

GRAND FINAL MEETING OF THE SERIES

Monster Gathering in T.A. Hall

Effective Answer to Calumnies of Our Enemies--Union Trading Company Secures \$4.50 for Fat

Ringling Speeches Delivered by Messrs. Morine, Grimes, Coaker and Hallyard. 1,500 present

One of the largest and most enthusiastic gatherings that ever filled the T.A. Hall assembled there last night at the Sealers' Meeting. At 7 o'clock the Hall was partly filled, at 7.30 the chairs and seats on the main floor were occupied away back to the last seat in the parquet. At 8 o'clock the whole Hall—front, parquette, gallery and boxes—were packed, whilst the side doors and aisles were filled with people who could not get standing room or seating capacity within the building.

Among the representative gentlemen present at the meeting were Capt. Eli Dwyer, former Minister of Agriculture and Mines, A. Barnes, Esq., late M.H.A. for St. John's, H. J. Earle, Esq., late M.H.A. for Fogo, and John Cowan, Esq., who formerly represented Bonavista. There were also present Capt. Hoegberg, of Burin, and a number of other prominent citizens and visitors to the city.

At a few minutes past eight President Coaker, accompanied by Mr. Arthur English entered the Hall and a burst of cheering broke forth, so spontaneous and great, that it seemed like one united voice of loyalty. The whole Hall from the first seat to the last in the gallery, cheered Mr. Coaker when with Messrs. Grimes Hallyard English and other—came on to the stage and it was some minutes before he could be permitted to speak owing to the enthusiasm and demonstration which prevailed.

Before opening the meeting Mr. Coaker announced that Mr. Morine, M.H.A. and Mr. Kent, M.H.A. might be a little late in arriving. Mr. Morine, as they all knew, was not at all well the last few days, while Mr. Kent, whom he was glad to know was one of the most staunch supporters of the F.P.U. was then working at a most important law case which he had on hand, and that possibly this reason— which was certainly a sufficient one— might prevent Mr. Kent from attending that meeting.

President Coaker then introduced Mr. Geo. Grimes, M.H.A. as the first speaker of the evening, while received cheering greeted the announcement. Mr. Grimes' address, which took nearly three quarters of an hour to deliver, was a most masterly one. He dwelt with pronounced emphasis on the question of Unionism. He reviewed the F.P.U. in all its phases, from the hour, some six years ago, when it was first started with a membership of 19 men, at Herring Neck, up to the present time when it probably numbered on its roll of honor 25,000 names. He told in most forcible and unmistakable language, what that Union had done for the poor and the fishermen of Newfoundland. It had baffled against monopoly and moneyed power, it had found the fishermen of the coast their arrangements and reviewed the ways and means. Why should not every fisherman of this country be represented by his Union, and his interests looked after?

Mr. Morine told that he was "the sealers' friend," he had a reason to be served with justice. Some 80 years ago it was illegal for men to unite or meet in a body to consult together for their own common interests. Today, such a trying position was, thank God, unknown, and he would point out the fact that where unions had existed 200 years ago the whole world, Coaker, he recognized in this man where men had united for their own safety, interests and good, that place was wealthier and these people more

independent than those other scenes which knew no such organizations. Mr. Grimes reviewed the political situation of the country to-day, a situation that has had no compeer since the granting of responsible government. Four years ago the country was in a solid financial condition. What was its state to-day? One bordering on bankruptcy and ruin, and brought to this horrible crisis by the doing of a political coterie—a Morris gang—who had plundered the coffers of the land without mercy or regret. What had this Government done? Look around and see the destitution on every hand. It was true that hundreds of homes in this city even had but the mere necessities of life within their walls, a little flour and fuel and molasses, and thus they existed while politicians waxed rich, and made their relatives and hangers on wealthy out of the blood and sweat of the toilers.

Before closing his masterly speech, Mr. Grimes read a letter that had been received by a merchant of this city from a legal man in Halifax, asking information of the F.P.U., and a very close inquiry of its president, Mr. Coaker.

The answer to this communication was also read for the large audience, and Mr. Coaker has much reason to feel proud of the good things the merchant had written back to his informant re the F.P.U., its business, its methods of doing business and the ability of its chief.

When Mr. Grimes had finished reading this answer the Hall rang again with the cheers of the delighted audience, and the chairman had to ask for silence that he might introduce the next speaker.

President Coaker then had pleasure in bringing forward before that audience "the sealers' own friend," Mr. Morine.

The welcome that was given to this gentleman must indeed have reminded him of his old political successes, and it was several minutes before the applause subsided.

Mr. Morine dealt principally with the question of the benefit which the F.P.U. has been to the fishermen of the country.

Every fair and honest man could see this. It was not now in this age a matter of Liberalism or Toryism, or any of the other "isms" which so carry men away. It was wholly an age of Unionism.

Men to-day united for a common cause and a common safety. Why should not the fishermen of this country have formed themselves into a Union. The merchants of the city were united in a close body, and held their regular meetings in the Board of Trade Building, and there made their arrangements and reviewed the ways and means. Why should not every fisherman of this country be represented by his Union, and his interests looked after?

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perceived that by granting those men fair play—by giving them a just wage for their fish or fat or oil—the merchants themselves were benefited because it would enhance the value of those same goods in foreign markets, and thus work itself out to the benefit of all concerned.

Mr. Morine protested against the uses Orange Lodges were being utilized for in this city as shown by the resolutions published in the press yesterday and his remarks were thus derisively applauded by the whole audience.

The speaker's remarks were repeatedly interrupted by cheers and cries of commendation, and when at the conclusion of his address he pointed to President Coaker as the man who had been the best friend the Sons of Toil of the country ever had given to them, the applause that came from every man in the building was something magnificent.

In concluding his address Mr. Morine wished every sealer present a safe and quick return. He trusted that they would come in with plentiful trips of fat, and that God would prosper them, one and all, in the dangerous undertaking they were then venturing upon.

On Mr. Morine retiring, three hearty cheers were given for him, cheers that must have been heard almost at the Court House.

Mr. Hallyard, M.H.A., who spoke next, outlined the history of the F.P.U. in its beneficial character towards the fishermen of the whole island, in a most business-like and convincing way. He showed that the F.P.U., as a trading company, had compelled the other purchasers of the country's resources to fall in line with the F.P.U.'s humane treatment of the poor. The F.P.U. was a Union which understood, and treated accordingly, the knowledge of "the Brotherhood of Man." It was not in the field to win out at the sacrifice of the living of others, rather had it been organized to help out or lend a hand if necessary to the down-trodden. The fishermen of the country perceived to-day what the F.P.U. had done for them, and he trusted that it would not be long before every non-Union man would be a member of the F.P.U. and enjoy its protection and support.

Mr. Hallyard, who is a most pleasing speaker, concluded his remarks by wishing the sealers well in the brave duty that was before them, and hoped that in a little while they would return safe to the loved ones they were about to leave.

Mr. Coaker's speech, which included the meeting was one of the most forcible he has ever delivered in St. John's. Point after point was scored against the monopolists of Water Street, and he exposed the duplicity of the whole present Government in their treatment of the poor and the down-trodden, the excitement and enthusiasm throughout the hall was unbounded. Morris and his Grab-all accomplices, previous to the instituting of the F.P.U. had had things their own way, but when the Fishermen's Party entered the Assembly, the Morris Taskmasters found themselves somewhat curtailed. Consider the awful middle which the present incompetent Government has made of public affairs. The granting to the Reid's of the branch life contracts was but one example of what had been done with the fishermen's money. One only of the

three branch railways was finished, and the building up to date entailed a cost of something like Eight Millions of dollars, and which must reach the Twelve Million mark before the lines were completed. Let the people consider this. Let them for God's sake realize to what utter financial ruin they were being hurried? Consider what two million of dollars would have done for the fishermen of the country, and yet Morris in his indifference and his disregard for the people who had made him whatever he is—deliberately refuses to consider their serious conditions. Coaker had fought for the people, he had worked for the interests of the fishermen. Whatever had been won had not been for himself, but for the interests of the 25,000 men whom he represented. Unknown and unrecognized he had come forward six years ago in their behalf, the agitation of the Bowring-Keane outrage was for the life and liberty of the sea toilers. The present miserable Government would have welcomed the news this morning that the city was in a maelstrom of strife and riot had he (Mr. Coaker) permitted forcible action to be taken to remove Kean from the Florizel—because that Government would then have it to add to their other flimsy excuses that the Party of the F.P.U. was a wrecking and rioting people, knowing no law or order. He had foreseen this, and he knew that action on the Government's part was then in motion. They would find however, that the F.P.U. did not work that way. Theirs would be a legal and constitutional movement, when Capt. Kean would find himself at no distant date before a just tribunal to answer to the charge of criminal neglect and mismanagement.

Kean now found protection in the bosom of the Crown, and in the proprietorship of Morris and Munn, but the inevitable end was fast approaching, when the people's will should become law, and then Kean would find out if the demand of 20,000 men was to be treated with impunity.

Amidst much rejoicing approbation, Mr. Coaker continued his review of the growth and the good of the Fishermen's Protective Union. A few hours ago, so to speak, \$3.75 was the maximum price fixed for fat by the merchants of Water St. At that hour of speaking the F.P.U. had raised the price of fat from \$2.75 to \$4.50 and possibly, as the men might find out on their return—\$3.75.

Great and lasting thanks are due to Messrs. Job Bros. and Messrs. Baine Cleve for the whole-hearted manner in which those gentlemen had met the approaches of Pres. Coaker in this matter, and their kindly acceptance of his views, and their subsequent mutual agreement. Mr. Baine Cleve, too, had taken the matter up by cable with the Murray Crawford people at home, but neither his good action nor the action of the always liberal Job Bros. would ever be forgotten by the sealers of the country.

In conclusion, President Coaker pointed out that all this which had been done, had been accomplished not for his own personal good or use, but for the benefit of the F.P.U. and its large brotherhood, its own use was covered by an insurance of \$40,000 for the same reason, and if anything were to occur to him tomorrow the F.P.U. could still continue the good

work, despite the wishes and efforts of those who would desire to see it go out of existence.

One thing he would tell his people, there assembled, and that was that as long as he lived he would fight for their interests. He had come, poor and unknown, into their circle, a mere backwoodsman as it were, but he would not know defeat. His whole life was now to be devoted to the cause of justice, which was the F.P.U.'s very own. Every effort that an earnest man could make, he was making for the sake of the depressed, and that effort should never cease until life itself had departed.

He besought the sealers to take care of themselves to guard against danger, to remember how precious their lives were to their dear ones at home. The frightful tragedy of last year was still fresh in their memories, when seventy-eight poor fellows placed in the danger zone by a merciless and unfeeling wretch, had thrown themselves down to die. Let them all as men do their duty manly and faithfully, but let them not take risks when life is at stake, and let them insist on their commander going into that danger before they follow him.

Mr. Coaker had bade the brave fellows good-bye, Heaven bless them and give them luck, they were the power and the siney of the land, and in them rested its glory.

When the cheering which the President's concluding remarks had evoked subsided, Mr. Coaker called for three cheers for Messrs. Job Bros., Messrs. Grimes, the Sealers and the F.P.U. and the loud huzzars were indeed inspiring. Another three times three were called for Mr. Coaker, and every man in the packed audience rose to his feet and cheered to the echo.

It was indeed the most enthusiastic meeting ever held in St. John's, and the F.P.U. should feel a gratifying pride today in the splendid success of it. When the National Anthem had been sung, crowds from all parts of the audience flocked towards the stage to shake hands with Mr. Coaker and his splendid colleagues. A number went behind the curtain to congratulate him on the whole success of the meeting, and when he left the Hall at 10 o'clock he found another crowd awaiting him to offer still further felicitations.

Last night's meeting amply demonstrated the feelings of the citizens of St. John's against the present administration, and is likely a too late eye-opener to the saddened Morris clique, who now realize when ever the day of reckoning comes the F.P.U. will triumph over Graballism.

There will be a medical examination to-night in the C.L.B. Armory at 8 p.m.

S.U.F.

An Emergency Meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 5, will be held in the British Hall on to-morrow (Sunday) at 1:30 p.m. for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother

JAMES H. NICHOLS.

Visiting brethren are invited to attend.

By order W.M. **A. E. WITCOMBE,** Secretary.

Mr. Morine Exposes Kean Resolutions

The Orangemen of the North will once more be convinced of the worthlessness of St. John's Lodges to the advancement of the work of the Order when they peruse the resolutions passed by the Lodges here to whitewash Abram Kean.

For many years the outport Lodges have lost faith and interest in St. John's Lodges and have no use for the political machine they have been turned into. For years outport Orangemen have considered such men as Morison, Hutchings, Kean and Squires as self-seekers who have endeavoured to use the Order for political and personal ends.

The Orangemen of Bonavista Bay and Twillingate District sent this fact home to Morison in 1904 and in 1913. Bonavista sent it home on several occasions to Hutchings. Twillingate sent it home to Kean and Trinity sent it home to Squires.

What right had the Orange Lodges here to pass resolutions and publish them backing up Abram Kean any more than other men in the Order? Why did they not do so for Morison when his timber land transactions were exposed in 1912, or why did they not sympathize with Squires when Stone—another Orangeman—sent him into political oblivion, or why not sympathize with Morison when Coaker, Winsor and Abbott—three Orange men—sent him into oblivion?

Coaker is as good an Orangeman as ever Abram Kean was, and he never sent 80 Orange brethren into eternity through a blunder, but he has striven for years to uplift and improve them as no other man in the Order ever attempted—and he has not fallen so low as to attempt to use an Order founded on noble ideals and religious tolerations, for the advancement of his personal or political ends as some who have pretended to be Orangemen have in the past and present.

The Lodges here are a bed of Toryism and have become a political clique that is a danger to the Order and a forerunner of evil.

Kean has used the Order, aided by his political friends, during the last two weeks, in order to injure the F.P.U. and its President, and the protest voiced by Mr. Morine last night at the great Sealers' Meeting met with the hearty response of the large gathering of outport sealers, of whom three-fourths were Orangemen.

At the meeting held here by the Lodges, Morison and Kean have endeavoured to show their spite towards Coaker, which caused many of the outport members present to leave the meetings and which left their last meeting with about twenty outport brothers—the bulk of the sealers having been disgusted by what was transpiring at those meetings. Men would require to be brave to stand up and administer to Kean on the floors of a Lodge a dose of his own medicine.

The city is overflowing the last few days with talk about the utterances heard at those meetings. Kean has not only made a nuisance of himself as a politician but he apparently will be the weapon that will cause great injury to the Orange Order throughout the North.

If he had a grudge with the F.P.U. he should have been manly enough to keep it outside of Orange meetings. He tried it at Wesleyville and got a trimming down that sent him away like a licked cur. To try it at Nipper's Harbor but instead of endorsement he upset the feelings of the whole North Side of Green Bay.

Is the Orange Body to become a Kean instrument? Is it to become a political machine to advance the interests of Morison, Kean and Squires? Is it to become a political tool for the conveniences of Sir E. P. Morris' political heaters?

We warn Morison, Kean and the Dummy Minister Squires, who is as contemptible a creature as ever sat as a Minister of the Crown—for if he was a man he would never attempt to crawl into a position that he was driven from by honest daylight at the hands of the people of Trinity Bay.

The time has come for Orangemen to elect Grand Masters who are not attempting to use it for political purposes or ends, and such men as Squires should be given to understand the Order doesn't stand for such and doesn't intend to tolerate it. If outport Orangemen were aware of the political machine the Lodges here have become they would demand to make up their books and demand a reckoning day.

Let it end, gentlemen. Let some one who loves the Order for itself and for the advancement of ideals that would ennoble and uplift any man, come forward and clean out the poisonous perfume that has so long pervaded Victoria Hall here.

Let it end, gentlemen, or outport Orangemen will soon begin to be Orangemen concerned.

Things have come to a fine pass when the Order can be used to pass resolutions of character for a man who two Judges of the Supreme Court has found guilty of conduct which resulted in the death of 78 men—amongst them two seafarers (Orangemen).

Is such a man's interests the sole aim now of the noble Order of Orangemen? What about the 4000 Orangemen who so far have signed their names to petitions demanding Kean's arrest for criminal negligence? They have dared to go as far as to attempt to whitewash Kean and we ask to note their conduct and treat their impudence and political zeal with that contempt which such conduct properly call for.

Mr. Morine has done a great service to the Order by publicly protesting last night, which was attended by 1500 electors, against what has been attempted in the hole and corner way here in St. John's. Orange Lodges the past two weeks.

The time is opportune for such action and those who have been guilty of so undermining the great principles of the Order should consider their ways and be wise of their conduct will lead to irreparable injury to the Order. Northern men won't stand for this, and it is down to Morison and Abram Kean that will be blamed for any injury that may ensue.