

## Liberal Progressive Candidates Address.

### To the Electors of Bonavista District.

Dear Friends:— We have been chosen by the Liberal-Progressive Party as candidates on behalf of the Government for election to represent you in the Assembly, and desire to state to you the grounds upon which we ask your votes:

As to general matters, we shall support the present Government's general policy, as it will be declared in the Manifesto of Sir Michael Cashin.

As to District matters; the subject of most concern is the construction of a railway from Gambo, down the north side of Bonavista Bay, to a terminus in Pogo District. This the Premier will pledge the Government to have built, and this we shall require of it. We shall also procure the improvement of railway conditions on the south side.

In consequence of inadequate grants the road system of the District is unsatisfactory, and the main lines in bad condition, and we shall strenuously advocate larger grants for improvement and construction. The road from Badger's Quay to Cape Freels especially needs rebuilding. The breakwater at Bonavista should be completed, and harbour improvements are especially needed at Bayley's Cove, from which a large population carry on the fishery under onerous and exposed conditions. We especially mention these works because they will demand large grants, but we will not neglect the minor marine works needed in many other places.

If honoured with your confidence, and so elected to represent you, we shall seek to represent you faithfully and well.

Yours faithfully,  
ALFRED B. MORINE  
WILLIAM C. WINSOR  
C. A. FORBES.

Sept. 26, 1919.

#### TO THE ELECTORS OF BONAVISTA DISTRICT.

My dear Friends, Elected by acclamation for your District in 1914, as an Independent, after having been its representative for twenty years, and having, I believe, faithfully discharged my duty towards you, I now appeal with confidence for your votes for my colleagues and myself at the approaching General Election of members of the House of Assembly. If any man intends to vote for one of us, he should vote for all, and I urge my special friends to do so.

I have been honoured by the consent of Captain William Winsor, of Westville, and Dr. C. A. Forbes, of Bonavista, to become my colleagues as candidates, and I am confident that you will elect us as colleagues to represent you in the Assembly. Captain Winsor was one of your representatives during 1909-1913, and although defeated in the latter year, has resumed in your esteem, I know, the place he held before. Dr. Forbes is a native of the town wherein he resides, who has and deserves the respect and confidence of his neighbors as he will yours also, when you come to know him as they do. In these men residing on their respective sides of the Bay, and myself here at headquarters, you will have representatives qualified to serve you, and certain to do so, in a manner never excelled and seldom equalled in the history of your District.

I have joined with my colleagues in the foregoing address upon District

matters, but feel that something more will be expected of me. By his paper, the Advocate, by his speeches in the Assembly, and lastly by a recent "Appeal" to you, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, Mr. W. F. Coaker has vigorously and persistently assailed me, and I should be considered lacking in courage if I did not reply.

Many of you have been or are members of the F.P.U.—the "Union" as it is called—and quite a number are shareholders in the various enterprises carried on at Port Union. It has been vehemently charged of late that I am an enemy of the Union, and desire to injure the shareholders, and this charge will be vigorously dinied into your ears during the next few weeks by my opponents. Both charges are absolutely and entirely false, and both are made for the sole purpose of catching the votes of the unwary.

I was, in reality, a Union man in spirit long years before the F.P.U. was called into existence. The Seafarers' Strike was the first fishermen's union in the Colony, and I led it on to victory. I was Counsel for the F.P.U. from 1912 to 1918. I spoke with acceptance at its Convention in Catalina in 1914. "Morine," the Advocate said in May last, "was always the friend of the Union."

But friends, the "Union" I acted for and befriended was established to lower the prices of supplies and to increase the prices of fish, and the Union, as now managed, charges you the highest prices, and pays you the lowest, and from being a blessing to you, has become a burden, and may be a disaster if not directed in right ways.

The "Union" I assisted, befriended and advocated was to be an influence in the Colony for the public good, not seeking the benefit of its members only, but aiming to uplift the whole people; not desiring to grasp the reins of exclusive power, and the profits of place for itself, but to control for the general good, by beneficent influences, the exercise of power by others. These high ideals have been departed from by the President of the Union and it has been prostituted by him, and by some of his adherents, to base ends. He has attempted to make himself autocrat of the whole Colony, by misuse of his power, not to advance the Union's cause, but to satisfy his own insatiable ambition, and many of his followers, aping him, have become little autocrats in your District and elsewhere. His leadership has become a menace to your liberties.

I desire to see the Union re-established in its original condition, to be resurrected under new and saner leadership, to be confined to its original and commendable purposes, and this, I believe, is the only course which will safeguard the investments which many fishermen have made in union enterprises. I am satisfied that no President of the Union who is actively engaged in politics can adequately protect the money confided to his care. I am persuaded that ruin only can wait upon enterprises which are so mixed up in political warfare that they must share in its violent ups and downs. I say to the shareholders and depositors of the Union especially that it is because I am in truth their devoted friend far wiser and more unselfish than their President, that I refuse to submit to his dictation in public affairs, and

that this refusal is the reason, the sole reason, for the violent attacks made upon me. It is not expedient that I should speak the plainly bare of certain matters, but by the memory of all that I have done for them in past years, I plead with Union members to listen to my warning voice, and to aid my efforts to protect their own interests.

In a manifesto to you, issued by Mr. Coaker, he charges that I deserted you when I left the Colony in 1906, but he knew of that fact, if it were one, in 1912, when he urged me to return and become Counsel for the F.P.U., and when he endorsed me, in 1914, as a candidate, and you elected me as your member. He charged me with deserting again in 1916, but in the spring of this very year he agreed that I should not be opposed if I stood again for your votes; and—will you believe it—it is true—he strongly advised and actively induced me to go to Toronto in 1916, to reside there. For many years I have served you well in public life, with less reward in place and power than most men have got who have served so long, and I claim, and you will grant my right, to accept any offer which enables me to procure a livelihood for myself and family. If I go away, I return, and whether here or elsewhere, I always seek to serve you well. If my going was no loss to you, why blame me; and if it were a loss, give me credit for coming back, and thank me for it by your votes.

In his manifesto, addressed to all you electors, as well as those who are not members of the Union as those with care, Mr. Coaker threatens that if not elected in Bonavista Bay, he "will retire from every commercial activity in connection with the F.P.U. and as manager of the operations at Port Union." That would be the very best thing that could happen to the shareholders and depositors. That is the one thing, in my opinion, which would give shareholders and depositors a chance to realize their money. Many a good promoter has proven to be a poor controller, and Mr. Coaker's place, as the manager of Union interests could be filled with a far abler and saner executive.

But let us examine this childish threat. Why should you, who are neither shareholders nor depositors, be bullied into voting for Mr. Coaker by his threat of desertion? Why should the care of your district affairs be committed to the mercies of Mr. Coaker and his servants because if not elected, he will resign from Port Union, with which you have nothing to do? Why should each every one of you be bound to the wheels of Mr. Coaker's chariot?

And to you, who are shareholders and depositors, I wish to point this out; that your safety lies in the wise and prudent care of business affairs at Port Union, not in Mr. Coaker's dominance in political life, and that if you allow him to remain a fighting politician and your business manager at the same time, he must neglect your business, and also call down upon it the opposition of every other interest in the colony. The care of your dollars demands that your business manager shall attend to your investments, and not to politics. But look farther into this threat of Mr. Coaker's and see what it really means. You shareholders in Bonavista Bay number only six hundred out of sixty-three hundred electors, and there are several thousand Union shareholders in other districts. Yet Mr. Coaker says that, even if you vote for him, but he is defeated by the votes of non-shareholders, he will desert you, and all the shareholders outside your District as well; will abandon Port Union; and will allow the investments there to be lost. What a shameful threat to make! What callous indifference to your interests to show on Mr. Coaker's part! But you need not fear, if such a threat could make you fear, for Mr. Coaker defeated will be glad to go back to Port Union, and the enjoyment of a bungalow, motor boat and car provided at your expense. His best work was done before he entered political life, and he would be a better servant to you if he were confined to the care of your business.

Mr. Coaker's references to the unfortunate Flat Islands affair are so obviously made, not out of any real sympathy with the people concerned, but to incense them to vote against me, that I shall mention it but briefly. The police were resisted; a larger posse was resisted, with a show of violence; and the Government sent H.M.S. Cornwall with a third detachment to overcome resistance—necessary and prudent exercise of power, but for which greater harm might eventually result. As Minister of Justice I concurred in that, as I was in honor bound to concur, but while responsible with my colleagues for all that followed, it is a fact that personally I was not a party to it, except to the release of the men on bonds. The men of Flat Islands were badly advised—some day we shall know by whom. Obedience to law and order is the safeguard of good citizens. Had they come to me then, and explained their reasons for resisting, I could, perhaps, have helped them. They went instead, to other sources for advice, and the consequence was regrettable. I hope to be able to help a community for which I have always had a sincere regard and abiding friendship—help it far more effectively than Mr. Coaker can ever do.

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# STEER Brothers.

There was one cognate subject to which Mr. Coaker did not refer. I mean his record on Conscription. He promised unionists that no Conscription law should ever be passed without their consent, but the law was enacted with his aid and approval, and without their consent, and while he was a member of the National Government, a force of soldiers, armed with rifles and bayonets, were sent to Bonavista town to overawe conscripted men. He will find it difficult, I think, to arouse enmity to me about the Flat Island matter without answering for his own conduct concerning Conscription.

By my appointment as Minister of Justice and to a seat in the Executive Council, I have been placed in a position of greater influence, as affecter for District affairs, than I have held for many years. I have already been able to exert that influence for the benefit of the District. If continued as your representative, I shall, with the aid of my colleagues, be able to give you better service than ever before. Mr. Coaker has appealed to you to vote to keep him in power as President of the F.P.U. I ask you to vote

for me as Member for Bonavista Bay. His appeal is chiefly to the Unionists amongst you; mine is to all of you, Unionists and non-Unionists. He mixes and muddles your District affairs with Union matters, and evidently wants to run these affairs for his own purposes, while I want to manage your affairs for your own benefit. Which can serve you best?

Mr. Coaker asks you to vote for candidates of the so-called "Liberal Reform Party" led by a man whom he recently called "that black rascal Squires." You have read how Mr. Coaker, in the House of Assembly, a little over a year ago, charged Mr. Squires with corruptly receiving money from the Reid Company, while Colonial Secretary. You have read how Mr. Squires, in the Legislative Council, declared, at or about the same time, that "Coaker is untrustworthy, sets self-interest before the welfare of the country, is an offence to honest men and true—a stumbling block in the way of patriotic effort, and an example of petty meanness and self-seeking politics." You have read, too, how Mr. Coaker endeavoured to have Mr. Squires dismissed from the Legislative Council, for misconduct in public office. And you know that Mr. Squires established his paper, the Star to destroy Mr. Coaker as a public man. Those of you who are members of the F.P.U., are aware that, at the Catalina Convention in 1918, Mr. Coaker procured the adoption of resolutions demanding a public enquiry into the alleged misconduct of Mr. Squires—an enquiry which has never been held.

In view of these things said by them about each other—and not one of them withdrawn to this moment—is it not an insult to your intelligence to ask you to support Mr. Coaker and his colleagues under the leadership of Mr.

Squires? Is it not especially an insult to you who are Unionists?

Mr. Coaker induced me to return to this Colony in 1912, and made me Counsel for the F.P.U.; he asked my support when he was a candidate in 1913, and gave me his support in 1914; in the spring of this year he agreed not to oppose me as a candidate for Bonavista Bay, and, through his paper, the Advocate, he declared that "Morine had always been the friend of the Union." But now he revels in republishing about me every vile slander that my enemies have been able to concoct during thirty-five years of public life. He seeks to arouse against me every base passion. He denounced Mr. Squires and now supports him. He supported me, and now denounces me. Does his conduct not prove beyond possibility of denial that, as Mr. Squires has said of him, "He is an example of petty meanness and self-seeking politics," or, as Sir Robert Bond has said or implied of him, that he is "dis-

loyal, treacherous, untrustworthy and a menace to public life."

My dear Bonavista District friends, you and your parents have known me intimately for nearly thirty-five years. Most of that which is so violently charged against me now, you and they have heard and considered in days gone by, and by their votes the electors of your District have again and again refuted the slanders, and confounded the slanderers. Shall we not again fight the good fight, shoulder to shoulder, and again win a notable victory? My work for you and yours is known to all of you, and upon that record I base my confident call upon you to "Stand Fast!"

I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
ALFRED B. MORINE.  
St. John's, Sept. 26, 1919.

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