

# A Wonderful Demonstration!

## Thousands March to Gov't House!

### Deputation Received By His Excellency---The Greatest and Most Enthusiastic Meeting on Record---Government's Doom Writ Large.

To those who read the reports in the Government papers yesterday of the proposed meeting for last night, the actuality must have been a revelation for all time, of the perversion of the Casino Theatre was the scene of the demonstration.

At 8 o'clock the Casino Theatre was filled, and the Chairman, Mr. W. A. O'D. Kelly, opened the meeting. He spoke of the lies and slanders appearing particularly in the Herald these days relative to the demonstration of opposition that is manifesting itself everywhere, and after the reading of the minutes of last meeting, a deputation of 20 citizens were called out to present the resolution passed at Friday night's meeting to His Excellency the Governor.

The whole audience then filed out of the hall, and lined up outside, deep and headed by the deputation already selected, they marched down Henry Street, and down Church Street to the Government House.

The parade was led by the Advocate of the Opposition, Mr. J. J. St. John, Jr., and followed by a large number of public men and political party. The meeting was held for the purpose of safeguarding the freedom of election, the giving to every voter the opportunity and the right he has under the constitution, to record his vote on the policies of political parties.

Those assembled at the meeting felt that this cannot be done if a general election be held next month. The deputation was scattered over a very extensive portion of the country, and the difficulties of transportation and communication are so great that many thousands will be disfranchised.

The parallel drawn by a section of the Press of conditions such as arose in 1908 and 1909 does not apply to the present. In 1908 the election resulted in an equal number being returned

for both political parties. Neither could carry on the government of the country, supply could not be voted for the various public institutions because neither of the parties would help the other in passing the necessary measures or even in the election of a Speaker, in order that the Legislature might be opened and business proceeded with. There was no alternative left but a general election before the end of the financial year of 1909. These conditions do not exist to-day. The Government has a majority in both branches of the Legislature, and is therefore in a position to vote supply, pass whatever legislation is required, and carry on the government of the country until the fall session of the year.

It has been urged as a reason that a general election be held, because the Legislature ceases to exist on the 30th of this month. But we desire to point out that in 1908, the Legislature ceased to exist, but nevertheless the government of the country was carried on for nearly six months by those who did not have a mandate from the people for that purpose. The principle of government is that it always exists. It is unnecessary for us to dwell upon the fact that the law provides for the taking of a voters' list twelve months previous to a general election. No voters' list has been taken although the great war terminated upwards of five months ago, during which time this could have been done. An amendment to the Election Act is now proposed for the purpose of enabling the Government to hold an election. This, citizens most strongly object to and protest against. The Election Act was passed for the purpose of preserving the purity and freedom of elections, and it is therefore amended when it suits

the convenience of a political party, a blow is struck at the very foundation upon which Representative Government rests, because the principle then is that laws are made or altered not for better government but to enable a political party to retain power at the expense and sacrifice of popular liberty.

We must also submit that the present government is not the choice of the people, and it was not elected by such a character as the Election Act should not be permitted. The people have not asked for an amendment of the Election Act; they have not been consulted. There have been no requests from any section of the people for any change in the law. An amendment to the law is unnecessary and is only resorted to for political expediency. It is due to the people of the country that public policies and the issues of political parties should be placed before them in order that they may decide who shall rule. This is impossible if a spring election be held for the reasons already stated.

We therefore look to Your Excellency as the representative of the Crown to protect the rights of the people from being invaded, to use the prerogative you possess in order that elections may be carried out according to the law as it is now on the Statute Book. Should Your Excellency not intervene in a matter of such vital importance to the people and the country, then we would ask that the holding of an election be postponed until the latest date possible; a day during the first week in June will be ample time for the taking of a poll.

We do not, Your Excellency, deem it necessary to say more to emphasize the importance which the citizens of this city place upon the representations now made to you, and in submitting these resolutions we do so firmly convinced that the matters dealt with therein will receive at your hands the consideration they demand, and confident that, insofar as your prerogative will permit, you will exercise your power to safeguard the rights of the electorate of this country, to pronounce upon the policies of the political parties that may appeal to them at the forthcoming election, and thereby preserve unimpaired the freedom of election of representatives by the people of this country.

During the time the deputation was in the Council Chamber, the immense crowd outside waited in perfect order, proving by this quietness and discipline, that the gathering was in deed earnest.

After the deputation came out the ranks were reformed, and marched back to the Casino. The building was packed, upwards of 2,000 being present, with vestibules and entrance crowded. Mr. W. A. O'D. Kelly first read what he had addressed to His Excellency, and then Mr. Fred W. Ayre spoke of pleasure it had been to him, to be in the movement. He was pleased with the courteous reception accorded them at the House and stated that even were we turned down we had done our best and performed the duty of freemen. He heartily supported the Opposition. Mr. A. H. Salter then briefly but clearly spoke, expressing his belief that the people were awakening, and taking a deeper interest in the political affairs (as well as in other ways) and that the movement by the Opposition is the right thing.

Mr. J. M. Devine said he was sorry

he could not attend on Friday night, but he was glad to be present now, and he declared that the representatives of the people should be really representatives, and that even as democracy had triumphed on the battlefields so should it triumph here in Newfoundland by the ousting of the present usurping tribunal from power.

Mr. F. Moore was also glad to be in the ranks of the Opposition. He gave instances, of the present Government, showing that the public did not count with the same, declaring that when such was the case the public should kick them out, and he believed they were going to do so.

Mr. M. Foley believed that victory would crown the movement thus begun, and that the day of the Government was done.

Mr. Arthur English addressed the meeting and called attention to the utterances of the Herald. He declared that the present party had no authority to be the Government, and he resented the slanderous methods of the Herald in trying to discount the movement which is rapidly swelling against them. He stated solemnly that he would use the law of physical force on McGrath, if the slander of a few days ago on his father was "in anyway repeated. He appealed on the grounds of national life for everyone to help the movement along and to assist in ousting the present conglomeration from power, and he longed for the day of election to see Newfoundland once again in the hands of an honest government.

Mr. E. Whitty then showed up the Government in the handling of the food situation, and showed how favoritism and profiteering had been permitted and abetted by the F. C. B., and ended by saying that if the Herald

continued its slanders it would not continue very long.

Mr. B. B. Harris, Secretary of the G. W. V. A., expressed his conviction that all soldiers would vote for an opposition party. He hoped the leader, whom he need not mention, and whom there was some hope of getting, would come forward and lead the opposition to a victorious poll.

Mr. J. J. St. John then spoke briefly, and dealt effectively with the attacks of the Herald and Advocate on the slanders they had made. He declared that the Opposition had kept clear of personalities, as it wished a fair fight, but if the government organs started then the Opposition could follow suit, and do its share in that game. Mr. St. John also gave figures showing how the recent shipment of 1,800 barrels of granulated sugar to this port was the means of taking \$6,000 out of the public pocket for the use of McGrath and the F.C.B.

Mr. Kelly then remarked that the fight so well begun must end in triumph, and the meeting, enthusiastic all through, ended with the singing of the National Anthem and cheers for Victory.

#### Why Not?

The ladies of the W.C.T.U. have been trying for the past two weeks to get a poor child into hospital for treatment. The child requires instant treatment; she is an orphan and were it not for a woman who took her in, her case would indeed be much worse. But surely if hospital accommodation is scarce some bed could have been found in the meantime for the little child, or is it as our morning contemporary claims, that maybe, because she has no political pull she cannot get admission.

#### Legislative Council.

After the members of the Council had returned from Government House yesterday, where the address in reply was presented to the Governor, Hon. Mr. Goodridge presented the resolutions passed by the public meeting held Friday night, for consideration of the Council. In doing so, he pointed out that he regarded the citizens' action as the most hopeful sign that he had seen for a number of years. The people had been aroused to the necessity of placing in control of the country men who had their confidence. The resolutions had come from the people and should receive that consideration from the House which their importance demanded. He considered it an honor to present the resolutions, and welcomed them because they had sprung from the people.

Hon. R. A. Squires supported the petition, pointing out that present conditions do not analogous to those of 1908-9. Then, the issues were before the people. To-day it is impossible to canvas many of the districts in the short time between now and the date set for polling day.

Hon. John Anderson strongly criticized the action of the Government in deciding to hold an election early in May. Mr. Anderson then dealt with the railway problem and financial matters in general. He did not care what Government was returned, provided they would look after the public welfare instead of personal aggrandizement.

Hon. M. P. Gibbs thought the resolutions were unique in their character, as heretofore the politicians manipulated public opinion. In this instance, however, the public was taking the matter in its own hands. He denounced the attempt of a section of the press to hold up the movement to scorn and ridicule. This, and the attacks on those who had, in exercising the free rights of citizens, interested themselves in joining the Opposition, were contemptible, cowardly, mean and loathsome, and could emanate only from the filthy source from which it did.

Hon. W. J. Ellis moved the second reading of the Election Bill.

Hon. R. A. Squires, before the motion was put, drew attention to the fact that a deputation of citizens was about to wait on the Governor for the purpose of making protest against the holding of the election at the time intended by the Government, and asked that the second reading be deferred

#### At the House.

(Yesterday.)

Petitions were presented by Mr. A. B. Morine (Bonavista), from different points of the district, protesting against the change in the Dundas route; by Hon. W. W. Halfyard (Fogo), from the residents of Gray Islands, asking that the islands be made a part of call for the northern coastal steamer.

Mr. Walsh (Placentia), heartily supported this petition.

Mr. Kennedy (St. John's), presented a petition from the fishermen of Chappel's Cove, asking that the dredge be sent there.

Mr. Walsh (Placentia), and Mr. J. G. Stone (Trinity), supported it.

Hon. Mr. Woodford (St. John's), presented a petition from Topsall on the same subject.

Petitions were presented by Messrs. Winsor and Abbott (Bonavista), and Messrs. Targett and Stone (Trinity), on various public matters.

Mr. Parsons (St. John's), presented one from the residents of Island Cove on the matter of a public well.

Capt. Young (St. John's), presented two largely signed petitions from Bay Roberts and Spaniard's Bay, asking that positions be found for two returned soldiers—married men—who had been wounded at the front. Mr. Parsons supported it.

The House adjourned at 4 o'clock until 3 this afternoon.

#### The Majestic.

To-night at the Majestic that famous American actor, Nat Goodwin, the beloved of all movie patrons, will be seen to great advantage in the big 5-reel picture: "The Master Hand." The heartless husband is conspiring with a female doctor living in the house, and plots to secure the private fortune of his invalid wife. To accomplish this, his accomplice administers a deadly drug in the invalid's regular medicine, thus having the result of temporarily unbalancing her mind. Now was their chance. The wife is removed to a private sanatorium, and the husband and doctor set out to enjoy the wealth that has come into

their hands. In doing this they speculate unwisely and the fortune is lost. The friends of the absent wife now become suspicious, and determine to investigate and, if possible, discover the hiding place of the invalid. How this is done, and how she is restored to her home and fortune, and the conspirators denounced and punished, will delight everybody, for it is particularly powerful acting. Nat Goodwin taking his part to perfection. The usual comedy will also be seen with enjoyment. The Majestic has a large consignment of the best films procurable, the first of which will possibly be screened this week. The pictures at this popular house are getting better and better, so that no one need ever be disappointed in the show given.

#### Observed at the House.

Mr. Coaker yesterday scouted the idea that the petitions presented by Mr. Morine from different parts in Bonavista Bay were representative of the majority, and Mr. Morine in reply effectively silenced the hon. member, in his own inimitable way.

We also note that Mr. Coaker referred to the smooth working of the system (the new Dundas route). Had Mr. Coaker ever gone to Port Union and waited out of doors all night unable to get in, as hundreds did, then possibly the honorable gentleman might not have spoken so emphatically about the smoothness of the system.

Each day has its surprise, and yesterday the genial Minister of Public Works talked of economy. He mentioned a way in which he thought \$1,000.00 might be saved for the Government. We were amused as the question of economy is not one we would ask the Hon. Minister about, knowing that his tastes are rather of the epicurean than the frugal type.

Mr. Morine stated that "statistics on paper" have a habit of lying. We concur in this opinion, feeling as we do that the present financial statements as declared, are merely paper showings.

In the Upper House Hon. John Anderson stated that the action of the Government in trying to obtain such an early election was taking a mean, contemptible, advantage of the Opposition. We echo the same, but have confidence that the Opposition will win out in the end. He also criticised

the action of the Government re freight service, saying that perishable goods on the KYLE had been used as ballast for several trips to and fro. It is time for someone to prick the feelings of the Government, and there is more coming.

The President of the L. C. appeared rather sleepy, perhaps the strain of these days is too much for him, and soon we may hear of another little trip abroad.

M. P.

"Stafford's Phorator" for Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Bronchial Troubles, Croup, Loss of Voice.—Feb. 14.

TRUCKMEN'S MEETING.—The Truckmen's Union which held its quarterly meeting last night discussed many other matters, the Housing problem, and promised to give their whole hearted support to the solution of this great question.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. F. Breen, seconded by Mr. W. Linagar, and carried enthusiastically.

Lecture at Star of Sea Rooms.

Despite the many counter attractions last night a very fair audience greeted Chairman John Myler of the Star of the Sea R. & B. Club, when he introduced Mr. Thomas Kelly, lecturer of the evening. Mr. Kelly gave a very interesting and elaborate summary of the cause, effect and aspirations of the renowned movement known as "Sinn Fein." For over an hour he dwelt upon the subject, setting forth graphically and forcibly its historical and political significance.

ENTERED HOSPITAL.—Mr. Samuel Eastman, of Glenwood, entered hospital yesterday for throat trouble.

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