

the carrying into effect throughout the Island of Sir Edward Morris's action in raising the wage of the laborers to \$1.25 a day, left Sir Edward no alternative but to retire from a ministry which could be capable of such treachery to people whom it boasted that it was always eager to befriend.

That this support was forthcoming none doubted; but no steps were then taken to ascertain the people's wishes, for there was work to be done, and to the effectual performance of that work every one of those in the two wings of the Opposition directed their best energies.

With what success is matter of general knowledge. In order to avoid further exposure, the House was closed within twenty-two days,—an unprecedented proceeding,—whilst information asked for was withheld or deliberately delayed on pitiful pretexts until with the close of the session the opportunity of securing the information necessary for the proper ventilation of public grievances vanished.

As soon as the House closed, from all over the country came the demand for a union of Opposition forces, under the leadership of Sir Edward Morris. Whether he would accept the honour thus conferred on him remained undecided until a few days ago when, in answer to the requisition, which we publish to-day, Sir Edward consented to assume the laborious and responsible position of Leader.

To-day a new flag floats in the breeze, the flag of the People's Party. It is big enough to wave over the entire Island, and capacious enough to embrace in its protecting folds all those who place the rights and requirements of the people first in the programme of Legislative duties.

The Conservative Old Guard has joined hand in hand with the Inde-

pendent Liberals, and a platform has been enunciated which merits the support of all who love the land of their nativity or residence, and who believe in the great future, which, under capable guidance, lies before her.

Sir Edward Morris will make an ideal leader of a People's Party. He is of the people, and whether in power or out of power, has again and again proven himself their friend. There is no other politician in Newfoundland, nor has there been, so far as we know, who for nearly a quarter of a century has represented the same constituency, headed the poll at each election, and never lost a colleague!

For a man to achieve such a rare and glorious record he must be, not merely an able man, but a true one; not merely popular, but capable; not merely "hail follow well met," with young and old, rich and poor alike, but a friend in need and thus a friend indeed.

If there are any traits in Sir Edward's character that more than others during his past career have been in evidence, they are his absolute fairness to all, irrespective of class, creed or party; his readiness to aid in all those things which tend to the amelioration of his fellow-men, and his accessibility to all. The district which Sir Edward Morris represents is one that contains nearly as many voters of other different denominations as there are of that to which he is himself a member; and by reference to the requisition it will be seen that the call for him to undertake the leadership of the People's Party is as emphatic from the former as from the latter, a tribute to their recognition of his sentiments of toleration and his statesmanship which is eminently suggestive of the liberality of our people in