

Monster Meeting of Workmen.

L. S. P. U. Hall Thronged--Eloquent and Convincing Speeches--Present Conditions Freely Discussed.

A meeting of workmen took place on Saturday night in the L.S.P.U. Hall for the purpose of discussing the present labor conditions. The Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, whilst the hallways and approaches were also full of men and numbers were unable to gain admittance. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cate Robins, who explained the object of the meeting saying that a serious problem faced them and no man can tell how people are existing all over this Island. In St. John's to-day there is famine and plenty of hunger. Must we lay down under these conditions? We are good workers, we are a Christian and civilized people. In other parts of the world for not one half this cause there would be a revolution. Your table tells us what the conditions are like (prolonged applause). It would not do for me to excite you, that would be an injustice to everyone, yourselves and your children; the first thing we would do perhaps would be to violate the laws. We do not want to do that. What we have to do we will accomplish with the law on our side. If we were to take a red flag or any color flag and go down Water Street to those stores we would suffer. There is a way to handle this situation. (applause) Let us sympathize with the many who have had a hard time all the winter, men who have had only charity handed down to them. No man wants charity if he can get work. If we received justice from these in authority we would not be in need of charity. (applause) I will take no part in any action if there is an attempt to make politics of this effort. (applause) Since Sir Robert Bond's time, when he was forced out of power, this country has been bled (applause). Where is our finances to-day? Look at our industries, which they want protected, we are paying for these industries but they don't benefit us much. They benefit our children in the future. Our point now is work or bread but not by revolution. As we stand here to-night we have the law on our side, and we must keep it. Let us get down to rock bottom and find out the cause of this depression, then make those in authority apply the remedy. We will have work or bread. (cheers) The fishery regulations are said to be the cause of the stagnation (audience "throw them out") we want people to be decent, we want to see that it is either work or bread. (applause)

Mr. E. Whitty, Mr. Chairman and men--before proceeding with this business I want to be clearly understood. Last night a small body of men formed a preliminary committee and I am one of that committee. This morning we started out and consulted a solicitor who is not in politics. He promised to help us out. Now this is not a political question; it is bread and butter. We visited the four daily newspaper offices and requested that they send reporters. We went to the News, Advocate, Star and Telegram, we wished to acquaint these people that the question is not political. Next



Grandma is Their Doctor

"ON an old-fashioned bureau, in a house I know, lies a large-sized New Testament with the binding well worn, and with it a much-used old copy of Dr. Chase's Receipt Book. When the calves have the colic or the neighbor's baby the earache, 'Grandma' hands out well-assimilated advice from the Dr. Chase Book. When 'Grandma' herself feels 'run-down,' Dr. Chase's Nerve Food stands ready on the dining-room table among the salt and pepper shakers."

In these few simple words Mrs. Bert Smith, Way's Mills, Que., beautifully describes the way in which many a grandmother is a blessing to her family and to

made them, but won't take steps to remedy them. It is now time for yourselves to take action. See that the Fish Regulations are removed from the Statute book; they have put our country down. The prominent industry of our country is the fishery; it provides a living for 80 per cent. of our population, but to-day that 80 per cent. are perishing by it, whereas if things had been left alone we should be living well by it. We have more than a million dollars worth of fish in stores, which should have been sold. I am not against any Government; all Governments are alike to me. We have fish regulations which should be done away with. We have other regulations, too, which are worse than fish regulations. We have the sugar regulations. The sugar regulations were put on us by ignorant men; men who don't know their way home. (Applause). They have lost piles of money by this sugar, and still we have to pay. Let the loss come out of the general revenue, but don't let individuals have to pay. I say it is legalized robbery to be made pay 25 cents per lb. for sugar. There is a third thing I wish to speak on; you may think it foolish. It is the surplus revenue. I may be making a mistake, but we are in a country to-day of all mistakes. (Applause). A half million dollars was allocated for public works, and of this St. John's should share \$70,000. We only got the least part of it. We don't know if we really got any of it. This \$70,000 should be 'roughed up' and expended so that we can have employment. You may say we are wrong, but then we see nothing else but wrong. The clique we have now, is the worst we ever got up against. (Applause). We were told we were going to have a clean country; have we got it? I can't say we should be as well off as we were 18 months ago, but at least we should not be more than 50 per cent. worse off. Then we have got to pay the fiddler for the mistakes of the people we put in the positions they hold to-day. Our resolutions may remedy matters but if they are not accepted then I do not know what the outcome will be. The subjects of these resolutions must be removed from the Statutes.

After the speaker had taken his seat, and the applause had subsided, calls were made for Mrs. Julia Salter Earle, the President of the Ladies' N.I.W.A. The Chairman briefly introduced Mrs. Earle, who had a seat on the platform. Coming forward, Mrs. Earle said: "I am sorry I can't address you as brothers; most of you here and outside in the hallways are not of our Union. You know our motto, however. It is 'each for all, all for each,' and realizing its meaning I am here to help you. The conditions which we are facing are something fearful. If this meeting had not been called by your committee I would have called it myself. I cannot say how you have stood things so long. I have been with your families all through this winter, and I know the conditions under which they are compelled to exist. I was talking to an employer about unemployment, and he told me that they could do no better, and a half loaf was better than no bread; but I say the day is coming when we wait a whole loaf. I tell you there are numerous children who are hungry to-night. I have just visited a family of seven, who are practically starving; the father is the leader, and the mother is sick. I could not describe the conditions to you. I have found in this life that love wins every time, and by sticking together you can get your rights. I am heart to heart with you to-night, and our executive is with you heart to heart. There is suffering, and there are homes to-night without a bite to eat. I can bring you to them. I am not an extremist. I have been out this winter until 2 o'clock in the morning helping cases. The L.S.P.U. has helped, and has done all in its power. Your Secretary has given me the last \$10 bill available from your funds; it was to relieve a very urgent case. I visited a home of frightful conditions, where a baby was kept warm with a jar of water tied to it. There was no fire, and no food. These are conditions as they exist here to-day. Our Premier goes to England in June; what is he going to do? Let me tell you, men what I heard as I was going up over Prescott Street. I could not help hearing it. It was no breach of etiquette. I heard two gentlemen say, 'Doyle would be the best place for us to go; we must have everything in first class style.' These men were talking about a salmon fishing trip. My God! I had to listen to that, and I know of so much starvation amongst your families. We must have sympathy for one another. One of your L.S.P.U. men have just sent me and asked, 'Mrs. Earle can you do anything for a family?' They have no food for tomorrow, no fire, and a sick child. I do not wish to see trouble, and you men, I know, do not wish it, but you need bread; yes, and butter and sugar too. You need it!"

Mrs. Earle, at the conclusion of her remarks received thunderous applause, and was interviewed by Rev. Dr. Hemmings, who being present at the meeting, was much moved by what he had heard.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Earle for her assistance, and said that no doubt but if our wives were here to-night, they who know the true conditions in the homes with its hard-

ships, there would be much more to tell. If the men do not intend to provide for their families, there is not any doubt but the women would do it. He then asked that the resolutions be read. Mr. Whitty read an outline of the resolutions which will be later put in shape and presented at the House of Assembly; they were laid on the table for discussion.

A newspaper man who was on the platform, asked the attention of the audience. He said he was in sympathy with unions and unionism, but he did not know exactly how many men were out of employment, but there should be statistics available. He understood that this was a meeting of the unemployed and as such the resolutions are not in order. (some one in the audience have cried "put him out!") Others were in favor of a hearing. The Chairman said that he should get a fair show. One man asked for an explanation and the newspaper man said that he was writing the story for the "Star." An uproar ensued and shouts of "we will get nothing fair from the Star. Sit down," etc. came from all over the hall, and it looked as if all the newspaper men present would be ejected. Mr. Whitty took the floor and subdued the trouble which seemed imminent. He explained that the meeting was one of workmen, employed and unemployed, as the posters had called for. It was not the duty of any man to come to the meeting and tell them what it was called for.

Michael Bennett, "Heart! heart! I am a cooper one out of the 200 that are unemployed."

J. Cahill, "Mr. Chairman let us have order. I congratulate the preliminary committee and say it is a credit to working people. In the House of Assembly you can't get speakers like you. Some one here to-night said they did not blame the Government. I do blame the Government. I say this condition is the fault of the Government. 2000 men are walking the streets without employment. A few years ago some one said that they would make the grass grow on Water Street. It will, and sugar will grow there too. They talk about education, yes we were promised it. Eighteen months ago we should have had it and by this time have the conglomerate called Government under cover. Let us stick to our colors men." (cheers)

The Chairman, "Let us be careful, and consider this matter in a proper manner. There is a responsibility on us and we will handle this matter, we will find out where the bluff lies and we won't wait until November to do it either. Time is going and we must get a standing committee."

The newspaper man who had been objected to previously again stood up and asked the right to speak.

Mr. Dempsey, "We asked the reporters to come here and report this meeting, and to see that we are not taking one side or the other of politics. They are here to report and not to dictate to us."

Mr. Whitty, "Yes, it is right out of order to come here and interfere with a crowd of hungry men."

Mr. D. Bentley, "Mr. Chairman, I ask what are you going to do with these resolutions that we have passed?"

The Chairman, replying, said, "We must be careful and we must have the sympathy of those all over the country. There are people in this Island in a worse condition to-day than we are. I am prepared to leave this chair, but I want responsible men here. This hall was given us free, we have no one to our backs."

Mr. Madden, "Mr. Chairman, what are you going to do if the Assembly don't pass your resolutions? (audience "Tear it down.")

Mr. Cahill, "Mr. Chairman, I would suggest a demonstration of the unemployed."

Chairman, "We must close the discussion. I put the resolutions. Those in favor say contrary nay--audience 'Aye.'"

Chairman, "The resolutions are carried unanimously. Now we want men to carry them out."

The following committee was then elected:—

Edward Whitty, Chairman; W. Dunn, P. Kavanagh, C. Robins, J. Cahill, J. Dempsey, M. Bennett, Mrs. Julia Salter Earle, J. Power, Frank Kennedy.

After a few remarks by the new Chairman, and others of the Committee, the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

Emerald's From Pharaoh's Mines.

Emeralds from the mines of Pharaoh under whom Joseph ruled may some day be in the hands of the jewellers again—things of commerce once more, even as they were more than 3,000 years ago. For generations Egyptianologists and others occupied in opening tombs and uncovering the ruins of ancient cities in Egypt have been puzzled by the numbers of emerald jewels found encased in the bindings of mummies and elsewhere.

It is a matter of history that Cleopatra came down to later times, had her portrait engraved on emeralds. Generally throughout all Egypt the gems were greatly appreciated from very early times down to the Roman conquest. Yet all trace of the sources of them had disappeared. Through tradition handed down through the centuries told of a series of anciently-worked emerald

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mines, the history of which was lost in antiquity, somewhere in a desert country west of the Red Sea. And this tradition of the mines of Pharaoh was corroborated from time to time by emeralds that trickled in from the Bedouin tribes in mysterious ways.

Early last century, Cailliard, a Frenchman, was sent by the famous Pasha, Mahomet Ali, to endeavor to find the mines, which had once supplied the ancients with this costly gem. After many months of exciting adventures among the Arabs, Cailliard found the emerald mines of the Pharaohs; but on the return of the expedition a series of tragedies took place, and all records were destroyed. Recently, however, a British expedition has again located these mines, the history of which is lost in antiquity.

To-day these mines are known as the Cleopatra Emerald Mines, and they lie in a most desolate mountain range west of and parallel to the Red Sea between the 24th and 25th lines of latitude. It is now one of the most barren regions of the Old World, and is traversed by several picturesque winding valleys of great depth, the principal of which is known as the Wady Djemel. A wady is a canyon that once formed an ancient river bed, and there are other indications also pointing to the time when this region was a green and pleasant land.

In several localities the hills are found to be honeycombed with mile-long tunnels and immense chambers, some of them large enough to contain hundreds of men at work. These emerald "diggings" are of immense age is shown not only by the primitive nature of the work, but by such articles as tools, lamps, baskets, water bottles, etc., evidently left behind by the early workers, when for some unknown reason they suddenly left the mines. Some of these objects belong to as early a period as 1800 B.C. Signs are not wanting to show that at a far distant era these mines were the centre of a large and industrious population with an extensive scheme of irrigation for raising crops.

As far as tradition goes back, the desert Arabs have avoided this sterile and forbidding region, and to them the mountains are the habitations of Djinn, ghouls, and other evil spirits. Hence, except for a daring marauder very occasionally, the mines and their remains have lain undisturbed through the ages, since the hour the last of their workers fled away. Probably their desertion was due to the downfall of the Egyptian ruler then reigning, before invasion.

There is little doubt that these are the emerald mines of the Pharaohs, out of which came emeralds that Joseph may have handled. For the exploration party discovered great quantities of the gems in a rough state, many of them of large size; and in every respect they resemble the jewels found on mummies and in the ruins of ancient cities of Egypt. And 35-day commercial enterprise is considering the re-opening of Pharaoh's Mines after the elapse and solitude of centuries, and centuries and centuries.

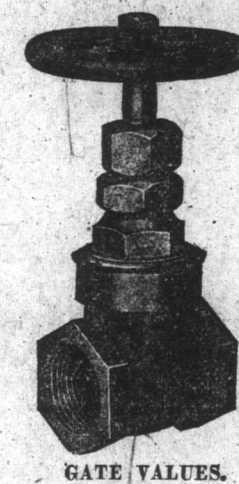
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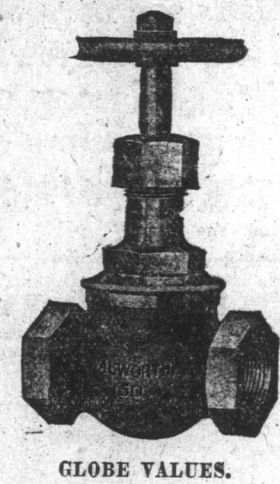
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