

Magnificent Mass Meeting!

Casino Theatre Filled to Capacity.

People's Verdict Expressed Last Night-- Organize and Fight Government--Resolutions of Protest Adopted -- A Most Wonderful Demonstration.

In spite of anything and everything government papers may state to the contrary, last night's meeting at the Casino was representative of the feeling of dissatisfaction and discontent now reigning in St. John's. There were upwards of 1200 persons or more present, including some of the most prominent people of the city.

The meeting was called for the purpose of organizing an opposition to the Government, and the mass of people who attended, was proof positive that the present holders of office will have to fight hard to retain their positions.

There were no appointed speakers, but at 8.30 Mr. J. J. St. John called the meeting to order, and in response to his appeal for a chairman, it was proposed by Mr. John Davey and seconded by Mr. Geo. Langmead, that Mr. W. A. O'D. Kelly preside. Mr. Kelly spoke very appealingly to the speakers, setting out the reason why the meeting was called, and asking for immediate opinions on the question of organizing an opposition.

Mr. A. Carnell was very pronounced in his views of an opposition, and promised his active support to any opposition so formed.

Mr. J. J. St. John spoke very clearly as to the purpose of the meeting, and the people acclaimed with one voice that an opposition was the need of the hour. Mr. St. John then read the resolutions to be put before the meeting.

Mr. A. English then spoke, giving his opinion that the whole country was ready to fight the present party and so bring in another era of Government.

Ex-Sergt. J. Robinson then declared that it was time an opposition was formed to fight, and to try and make things better in our island.

Mr. Fred Moore also spoke very strongly of the need of an opposition. Mr. Frank Murphy, of Placentia, stated that the District of Placentia and St. Mary's were prepared for a strong opposition party.

Mr. Fred Ayre and Mr. Will Knowling promised their support toward the dismemberment and defeat of the present Government.

Dr. J. S. Tait was another of the speakers, strongly in favor of an opposition, and there were numerous others, and the voice of one and all was in accord that opposition should be organized at once. As evidence of this, a committee of 150 were appointed to organize the opposing party. The resolution to organize was carried unanimously; there was ONE dissenting voice. The committee was then appointed as follows:

John Davey, Thomas Dunne, Fred Moore, John Nangle, John O'Neill, Charles Power, Moses Wellman, Frank Wellman, B. B. Harris, Capt. Bill Dawe, S. Bradbury, Dr. Tait, Levi Chase, Geo. Tucker, Bernard J. Murphy, ex-Sergeant Robinson, A. English, P. J. Shea, A. Miller, Andrew Carnell, S. Hennessey, Jas. J. James, T. C. Noel, Dan Carroll, John Cotter, John Rahall, T. M. White, Fred Power, E. F. Carter, Frank Power, J. Savage, J. P. Hall, J. P. Halley, John C. Oke, W. Rose, Thomas Ryan, Jack Hand, Chesley Bowden, W. H. Cave, Geo. Rideout, W. F. Kenney, R. Dowden, Ken. Porter, M. Malone, J. S. Munn, Jas. Collins, W. S. Redman, R. Avery, Walter Chase, A. Noonan, H. Hayward, Herb. Parsons, Edward Shaw, Fred Hue, Samuel Merrills, G.

Conway, Jas. T. Long, M. Maloney, Edward Lawrence, John Breen, L. Ashley, John Furlong, G. Oliver, M. Condon, A. Robertson, P. J. O'Reilly, John Collier, S. Angell, Samuel Ryall, E. D. Spurrell, P. Myrick, Thomas Sparks, John T. Kelly, Edward Rogers, J. Taylor, G. Gushue, Jr., George Baird, George Coffin, Thomas Wallace, M. Foley, F. Barron, George Jennings, John Stapleton, Ralph Stick, A. Burt, Jas. J. Goady, M. B. Caul, Sam Frellich, D. Dempsey, John Cahill, John Williams, John Wellman, J. P. Crotty, W. Mercer, M. F. Smith, A. Whitten, H. Greeno, J. Aspell, Freeman Cole, Isaac Richards, John Windsor, ex-Lieut. W. Grace, R. Grouchy, M. P. Molloy, T. Ryan, M. Foley, S. Tizzard, J. Luby, W. Cook, Joseph Miller, P. Thompson, W. M. Cooke, A.

Hennebury, W. Wyatt, J. J. O'Brien, C. T. Stephenson, Jas. Stephens, Chas. Butt, G. Herder, Hubert Taylor, W. M. Broderick, H. Gardner, George Marshall, Thomas Jenkins, A. Jenkins, John Clooney, H. J. Brownrigg, M. Murphy, M. Noseworthy, S. B. Maimment, Ed. Long, A. Knight, S. Leonard, G. Wells, S. Moore, John Davey, A. P. Lawrence, James Melvin, W. Jocelyn, W. Donnelly, W. J. Edny, F. Marshall, W. McCordle, George Snow, A. Noseworthy, R. Ivany, J. Sexton and others.

resolution passed will be submitted. The intention of the Committee is to have a public meeting on Monday night next and assemble at the Casino Theatre, and afterwards move in a body to Government House grounds where the request of the meeting will be laid before His Excellency.

The resolutions proposed and adopted last night were:

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS in the speech delivered at the opening of the present Session of the Legislature, the Government announced their intention of holding a General Election next month.

AND WHEREAS no voters' lists have been taken for the purpose of holding a General Election as by law provided.

AND WHEREAS the non-taking of voters' lists and the holding of a General Election in the month of May owing to weather and climatic conditions will mean the disenfranchisement of thousands of electors of the country destroying the freedom of election and be subversive of one of the cardinal principles of Democratic Government.

AND WHEREAS the taking of a voters' list is absolutely essential to the right of the people to choose who

shall represent them in the Government of the country.

AND WHEREAS the very foundations of Government rest upon the freedom and purity of elections.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the citizens of St. John's in public meeting assembled do strongly and in the most emphatic manner protest against the holding of a General Election next month, as the holding of same under conditions as now exist will mean the disenfranchisement of thousands of electors throughout the island thereby destroying the freedom of election so essential to the proper Government of the country.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be presented to His Excellency the Governor and both branches of the Legislature.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should it be necessary in the interest of the country that an election be held in the month of May next, that His Excellency the Governor be asked to exercise the powers given him under the Election Act by which he is enabled to fix the date of nomination and that such date be not earlier than the 16th day of May next.

The general meeting closed with the National Anthem, after which a committee meeting was held, to devise ways and means.

At the House.

(Yesterday.)

Petitions were presented by Mr. St. John from the South side of Trinity Bay for railway extension; from Mr. Spence and New Harbor for roads; Mr. Abbott, from Openhall, Bay's Cove, etc., on local affairs; by Mr. Davey from St. George's, for roads, and by Mr. Morine from Port Blandford, Openhall, King's Cove, etc., protesting against the alteration in the route of the railway. The railway petitions brought forth further comment from Messrs. Woodford and Downey. The Bill to amend the Election Act came up for second reading. The Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. Dr. W. F.

Lloyd), briefly explained its provisions which made the voters' list taken in 1917 valid; permits all soldiers and sailors who have been overseas to vote, and delays the election in St. Barbe till some time in June.

Mr. Morine (Bonavista), pointed out that he had already given his reasons why he thought the election should be deferred, and as extended debate would not alter the Government's view, suggested that to save time the Bill should be put through all its stages to-day.

When the Bill went into the committee stage, Mr. Walsh (Placentia) raised the point that the soldiers who had volunteered but did not go overseas should be given the vote as well

as those who had done their part. He raised no objection to the election; indeed he had been prepared for it since 1917, when it should have been held, and he thought that the people were ready for it. If not it was a grave reflection on the public spirit of the country.

Mr. Currie (Burin), saw the need of making some distinction in favor of those who had gone overseas, and rather favored the Bill in that respect. He contended, however, that some sort of provision should be made for the large number of men still overseas, as it would be very unfair to disfranchise them. The Premier had stated that an effort was being made to bring them home in time, and he believed nothing would be lost if the date of the election was deferred till late in May so as to ensure the returning men their right to vote.

The Premier stated that the date of the election had not been decided. The Government could not agree with Mr. Walsh's suggestion.

Mr. Woodford (Hr. Main), and Mr. Downey (St. George's), approved an early election.

Following the passing of the Election Act, the House went into Committee on Supply, and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Cashin, introduced resolutions covering a vote of forty-five thousand dollars for election expenses. In introducing the resolutions he contended that the election was made necessary by the action of the Legislative Council in setting April 20th as the time when the life of Parliament should end. He also pointed out that there were many big questions to be handled, which made a new mandate from the people necessary. Among them was the provision for a new loan to cover that borrowed in the United States three years ago and which must be met by June 30th. He held that an early election was needed to give the authority necessary for raising such a loan.

Mr. Currie (Burin), was surprised to hear Mr. Cashin take this stand. It was only "throwing dust in the eyes of the people." The necessary arrangement no doubt, had already been made. The Minister had recently been in Canada and made the arrangements. The Canadian press had stated that he was there for that purpose. At any rate, the House was now in session and could pass the necessary legislation for raising this loan at once, without further authority from the people.

The Minister denied that he had negotiated a loan while in Canada, though he had discussed it with prominent financiers.

The vote was then moved.

Mr. Currie asked the following questions:—What salaries are paid to the Chairman and other members of the Pension Board, individually, also a detailed account of the expenses incurred, by the Chairman of said Board during his trip to Ottawa to study the Canadian pension scheme.

For a detailed account of the expenses of the Food Control Board, together with salaries paid to members, and a detailed amount of collections made by the said Board.

What salary was paid to Capt. John Lewis for acting as Fishery Representative abroad, also a detailed account of money paid to him for expenses.

The cost of fitting up the Empire

Wood Working Factory to date, together with the purchase price of same, and also the cost of the fitting up of the ranks for soldiers.

The amount paid to the Newfoundland Produce Company for Patrol Service during the years of 1915-1916-1917-1918.

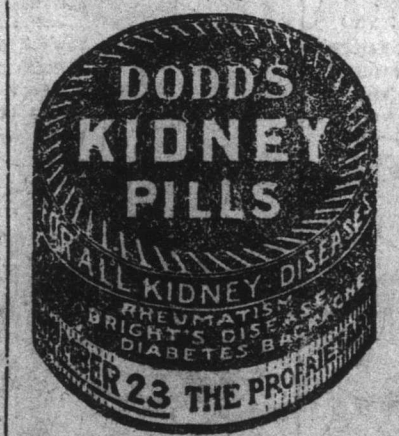
The Minister of Fisheries replied that no money had been paid to Capt. Lewis by his department for acting as Fishery Representative abroad. To all the other questions the reply was they were being prepared.

Mr. Walsh gave notice of a question regarding Old Age Pensions, after which the House adjourned till Monday.

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Paneled frocks are plentiful. A hat of lack Milan has a brim of lace. Box-pleated skirts are great favorites. Discolored revers appear on fitted bodices. Sports suits are being made in velvet. Delicate blouses rely on lace as trimming. The double train has not lost its popularity. The sweater has adopted the very wide girdle. Butterfly bows adorn the fronts of

clo hats. Jade green is a favorite color for indoor dresses. Evening gowns rarely boast backs to their waists. Oval necklines are favored for the one-piece dresses. One sees hats with feathers laid flat on the crown. A new flare tunic appears on short dinner gowns. Cross tucking is a novel way of trimming a garment. "Why is the price of smoked halibut up to 55 cents a pound?" queries the Boston Globe, and at the same time asks: "Has there been any increase in the cost of smoke?"

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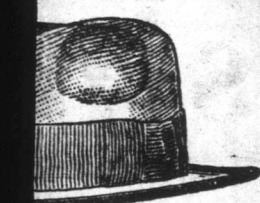
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