

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF 6th SUPREME CONVENTION OF F. P. U., HELD AT CATALINA

(Concluded)

SEVENTH SESSION.

Catalina, Nov. 19, 1914.

Pursuant to adjournment the President declared the Council open for the transaction of business at 10 a.m. The Committee appointed to draft resolutions re the appointment of Messrs. Squires and Blandford as Ministers of the Crown submitted the following resolution:

Catalina, Nov. 19, 1914.

Mr. President.—The Committee appointed to draft resolutions respecting the actions of the Government in appointing Messrs. Squires and Blandford to positions as Ministers of the Crown has considered the matter and submitted the following resolution for the consideration of the Supreme Council:

THAT WHEREAS in the opinion of this Council, the Constitution of the Colony has been outraged by the action of Governor Davidson in consenting to the appointment of Sydney Blandford as Member of the Executive Council and Minister of Agriculture and Mines, in spite of the fact that while he held these positions

last Fall at the time he appealed to his constituents of Bonavista District he was defeated by a vote of 1800 majority, yet, after having resigned these positions because of the adverse verdict of the electorate, he, being appointed to the Legislative Council, was re-instated into the positions which the electorate by such an overwhelming majority, had decided he should not occupy.

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of this Council the Constitution of the Colony was outraged by the action of Governor Davidson in consenting to the appointment of R. A. Squires as a Member of the Executive Council and as Minister of Justice in spite of the fact that four months previous to the appointment, Mr. Squires' constituents of Trinity District had, at a general election, decided that he was not wanted, and ousted him from his position as a representative of Trinity District by a majority vote of over 1000, yet, contrary to the wish of the electorate he was appointed Minister of the Crown and member of the Executive Government because of his appointment to the Legislative Council.

AND WHEREAS, the Supreme Council of the Fishermen's Protective Union, which represents the Districts of Bonavista and Trinity, at its last Annual Convention, memorialized the Governor against appointing any defeated candidates to the vacant position in the Executive Council and Departments of Agriculture and Justice, unless they appealed to the electors for approval.

AND WHEREAS the vacant positions in the Executive Council and Heads of the Departments of Agriculture and Justice were filled by placing Messrs. Blandford and Squires in the Legislative Council.

AND WHEREAS Messrs. Blandford and Squires were defeated at the General Election by the large majorities above mentioned.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention of the Fishermen's Protective Union, representing 20,000 electors, strongly condemn the action of the Governor in consenting to what we believe is a serious infringement upon the principles of Responsible Government and Government by popular vote, and consider a Governor who is guilty of such conduct unworthy to

represent His Majesty the King in this Colony:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention record its strongest disapproval of the action of the Government and Governor in appointing defeated candidates to the Legislative Council in order to qualify them for positions as Executive members and Ministers of the Crown, in direct opposition to the wishes of the electorate, in the hope that such an insult to the electorate will never again be offered by any Government in Newfoundland; and that President Coaker is hereby requested to prepare a petition to be signed by the public and presented to the House of Assembly asking for the removal of Messrs. R. A. Squires and Sydney D. Blandford from the positions which they occupy as Members of the Executive Council and Ministers of the Crown; AND BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that these resolutions be forwarded to the Imperial Secretary for the Colonies, accompanied by a request that Governor Davidson's term of office as Governor of Newfoundland be at once terminated.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Mercer, Gilbert Dugden, Giles Fifield, Arthur Vivian, Joseph Perry.

Proposed by Jacob Quinton, seconded by John Loder, and resolved that this report be adopted as a whole.

Proposed seconded and resolved that the Council adjourn to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

The Council closed at 1.10 p.m.

EIGHTH SESSION.

Catalina, Nov. 19, 1914.

Pursuant to adjournment, the President declared the Council open for the transaction of business at 2.30 p.m.

Election of Officers.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT—W. F. Coaker, re-elected for the 7th year.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Andrew Broaders, re-elected for the 3rd year.

SECRETARY-TREASURER.

W. W. Halfyard, re-elected for the 3rd year.

Each officer expressed his thanks and appreciation of the honor conferred upon him, and would endeavor to retain the confidence and support of the members of the organization by working still harder to advance the great cause, the principles of which appeal with such force to each member, and if consistently adhered to will ennoble and uplift every workman in the Colony.

Vote of Thanks.

The thanks of the Convention were unanimously voted the officers for their services during the past year.

Many of the delegates spoke in eulogistic terms of the work of the President during the past year. His energy, zeal and untiring efforts had been unsparingly given for to remedy existing political abuses, and to secure for the fishermen the best possible returns for their summer's toil. Many were the expressions of loyalty and determination to support the President in his great work.

Next Place of Meeting.

Resolved that the time and place of the next Supreme Council Convention be left to the decision of the President.

Vote of Thanks.

Proposed by John Guppy, seconded by Charles Woolridge and resolved that the thanks of this Supreme Council of the F. P. U. be tendered the ladies and friends of Catalina for their many acts of kindness and great hospitality to the members of the Convention.

On motion the minutes were considered as read and adopted.

Proposed by D. White, seconded by Jacob Quinton, and resolved—That the 6th Annual Convention of the Fishermen's Protective Union of Newfoundland do now close.

The Convention closed at 4.30 p.m. with the singing of the National Anthem.

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