Manifesto of Mr. John R. Benneth

(Continued from 7th page.)

to waste it on the Badger-Halls Bay road, or the Deer Lake-Bonne Bay road, as two years ago or on any of the other "wildcat" scheme on which this Government has wasted the substance of the taxpayers the past two or three years. The result of such a bonus, judiciously planned and properly applied; should be to stimulate the production of a better quality of fish, which in turn should mean increased prices for our product in the foreign markets, and this, again, should mean a larger return to the revenue through the purchase made by the fishermen; and as the status of the industry improved and prices advanced the bonus could be gradually reduced and in time withdrawn altogether.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION AND RE-VISION OF THE TARIFF.

We will undertake a general revision of the tariff, one honestly designed so to distribute the weight of taxation on the people as to enable them to carry on their industries with the least burden thereon. For the fishermen we will endeavour to provide a substantial lessening of the duties on the supplies he requires, to practice his calling. To the miner and the lumberman we hope to be able to offer the same consideration: as to the agriculturist, and for the working people as a whole, a reduction on the necessaries of life. I make this promise somewhat confidently. The present Government, without a business man or anybody familiar with the conditions under which the trade of the country is carried on, has been a Government of lawyers and placemen. But I hope to have the help of Sir Michael Cashin, the most successful Finance Minister the Colony has ever had; Sir John Crosbie, Mr. A. E. Hickman, Mr. W. S. Monroe, Mr. George Harris and others, all fully conversant with the main industries of the country and capable of bringing to bear on every question that arises, minds qualified by experience in their own affairs to deal with these ques-

FOR THE FISHERMEN.

For the fishermen we propose, in addition to the Bonus above described, and a reduction of taxation on his fishery supplies so as to encourage him in the prosecuion of what is the Colony's mainstay:-

A revision of the tariff in the interests of the mass of the people.

An honest, earnest effort, with the co-operation of those interested in the trade of the country, to enlarge our existing markets for fishery products and to open up new ones.

A continuance of the dredging policy inaugurated by some of our party when previously in office.

A survey of the Labrador coast and the locating of new fishing banks there, a measure in which we shall invite the Imperial Authorities to assist.

A scheme of co-operation between the Exporters of fish from Labrador so as to ensure the placing of the catch in the foreign markets to the best advantage.

The inauguration of statistical machinery to enable more accurate information as to the catch to be obtained than exists at present.

A complete re-organization of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, which to-day, because of its early mismanagement and subsequent neglect by Mr. Coaker is at a lower degree of efficiency than any time in its history.

Measure for the revival and expansion of our winter herring fishery, which, like every other branch of our main industry, has been brought to shipwreck by our present rulers.

The giving of more attention than in the past to outport harbor improvements for the better protection and security of fishing craft, thereby lightening the labours and lessening the risks incident to the occupation of our fishing population.

Finally, we propose to summon a Convention of Merchants, Planters and Fishermen to meet in St. John's next autumn to discuss all fishery matters and to concert measures whereby the experience of practical men of all these classes can be utilized in working out a fishery policy that will prove of general advantage.

FOR THE MINER.

For the miner we propose, in addition to relief in taxation, reduction of the import duties upon the implements, explosives and machinery used for the

The mining industry at present ranks next in importance to the fishery, and the amount of labor it should give through its development is of the utmost importance. Therefore, we will do everything that sound judgment dictates to assist in its promotion.

Revision of the Crown Lands Act in reference to mining grants, and the conditions under which such grants may continue to be held, with the object, on the one hand, of preventing the creation and continuance of monopolies, and on the other hand, of throwing such protection around invested capital as to encourage an increase of investments, will be undertaken.

The need for this is seen in the case of the Labrador gold mining venture. The amount which the Colony will derive for the grants given to the areas in question will be but a few thousand dollars, while large sums will have to be expended in surveying the region and in properly policing it.

In the event of its being determined

that gold in quantities exists in the Labrador areas a substantial royalty on the output will be levied and a measure for this purpose will be introduced at the coming session. At present the Colony grants 320 acres for \$10, and speculators abroad are charging this sum for half an acre or over six thousand dollars for the areas for which they pay the Colony only the nominal sum

A Commission will be appointed to take the evidence of miners, investors and others interested or competent parties and to report thereon concerning the state of our mining laws, and necessary amendments thereto, and such amendments will be made as shall seem most likely to prove beneficial to the

Further measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the lives and limbs of those engaged in our mining industries, and for the inspection of mines and the properties subsidiary thereto. Better provision will be required for

the housing and comfort of men engaged in mining operations. FOR THE LUMBERMAN AND PAPER

MAKER. For the lumberman and paper maker we propose

Every encouragement to the small mill owner, who has had to face during the past two years such a decided drop

in the value of his product. All legitimate assistance to the outside capitalist who proposes to establish a pulp mill or a paper mill in this Colony.

The advantages of Newfoundland in the establishment of paper mills are now becoming more generally known, and are likely to be availed of.

The decision of the Armstrong, Whitworth Company to establish a paper mill here will, no doubt, attract others, and my party is ready to afford such enterprises every facility.

In connection with this it will become necessary to revise the timber laws and safeguard the forest areas which furnish the raw material for these industries, otherwise the speedy destruction of our forest wealth will become inevi-

The wilful waste caused by indiscriminate destruction demands prompt action and the initiation of a judicious system of re-foresting. Although valuable, our timber resources are limited, and my policy will be to legislate for their preservation and utilization in the interests of the people. Agriculture and lumbering should go hand in hand, and we should always keep in view the preservation of our forests for furnishing the necessary material for building craft for the fishery and for general purposes. We must not allow ourselves to forget that the fisheries still form the principal of our resources, and that the preservation of our forests is requisite for their profitable prosecution.

This renders a policy of re-forestation essential, if the future of the paper making industry is to be maintained. It seems to me that such a policy would be best inaugurated in conjunction with the owners of the mills that are being established, who have quite as great an interest in the success of such a policy as has the Government.

If elected to power our object will be to negotiate with these concerns for the adoption of such a scheme on some what the same lines as the forest fire patrol is now carried out. By this means the Government should get through a comparatively moderate contribution to the total cost, all the advantages which would follow from any measures to make our forest wealth an absolutely permanent asset.

More effective steps will also require to be taken to prevent the spread of forest fires which are destroying much valuable timber and devastating areas that could be profitably utilized in connection with some of these paper making developments; and measures to this end will be devised with the least possible delay.

FOR THE FARMER.

For the farmer we propose

Relief in the matter of taxation. Assistance in the cultivation of land, instead of in clearing it, as has been the trend of Government and in the past. Reduced freight rates on farm products to enable the more effective dis-

tribution of these. Encouragement for the establishment of farming colonies in the vicinity of the Paper Mills at Grand Falls and on the Humber, where assured markets should be found for all the foodstuffs that can be produced.

FOR THE MECHANIC AND THE LABORER.

For the Mechanic and the Laborer we propose

Such assistance as will, in the way of lower duties on tools, implements, and raw materials, provide a stimulus for the revival of the industry in this

I need hardly observe that never in modern times have industrial conditions been as bad in Newfoundland as they are to-day, and for much of this the present Government is responsible.

This is specially true of St. John's, as

until the advent of the Squires-Coaker Government, mechanics and working men were always able to secure liberal employment, but the ruinous consequences of the Coaker Fishery Policy fell most heavily on these classes. Tradesmen connected with industries based on the fisheries found themselves ruined and laborers who handled inward and outward cargoes were deprived of this form of labor. The only help the Government gives is in breaking stone or shoveling snow, with the wage further reduced in value by heavy taxation. This is their reward after three years of a policy which they were assured would mean progress for the country and comfort and contentment for

Mr. Coaker some time ago threatened that he would see the grass grow on Water Street in St. John's, and his policy has made his words come true. Some the largest fish exporting houses along the waterfront have had to go into insolvency, and many others are restricted in their operations through the enormous losses brought upon them by the ruinous policy inaugurated by Mr. Coaker.

It will be our object to remedy these conditions as far as possible; and to assist the mechanics and laborers, not alone of St. John's, but of the outports, towards a return to the conditions of prosperity and contentment they enjoyed before the present Government took

A measure will be introduced to amend the Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts so as to bring them into accord with the similar measures now in effect in Great Britain and the neighboring Canadian coun-

Steps will be taken to apply the labor legislation of Great Britain to this country, so far as the same may be found

The formation of a Labor Bureau to deal with questions arising through the unemployment of the people will be taken up and the best advice obtainable will be sought in order to make it of the greatest possible benefit. The present Premier with his many lavish promises to all other classes, did not forget to make similar promises to the working men. He announced that "for many "years he had been a student of labor "problems," that he "was in accord with "labor organizations and trade unions," that "our Statute books were barren of "enactments for the protection of the

working men, and the recognition of "trade organizations," and he promised to enact measures to meet the requirements of labor in these various respects. Needless to say, nothing more was heard of this promise after his election, but I feel confident that if returned to power my party will be able four years hence to come before you with something better than the blank sheet that he has to offer to the labour elements after three and a half years of office.

TREATMENT OF THE OUTPORTS.

In the Outports, as well as in St. John's. the lack of labor has been a serious drawback to the material comfort of the people. This has been due in part to the poor times prevailing, but also in a large measure to the incompetence of the Government, and the disastrous consequences of the Coaker fishery policy. A return to sane conditions will do much to restore confidence to business people and others, and it will be our object to afford every facility to local concerns to develop their industries, enlarge the output and thereby furnish employment to increasing numbers of

the working people. One of the most discreditable features of the treatment of the Outports, especially by the Government that derives most of its support from the Outports, is the way in which the Outport districts have been disregarded in the matter of relief expenditures as compared with St. John's. The Prime Minister and Hon. Dr. Campbell being candidates in St. John's an unlimited expenditure is being made there, but in the Outports no relief works whatever have been undertaken and the needy people have had to be content with a dole of "meal and molasses" supplied to them weekly by the Poor Commissioners. It does seem strange that when the Government professes so much concern for the Outports it can find nothing for them but this dole, and it will be the object of my Party, if elected, to see that if any relief undertakings should unfortunately be required in the future, the needy people of the Outports will receive the same treatment as those of St. John's.

FOR THE WOMEN.

The question of granting the suffrage to women has been before the country during the past three or four years. and has always had my personal support. Women suffrage is now recognized in Great Britain, Canada and the United States. In these countries it seems to have proved quite successful and it should be equally satisfactory in New-

foundland. My party, if elected, will promptly take measures to consider extending the vote to the women of the country under somewhat the same conditions as it is applied in the Mother

We propose also to assist in the Child Welfare Movement, the establishing of

Trained Nurses in the Outports, and, [generally, all such praiseworthy movements as the women of the country are identified with.

THE RAILWAY.

'If my Party is elected the railway is one of the subjects which will first engage our attention. I propose to at once take steps to find the legal position of the Colony, which has been seriously compromised by the agreements of various kinds which the present Government has made with the Reids' since it began to tinker with this question. When that position is ascertained propose to require the Reid Company to accept the obligations which it will be shown to be under; to operate the Railroad system as it contracted to operate it twenty-two years ago; and, if it will not operate the system, then to take the consequences, whatever they may be. I will not indulge in denunciation of teh Reids, but I will undertake that all that the law of the land will enable me to do shall be done to see that the country's rights are protected and the obligations assumed by the Reids' in 1901 are met by them in the spirit in which any honest man honors

NO "ORDER-IN-COUNCIL" RULE.

Undoubtedly the gravest wrong done our people the past three years has been the inauguration of what has come to be known as "Government by Order-in-Council." The Legislature has been ignored, and all power seized by the Executive. Half the members supporting the present Government were paid servants of Mr. Coaker, bound to obey his orders and really mere pawns in his hands, voting for every measure as he dictated and knowing no independence whatever. Of the other half most were in the pay of the Government, in one capacity or another, to whom the idea of independence was equally foreign because a continuance in office was a means of livelihood to them and the overthrow of the Government would mean their own financial shipwreck. Consequently, every step of any importance since 1919 has been taken by Order-in-Council, has been a mere executive act, of eight or nine men, regardless of the rights of the Legislature. The most glaring example is that of the Humber deal to-day, where a million dollars has been raised from the Banks and work started on an enterprise on the West Coast at a time when the Legislature might have met and dealt with the question In the same way, the Fishery Regulation policy was inaugurated by Order-in-Council; the purchasing of fish on Government account. was done by Order-in-Council; the expenditure on fishery supplies was by Order-in-Council; perhaps twice as much more was spent in the cutting of pit props by Order-in-Council; and the whole railway imbroglio of the past three years was brought about by Order-in-Council.

One of the first acts of my party, if elected to office, will be to introduce a measure to make a repetition of this "Order-in-Council" rule impossible in the future.

REORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENTS Scarcely less reprehensible has been the

abandonment of the direction of their Department by the heads of the Government. All through his Manifesto, in 1919, Sir Richard Squires laid stress upon the alleged inefficiency of those then in power and of his determination to ensure an efficient administration. The country has now had ample time to judge of the superlative efficiency of that gentleman and his associates; and I utter no libel against them when I say that in this as in every other respect, their failure has been colossal. For the greater part of this time the Government has run itself, the Departments have been without heads, and the demoralization of the public service has become an unqualified scandal. For nearly two years of his term, Sir Richard Squires has been out of the country. The Minister of Justice has been to England three successive summers on one pretext or another. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who so loudly voiced his intention to make this Department one of our great vitalizing agencies, abandoned the office altogether two years ago—except to draw his salary. A condition of chaos exists in that Department above any other, for last Fall, when the exporters and fishermen were trying to fix a price for fish it was found that the Fisheries Department, with an army of officials drawing high salaries, was unable to furnish any statistics whatever; and Mr. Coaker fled to Port Union by a special train to avoid being questioned on the matter. Finally, the Ministry of Finance, one of the most important of all, was, through the unfortunate illness of the gentlemen who holds that portfolio, deprived of his presence almost entirely. The Minister of Agriculture and Mines has been the real leader of the Government in the absence of the Premier, but because of his other activities, notably in the issuing of "Scripts," it would be an insult to suggest that he is giving any efficient or intelligent attention to the work of that important

If elected to office my Party will at once take steps to introduce some efficiency into the conduct of public offices that have been robbed of much of their usefulness by the neglect of those in charge of them during the term of office of the present Administration.

This will probably call for a thorough investigation of the working of these Departments, and their partial, if not comlete, reorganization. Every effort will e made to make "the cleaning up of this mess," to use the language of the present Premier in his Manifesto of 1919, a complete job, and we hope that it can be accomplished without any complished satisfactorily. Our aim will be in view of the improvement in trade at that the public shall get ne real return ving the salarfor the money spent in stead of, as toies of the civil servants demoralization day, having to witness of the departmental nel that is widespread and deplo , though there are many capable and se sacrificing public servants whose work is most creditable

ECONOMY.

Although the present Prime Minister in his Manifesto proposed to establish Departments of Trade and Commerce and of Public Health, no attempt was made to do either of these things, but an absolutely unnecessary Department of Education was created for which there was no call whatever and no reference in his Manifesto. The apparent sole object in creating this Department was make a position for the Hon. Mr. Barnes, who could not be got to stand as a candidate for the present Government unless such an office was created for him. This office, by his own admission, involves an outlay of about \$30,000 a year, every cent of which is wasted, because no man has yet been able to explain what the Department does to justify its existence or how it influences the educational development of the country. It will be the object of my party, if elected, to abolish this Department without loss of time, and to apply the money wasted on it to the promotion of educa-

tion generally. The Ministry of Shipping, which it had been found necessary to create in this country during the War, as in every other country engaged in the struggle, to deal with the entirely exceptional conditions then existing, has been continued during the term of this Government. This is another entirely unnecessary office, the work of which could be as easily performed by a Clerk in the Department of Marine and Fisheries, as the work of the Education Department was performed until three years ago by a Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office. The sole purpose of keeping this Department in existence, in spite of the Premier's promise in the Speech from the Throne at the Session of 1920 to abolish, was to provide an office of emolument for Mr. Cave, the Minister in charge. This Department my party will also undertake to abolish

In the same Speech from the Throne the Premier announced that the Department of Militia would be wound up. That was three years ago, but the Depart-ment of Militia is still being continued. Its cost, according to information supplied at the last session, cannot be less than fifty or sixty thousand dollars a year and there seems to be no reason to justify its existence four and a half years after the termination of the War. I propose to take steps for the immediate abolition of this Department as well.

In addition to the abolition of these departments, I propose to instigate a general policy of economy in all branches of the public service; the lopping off of useless offices, created by the present administration, the abolishing of costly and ineffectual experiments, particularly of the Agriculture Department, and general con-

serving public funds.

REPEAL FISH REGULATION. Enactments will be introduced to repeal the measure under which the Fish Regulation policy of the present Government was carried into effect and to make it impossible for enactments put on the Statute Book for other purposes to be distorted into agencies for carrying out policies for which they were never intended. When the Fishery Regulations were first formulated, and on being challenged, were declared invalid by the Supreme Court, the terms of an Act on the Statute Book intended for an entirely different purpose were distorted so as to make this Act an agency to continue this policy in existence for a further period. We will, if elected, take such steps as will prevent anybody in the future from misusing the machinery of the Statute Book in this fashion.

AGAINST FISH NATIONALIZATION. This step becomes all the more necessary because Mr. Coaker has avowed his purpose to force the present Government, if elected now, to undertake the Nationalization of Fish. With the experience this country has already had of the frightful consequences of Mr. Coaker's first experiment in interfering with our main industry, it can view with no other feeling than nsion the prospect one of profound appreh of his being put in a position to try "his prentice hand" on some other scheme, the price of which, however disastrous, the people will have to pay. I need not say that my Party will oppose to the utmost e to the utmost any Coaker scheme for further tampering with our fisheries. Our efforts will be directed altogether to a ing the fishing industry to regain its i t, by encouraging all connected with it o work unitedly and by refraining fro y Government action calculated to b this object. Nothing but disaster come from Mr. Coaker's dictation in t ast; we propose hands off this to keep the Governme industry in the future

STEAM SERVICES.

In view of the gradu increasing tenur products to dency of the exporti foreign markets by take up with the Fur the matter of im as to give us three ith a regular

commerce which I expect to follow to a return to sound Government and com tions of sanity in the administration this Colony's affairs, which it will be object of myself and colleagues to m mote if elected.

The matter of a reorganization of # coastal steam service will also engage early attention. At the present time th are overlapping services which might avoided, and it is my hope that meas can be devised by which the different tions of the country will be given the quisite coastal steam facilities with having to pay the heavy losses which present have to be met in connection

WILL GET RID OF "COAKER NAW

We propose to get rid of "The Con Fleet," the collection of trawlers and oth crafts, on the purchase and equipmen which nearly half a million dollars, as ready shown, has been spent, while the nual loss on their operation has been en mous. Mr. Coaker, who conceived the idthat he could operate a railway success ly, also thought he could bring th steamers into the country and utilize the profitably. They are makeshifts, fit neith for freight nor passengers, and have on more than three or four times their wo in the expense of their operation the pa two or three years.

Mr. Coaker, the real master of the pr ent Administration, announced in a me sage from Port Union to the sealers af days before they departed for the fields, that a West India service would inaugurated if the Government was turned. The first step in this direction w attempted last year appropriately enough with a steamer which Mr. Coaker cha ered to bring coal to this port, and whi when she got here was without other ployment. I do not think the people of country want a service controlled by Coaker, with the contingency that Mr. Coaker's fish would be sent in he that she would be utilized to the advanta of the business concerns with which organization is friendly. Last year coast steamers were taken off their regis routes to carry freight to Port Union the rights of the other elements community were entirely ignored. consult with those interested in the en trade of the country, to ascertain if a service is within the means the Colony. If so, we will prove this facility, but I feel constrained warn the public against the idea that service can be based upon a sugar refin for which the steamers would bring be return cargoes—another scheme of Coaker's. The annual import of sugar is

Newfoundland is only 3,000 barrel

month, or 36,000 barrels a year, and not

finery could be made to pay with such

small quantity of sugar to be manufact In this same pronouncement to sealers. Mr. Coaker announced the new sealing steamers would be pro by the Government next year. means anything, it means that Mr. er is even now enforcing on Sir Rich Squires a policy of building or buy sealing steamers. I am justified in say that the experience of the firms whi built and operated large powerful breaking steamers was such that they not intend to repeat the experiment. though after the "Stephano" and "Flo zel" were lost, an opportunity existed their replacement by others of the sa kind such was not done, but other shi were bought which will not go to the se fishery; and although the "Ventures" has disappeared no attempt has been made replace them either. I warn the therefore, against Mr. Coaker's tion, which can only mean that he forcing this present Government. elected, to engage in the building of erful steamers for the sealfishery wit any hope of their being profitably empl ed in any other direction.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION.

In his Manifesto, Sir Richard Squir promised

"To reorganize the public health ser "vivce of the Colony; to assist in "construction and operation o "port hospitals; to reorganize the ad ministration of the Insane As "to undertake the education 'people in matters of hygiene; with the question of tubercule "co-relate the activities of the var "ous public health institutions. "hospitals in St. John's and the hos "als in the outports, etc."

Nothing whatever has been done these directions, and in no respect there been a more deliberate breach faith with the public than in this.

If my Party is elected, I propose creation of a Public Health Commission an enlargement of the Hospital Board stituted during the administration of Edward Morris, at a time when I had honor to be Colonial Secretary and direct ly in charge of this work. I propose all the public health agencies and other institutions, such as Hospitals, Asylu etc., shall be placed under the control this Board and the work carried out as as possible by it. I hope to secure the sistance of a number of gentlemen of ficient public spirit to undertake this di without charge, and feel confident the highly beneficial consequences to the contry as well as to those seeking medical consequences.

(Continued on 9th page).

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or Asylum will OLD AG As a member ent I participate re Pension Fun need not say, p n to increase ar and to exten en as well. Als sregarded this ected. He went rty voted again ssion to carry me time that laries of Depar easing the Sess

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