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**Valedictory
A Parting Word From
Mayor Morris**

ditional hundred and fifty. We were prepared for a vote of 6,500, which, with the certificates, would increase the list to 7,000, but, owing to the miserable booth system which prevails at our elections, and owing to weather conditions which arose, and also owing to the lack of interest taken by the public in the inspection of the Voters' Lists, we had an election, which, while quite legal, is lamentably non-representative. That our Election Act should be so antiquated and so inefficient is indeed regrettable, and it is hoped that the legislature will give this matter immediate attention at the next Session. The Council has no power in the election, it can only follow the General Election Act.

instead of that of the Secretary. I did this to relieve matters, and, as I felt assured that I would be in office for a full term, I did not mind giving my time and doing so much work; but, had I expected a change, of course I could not have done it. To have done so would be not only an injustice to myself but an injustice to my successor.

But of course these special duties are now past, and the election Appraisal and Revision are over, and there will not be so much correspondence necessary. At the same time, I wish here to state that the matter of correspondence in the City Council is one of the most important of the office, and requires great care and much good judgment. In all my correspondence I have endeavoured to manifest the spirit of courtesy, and to impart dignity to my office in every aspect of its duties.

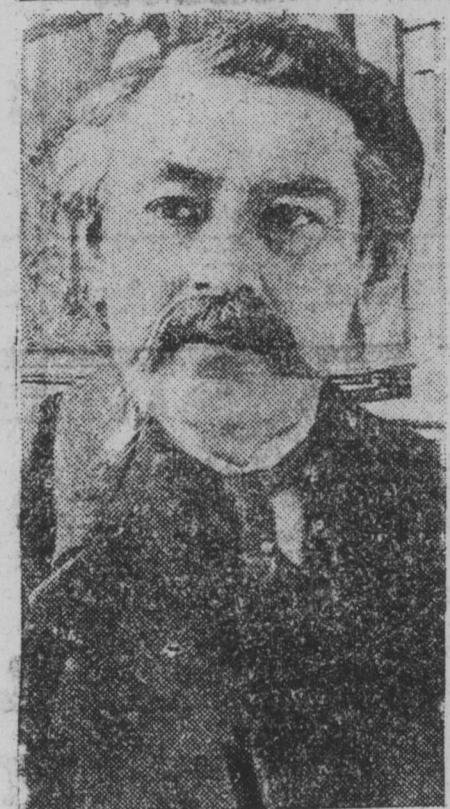
**PERSONNEL OF NEW COUNCIL
EXCELLENT, BUT DENOMINATIONAL NOT FULLY REPRESENTATIVE.**

With the staff at the office so busy, I did my best to relieve the situation, and lighten the burden upon the Secretary's hands. Personally, I did not approve—nor do I—of so much night work, as I have paid the toll myself during fifty years in the industrial world. I consulted with the Secretary as to the possibility of additional help but he informed me that it would be of no benefit, as the work was largely statistical, and could only be done by the staff in charge, and that while a new official would be getting into the work the time would be gone. I, therefore, undertook the correspondence of the Council, and endeavoured to ease the burden of those—who were being overworked. Hence it is that all the major correspondence has borne my signature

While the public generally express satisfaction at the personnel of the new Council, there is, at the same time, a feeling of disappointment that, from a denominational standpoint, there is not a fuller representation, it may, or it may not be, a desirable aspect from which we in Newfoundland view these things, but, of course, we are all conscious that, more or less, in all matters of Government, both civic and state, the denominational element plays a big part. This may, or may not be, a



PHILIP BERTHOLET,
French Adviser at Washington Conference.



PREMIER BRIAND
of French delegation to Washington Conference.



ADMIRAL LE BON,
French naval adviser at Washington Conference.

commendable feature, but still it seems necessary, and I suppose that, while communities are divided into sects and factions, there will be this spirit manifested.

St. John's may be denominationally divided into three great bodies: the Episcopal, the Roman Catholic, and Non-Conformist. Representatives of these bodies occupy prominent places in trade and commerce and in social life, and they each have large interests in property, and educational institutions. It can be fairly claimed that each body has large representations in every phase of life. It is therefore only fair to admit that there is a feeling of disappointment inasmuch as the great Non-Conformist body of the City is unrepresented at the Board. In a manner, it does not make a great difference, as everyone has entire confidence in the Board, and the question of denominationalism never comes up there, but the feeling of the public is that there should be representation of all classes upon it. However, the matter was decided by the electorate, and, whether intentionally or unintentionally, the result is that the Non-Conformist bodies of the City are without representation in civic matters.

SALARY.

There has been some little comment at different times as to the salary of the Mayor and Councillors, and some perhaps have misunderstood the situation. As to the Mayor's salary, it must be understood that such an official is daily called upon, and that he must give his salary very often away before dinner.

Mayor Gosling liberally donated his salary to the Child Welfare Movement. I have donated mine to similar movements, although in a different manner, and when I had the salary, and more, I had daily to refuse two or three calls.

The dignity of the office is the best payment one can have, and the sense of serving the City is more than monetary returns. No one assumes the office for its salary—to do so would be mercenary and mean, and unworthy any who may occupy the position.

These are all the points upon which I wish to speak, and I think that the public will accept them in the broad spirit in which they are written. They are not meant to be narrow, nor to convey anything like a petty spirit; but they are rather meant for the common good of the public.

In closing therefore, I wish the Mayor-elect and his Board every success, and accord to them my sympathies, and assure them of all the help that I can give at any time—and I have faith in their ability. I think I can speak for them the confidence of the public. In launching their bark in the New Year, I herewith wish them favourable breezes, successful sailing, and safe anchorage. With these words, I thank all the friends for their confidence during my term of office, and extend to one and all the greetings of the Season, and therefore use the homely term: "A Many New Year to all!"

I. C. MORRIS,
Mayor.

**THE MONTREAL
AGREEMENT AND
MINERS' WAGES**

Halifax, Dec. 15.—The Montreal Agreement so-called which has governed the wage and working relations between the coal operators of Nova Scotia comprising chiefly the companies included in the British Empire Steer merger, and approximately 12,000 men employed in the mines since November 1920, grew out of a report of a Royal Commission, which in that year conducted an investigation into the coal industry of Nova Scotia. The Commission had on it E. McG. Quirk of the Department of Labor, Ottawa, Sir William Stavert, financier, Montreal and Willard P. Hutchinson, Canadian National Railway Despatcher, Montreal.

Exclusive of numerous recommendations having to do with housing, etc., the Commission recommended that wage increases of one dollar per day for datal men and twenty per cent. for contract miners be granted; that a sliding scale of wage be provided; and that compulsory arbitration of disputes should be agreed to. The miners bitterly assailed the sliding scale and compulsory arbitration features of the finding, regarding the former as the worst possible menace to their interests. Finally, at Montreal after a conference between representatives of the mine owners and the executive of the United Mine Workers of America, district 26, the Union Organization of the Miners of the Maritime Provinces, an agreement was drawn up which was a compromise on the finding of the Royal Commission. The companies agreed to drop the sliding scale and the miners modified their wage demands to an increase of 55 cents a day for datal men and twelve and a half per cent. for contract workers, also retaining the compulsory arbitration clause. When accepted it was to go into effect November 1, 1920.

The Agreement was a bitter disappointment to large sections of the rank and file of the United Mine Workers. The finding of the Royal Commission had led them to expect almost double the increase actually granted. A special district convention at Truro, after hot debate subsequently rejected the agreement by a vote of 76 to 20. J. B. McLachlan, then, as now, district secretary of the Mine Workers, commenting on the vote said:—"I said this agreement will pass and I say so still."

According to the United Mine Workers' constitution a referendum was held. District President Robert Baxter, Secretary McLachlan, and International Board Member, Silas Barrett, took the stump on behalf of the agreement. At Waterford sentiment was so hostile that eggs and other missiles were thrown at these officers. The Miners' leaders, however, forecast that the coal fields then at the height of seven years of prosperity, would face hard times in the near future, and after strenuous campaigning the referendum gave a fair majority in fav-

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or of the Montreal agreement. Generally speaking, Glace Bay and Sydney Mines District supported the agreement, while Pictou, New Waterford and Springhill coal fields opposed it.

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TO-DAY IN HISTORY



**Battle with
the Indians**

December 31, 1835, United States troops fought a battle with the Indians at Withacochee Ford. Find an Indian fighter. Answer to yesterday's puzzle: Upper right hand corner down, under man's arm.

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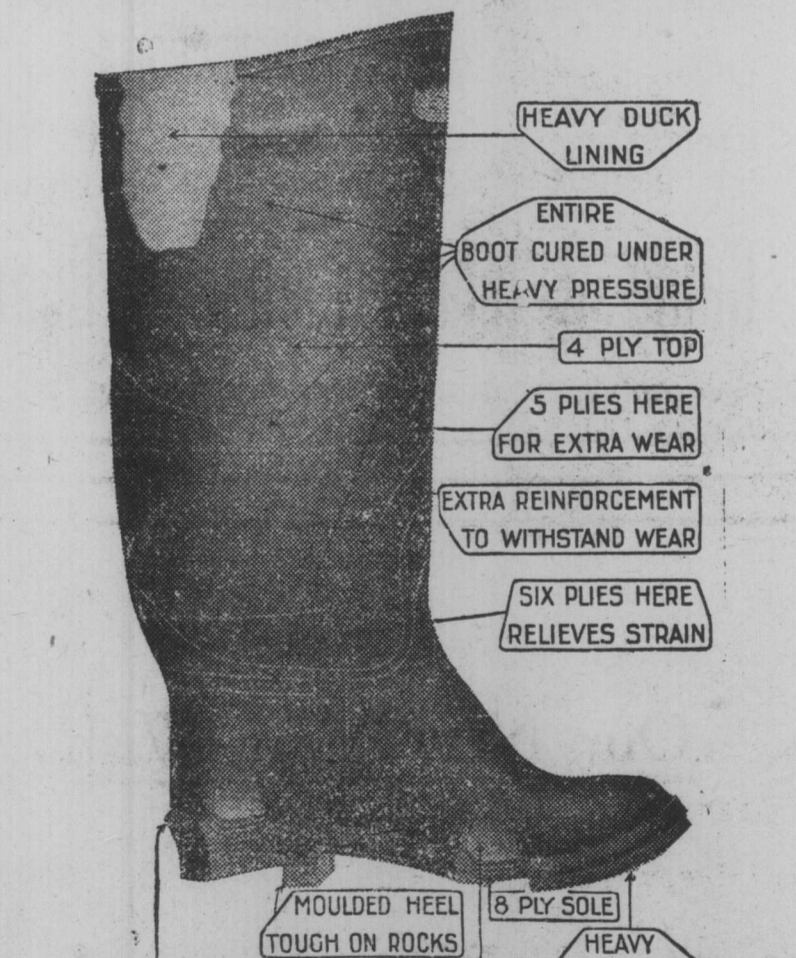
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