

FOUR THOUSAND ATTENDED THE SEALERS' MASS MEETING LAST NIGHT

(Continued from page 1)

For, supposing we had been elected, I would not have been able to come here to-night and face you with the same confidence I now feel.

How could I come here and defend myself for increasing taxation? It would have ruined the Union Party to have to clap on \$750,000 extra taxation. No, my friends, the present Government have made a mess of things and they must clean it up themselves; they have created confusion in our whole system of administration and now it is up to them to straighten things out themselves.

In a Tight Corner.

The fact that they have had to increase taxation by \$750,000 shows how tight is the place in which the Government now find themselves. Then they have to borrow \$2,000,000 to pay for railroad construction on the branches; and, Sir Edward Morris could not assure us in the House that this would be sufficient to finish them. Let them struggle along as best they can and when they have untangled things a bit we will step in and assume the direction of affairs. Having had the fun of flinging around the money, it is only right and proper that Sir Edward Morris and his followers should now have to tackle the problem of finding the cash to keep things running.

Now what have we done? We did a lot of talking, but it was practical, it was to the point, and it did much good. We have demanded returns of expenditure and have published them to the country just to show up how the public funds were wasted. And we believe it will be a great check on future extravagance.

Raised the Standard.

Then again we have labored hard to raise the standards of public life and of parliamentary procedure in this country, and goodness knows, this uplift was very necessary. When you have a man like Mr. Jennings, stand up, and say that if he thought he would be corrupted he would never be seen in the House again, you have a declaration that embodies the whole Union spirit. We want to keep ourselves clean, and we want to purify our local parliament. For all who heard Mr. Jennings, knew he was speaking the truth. Mr. Jennings also said the sat in parliament to serve his country, and there again he struck the key note of F.P.U. ideals.

Note of us went to the House to indulge in abuse nor do I mean to employ it here. And you mark my words the heaven we introduced is spreading. I have always stood out for British ideals and I contend what is best for England is also best for us. The true man will go to Parliament for his country's good and not to sit at Councils and to vote contracts for himself. Such would not be countenanced in England where a member was fined \$65,000 for voting on a measure in which he was personally interested. If your Members are poor, pay them, but keep them clear of the chest, and if they do wrong, punish them.

Bills Passed.

We passed a number of bills through the House this session. There is the Sealing Bill. It makes many improvements for the men. It secures them good comfortable places in which to sleep, decent food to eat and better treatment all round. We want men to be treated well all the week, and also on Sundays. Then further the cooks must do nothing but cook, if they are to give the men the best satisfaction. The general result is that now the men get good food, and the steamers are just as good as hotels were 20 years ago.

Then consider the Loggers' Bill. You men have been in the woods, and I dare say have had to cut boughs to lie on. Nobody but the man who has had such an experience knows just what it means. The boughs are wet, often frozen and are hard and knotty. Then as to food, that is far from satisfactory. Many men had no sweetness for a fortnight, and others no tea or butter. Such conditions are absolutely improper and a fair and call for immediate reform. And that reform we intend to accomplish.

They were embodied in the Loggers' Bill sent up to the Legislative Council and thrown out by that august body. And therein they showed less regard for our men who toil in the woods than they do for our domestic animals, for they labored hard to produce a law to prohibit animals from being maltreated. But our Bill to prevent cruelty to loggers received but scant consideration at their hands.

Different Treatment.

If a man hits a dog he will be put in jail, but a logger may have to sleep on boughs, and no one bothers to punish these responsible for such conditions. There are 3,000 men in the woods, and if they could hold

TRUSTEES OF THE PEOPLE

"Men who are elected to the House of Assembly must learn that they go there as trustees of the people, who will no longer allow men to sit at the Council Board and vote contracts to themselves."—Mr. Coaker.

a mass meeting, they'd soon get this Bill through the Council. Our House of Lords was afraid not to pass the Sealers' Bill, because they were afraid of you. They were afraid I would marshal you to Government House. But when the Loggers' Bill went to the House of Lords—where the "poor men" are they didn't worry about it at all because they felt sure that there'd be nobody coming about to bother them if they threw it out.

But I want you particularly to notice how much trouble they went to to prevent cruelty to animals and how little they troubled to make impossible cruelty to men.

But we're by no means through with this matter yet. We intend seeing justice done our men who toil in the lumber-woods and we will give these a fight. We will all turn into loggers and will wait on them with a demand to put the Bill through, and they will have to do it. I believe that. I told them in the House that seeing that they stood in the way of necessary legislation we would work tooth and nail to have the Council abolished. They are sorry now they did not pass it. The Legislative Council has never done good, even when they had the chance. A notable ex-

ample was at the time of the Reid Deal, when not one of them, except Mr. Knowling, raised a protest against this iniquitous measure.

Now my friends, I suppose you are tired (No, no, no, go on). Well then there is one little thing I want to tell you.

Extravagance.

Over at Harbor Grace they have a couple of public buildings. Bond gave them one costing about \$15,000. But that wasn't good enough so the present Government started another and more expensive one. We asked what the new building would cost. The Finance Minister thought the amount would be \$18,000. It has really cost \$40,000 so far. If they had put that money into some industries, it would have done much good. Had they given the men bait depots, and motor boats, they would have been performing a beneficent public service, and would have increased our revenue and built up an important industry. Besides you young men are not content to sit in boats like your fathers did, and row four or five miles against head winds, when you may get along so much easier in motor boats. Motor boats for 15,000 fishermen would only cost \$2,000,000, or as much as the Trepassy railway, and you would all be happy, which is a big consideration, and the revenue would be increased by hundreds of thousands of dollars which is a still greater one.

But, friends, there is nothing for the poor or worn out, but \$700,000 additional taxes; nothing for the young people but increased burdens to bear, and what will be the result? Why, if they can't get as good a living here as in Canada, then to Canada they will go, and no one can blame them.

Leaving Home.

The young women, too, are leaving for Canada and the States, leaving the old father and mother at home. But what else can they do? They must earn a living add they can only

do this with good times in this Country. Good times though will never come with such men as these we have in power running the affairs of this Country along such undesirable lines. Hence we are laboring hard and unceasingly to turn them out and inaugurate a new era of contentment and prosperity.

We are not going to submit to have things in Newfoundland as they are. Work to make your country better. We can improve the codfishery fifty per cent. We can make the herring and salmon fisheries better. Not a cent of \$4,000,000 revenue has been spent on the fisheries. The country must be kept up. The best men must be put in the Fishery Department.

We will find an opening in a district—in Green Bay if necessary—for a good man. Pay him \$5,000 if need be, but make him take off his coat and work ten hours a day.

I would like to talk for two hours longer (Talk on). To the St. John's men I wish to say, we are sincere; we are not going to make a cent out of the Government. I personally will never take a cent of Government money.

All the Union men are bound by an oath not to use their positions to benefit themselves.

This has been a grand meeting. Trust us. Our men are not going to do wrong.

Now, you men of St. John's know Mr. Kent. No one has ever pointed the finger of scorn at him. I am not afraid of him. We can talk straight to each other and if we have differences we always find a way to get round them; anyway we get along together very well.

You men who are going to the fish-



J. M. KENT, M.H.A.

ery, may God bless you, and bring you home with \$70 or \$80 in your pockets. Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind hearing and attention.

As Mr. Coaker took his seat, cheers loud and long rang through the building.

The Band then played the "Soldiers of the King" in a most patriotic manner, as a compliment to Mr. Coaker.

Mr. Kent—Mr. Chairman, fellow countrymen, when I was asked to address the sealers, I felt it a great pleasure to have that privilege. There is nothing more characteristic of this country than the preparations and the fitting out for the sealfishery. It is no wonder that every man, woman and child takes an interest in the sealers. I'm sorry I did not have this honor before. I am proud of my connections with the F.P.U.

Men To Be Proud Of.

Gentlemen, any person who visited the House the last two months could not but feel that the men who represented Union districts, were men that the country ought to be proud of. They acquitted themselves well. Every one must be impressed with the way that fishery matters were kept before the House. The reason is, that men who knew about the fisheries were there. The Governor's speech contained no reference to fishery matters, but the Union men kept it before the House. You fishermen know that there is a greater interest in fishery matters to-day than ever. This is a good sign.

Government moneys should be well spent. There should be no squandering. Money spent by the Government is not picked up on the street, it comes out of the wage of toilers who earn their living by the sweat of their brow. Money will not buy as much now as it did three weeks ago, because of extra taxation. As an instance, take tobacco. A man cannot buy as much tobacco now for 20 cents as a fortnight ago. Then there is the glass of liquor. It costs more to-day than a fortnight

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

"What has the F.P.U. accomplished during this session? We secured the passage of the Loggers' Bill; the Sealers' Bill; the Workmen's Compensation Bill through the House of Assembly. These measures are extremely beneficial to our toilers."—Mr. Coaker.

ago. The price of everything has gone up.

The reason for extra taxes is extravagance and waste. If the Government had been engaged in work giving returns to the people, it would have been alright. But they have not, they have simply been throwing the money around in a reckless and extravagant manner, and they have bungled almost everything they have taken in hand.

End Not Yet.

Four years ago the Premier said the railways could be built for \$4,000,000, but \$8,000,000 is the cost to the present and the end is not yet. Then the Government talk of building lighthouses, etc., but they have had to go abroad for money to do this. Other Governments tried to pay for such purposes out of the taxes, but the present Government did it out of loans.

The fisheries will always be the backbone of the Country. The fishery Departments needs to be thoroughly reorganized. It is not a Fisheries Department at present; it is only an avenue for spending money.

Take our herring fishery, it is now but a mere bagatelle. There are herring around our shores all the year round. England's herring fishery is worth \$10,000,000, and ours could be made almost as good.

If our codfishery was properly handled it could be made much more profitable to us. New markets could be opened up. The Panama Canal should be the means of opening up new markets. If those in charge are not alert, others, our competitors will be getting ahead of us. The old markets should be developed and good returns made to the people.

A Grave Need.

Mr. Coaker, in his grand address, pointed out the need for clean government. I can assure Mr. Coaker and the people that the party I am associated with will help him, as I feel sure he will help us to make the Government clean. We must have clean, honest men in the Government. Men we can trust; then you can look forward with pleasure to the old ship of state going along alright. The Opposition is sincere, and when the time comes we will prove it to you.

I hope the voyage will be successful and prosperous. You older men know the conditions years ago. Things are better to-day. The F. P. U. has been responsible for the change. I hope you will come back in good health, and with bumper trips.

As Mr. Kent finished he was vociferously cheered.

Dr. Lloyd's Address.

I have great pleasure, said Dr. Lloyd, in being present here to-night. It is a great honor to me. Mr. Kent was pleased at this opportunity and so am I. It is my first time addressing a Seamen's Meeting. It is also a pleasure to me to address the largest meeting ever held in Newfoundland. I have been requested to tell you something about the session, and what we did, and considering its records I am proud to be associated with the F.P.U.

The Union candidates did very well in the House. It was said before the House opened that the F.P.U. men would be tongue tied when they got there. But now it is said that the session was long; there was too much talk. But who did the talking, wasn't it the F.P.U. men?

Four years ago Sir Edward Morris said he would build the railways with out extra taxation. He has had more than three times as much as he asked for, but that is not all. He has had to increase general taxation by \$750,000. Yes it was put on the glass of rum, and besides that you have to put it in your pipe and smoke it, and look pleased as you smoke. (Great laughter.)

Supposing you men now going to the fishery have a good voyage and bring back every cent and put it in the treasury, it will not replace all the money Morris is going to take out of you next year in extra taxes.

Always Doing It.

We know Morris made a mistake in this extra taxation. That is nothing new. He makes lots of these. He was going to build the railways

for \$4,000,000 and they have already cost double that amount.

Morris said that public money was well spent but Mr. Coaker and Mr. Jennings proved otherwise. We are piling up a great debt; \$552,000 must be put in the Bank of Montreal every six months for interest thereon. The great expenditure is only a flea bite, said Morris, but he couldn't find either the flea or its bite.

Yesterday in the Legislature Halls, the Upper Chamber, a voice spoke it was the Governor's voice, and it said some wonderful things.

Now you mustn't get scared at these big words, said the speaker, reading a portion of the Governor's speech. He showed up the bungles and inconsistencies of Morris and kept the audience in roars of laughter as he referred to the increased price of tobacco and common liquors. Cigars, said Dr. Lloyd, cost no more. The price of port or champagne has not increased. The automobile owners who the Government said would have to pay the larger part of the increase, were expected to pay less than \$2,000 out of the \$60,000 imposed as extra taxation to meet increased, useless and unnecessary expenditure.

The Difference.

Those who drink champagne will have to pay \$400.00, but there will be \$50,000.00 in extra taxes raised on butterine. Butterine went up a cent a pound last August because oil and lard were dearer. Later these ingredients dropped in price and the manufacturers were going to send out circulars telling the shopkeepers to sell it a cent a pound cheaper, but Morris's budget came along, and the price is still maintained at that one cent increase.

Dr. Lloyd then scored the Government severely on the increase of taxes and had the closest attention of the audience who were evidently with him to a man.

Dr. Lloyd made copious quotations



W. F. LLOYD, M.H.A.

from The Daily Mail, the popular paper of Newfoundland, to show that the Government spent \$140,000 between July and Nomination Day in arbitrations, and that during election month they spent \$50,000. All you Trinity men, he said, know of the Spur Line. Bremmers had a premises at Trinity and the Ryans bought it for \$5,900. They saw a good thing in it. The Government wanted a part of the Ryan field and a marsh, for a right of way, and the Ryans wanted \$11,000 for one piece, \$3,700 for another and \$4,200 for the third. That is they wanted \$19,000 for a part of a field, when they only paid \$5,900 for all the fields, flakes and stores. The Government arbitrators gave them \$6,000 and paid \$2,000 for expenses in connection with the arbitration.

Can't Get It Out.

I agree with Mr. Coaker when he says Sir Edward Morris got the Country into a mess, but he will never get it out because he can't, declared Dr. Lloyd. Do you think he is the man to get the country out of the mess? (No, no, from all parts of the hall.)

I can't for the life of me see why the people don't rise in their might and turn Morris out. (Hear! Hear!!) Where is the Country going? (Cheers—To Ruin!). It is indeed and it is surely being "ruined" there! There are going to be bye-elections shortly, and if the people will stand by their own interests Morris will not have the Government this time next year.

CHANCE FOR THEM

"I told the Government that they had gone astray like lost sheep, but that if they confessed their wrongdoing the Union Party would be prepared to absolve them."—Mr. Coaker.

year. (Hear! Hear!! and thunderous applause.)

It is grand to see such a joining of the hands and hearts of St. John's and the North to put an end to this tyranny of waste, of extravagance, of bungling and of general mismanagement under which the country has so long groaned.

Mr. Cowan Speaks.

I wish, said Mr. Cowan, to join with Mr. Kent and Dr. Lloyd in thanking the F. P. U. for the opportunity of being present here this evening. It is a great privilege for any young man to get such an opportunity to address you.

You have listened to three great speeches this evening. Your leader, Mr. Coaker, who spoke first, is a wonderful man. He has fought nobly for your cause and mine and he has eloquently championed that cause here to-night.

The next speaker was Mr. Kent, and I was delighted to hear Mr. Coaker prophesy that in the near future he would be spoken of as Premier.

Then there was Dr. Lloyd, who is the friend of Liberal and F.P.U. The Union members have put up a noble fight in the Legislature for the cause of the common man, and grand tributes have been paid here to their zeal and devotion. Very little has been left for me, except to follow along the same lines.

Mr. Cowan then spoke of the extra taxation and at once carried the audience with him.

The reduction of taxation last session, asserted the speaker, was only designed to catch votes.

Mr. Cowan hoped that all the steamers would find the narrow ways enough to go out through in the morning; and that if they did not find the Narcole in the seals, that they would show the President where the seals were.

Mr. Cowan concluded by paying a glowing tribute to the F.P.U. and to President Coaker.

DID YOU EVER FEEL LIKE THIRTY CENTS.

Nearly everybody has, at some time or other, been "up against" an embarrassing situation. Not so funny at the time perhaps, but laughter-provoking, when you get over the confusion of the moment.

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