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THE NICKEL! ALWAYS GOOD. RECOGNIZED THE BEST.

### MR. ABBOTT ABLY POINTS OUT THE MANY GREAT ADVANTAGES OF THE F.P.U. TO OUR TOILERS

Through the Efforts of President Coaker, the Price of Fish has been Raised and the Cost of the Necessities of Life Lowered.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few brief remarks, and before doing so would wish to follow in the lead of the previous speakers, and congratulate you upon your election to the high office you now hold as Speaker of this Assembly. The first statement that I would like to refer to is one made by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. He stated a few days ago that he was at Bonavista and came in contact with an intelligent and prominent member of the F.P.U. He also went on to say that after considerable conversation with this intelligent and prominent member of the Union he learnt from him that by buying coals through the F.P.U. he lost \$3.00 and gained \$2.00, and also lost \$15.00, worth of codfish.

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister—I did not make that statement. What I stated was this, that this man told me that he had made \$5.00 on coal, but afterwards when I had argued the matter with him he admitted that he had lost \$15.00 instead of making \$5.00.

Mr. Abbott—I would like to state here that all coals bought at Bonavista through the F.P.U. were got at from fifty cents to a dollar less per tons than they could be bought at anywhere else; and I would also like to state that the man to whom the Rt. Hon. Premier referred is not an intelligent and prominent member of the F.P.U., but one whose whole heart's desire is to see the Union go to the wall. Hence the result. From the statement made by the Rt. Hon. Premier one would feel inclined to believe that the F.P.U. was damaging to the welfare of the individual members, but I say, sir, that the Union has put thousands of dollars into the pockets of the fishermen since its organization in Bonavista, and not in Bonavista alone, but in all the towns where the Union has been organized.

As to who rose the price of fish, I say that W. F. Coaker, now the hon. member for Bonavista district, was instrumental in raising the price of fish in Bonavista Bay and all the northern districts. I will tell you just what happened in Bonavista in the fall of 1912. On September 10th of that year Mr. Coaker sent a message to me at Bonavista, saying, "Tell your Council hold back fish until \$5.80 is given." At that time only \$5.50 was being given, with a strict cull. And we were told that if we held back our fish until February month we wouldn't get any more than \$5.50 for it.

Two days after that date he sent another message, saying: "Don't sell

fish unless you can get \$6.00 for it." At that time he made a contract with certain merchants in St. John's to buy 1,000 quintals of fish from Bonavista Council of the F.P.U. at \$6.00. After the contract was filled and the merchant had his 1,000 quintals, he sent another message saying: "Don't sell any more for \$6.00; worth \$6.50." He had a deputation wait on the various fish-buyers of the town, with the result that we got \$6.30 and \$6.40 a quintal; whereas a few days before the merchants could not possibly give more than \$5.50 for it, and according to themselves they were then buying at a loss. Did not the fishermen of Bonavista, Union and non-Union, gain thousands of dollars by that action of W. F. Coaker. I say, sir, and I say without fear of contradiction, that no Government party that ruled since Britain, our noble Motherland, handed over to our forefathers the gift of Responsible Government, has done as much for Newfoundland Toilers as the President of the Fishermen's Protective Union has done.

As far as the policy of the present Government is concerned, I may say that my personal opinion is that they have promised much and performed very little. In 1909 they went before the electorate purporting to represent the toilers under the name of the People's Party. They were going to open up new markets, establish bait depots, get weekly messages from the foreign markets as to the price of fish, build five branch railways for four million dollars, establish an old age pension scheme which would embrace the whole country, and not make chalk of one man and cheese of another, whiten the hills with sheep and make two blades of grass grow where one grew before. In fact, they were going to make Newfoundland a Garden of Eden without the serpent.

And what do we find? Absolutely nothing has been done to help the fisherman, or enable him to catch more fish or get more for the fish which he caught. The People's Party under the leadership of Sir Edward Morris, has served the few and enriched that few at the expense of the many. The effects of their policy led a large number of the electorate to present petitions to this honorable House for a general election in 1912, which petitions were ridiculed as having been signed by a number of men who did not know what they were doing.

They were said to be a lot of fishermen too ignorant to know anything; as Mr. Cashin, the Hon. Minister of

### MR. ABBOTT'S REPLY TO MR. MOULTON.

Repudiates the Charge of the Member for Burgeo Against the Union Members.

Union men all over the Country will read with pleasure and pride the reply of Mr. Abbott, member for Bonavista, in the Assembly on Friday evening, February 5th. The member for Burgeo had referred to the "back row" as throwing dirty insinuations at Government members.

All Union members but Mr. Grimes had spoken when Mr. Abbott arose. In the first place he felt it his duty to say that the honorable member for Burgeo actually stated on the floors of the House that afternoon that all the members of the "back row," save Mr. Stone, the honorable member for Trinity, were guilty of throwing dirty insults and insinuations at Government members, and he the honorable member for Burgeo couldn't see why the Opposition were so suspicious; but he (Mr. Abbott) would like to ask the member for Burgeo if he could conscientiously stand there to-night and say that he had insulted any honorable member on the other side of the House.

Mr. Moulton—I didn't mean you. Mr. Abbott—You said so, sir, and you also said the Fishermen's Protective Union was very good, all right in a certain sense; but it shouldn't have political connections, meaning of course, that the Union was all right, but it shouldn't have anything to do with politics.

#### Too Insult.

He (Mr. Abbott) begged to differ with the honorable gentleman. The Union has a perfect right to have political connection. The men who are eligible to become members of the Fishermen's Protective Union comprise four-fifths of the electorate of this Country whose interests are all identical and who possess under the ballot act the right of casting votes and return any government. Why then not use the power they possess and return men of their choice? One of the best things our Union can do, Mr. Chairman, is to get the membership interested in the management of our Country, both politically and commercially; if Union principles are not good enough to practise in politics then those principles are not worth the snap of your fingers.

When our Councils decided to select their own representatives, our opponents held up their hands in holy horror and asked the questions. Why has this change come about? Why have Union candidates been selected and placed in the various districts? For what reason has the F.P.U. decided to make a change in the political affairs of the Country? Will my honorable gentlemen, it does not require one to be very largely endowed with the power of sagacity or intelligence to answer these questions.

#### Government's Negligence.

For generations governments have been elected and defeated; promises made and forgotten; statesmen have come and gone; elections won and lost; and all the while merchants and unscrupulous politicians have gone hand in hand; but the toilers who have been in the past and are now the mainstay of the Country have remained the same. Since the time when the first emigrant came over from the other side of the water and landed at our Island Home political tyranny has been grinding the Newfoundland toiler. All these long years, as the saying goes, "they lay low and sang small." Many of them knew they

Finance and Customs said yesterday. But I would like to inform the Hon. gentleman that wisdom don't always speak Latin, and nice folks don't always admire her; but I say never mind the coat, give me the man.

I want the hon. gentleman to understand here and now that wisdom very often walks in patched clothes, and that as sure as fire burns brushwood as well as logs, there are learned boobies as well as learned sages.

that our people are justified in sending F.P.U. members there. They could not be expected to have that parliamentary knowledge which comes from thirty years' experience; but even though they could not formulate the laws, they could stand sentinel in the public interest and watch the allocations from the Public Treasury.

If an eye is kept on the cat she will never eat the canary! So with loyal men on the floors of the Assembly, who have pledged themselves to be honest. Such a body of men cannot help but make Newfoundland politics clean.

He (Mr. Abbott) wished there and then to inform honorable members on the Government side of the House that when the Fishermen's Protective Union decided to make a change in the political affairs of our Country that they made a step, and an important step, in the right direction. It was the first fight ever made by the Sons of Toil in this Colony for true freedom and liberty.

#### Following the Lead.

The F.P.U. in this Country is following the footsteps of labor organizations in other parts of the world. A very few years ago the Labor Party in Australia won the general election against a "Combine Party" of Liberals and Tories—remember Liberals and Tories combine, led by a Mr. Deakin, against the Labor Party by Mr. Fisher; but when the smoke of the battle cleared away the Combine had been badly defeated and Fisher triumphed; and the time will come when every country will have its Labor Party distinct from all parties.

In England to-day there were over forty members sitting in the House of Commons representing Trades Unions. The toilers had never been properly represented in the Government of Newfoundland. Why not? Why should not the vast majority of the electorate of an electorate of a country be represented in its government or rule it?

In every country the workingman forms the majority; hitherto he has allowed a certain class to rule. Education now forms part of the training of every workman who can get the means of acquiring it and as a result we very often read of the son of labor sitting with the son of the statesman and merchant kings, and we find that the son of the laborer very often possesses more brain power than the sons of the upper ten.

Why should workmen allow a certain class of men always to rule them in their respective countries, when experience has demonstrated that the most progressive and honest body of electors in any country are the workmen?

#### The Awakening.

In other parts of the world for the past ten years we find the masses demanding their own every day. Newfoundland people can do for themselves what the people of New Zealand have done for themselves. New Zealand leads the world in popular legislation on behalf of the people. The great Seddon although Premier for 13 years died a poor man. His whole wealth consisted of a life insurance policy of One Thousand Dollars. Why should the people who are the upkeep of this Colony sit idly by and allow their children to suffer on account of their neglect.

He (Mr. Abbott) sincerely believed

that our people are justified in sending F.P.U. members there. They could not be expected to have that parliamentary knowledge which comes from thirty years' experience; but even though they could not formulate the laws, they could stand sentinel in the public interest and watch the allocations from the Public Treasury.

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