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Victory Straight-Ticket Candidates

Conclude Campaign—Their majorities will be the greatest ever recorded in St. John's East.—Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe received a Wonderful Reception.—Messrs. J. M. Devine, Reg. Sullivan and W. H. Jackman delivered enthusiastic addresses.—Auditorium Packed to the doors.

Nothing the Government can do now will stop the determination of the people to rid the country of the menace of Coakerism and St. John's has shown unmistakably that it is going to lead the way and strike out for freedom on May 3rd. Last night at the Mechanic's Hall, the East End Trio, Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe, held an overflow meeting which gave, by its unanimous sentiment, unmistakable signs that a change is at hand and that Bennett and Better Times is wasted. Chairman Gould presided and besides the candidates there were on the platform Mr. J. M. Devine, who lead the Squires ticket in Placentia last election and who only arrived here yesterday on a short visit, and his colleague Mr. W. H. Jackman, as well as Mr. Reg. Sullivan, the Chairman of the Committee in Pouch Cove. Chairman Gould thanked all for their presence and then called upon Mr. W. J. Higgins to address the gathering.

Mr. Higgins was given a big ovation, and delivered a splendid address.

GOVERNMENT'S RECORD THE ISSUE.

He welcomed both Messrs. Devine and Jackman and publicly thanked Mr. Sullivan for the magnificent welcome that was accorded himself and colleagues last week. He then referred to the issue before the country on which they were asked to vote on Thursday. He referred to the rotten and despicable propaganda and misrepresentation circulated by the Government papers and the public despatches. He referred particularly to the Squires' tactics of putting forward Sir M. P. Cashin, as the Leader and not Mr. Bennett. This kind of low down appeal is not the issue at this election, and the public were not going to be carried away by anything of that nature. The people put this Government in power in which they made certain promises and it was on the fulfillment or otherwise of that policy that they were being judged. The question now is "have they kept faith with those who elected them in 1919?" He was positive that they had failed completely and this was instanced to-day, when with a powerful majority they call a spring election when their term was not completed until November next. There will be people in parts of this island who won't know there is an election on, owing to the season of the year at which it is being held. The Government was fudging, and when a person fudges his duty there is always something wrong. They forget that it is on their own record that they must sink or swim on Thursday. Yet they have the effrontery to call themselves Humber candidates when some of them don't know whether the Humber is a mountain or a stream. The question to decide is are we going to be satisfied with four years more of Coaker-Squires rule, and are we satisfied with the manner in which our money has been squandered, the many scandals that are occurring every day.

ENCOURAGE OUR STAPLE INDUSTRY.

Against this we have Bennett with his Manifesto, a common, square, honest and square man, a real Newfoundlander who has associated with him practical men of industry such as Moores, Hickman, Long, Harris and others all of whom have an interest in our staple industry. While the Humber Deal may be a great thing in itself it is the fishery we must depend upon, and Bennett following the system that is proving such a success in France and other countries, announces that he will subsidize our fisheries by offering a bonus of a dollar per quintal. Surely that is a policy that will appeal to every intelligent voter and to every fisherman. It is better to pay \$1 per quintal on fish to bring the fisheries back to normal and keep the fishermen employed, than to witness the pathetic sight on Water Street yesterday of 600 to 700 of our best type of workmen and mechanics having to go to the Millin Building to get relief orders. In conclusion Mr. Higgins appealed for the straight ticket for Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe and resumed his seat amidst much applause.

THE COAKER MENACE.

Mr. N. J. Vinicombe was the next speaker and was given a most enthusiastic reception. He said that as a Newfoundlander he rejoiced in seeing that the spirit of the country was alive to the crisis that was now upon us and would assert itself on Thursday next at the polls. The menace of Coakerism that has done so much to drag Newfoundland into the mire is still with us. That menace drove Sir Robert Bond out of politics in 1912 and it will be the cause of Squires' meeting his political doom. If the Prime Minister had any backbone he would have got clear of Mr. Coaker long ago. The people wanted a saner policy than abuse. They wanted encouragement of the fishery and the lifting of the burden of taxation which is driving the fishermen from the country. Mr. Vinicombe referred to the lying campaign that was being conducted by the Government in the hope of deluding the people. He however, was convinced that no person with principle would be persuaded to vote under these conditions. He refused the Controldership in 1920 from W. F. Coaker because he had a principle and was faithful to his party leader. He would be equally faithful to Mr. J. R. Bennett who was unanimously elected to lead the Opposition party in this fight. Mr. Vinicombe referred to the campaign down the shore and said that out of 1,500 voters from the King's Bridge to Pouch Cove the Opposition candidates would poll 1,200 so great was the sentiment against the Government.

MANIFESTO NOT CARRIED OUT.

Mr. J. M. Devine being introduced by the Chairman, he gave a very hearty welcome to Mr. Devine, expressing his pleasure at being once more in his native land, regretted that a physical disability in the shape of a severe cold, prevented him from doing justice to the subject which was so dear to all—mainly trying to set the old ship right. He said that there was a time when the very being of a man was permeated with the desire to do something for the land of his birth and the present was such an occasion. In 1919 he contested the district of Placentia and St. Mary's for the Squires-Coaker party. At that time Sir Richard Squires' Manifesto set forth some fine plans which, if they had been properly carried out would have been of great value to the country. He had waited three years or more to see the effect of the manifesto and he regretted to say that not one had been carried out. This was one reason why he was here, that he was not going to be "coddled" any longer. The policy for any Government should be the carrying into effect of practical help to the country's main industry.

HELP THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

It was very well to talk of Humber Deals and mining industries, all contributory to the welfare of the people, but the thing to deal with scientifically is the codfish. Mr. Devine referred in scathing tones to the scandalous behavior of Mr. Coaker as Minister of Fisheries and said that the Department of Marine and Fisheries should be endeavoring to get at the matter of the fishery scientifically and while they were content to dally nothing could be expected from the fishermen and others. Confidence in the article was needed. Referring to the iniquitous Fish Regulations Mr. Devine said he opposed them because he felt it was an attempt to keep the price to where the chaotic conditions during the war had driven it. Mr. Devine stated that Japan and Norway ate about 300 lbs. of fish per capita, Norway 150, Great Britain 65, and U.S.A. only 10 to 15. If America could be induced to eat 20 or 40 lbs. she would take all our year's catch. The old cry that fish caused ptomaine poisoning was dying out and doctors and surgeons were abroad telling people to eat more fish. We must sell our fish, not as we like to, but as the people want it. Any Government run by a dangerous demagogue is not in the best interests of the people. He referred to the Herring industry of the West Coast and outlined his efforts to prevent the Pernicious Tariff being applied to Newfoundland, but through lack of

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statesmanship on the part of Sir R. A. Squires it was put on to the almost total ruin of the herring industry. Mr. Devine regretted to see the Water Street firms closed.

THE BENNETT POLICY.

Speaking of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. R. Bennett, he said he regarded him as a man of high ideals and honor. After careful perusal of the Manifesto he felt sure that Mr. Bennett would improve the Legislature and that he would do everything possible to encourage the industries of the country. In conclusion Mr. Devine appealed to the meeting, as Newfoundlanders, to consider the question which was not of "ins" or "outs," but of principle and whether we will have the country go forward or let it drop into oblivion. He asked them to support the Bennett policy; the other policy is not the one; nobody knows what the Humber Proposition is, it is an enigma. Support the Bennett Party and Terra Nova will take on a new lease of life. Mr. Devine thanked the meeting for the attentive hearing he had received and resumed his seat amidst a burst of applause which showed how heartily his remarks had been received.

WHAT COAKER DID FOR THE FISHERY.

Mr. Reg. Sullivan, on being asked to speak, said that he was one of those who in 1919 supported R. A. Squires and his Government, and in a forceful speech told the story of how the fisherman has been treated by this Government that was supposed to look after the fishermen and promised encouragement of our fisheries. In 1919 his accounts were \$51,000, in 1920 they dropped to \$21,000, and last year, he went to \$20,000, but he is now so far in the hole that this season he cannot issue one dollar's worth of supplies. He had 4 traps, his brother had 2 traps, but his sons had gone to the States to seek a living and not one of these traps would be going in the water this season. The Silvia now here, and the Rosalind next trip were taking orders from Pouch Cove to a strange land, because they cannot live in their own homes. The fisherman can't live under present conditions, and cannot prosecute the

voyage as a paying venture. Money was being squandered in all directions and he did not see any difficulty in paying the Bennett bonus on fish. Mr. Sullivan told of the wonderful change in Pouch Cove and forecasted a seventy-five per cent, or even eighty per cent, vote for Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe. Mr. Sullivan was cheered to the echo at the conclusion of his speech.

AN INCAPABLE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. W. H. Jackman was also enthusiastically received. In a few words he said that he had supported Squires last election, because like Mr. Devine, he believed he was sincere, but the three and a half years of their rule had proven that they were the most incapable bunch that ever took charge of our affairs. Squires had told him in 1919 that he was in it for all he could get out of it, and the record of his term shows he has not been short. Mr. Jackman then dealt with the conditions of 1919 compared with 1923, and pointed out that whereas the cost of the Postal Department was \$200,000 in 1914, it was now \$1,000,000, and while this expenditure was going on, where was it going to end. He also spoke on the pit prop scandal that has cost this country thousands. In conclusion he urged all to compare the men and then vote as they should for Bennett and his party. It was a time now that we had to be vigilant. It was at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal that May 3rd was decided as the date of the General Election, which was very significant. He impressed upon all to vote straight and let no personal consideration affect their vote.

THE SECRET HUNTER DEAL.

Mr. G. J. Fox, as the last speaker, rose amidst loud applause. He referred to the pleasure it was to have on the platform such men as Devine, Jackman and Sullivan. He recounted the canvass of the sections of the District along the shore, and spoke most enthusiastically of the tremendous reception the Straight Ticket Team received at Pouch Cove. Mr. Fox was proud to acknowledge allegiance to Bennett, the leader, and he was equally proud to be a member of the team which will carry this

banner of victory on May 3rd. The campaign had been fought cleanly and well, and the team was firm in its request for straight ticket voters. No man of that team wanted a personal vote. Referring to the Humber Deal Mr. Fox compared the actions of Sir Richard Squires with those of Sir Robert Bond. The latter gentleman, when he had the Humber Deal in hand put it to the people and spared no trouble to make everything clear. As a result the entire Deal was finished in about a week, and it had gained in value by reason of the discussion over it. Sir Richard did not do that. He kept it semi-secret and boasts that it is locked up in his brain. The Humber Deal, however, is signed, and it only remains for the Bennett Government to put it through in as advantageous a manner for the country as possible. Mr. Fox also dealt with the manner in which the F.P.U. controls politics in Newfoundland and said the time is come to remove Coakerism from our midst. The scandalous manner in which Squires handled the "Reid octopus" was dealt with in scathing words. Mr. Fox concluded his interesting remarks by quoting the final stanza of Sir Cavendish Boyle's Ode to Newfoundland.

"As loved our fathers, so we love,
Where once they stood, we stand,
Their prayer we raise to Heaven
above
God guard thee, Newfoundland."

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