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JOINT MEETING OF PARTIES.

Liberal Progressives Unite With Labor -- Messrs. J. T. Martin and Wm. Linegar Selected as Candidates--N. I. W. A. Rooms Unable to Contain Gathering

The campaign in the interests of the Liberal Progressive-Labor candidates who will contest the forthcoming bye-election in St. John's West, was opened last night at a joint meeting of West End Liberal Progressive committees and Labor committees in the N.I.W.A. Rooms, Springdale Street. The candidates chosen were Messrs. J. T. Martin and W. J. Linegar.

At 7.30 the Liberal Progressive committee met, Mr. J. Fitzgibbon presiding. The chairman briefly outlined the object of the meeting, which firstly was to hear the candidates in the recent election address the committee, and secondly because of arrangements with the Labor Party to nominate one candidate for the bye-election pending.

Mr. J. R. Bennett, the successful candidate, being called upon dwelt at some length with issues before the people in the general election, the conduct of the campaign by their opponents, and what led to the defeat of his colleagues. Messrs. Mullaly and Martin had been loyal and true throughout the fight, which had been honestly and fairly fought, and his regrets were that they had not succeeded. To the committees who worked so energetically during the campaign he offered sincere thanks on behalf of himself and colleagues. He also referred to the manly and straightforward campaign put up by the Labor candidates, who though defeated had fought well. Not once during the elections did himself or colleagues in any way antagonize the Labor representatives. The uniting of the parties for the coming contest was the result of conference, and due consideration on the part of both sides, and he looked for successful results. The present representatives of St. John's West were not elected by a majority vote, and a contest was decided upon by the united Liberal Progressive-Labor parties to give the people another chance to express their opinions as to who would represent them. In his opinion it was right that a contest should be held, and he was quite sure that the people's choice would be Martin and Linegar.

Mr. Mullaly followed, and in thanking the old committee said no more enthusiastic or energetic body of men had come together. Extraordinary conditions arose, however, and his defeat with Mr. Martin followed. On this occasion he was voluntarily retiring from the contest, because he believed that Labor had its rights and these being recognized by the Opposition, he was willing to waive all claims he might have on that party in the interests of Labor. He was ready to stand loyally to Martin and Linegar, and whatever lay in his power to help towards their return he was willing to do. In concluding he asked that the Liberal Progressives and Laborites put all their energies into the fight, to work day and night, and success was then assured.

Mr. Martin also thanked the committee for the great interest shown and the work done during the last campaign. He asked for the same loyal support in the coming fight, and assured those present that so far as he was concerned nothing would be left undone to merit their confidence and support.

A joint meeting of both Labor and L. P. Committees was now held, and Mr. John Cadwell, one of the candidates of the Workingmen's Party, in the November election, was appointed chairman amidst great enthusiasm. Mr. J. Fitzgibbon was elected vice-chairman; Mr. C. J. Myler, Secretary and ex-Sergt. Jack Moakler, Asst.-Secty.

The chairman, after thanking the gathering for the honor conferred on him, invited Sir Michael Cashin to speak. The leader of the Opposition in an address of more than half an hour, set out in detail what led to the bringing together of the two parties to fight the coming bye-elections. He ed, it was prepared to stand by the the Governments of the last ten years, and also the present Prime Minister's. All the sins of the Government of that time were thrown on him, but Mr Squires, who held an executive sea in the same Government up to 191 disclaimed any responsibility. It ha been asked why the other districts had not been contested in the bye-elections. The answer was that these districts have decided by majorities in favor of the present Government, but so far as St. John's West was concerned, the majority had not decided, and it was to give the people a chance to decide that a contest would be held. So far as the Opposition was concerned, it was proposed to stand by the Labor Party's candidate, Mr. Linegar, on the floors of the Assembly, and he would pledge himself to-night publicly to that end, and as the campaign progressed every member of his party would individually do likewise. Sir Michael also dealt with the housing problem and other matters affecting the workingmen, and contended that an easy solution of these matters was possible. But from a Government hostile to St. John's and its interests, very little could be forthcoming. If in the coming contest, Labor wanted to be represented on the floors of the Assembly with a strong combination behind it, it was up to it to unite with the Liberal-Progressives and certain victory was assured.

Here the joint-meeting endorsed the arrangements made by thunderous applause, and Messrs. Martin and Linegar were the unanimous choice of the packed rooms.

Mr. Martin being called by the Chairman, expressed deep thanks to the joint meeting for their hearty endorsation, and pledged himself to work loyally with his colleague, and if elected to stand firmly behind the Labor policy.

Mr. William Linegar, responding to calls from all directions, now took the floor and the cheering which greeted him as he waited for silence must have been ample proof to him that his stand was approved. The roof literally shook and the cheering lasted for nearly a minute.

He offered a few words of explanation as to the amalgamation, and the steps he had taken. The Morning Post and Daily Star had already begun a campaign of vilification against him and said he was bought privately. So far as he was concerned, he had done nothing during the last campaign, nor since, that he need feel ashamed of. Not one move had been taken by him on which he did not consult his colleagues, and the linking up of the two parties was the result of negotiations with Sir M. P. Cashin, which had been submitted to the Workingmen's Party Committee and approved by fifty-five out of sixty members present. He was not purchasable either privately or publicly, and it was sufficient to him that the Workingmen's Committee had endorsed his action. The complete answer that he had acted honestly and sincerely was the presence of Mr. Cadwell in the Chair, and the large number of the Committee present. He and his colleagues had decided after the elections were over that if the leaders of either of the partis wanted to interview them, either together or personally, they would accede to the request. The first request came from Mr. Squires, but the propositions put by Mr. Squires were such as not big enough to submit to the Committee. When the Leader of the Opposition laid his plans before them, and gave sufficient guarantees, the Committee was called together, and as already stated, the Cashin policy was considered in the interests of the Labor party and agreed upon. Had the Committee decided otherwise he would have abided by their decision, and would have still stood by them and espoused their cause as faithfully as in the past. When the Spring election was proposed, and the Labor Unions were called together, he expressed the opinion that the best way for Labor to get representation was through some party, and not as a party of its own, the time was not ripe for it. When the Workingmen's Party was formed, and they decided to enter the political field as a unit, he accepted their decision. He had always fought the Workingmen's cause, and was prepared to stand by them in any decision they should reach, as in the past. The charges made against him by the Post and Star, absolutely unfounded, were an attack on the honesty of the Committee as well as on himself personally. In conclusion, Mr. Linegar said he had no desire to launch into a speech, there would be ample time for speech-making when the campaign got ready; he only wished to state briefly what happened, particularly to those present, who were all not conversant with the facts. He urged upon the Labor Committee to work shoulder to shoulder with the Liberal-Progressive Committee from now until the last ballot was polled, and if such were done he had no doubt about the result.

Here Chairman John Cadwell endorsed every word Mr. Linegar had uttered. During the November campaign he had found Mr. Linegar to be honest, sincere, loyal and true. He was filled with Labor enthusiasm and in him the workingmen have an unbribable, clean, honest representative, one from whom nothing that did not favor the workingmen need be expected. He had fought side by side with Mr. Linegar and he knew that there was not a more indefatigable fighter or worker in the city. Mr. Cadwell's remarks were punctuated by applause from the Labor committeemen.

Speeches were also made by Mr. M. Sullivan, M.H.A., Placentia, Hon. W. J. Ellis, J. Whiteway, J. Spratt, P. J. Shea, T. Jackman, and others, during the evening, and considerable preliminary work in connection with the campaign outlined. Mr. J. J. Spratt was chosen as campaign manager, and has as his executive—Messrs. S. Angel, H. Shaw, W. Dunn, J. O'Neill, L. Ashley, J. R. Smallwood, J. Quigley, M. Murray, A. Wight, J. Moakler, J. Colford, M. Murphy, M. Chipman, C. Jardine, E. J. Ryan, T. Jackman, J. J. Mullaly, H. Healey, J. Gourley. These gentlemen will meet at 8 o'clock Friday night next, when the plan of campaign will be submitted for consideration. At 9 o'clock Friday night the General Committee, which already numbers more than 250, will meet to hear the report of the campaign executive.

The chairman, Mr. Cadwell, who filled the position with much acceptance and dignity, informed those present that the rooms would be open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, Sundays excepted, and he invited every member of the committee to enlist a friend to also act, so that at least 600 would be on the roll by Friday night, when a whirlwind campaign would be started, the like of which was never witnessed in St. John's or in the Dominion, and which would result in the absolute defeat of the Government candidates.

After a hearty vote of thanks had been passed the chairman for his very valuable services, the meeting which was one of the most enthusiastic ever held in the city, closed at 11 o'clock with the singing of the National Anthem.

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