

judgment, the correct course to pursue would be to continue the work of the session as we had from the beginning, without any regular leadership, but that I would informally lead the Opposition from my place in the House; and that at the close of the session, when the country would have had an opportunity of estimating our work, and my fitness to lead, I would be prepared to consider their very flattering invitation.

I further stated that it was most desirable that an opportunity should be afforded our friends in the Outports and St. John's to make known their wishes as to my leadership, and particularly to endorse the action of the members of the Opposition in the Legislature.

The assurances which have reached me from the Outports, as well as the endorsement from our friends in St. John's, as appended below, have been of such a nature as to leave no room for doubt in my mind that the desire of the country is that I should lead the Opposition forces at the coming General Election.

I, therefore, after much consideration, comply with the wishes of the people, and with a full appreciation of the many shortcomings for the work I am undertaking, accept the position of Leader of the Opposition forces in the Colony, which henceforth will be known as the **THE PEOPLE'S PARTY**.

Under the banner of the **PEOPLE'S PARTY** the whole of the industrial classes of the Colony—the Fishermen, the Farmers, the Mechanics, the Laborers, the Clerks, and all who work for a living—will find a rallying point, where all who wish to see their country advance may join together to work for the common good.

This is not the time for me to outline in detail what the policy of the **PEOPLE'S PARTY** will be, but it may not be premature for me to state that it will embrace a thorough, vigorous policy on the following subjects:—

1. Education, particularly the increasing of teachers' salaries, increased grants for destitute places, and the improvement of School-rooms from a health and sanitary standpoint.
2. Reduction of taxation so that it may lean equitably on the fishing and laboring classes.
3. Railway extension, by the construction of branch