exist for twenty-four hours, and every right-thinking men in the country should vote against him for this, if for no other reason. For my part, if I and my associates are returned to office, one of our first acts will be to insist upon the proper carrying out of the Act as it stands on the Statute Book.

I recognize that there are differences of opinion as to the merits not alone of Prohibition as a policy, but of the terms of the Act on the Statute Book. But it has been put there in response to public sentiment, and while it is there it should be enforced by the men who are sworn to see justice done as between the country and the individual. Immediately after the election, if honored with the confidence of the country, we will consider the question of revising this Act in such a way as will enable the expressed sentiments of the country with regard to this policy to be properly interpreted.

IN CONCLUSION.

Read in the light of the conditions prevailing here the paragraph with which Sir Richard Squires closed his Manifesto of 1919, must be regarded as unique. He than said:

"My party consists of a body of "young enthusiastic Newfoundlanders. "I ask you for my party and my can-"didates your enthusiastic support "and your votes on Polling Day, my "message to my fellow-countrymen is: "Be of good Cheer. The dawn of a "new political and industrial era for "our Homeland is at hand. Rally to "my banner, as sturdy independent "men, who indifferent to bribes on "the one hand and threats on the "other, have resolved that the day of "graft, greed arrogance, political in-"trigue, and dishonor in Newfound-"land is done, and a body of young "Newfoundlanders shall be given a "chance to clean up the mess in which "discredited politicians have dragged "our affairs, to correct the compass of "our Ship of State and face the "stormy sea of a cleansing of public "life, re-organization and reconstruc-"tion, with the sturdy hearts of oak "possessed by our fore-fathers, who "in the centuries past came from Eng-"land, Ireland, and Scotland to make "this Colony a place in which their "descendants might live and prosper."

How have "the body of young enthusiastic Newfoundlanders" attempted "to clean up the mess," which he alleged existed at that time? How have they performed the task of "cleansing our public life, reorganizing and reconstructing the fabric of society, making the Colony a place in which their descendants may live and prosper"? Has the condition of the country ever been as bad? Have the people ever been in such distress? Has there ever been a time when stone-breaking and snow-shovelling on such a scale as at present had to be given to keep the people of St. John's from starvation? Has there ever been a time when poor relief and other assistance had to be furnished to the people of the Outport? Has there ever been a time when the debauchery of the political body was so widespread? Has there ever been a time when members of a Government were so absolutely indifferent to the discharge of their duties, when these in charge were dissipating the public funds at such a rate?

In closing now, my last word to the people of Newfoundland like my first, is to warn them that the condition of this country is to-day desperate in the extreme, and that what it needs is a policy of sane, sober, judicious administration of its affairs. I could present as varied and elaborate a programme of promises as Sir Richard Squires did four years ago, and as I have no doubt he will do again now, with no more intention of carrying them out if elected next month than he had when elected in November, 1919. But I feel that it would be an act of grossest treachery to the electors and to the country, that it would be an insult to their intelligence and a crime against their manhood, if I made to them any propositions other than those I might reasonably feel sure of being able to carry out. Therefore, I rest content with the review of public affairs the past four years which I have submitted to you, and the statement of policy above outlined; and I invite your support for the party which I have the honor to lead, pledging you, on their behalf and my own, that we will do our utmost to save the country from the catastrophe towards which the present Government has sent it speeding. Rather, we will strive to make it a country in which people can live, and prosper, and retain hope as to the future; like they could only four short years ago, before the mal-administration of the Squires-Coaker party reduced Newfoundland to the deplorable state in which it is at present.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. BENNETT.

St. John's, 31st March, 1923.

A Regular Blizzard in St. John's.

AGAINST THE SQUIRES-COAKER CANDIDATES.

Editor Evening Telegram

Dear Sir.—I have long been an interested observer of political campaigns in St. John's and have studied upon the approach of elections, the various conflicting expressions and opinions offered beforehand as to the probabilities, but never yet, I say in all sincerity, have I experienced such an overwhelming sentiment as that which has now swelled up in favor of the Bennett condidates. I can only compare it to a regular blizzard because its force is so pronounced, so excessive, in its strength beyond any manifestation of public opinion ever yet witnessed, that the result must inevitably show a tremendous majority for the Bennett party in both of the electoral divisions of St. John's. There must certainly be an enormously deep spirit of resentment against the present Government in this city, to arouse such a pronounced determination to wipe them out politically by electing with substantial majorities the six nominees of the Opposition. In view of the Government's impeachable record of borrowing, squandering and wholesale corruption, together with Coaker's autocratic fisheries destroying records, with his threats of worse, no intelligent man is surprised at the blizzard like outburst of public resentment and consequent approval of the Bennett party. The only thing left now to consolidate this strength is to keep the issues that caused it well before us; in fact the tendency should be to, if possible, increase it more, for the bigger the victory the more will it purify public life, and the quicker will it hasten Coaker's exit from a controlling influence which individuals of his menacing character are unfit to possess. It speaks well too for the common sense of the country that practically every other district expresses the same sentiment as St. John's, which is conclusive evidence that the welcome change desired by the city finds a responsive echo in all the outports. Voters of the city encouraged therefore, still further by the voice of the outports, should keep the blizzard up to a pitch not less at least, than its present intensity, and therefore, the best way to do so is to impress the absolute necessity of every man voting the straight ticket—HIGGINS, FOX and VINICOMBE, in ST. JOHN'S EAST; and CASHIN, LINEGAR AND HUNT, in ST. JOHN'S WEST.

LIBERAL.

West Coast Awake.

Commercial Travellers who have returned from the South West Coast this week report business dull, and say the ice blockade seriously interfers with business in all directions. They bring glowing accounts of victory for Bennett candidates all along the coast from Burin to St. George's, and assure us that the Squires-Coaker party will not get one seat on the coast. This is not surprising when one comes to consider the destruction caused by Mr. Coaker to the West Coast fishing interests. Many in St. George's District favor the Humber Deal, but realize that there is greater security in supporting Bennett, who will deal with the proposition in the interests of Newfoundland and who will not sacrifice the interests of the country to the Reids. The Humber Deal will be accepted or rejected on its merits. If the contract is a good one in which the interests of the people are safeguarded you may count on Bennett and his party endorsing it strongly. There is no doubt that the general interests of the country will be better served under Bennett and his capable following than under Coaker, who will rule Squires again with an iron hand if the Government is elected. Take no chances. Vote for BENNETT AND BETTER TIMES.

"Hello" Girls Brave Threat of Flames.

CHICAGO FIRE ENDANGERS BELL TELEPHONE BUILDING.

CHICAGO, March 12 — (United Press)—Hundreds of girl telephone operators stuck to their posts when the Illinois Bell Telephone building was threatened by fire early to-day.

Two top floors of the Times Building, adjoining the telephone company office, were swept by a spectacular blaze.

A high wind carrying smoke and burning embers, swirled around offices where the 'phone girls were working. Firemen, handicapped by a severe storm, were able, through heroic efforts to confine the blaze to the Times Building, occupied principally by stores and small manufacturing plants. The loss was approximately $100,000.

Eat Mrs. Stewart's Homemade Bread.—oct4,6mos

A Few Verses From Trinity.

Ye men from the North, East, west and South,
The time is at hand, let us kick Coaker out;
So Squires will go to, we are all quite sure,
For they planted starvation at every ones door.

They have brought on starvation, They've emptied the chest,
Then went to the old country to get a month's rest;
No more like canaries in the cage you will sing
After the elections are over early this spring.

They have ruined the country, it's plain to be seen,
And tried to starve us since year of 19;
But, thank God, we are sure that your cake is but dough,
After the elections you've all got to go.

Now, men from the North, don't heed Squires or Coaker,
You can play a good game without either joker;
But vote for John Bennett and don't heed those liars,
For now is our time to down Coaker and Squires.

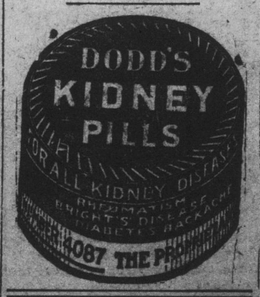
No doubt Billy Coaker thinks Bonavista Bay
Will put him again where he's standing to-day;
But he'll find his mistake for we all got enough
Of Coaker, the joker, he's only a bluff.

Now what about Trinity District be gob,
I don't think they want either Halfyard or Bob;
But give us J. Stone, a man of renown,
He is welcome from Elliston up to Random Sound.

Now, Mr. Coaker don't think you will find,
The men of Old Trinity all the one mind;
There's scores of good men in all of our towns
Who will help defeat Coaker and put Squires down.

BUNKER HILL.

Trinity, March 20th 1923.



MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR CORNS AND WARTS.

Bennett is New Perlican's Choice.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—I saw by the Advocate that some poor unfortunate person from here has been writing that paper to the effect that the Government members will get a big vote around this place. Well, Mr. Editor, that is altogether wrong for I can assure you that the people of New Perlican have had all they want of the Coaker, Squires, Campbell and Gibbs rule. The cry of the Humber at this moment is no use, we all know its something to catch our votes. No sir, we won't have any story now like the "Spider and the Fly." We don't intend to walk into their parlor this time; a burned child dreads the fire, and nearly all us poor mortals have been burned with Coaker rule which means starvation. This cry of down with the merchants is played out. We fishermen got to have merchants to fit us out for the summer and somebody to buy our fish as well. My goodness, it makes me feel bad when I look back at that bluffer Coaker and the way he took took the poor people's money. We want the Opposition candidates, Stone, Bradley and Hodder, no splitting votes on this side of the Bay, a straight ticket for the Liberal-Progressive party means Bennett will win. No more starvation party for us. Bennett and better times is what this country needs.

Faithfully yours,

TRAWL TUB.

New Perlican, T.B., Mar. 28, 1923.

THE FALLEN SAINT.

The morning papers brought the news, how J. Cornelius Hiram Dinn, who'd fought for years the Demon Booze was found half shot with bootleg gin. At breakfast time I read the tale, and cried, "Great Scott and Richard Roe! This news will make the town grow pale, and fill the people's breasts with woe. For years the great Cornelius Dinn has cut all kinds of moral ice, and taught his fellow men to win their victories o'er sin and vice. Now we behold this spotless saint cast down and showing feet of clay, and virtue has received a taint that only years can wash away." Then I put on my priceless tile, and headed for the surging mart, to see a town without a smile, a village with a broken heart. But every fellow wore a grin, and voters nudged me and inquired, "Say, have you heard how Corney Dinn in raw licentiousness was mired?" Before the Travelers' Hotel, and also by the Blue Front Store, I heard my ribald neighbors yell as they had never yelled before. Around the streets the gossips ran, to spring the tale through tireless jaws; the downfall of a worthy man brought only laughter and applause. There is no mercy for the gent who toils along the narrow way, however noble his intent, if he should for an instant stray.

Boiled Italian chesnuts can be sliced and served with preserved white and maraschino cherries on lettuce.

BENNETT & BETTER TIMES.

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