

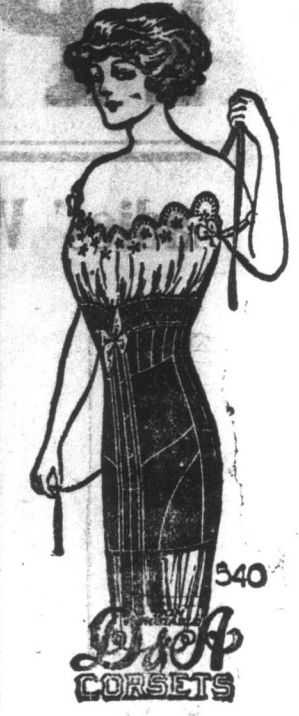


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FIGURE

F. Archibald, M.H.A. Addresses Constituents.

**His Action in Leaving Government Party Strongly Endorsed—
Telegrams of Approval Received
From all Parts of the Island.**

(Daily News.)
Coughlin Hall, Harbor Grace was filled to capacity on Tuesday night, when Mr. Frank Archibald, M.H.A., addressed the electors, and explained his recent stand in the House of Assembly, when as a protest against the non-constructive policy of the Government, he took an independent seat.

Long before the hour of assembly, large numbers had gathered at the Hall, and when Mr. Archibald arrived he was given a whole-hearted and enthusiastic reception, showing in no unmistakable manner that Mr. Archibald's action of its representative. At 8.15, Mr. Albert Rogers, Chairman of the Liberal-Reform Committee in the general election, called the meeting to order, and on motion Mr. Harold Martin was unanimously appointed Secretary. Mr. Martin also held the same position on Mr. Archibald's Committee in 1919.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, explained that Mr. Archibald was present to fulfil a promise which he made to the Electors of the District in the general election, when in his meetings he told them that in case he was elected on the Government side of the House, and that Government failed in its duty to the people, he, besides resenting such action, would come back to the people and abide by their decision. He thereupon called Mr. Archibald to address the meeting. The independent representative of Harbor Grace was given a splendid ovation well worthy of the occasion. He made a few short remarks on the subject of the meeting, which as stated by the chairman was to place himself before the District, and to get their support or otherwise on his recent move. He then proceeded to refute rumors which had spread around the town since Sunday, to the effect that he had \$12,000 District grants in the Board of Works Office which he would not use. He understood this impression had been spread by the Prime Minister on his way from church last Sunday, and he hoped since that time, and he was not saying Sir R. A. Squires had told the lie, but a number of his friends were given to understand such was the case. He thereupon explained to the satisfaction of the meeting that he was playing a straight game with those who had sent him to represent them in the Legislature. The District grants from the special loan for road improvements amounted to \$23,000. Of this amount his share was \$11,504, which, less 1-3 for loan to the fishermen for supplies left \$7,481, which left \$4,019 for Harbor Grace and its suburbs, which would be expended amongst the poor of the District when the fishermen had been supplied for the Labrador. As was well known, the fishermen were being helped by his efforts, and when they had sailed, the poor man with the family to look after, would be given work through the various Road Boards. Last week nine men came to him asking for relief for their families, who were without food and in poor circumstances, practically starving. He gave them a note to Mr. Squires, the Poor Relief Officer, who refused them help, and these men and their families were left without their Sunday dinner. If this kind of treatment is to be meted out to the people of Harbor Grace, then he wished to inform all concerned that he had pluck enough with the

endorsement of his fellow-townsmen and the District in general to see that this would end in a quiet time. Ever since he severed his connections with the Government, telegrams of endorsement had reached him from all parts of Newfoundland, as well as Harbor Grace, and he was convinced he had the backing of the whole Dominion. Public opinion had been aroused, and aroused in no uncertain manner. He felt the responsibility of the move he had taken, but a serious crisis was upon the country, and he was hardly prepared to lie down and let the people. The situation was too serious, and the country required men big enough, strong enough, and with brains enough to tackle the situation, and get Newfoundland moving. At present she was at a standstill, and no attempt had been made, and no action had been taken by those responsible in order to save her from ruin.

He had not attended many sessions of the House, he had been in his district looking after the interest of his constituents, trying to overcome the terrible condition that exists, and to help the hungry families to get a living. He knew the people were hungry, their faces showed it, and this was no time for people to be living on poor relief. The country was unable to afford what the people wanted. What was work, start the wheels of progress moving. The Government had tackled the supply question, but it was hardly sufficient for the men going to the fishery. He believed it had done more harm than good, as leading merchants in St. John's had told him. Remove the War Measures Act and the Fishery Regulations, and they would supply as usual, but confidence had been lost. The help given is not a sufficient order of firm. We have sent men to fish, but our annual revenue is now estimated at \$8,000,000, and suppose the season's catch amounts to 1,500,000 qts. and say this fish is sold at \$7.00 per qt., which is a very high estimate, the most we can hope to raise from this source is \$10,500,000. Where, in the name of common sense can we get the other four millions.

The factories and manufacturing concerns, Grand Island and Grand Falls have closed down. The earning power of the people has been destroyed, and the only prospects left are our fishery, which at the moment can only pay for the food imported, leaving nothing for clothing, boots and the other things that go to make up our livelihood. He could see plainly what was coming, and if the people of Harbor Grace gave him a mandate, it would have the effect of awakening those responsible to their duties to their country and save the people from perishing in a bulk.

Mr. Archibald read the full speech as delivered in the House of Assembly, explaining his stand and his attitude towards his District and the country at large. He felt the united efforts of all classes in the country were needed to get us on our feet, but the action of the Government in everything they handled proved beyond doubt that they lacked the constructive brains and ability to grapple with the situation.

The question of Government fish purchase was handled by Mr. Archibald in a very able manner. He knew nothing about the fish deal, yet a certain portion of the country received \$8.00 per qt. for their fish last season, and the men in the District of Harbor Grace were left with thousands of quintals in their stores, whilst men sent to look after their interests tried to deceive him, whether intentionally or not, when he made enquiries on behalf of his constituents. His people had the fish, and are unable to make a sale. He had not taken this step hastily, but in the best interests of Newfoundland, and those with whom he had been reared and brought up in Harbor Grace, and he did not want these people and the whole District to say that Archibald saw what was coming but had not the pluck to assert himself.

Whilst sitting with the Government, Mr. Archibald said that no attempt to help the country was being made, and he was not prepared to remain a party to this policy of doing nothing. His action reminded the

Government that they had a duty to perform, with the result the House was adjourned for a week so they could think of a policy and find a solution of the question of the railroad which had proved such a disastrous undertaking for the country.

Mr. Archibald took the Government to task for trying to suspend the rules and rush the business of the country through in a slipshod method, the same as last year. Let them get a policy that would benefit Newfoundland and he would support them every time. He was independent and would take an independent stand every time, and felt that Mr. Grace would appreciate the fact that he was prepared to come forward and tell them the state the country was in.

He explained his position regarding the Fish Regulations. He had acted in good faith, and understood that the Executive Government had full authority to rescind these regulations as soon as it was found they were a menace to the country. But what did the Executive know about fish? They may have been earnest, he hoped they were, but they saw our fish markets being strangled day after day and not a move was made to save them. He hoped that in future public opinion would be given more say in the doings of the Governments, and it would be the safety valve on their actions. Any fool knows when we are ruined, but the man wanted is the man who foresees the calamity, and prepares to meet it.

The crux of the situation is, that Newfoundland must be brought back to prosperity, he did not wish to say he was the great man who could do the job, but he was there to help the man who had the courage to tackle the proposition. Mr. Archibald next turned to the matter of taxation, which he claimed was the only policy of the Government. Our previous taxation on articles of clothing amounted to 44 per cent, with Surtax, but with the new Surtax, tax and freight and duty, and last of all the Sales Tax, the cost to the consumer of a \$100.00 article of goods bought in Canada say with selling costs added is the enormous sum of \$216.56. The present Government have put on such articles a 19 1/4 per cent, which is nearly 60 per cent, of the original duty. How are we going to stand it, with only the codfishery being prosecuted and our other industries not working.

The Sales Tax, the brilliant idea, which brought forth a strong protest from Bay Roberts, from St. John's, from Burin, is being used to the detriment of our own people. By this measure as introduced to the House, Eaton and other foreign mail order firms were in a position to do business in Newfoundland without any molestation, and when the Government were reminded by Mr. Cheeseman of this discrimination, they said it was a mistake, and would be removed, another demonstration of the brains of the Doctors, Lawyers and Schoolmasters Executive. What mistakes must have been made in the Railroad Bill, if a small resolution is allowed into the House without its being read. The manufacturer is also taxed 3 per cent, because he is employing men and giving them a chance to live in their own country. Mr. Archibald did not believe the Executive gave the matter any consideration, they merely said more taxation will give us the money, and they did not figure the harm that would result.

Mr. Archibald concluded his splendid address by a strong appeal to the people of the District. He had taken his seat in the centre of the House on principle. He had one purpose in mind, to help the people of Harbor Grace District if possible, and the country in general, and if the Government has a constructive policy when the House opens again, he would support them, but he would not fool the people with lies. He was prepared to hand back his seat to the people who gave it to him. If he had not been a traitor to their cause, then give him their undivided support, and he would shoulder their business, and with their help, pressure could be brought to bear, that would give old Newfoundland a chance to recover her position. If they agreed with his stand then give him something solid and concrete, and he would go back, and fight their cause from his independent seat. If they did not agree with him, then his seat was at their disposal. At the conclusion Mr. Archibald was cheered to the echo, the whole audience coming to their feet and endorsing his action.

It was then proposed by Mr. Wm. Harris and seconded by John Pike that the following resolution be passed: We, the electors of the District of Harbor Grace, Harbor Grace, in public meeting assembled, have noted the action of our representative, Mr. Frank Archibald, in the stand he has recently taken on behalf of the electors and people of this District, and the country generally.

We believe he has placed principle and the interest of the country and its future first, and in doing so we feel confident, he has

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