



of war in Germany. Ex-Sergt Jack Moskale, a hero of Monchy, and who spent 16 months in German prisons, was nominated as Secretary by Mr. Jacob Barrett, and seconded by Mr. Victor Carlson, and seconded by Mr. Victor Carlson, and seconded by Mr. Victor Carlson.

The speaker's opening remarks referred to the great need of electing men of independence and untrammelled in conscience to represent the important District of St. John's West, and in naming Hon. J. R. Bennett, J. J. Mullyay and J. T. Martin asked that the meeting give their approval by a standing vote. The committee of five hundred stood to their feet, and with a cheer that shook the T. A. Hall to the rafters, gave them full endorsement and approval.

Hon. Mr. Bennett, the youngest member of St. John's West, and who has faithfully represented it since 1904, was introduced by the chairman and in a speech occupying nearly an hour, held the meeting, his remarks being punctuated at intervals by rounds of applause and vociferous cheering. It is impossible with the brief space at our disposal to-day, to give more than a short outline of Mr. Bennett's speech, which probably is one of the best ever given from a public platform in St. John's. After thanking the committees for the splendid endorsement they had received, he paid a splendid and deserved tribute to the late Michael J. Kennedy, one of his colleagues of six years ago, who had addressed a great number of the committee now before him. Mr. Kennedy, he said, was a man of sterling qualities, a man held in highest esteem in St. John's and one who had devoted a great deal of his life to the uplift of the workmen from which he sprung. St. John's had produced no better character than Michael J. Kennedy, a man modest in his dress and demeanour, and with a sincerity that few possessed. In his passing he had lost a life-long friend and one whom he had learned to love because of the good that was in him. His death was a serious loss to the community, and he hoped that his memory would be long preserved. His other colleague, Sir Edward Morris (now Lord Morris), had taken up life elsewhere. For nearly thirty years he had served St. John's West well and truly, but he had seen fit to retire from public life in Newfoundland.

The speaker then conferred on him was well won, and Newfoundland shared in the honor. Hon. Mr. Bennett then went on to discuss the political situation from the outbreak of the war until the

present time. In 1917, when not a ton of salt was at the disposal of the fishermen, and when it was almost impossible to get a ton of coal delivered in the Island, or a barrel of flour, or anything else for that matter, a Coalition Govt. was formed, into which the Coaker element was taken. All our local shipping had been disposed of to the merchant navy, and the use in the Islands of the boats of our own and our case was practically hopeless. After negotiations with the British Government, who would not touch individual enterprise, steamers were obtained, and what threatened to be a serious matter was overcome. Few knew at the time what stood in our way, and the only solution was to form a united front, and consequently the matter of our soldiers and sailors! Hon. Mr. Bennett gave a complete answer to his villifiers. "The blossom and pride of our country went forth," he said, "to battle for right against might and we are doing to-day. Many of them are in Gallipoli, France and Flanders, and beneath the waters of the North Sea, but all that I could do for the soldiers and sailors and their dependents I have done. I fear no man in this respect. For the returned soldiers and sailors I have attempted to do the best possible, and we hope to do a little further. There is the aged father or mother who have lost their son, who have not looked for any assistance, but were waiting for their father to be a help to them in their old age. These must be attended to, and I have the authority of the Prime Minister and the Government to say that they will be attended to. Many cases of this kind are not yet adjusted, but every case will be attended to, and we hope to satisfy every soldier and sailor and parent in due course." Continuing, Hon. Mr. Bennett referred to Premier Chishm and his work since he became Prime Minister, and for the last eleven years as Minister of Finance. He was the son of a fisherman from the fishing boat to Premier-ship; and if any man in Newfoundland had the interests of the fishermen and workmen at heart it was Sir Michael Chishm. A political clique made up of factions "too numerous to mention" were masquerading under the "Liberal-Reform" banner, and Hon. Mr. Bennett said that "anybody who had as much right to assume the name 'Liberal' as the Boishieve. They had neither platform nor programme, but only a policy of abuse and vilification. At this juncture a motion was made to name the Government "The Liberal-Progressive Party," which was carried amidst great enthusiasm. "And," said Mr. Bennett, "if the deed of St. John's West could see the spectacle of this Union-Crucupulous gang of the Squires-Coakers combine calling themselves 'Liberal-Reformers' their rest would be broken and they would turn over in their graves." "Touching the question of the Commission," Hon. Mr. Bennett stated that he had written the Lord Candidates on behalf of the Government to nominate a man to act for them on this important Commission. It was the intention of the Government to have a man who knew how to get at the root of this evil to act on the Commission. "The housing problem was another matter dealt with. Mr. Bennett was in full sympathy with the work done by Hon. Mr. Anderson, but thought the housing of the people should become a matter of the Government of the Dominions. It was used by the building hospitals and sanatoriums if the cause that led to the need of such was not eradicated. This was a matter that should be dealt with, and he was prepared to put forward all his efforts to bring reform about, whether it came from the leader of the Opposition or the Government. Another matter under consideration by the Government was the establishment of a Bureau for fur more than a year he had been giving the matter consideration, and he felt that the time was opportune that a Bureau be appointed to deal with any labor troubles that

ing strikes, at a loss to the workers and the community. Other matters dealing with local affairs were touched on, but the meeting being only called to form a Committee, Mr. Bennett announced that he would deal fully with the whole political situation at a public meeting to be held during next week in the Casino Theatre.

Mr. J. J. Mullaly, whose candidature was so heartily endorsed, followed Mr. Bennett. Mr. Mullaly made an earnest appeal to the Committee to support the cause of honest government against the attempt of a mixed crew who were trying, through practical means to get ahead the ship of state. Some objections had been raised against him by the Opposition press that he was not a West End man and had no right to be nominated on the West End ticket. For thirty odd years he had worked in the West End and conducted business there and had paid out more money in labor than his opponents ever could or even would. It was not his desire or intention to start a campaign of vulgar inuendo as had characterized the opposition to the Squires-Coaker candidates, but in the meantime he wished to serve timely notice on his opponents that he was ready and prepared to pay them back in their own coin, with interest if they persisted. He was into the fight from now until polling day, and he looked for a gentlemanly contest. Low, cheap personalities always had their rebound, and the intelligent voters of St. John's West wanted only straight, honest facts and not "little stuff" that some of his opponents were trying to foist on the people with. He was preparing to continue the policy of the Government, and he asked the Committee to vote solidly for the candidates of the Liberal-Progressive Party. The meeting being only called for the purpose of selecting a Committee, he would not address it at length, but at the public meeting to be held at an early date he would deal more fully with matters calling for attention.

Mr. J. T. Martin, taking the floor next was given a great ovation. As with Mr. Mullaly he did not wish to take up the time of the Committee at any length, but asked to be put on record as supporting the Liberal-Progressive Party against the Squires-Coaker combination. Mr. Martin, whose knowledge of local affairs is well known, referred to the housing problem and to the great need for improving present conditions. He was prepared to support the workmen's interests and would devote all his time in their behalf after the ballots were counted, which he was ready to say would give a great big majority for Bennett, Mullaly and Martin. He had been among the people and had learned their sentiments. The Squires-Coaker outfit was not wanted in St. John's West, any more than the Squires-Coaker outfit was in the country. They had no policy, they were only a scramble taken from here, there and anywhere, and a good many of them were only going to districts to spend their vacations. Mr. Martin in conclusion said, Bennett, Mullaly and Martin were in the fight to win, and their majority would be so great over the Squires-Coaker trio that the latter would not know where they got on.

Hon. Sir M. P. Cashin was unanimously called by the Committee to make an address, and spoke for more than half an hour. He reviewed the financial conditions of the Colony from the year 1914, when we were declared, up to the present time, and from the point of view of the progress we had made since the dark days of 1914. It was a story that did credit to the man who told it, and the great resources of our Island Home. After our entrance into the world war in response to the call from the Mother Land, borrowing abroad had to be resorted to. Our first help came from England, and then loans were floated in the U. S. When these were spent it was thought our finances for continuing the war were at an end, but such was not the case. Other loans were obtained, and the wisdom of the Government's policy was witnessed by the fact that the borrowings went on, and we were still able to carry on. Last year when all obligations were met, there was a surplus of over \$2,100,000. Sir Michael said he would like to be accused of piling on taxes to get this surplus, but he would like to tell the meeting that even more than \$1,000,000 of this amount were paid by those along Water Street and other places in the profits tax collections. A great deal had been said as to the policy of the Government, and about the wisdom of the policy, but it was distinctly to be desired that there be Prime Minister's throat force of circumstances. It was not of his own personal desire, but he never sought the position. But when the ship of state was drifting to destruction he would not show the white feather, and took upon himself at urgent request the task of saving Newfoundland from ultimate ruin. For 27 years he had sat in the House of Assembly, and during that time some 75 of his members had been elected by the voters of Ferryland in 1899 as a Liberal, and he had never changed. Over matters which affecting his district he had separated from Sir Robert Bond, but he had never changed his policy. When the Coalition Government was formed he joined it to help along war work and keep the country from suffering in food shortages and depression that

The opposition papers and particularly The STAR have been called "destructionists" by The Advocate. Readers of The Coaker organ have been told that this paper and those associated with it are enemies of the people; that we labor to kill Mr. Coaker politically and to bring destruction upon the union.

As far as the anti-Coaker charge is concerned, The STAR admits the correctness of the indictment. We have no sympathy with nor are we prepared to display the least consideration for the Wordy President and the methods he employs to maintain a grip on political power in this country. The STAR regards Coakerism as being as unlovely as undesirable and as destructive of the interests of the common people as it does Bolshevism.

There can be little room for doubt as to the unbalanced, socialistic tendencies of Mr. Coaker. He has filled to the brim the political cauldron with abuse, with misrepresentation, with libel and with injustice; to this witches brew he has added impossible promises and pledges; he has flattered

Note particularly and closely the concluding words of Orlick in the above extract: **SQUIRES' CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE F. P. U.** After this Can You Conscientiously Vote for Squires or your Apostate leader---Coaker?

have shook the whole Empire. This was the coalition so far as he was concerned. Eighteen months ago while he was abroad, the Coaker element made an effort to throw men out of their jobs who had been faithful servants of the public for many years, but he told Premier Lloyd if such action was taken he, also, was going out. In his opinion every man in the public service had a right to vote as he liked and their places should not be taken by any section or institution because they had assumed political control. When the armistice was signed Premier Lloyd's advice was signed. Premier Lloyd was sent to England and preparations were made for a fall or spring election. He was prepared to stand by the Coalition Government, but he soon learned that certain circles were making suggestions to Premier Lloyd. He also learned that the Coaker circle had decided that as soon as he (Cashin) had put through Supply Premier Lloyd and Coaker would offer a policy to the Coalition members and if the People's Party representatives did not accept it they would be told to walk to the other side of the House. The Assembly would then be closed and an election held at the whim or wish of Mr. Coaker. He (Sir Michael Cashin) told Lloyd he would not put Supply through because of this con-

templated treachery, and moved a vote of want of confidence in the Government, which was seconded by Premier Lowell himself. The hour was growing too late for Sir Michael to continue further, but he informed the Committee that at the first public meeting to be held next week, he would fully discuss these matters and also offer the manifesto of his Government for consideration.

Mr. Bennett before the meeting closed, intimated that Mr. Levi Chafe, Chairman of the 1913 Committee, who was unavoidably absent, had pledged him his support, which resulted in Mr. Chafe being elected Chairman with Mr. J. Fitzgibbon Deputy Chairman. The meeting closed with the National Anthem and cheering long and loud for the Liberal-Progressive Party, Sir Michael Cashin and Bennett, Mullaly and Martin.

A dash of bright embroidery is often the only ornament on the sobered hues for winter.

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By order,
JAMES HARRIS,
Secretary.

Dept. of Public Works,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
20th September, 1919.

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