

DELEGATION WILL GO TO OTTAWA ST. JOHN'S FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE

AT A GREAT MASS MEETING OF EARNEST AND RESOLUTE CITIZENS LAST EVENING IN THE NICKEL THEATRE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE GROSS INJUSTICE OF DIVERTING THE MAIL STEAMERS FROM ST. JOHN BY CONCESSIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAY THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AMID CHEERING THAT HAD IN IT THE RING OF AN AROUSED, INDIGNANT AND DETERMINED CITIZENSHIP:

"WHEREAS THE BOARD RECENTLY LEARNED WITH PLEASURE OF THE DECISION OF THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER MAILS TO THE STEAMSHIPS EITHER AT ST. JOHN OR HALIFAX, AS MIGHT BE SELECTED BY THE COMPANIES INTERESTED IN THE MAIL CONTRACTS, AND FELT THAT BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS POLICY THE CITY OF ST. JOHN WOULD RECEIVE FAIR AND ADEQUATE TREATMENT UPON ITS MERITS AS A PORT; AND

"WHEREAS MORE RECENTLY THE CITY WAS GRATIFIED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IN THE PUBLISHED LIST OF THE SAILINGS OF THAT LINE OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY INTENDED TO MAKE ST. JOHN ITS ONLY PORT OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE; AND

"WHEREAS TO THE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY IT NOW APPEARS THAT NEITHER THE EMPRESSES, OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIP LINES, NOR THE ALSATIAN NOR CALGARIAN, OF THE ALLAN LINE, WILL USE THE PORT OF ST. JOHN DURING THE COMING WINTER; AND

"WHEREAS IT APPEARS TO THIS BOARD THAT THIS CHANGE ON THE PART OF THE COMPANIES HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTED WITHOUT THE AID OF SPECIALLY FAVORABLE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY FOR CARRYING THE CARGOES OF THE MAIL STEAMERS PAST THE PORT OF ST. JOHN TO THAT OF HALIFAX;

"THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, IN THE OPINION OF THIS BOARD OF TRADE AND THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN, IT IS IMPERATIVELY NECESSARY IN JUSTICE TO THE PORT OF ST. JOHN THAT THE OPEN DOOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OFFERED SHALL BE AN OPEN DOOR IN FACT AS WELL AS IN NAME AND THAT ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN MADE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE PORT OF ST. JOHN SHALL AT ONCE BE WITHDRAWN; AND

"FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE HON. J. D. HAZEN BE REQUESTED TO EXERT EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO OBTAIN JUSTICE FOR THE PORT OF ST. JOHN."

The resolution, moved by Senator W. H. Thorne and seconded by Senator J. W. Daniel, was adopted unanimously.

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"THAT OUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE IN PARLIAMENT BE ASKED TO SHOW THAT HE IS WILLING TO STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE CITIZENS OF ST. JOHN IN MAINTAINING THEIR RIGHTS AND DEMANDING THAT JUSTICE BE DONE TO ST. JOHN; AND THAT, FAILING A SUCCESSFUL RESULT, HE BE REQUESTED TO TENDER HIS RESIGNATION AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT."

This resolution as an addition to the first was moved by D. F. Pidgeon but was withdrawn at the suggestion of J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., and Senator Thorne and at the request of the chairman, the two former urging that it would be better to allow Hon. Mr. Hazen to resign voluntarily rather than at the request of his constituents, as such a procedure would form a stronger protest on his part.

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A detailed account of the resolutions, telegrams, letters and speeches, following here, will indicate how thoroughly the community is aroused, and how determined the city is, irrespective of politics, to get a square deal or demonstrate how St. John can resent injustice, wrong, and commercially disastrous discrimination at the hands of the powers that be.

The Situation Explained.

J. M. Robinson, president of the Board of Trade, after calling the meeting to order said:

"It is not necessary to make many remarks to explain why this meeting was called. You all know that the sailings of the mail steamers which we expected were to be made from this port bid fair to go amiss. As soon as we learned of the way things were going the Board of Trade took the matter into consideration and finally decided to call this meeting. Previous to this we had got in touch with Mr. Hazen by letter and told him that the people of St. John were greatly disappointed with the way things

were going and today I received in reply the following letter: October 4, 1913.

"Dear Mr. Robinson:

"I am in receipt of yours of the 3rd inst.

"I have been very much surprised to learn that the C. P. R. have decided to send the Empresses to Halifax, and can understand the expressions of disappointment that have been given utterance to. The feeling, however, that undue influence has been used to force the shipping people to this action is absolutely and entirely without any foundation whatever.

"They are perfectly free agents in the matter. The contract entered into with the C. P. R. lines which St. John has wanted for so many years, namely, that mails should be delivered to the ships either at Halifax or St. John, and that they should be at liberty to use whichever port they pleased.

"I am more than surprised at the action in view of the statement attributed to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy to the effect that the Empresses would not call at Halifax, and that they not been compelled to do so. It was unfortunate that when a contract has been entered into in exacting terms and conditions the people of St. John have so long desired that the result should not have been more satisfactory.

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"Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa:

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"They decided to come to St. John, but almost immediately this decision was reversed. Why has the C. P. R. suddenly decided to send all their mail steamers to Halifax without even calling at St. John, to the detriment of this port? They showed their preference for this port and the change must have been due to some outside influence or some unwarranted concessions which amount to a serious discrimination against St. John and against which we are bound to protest. What right has anyone to allow this discrimination against St. John when the C. P. R. had fully decided to make their mail sailings from this city and thus test the merits of the rival ports?" (Great applause.)

Senator Thorne's Resolution.

Sensor Thorne then moved the following resolution:

"Whereas the board recently learned with pleasure of the decision of the Dominion government to deliver mails to the steamships either at St. John or Halifax, as might be selected by the companies interested in the mail contracts, and felt that by the adoption of this policy the city of St. John would receive fair and adequate treatment upon its merits as a port; and

"Whereas more recently the city was gratified by the announcement that in the published list of the sailings of that line, the Canadian Pacific Railway intended to make St. John its only port of arrival and departure; and

"Whereas to the great disappointment of the people of this city it now appears that neither the Empresses, of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Lines, nor the Alsatian nor the Calgarian, of the Allan line, will use the port of St. John during the coming winter; and

"Whereas it appears to this board that this change on the part of the companies has not been effected without the aid of specially favorable arrangements with the Intercolonial Railway for carrying the cargoes of the mail steamers past the port of St. John to that of Halifax;

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criminate against St. John? (Cries of "No right—none at all.")

"We have heard of a congestion of traffic at this port last winter, but the only time that the port was at all congested was in March when all the lines were making an effort to rush their sailings to clean up the last of the winter business.

Mr. Pidgeon's Resolution.

"Let us look this question squarely in the face and I believe we will find it even more serious than any of the previous speakers has said. (Applause.) The only fault I have to find with the resolution is that it is not strong enough and I want to move an amendment as follows:

"Resolved, that a delegation of twenty of the most prominent citizens of St. John, irrespective of politics, be selected by this meeting to proceed forthwith to Ottawa and to demand from the government that no discrimination be shown against St. John, and that none but the regular passenger and freight rates be granted by the I. C. R. to the C. P. R."

Now the Time to Act.

"The trouble is we did not commence soon enough. Let us start now or strike while the iron is hot. Let us insist upon the Dominion government starting a reconstruction of the wharf at a time but of three or four.

"Don't give them the chance to back again and say that we have the equipment to handle the business."

"We have started a great movement tonight and the best thing about it is that while every speaker has been a strong supporter of the government, I find an audience composed of members of both parties united in their support. Keep together and get after the wharf and in a few years we will forget a difference with Halifax. It will not be a question of wharves but of enough to care for the golden rule of the great west. If we are true to our own city in this matter we will be true to our country as well. (Applause.)

W. E. Foster.

In reply to a number of calls from the audience, W. E. Foster addressed the meeting as follows:

"It was not my intention to make remarks, believing it better to leave it speaking to supporters of the government."

"The reason some men do not agree is because they have a wishbone where their backbone ought to be. It is I cause this is true of some persons; we are here tonight, and the people of St. John of both parties must stick together to get what they want."

"Some years ago, when I was president of the board of trade and I Daniel was one representative of the same influences at work, but back up by influences at Halifax not so a parent then."

"At that time I went to Ottawa, saw our representative in the government and was able to come back and report that nothing would be done with the wharf warning. But no warning has been received this time. Everything led to believe that we