

The Evening Times Star

PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1922

SIXTEEN PAGES

OPPOSITION TO THE POWER COMPANY'S PROPOSALS SWEEP AWAY; ST. JOHN NOW PREPARED TO GO ON WITH THE JOB IN HAND

St. John Again Speaks Emphatically For The Hydro Current at Cost

G. FRED FISHER ELECTED BY 1015 MAJORITY IN RECALL ELECTION

Unquestionable Mandate from People to "Get on With the Job"—Campaign of Slander and Power Company Propaganda Ends in Complete Rout for Mayor McLellan—Vote Was 4,304 to 3,289.

The slogan of "Power at Cost" received an added impetus from the citizens yesterday when they voted, by the handsome majority of 1,015, to put in at City Hall a man who could be depended upon to keep his pre-election promises and to act independently of any corporation. In ten out of thirteen wards G. Fred Fisher, the people's candidate, had a plurality which constituted an answer to a slanderous campaign, abounding with personalities and reeking with innuendo. St. John has shaken off the threatened mantle and has emerged from the darkness of doubt ready to follow the new leader into paths of cheap light and power. Contesting thirteen wards on the thirteenth day of the month was an unlucky move for the late mayor. The next move is for Mr. Fisher to carry on with his programme in which he will have the backing of the great majority of the citizens as expressed yesterday at the polls.

Mr. Fisher's platform called for: The completion and signing of the contract with the N. B. Electric Power Commission for the Musquash power at 1.2, and the appointment of an independent civic hydro electric commissioner to conduct a civic distribution system; Completion of plans and specifications for a civic distribution system;

An offer of \$2,577,655.56 to be made to the New Brunswick Power Company for its entire property—THE SUM TO BE THE MAXIMUM AND THE OFFER TO REMAIN OPEN TEN DAYS ONLY.

In the event of the offer not being accepted by the POWER COMPANY THE CITY TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS OWN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

This platform received handsome and unquestioned endorsement at the polls yesterday, and Mr. Fisher has repeatedly stated that an end would be put to the quibbling tactics employed at the last civic election by the carrying out of his entire programme. He is known as a man who keeps his pledges—to the letter.

On October 5 last, the recall petitions concerning ex-Mayor McLellan were placed before the Common Council for action and the date, November 13, was set for the election at that meeting, but it was not until October 16 that Mr. Fisher was selected as the standard-bearer for hydro. It will be seen, therefore, that the hydro opponents had a big advantage, so far as time was concerned. In fact, it was in middle summer that the ex-Mayor's recall petitions were circulated, so the Power Company forces went into the battle fully prepared.

Mr. McLellan's chief plank was arbitration for the Power Company plant. It is interesting to note that on the night Mr. McLellan was elected to his high office on April 24 last, he intimated that no such offer would be made. He further said that it was the first time he had seen the citizens of St. John ready and willing to go out and protect themselves from such a corporation as the N. B. Power Company.

The citizens showed him for the second time that his statement on that occasion was correct.

Analysis of Vote. A detailed analysis of the vote polled yesterday shows that out of a total eligible vote of 12,469, very near the sixty-one per cent mark was cast, or 7,592 votes.

Wards Gave Mr. Fisher a Majority. In Guys, it was 151. In Brooks, it was 111. In Dukes, 201. In Queens, 380. In Kings, 160. In Wellington, 121. In Prince, 19. In Victoria, 188. In Dufferin, 84. In Lansdowne, 14. Mr. McLellan's majority in Sydney was 109; in Lorne, 129; in Stanley, 71. He was beaten, generally, even in the North End. That Sydney ward elected to stand with the ex-Mayor was a big surprise, but it hardly equalled the upset given the Power Company candidate in Lorne and Lansdowne, where Mr. Fisher ran his opponent a close race in supposed McLellan strongholds—beating Mr. McLellan in Lansdowne ward.

In the wards that did go in for the Fisher column, there was no doubt regarding the emphatic verdict of the electorate just as there can be no doubt as to the nature and meaning of the mandate given the new Mayor. There is a total of 18,904 names on the voters' lists for the city, but for yesterday's election some 5,835 names were stricken from the lists as ineligible, leaving a total of 12,469 qualified to exercise their franchise. At the April election, this almost equalled the number eligible, namely, 9,708. Tabulated, the figures are:

April, November. Total 18,904 18,204. Ineligible 5,950 5,835. Qualified 12,469 12,469. Votes cast 7,486 7,493.

The Weather. Election day dawned bright and clear and continued so throughout the morning and afternoon. There was a sharp, biting wind, however. Great energy was manifested by both sides, and auto-

by Walter Golding, manager of the Imperial, as "the new Mayor," and Mr. Fisher's appearance was the signal for vociferous applause.

He began by thanking them for the splendid reception accorded him and congratulating the citizens on having won a great victory. He appreciated the confidence reposed in him by his native city in electing him as their representative at this critical hour in the history of the city. He hoped he would always merit that confidence. He pointed out that there was no reason why the success of these cities could not be duplicated here.

Many citizens had appeared timid regarding the construction of a civic distribution system, but he believed there was little cause for fear should such a policy be put into force. A reasonable and equitable offer would be made by the Power Company, and if the company did not see fit to accept this offer the city would have to build its own system.

Rev. Hugh Miller, minister of St. David's church, left on the Boston train last night, having received a telegram notifying him of the serious illness of his sister, in New Haven, Conn. This necessitates the postponement of the election gathered early at the rooms and received the returns from the various wards telling of the great victory. When the final returns had been made the calls for a speech were so insistent that the successful candidate of the people was forced to step forward to satisfy his friends and workers in his behalf.

The Mayor-Elect. Mr. Fisher told those present that they had good cause to rejoice for it was not only a triumph for himself, but one for the citizens of St. John and he was glad to see them rejoicing. He considered that the citizens had won a great victory and incidentally had downed the enemies of their city. He acknowledged that it had been a hard battle, well fought, and against an unscrupulous enemy. He said it was a great success for all who had worked in the interests of hydro.

Speaking of his plans, he said he would make up his mind to do his job and push it forward as rapidly as was reasonably possible, as well as whatever was in the interests of the city. The first great question to be considered, however, was cheaper electricity. He expressed his thanks to the men who had stood by him so faithfully during the campaign, and his appreciation to all who had placed their confidence in him and had bestowed on him the great honor of becoming the mayor of St. John. He said he would always be proud of the great vote and honor in mind that it was a people's victory. In conclusion he again expressed his thanks and promises to do his job in coping with the difficult work ahead.

He predicted that there would be serious opposition and was confident of success in the great undertaking.

R. A. McAvity. Ronald A. McAvity, general chairman, was then brought forward for his great work during the campaign. In response, he said he considered that he was very kind to bestow on him such an expression of appreciation, but maintained that he was not a man who would be content with a mere title. He said he had the greatest organization in the history of civic politics and paid a glowing tribute to the willingness and wonderful co-operation of the entire committee. He in turn thanked all who had worked with him.

J. A. Barry. J. A. Barry was then called on. He said that the hydro was a problem with which the citizens still would have to cope. He did not consider the fight through, but he felt that the citizens now had a safe and sane man at the helm, who would do all in his power, as he had promised to do, to see that the citizens should derive the full benefits from the hydro development. His remarks were greeted with loud cheers.

Roy Willet. Roy Willet, president of the United Organization, said that St. John had a great opportunity for prosperity. He considered the result of the election a great thing for each and every one. It had been a hard fight, but it was evident that the citizens would allow no one to stand in the way of future progress through hydro development. The people had taught a lesson to one who had been elected, promised, and then had been elected, but had no intention of keeping. He declared that if the citizens would keep together there would be no doubt that St. John would grow and prosper under the new civic government.

P. C. Johnson recited some original poetry regarding the outcome of the election and the downfall of "Harry and the Power Company." There was a good strain of humor in the lines and they evoked hearty laughter and applause.

Mayor-Elect Fisher was then lustily cheered and carried to an automobile and escorted along some of the city streets, while hundreds marched loudly cheering.

At the Board of Trade. Shortly after 9 o'clock G. Fred Fisher arrived at the Board of Trade rooms, where he had promised to speak to the meeting. He was accompanied by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters and rooters who, flushed with news of victory, could not restrain their enthusiastic and burly efforts every few minutes to cheer for the new mayor or cries of "He's all right!" Accompanying him were several women.

All were made heartily welcome by the members of the Board of Trade as many as possible were seated about the room while the speeches were in progress. So soon as Mr. Fisher could shake hands with his many friends he stepped forward to tender his congratulations on his victory, he mounted the platform and was introduced to the meeting by W. F. Burditt, president of the Board of Trade.

Cheers for Mayor-Elect. When the successful candidate arose, the hall resounded with three hearty cheers from the crowd. Mr. Fisher thanked those present for the honor accorded him. It was more than a personal victory, he said, it was a victory for the people. He hoped that they could get along now with the policy of cheap electricity for the city and that rapid progress would be made towards the goal for which they had been striving. There was only one step to be taken, and that was to overcome it. He again thanked the people present for their support and expressed his gratitude for the day's victory.

Ronald A. McAvity was the next speaker called upon. He said the support for the hydro project for which he stood. There would be opposition, he knew, and close cooperation would be necessary to overcome it. He again thanked the people present for their support and expressed his gratitude for the day's victory.

W. F. Burditt was called upon by several in the crowd. He said he would speak as a private citizen and not as the president of the Board of Trade, because he could not answer for the views of all. He was glad to see Mr. Fisher elected and felt that the city should be congratulated. He had met Mr. Fisher in various ways and found him always ready to hear from others and to listen to a project, as was not the case with some others. Mr. Fisher, he said, was thoroughly honest and the workers and the citizens were to be congratulated on having elected him as Mayor.

R. E. Armstrong, secretary of the Board of Trade, was also called upon several times. He said he felt he was in a position to speak, but if he could talk as a private citizen he would like to congratulate Mr. Fisher. He felt that the city would have a better working spirit and that a man had been elected who would co-operate with others in the best interests of St. John. The city needed power as quickly and as cheaply as possible for the

MAYOR-ELECT GIVEN ROUSING DEMONSTRATION

A Victory for the People, Says Mr. Fisher After Results Were Announced—Enthusiastic Reception at Board of Trade.

It was a glorious victory. With a majority sufficiently large to leave no room for doubt as to the wishes of the better thinking section of the electorate G. Fred Fisher, the people's candidate, yesterday won the fight for cheap power and there remains but the carrying out of the programme upon which he was elected. No longer hampered by the baronies of a grasping corporation and its henchmen the civic ship will sail swiftly on combating the monstrous seas which must yet be met until at last she reaches the safe anchorage of power at cost.

Jubilant prevailed at the Fisher headquarters last evening when the returns began to come in. The workers who had spared no effort to secure the election gathered early at the rooms and received the returns from the various wards telling of the great victory. When the final returns had been made the calls for a speech were so insistent that the successful candidate of the people was forced to step forward to satisfy his friends and workers in his behalf.

The Mayor-Elect. Mr. Fisher told those present that they had good cause to rejoice for it was not only a triumph for himself, but one for the citizens of St. John and he was glad to see them rejoicing. He considered that the citizens had won a great victory and incidentally had downed the enemies of their city. He acknowledged that it had been a hard battle, well fought, and against an unscrupulous enemy. He said it was a great success for all who had worked in the interests of hydro.

Speaking of his plans, he said he would make up his mind to do his job and push it forward as rapidly as was reasonably possible, as well as whatever was in the interests of the city. The first great question to be considered, however, was cheaper electricity. He expressed his thanks to the men who had stood by him so faithfully during the campaign, and his appreciation to all who had placed their confidence in him and had bestowed on him the great honor of becoming the mayor of St. John. He said he would always be proud of the great vote and honor in mind that it was a people's victory. In conclusion he again expressed his thanks and promises to do his job in coping with the difficult work ahead.

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THE VOTE BY WARDS

Table with 3 columns: Ward, Fisher, McLellan. Rows include Guys, Brooks, Sydney, Dukes, Queens, Kings, Wellington, Prince, Victoria, Dufferin, Lansdowne, Lorne, Stanley.

Majority for G. Fred Fisher 1015. Total vote cast 7593.

HYDRO DEBATE AT LAW SCHOOL

The Law Students' Society held a debate last evening on the question of whether or not civic distribution of Musquash Hydro would be in the interests of St. John. The debaters favoring hydro were Douglas McKean, G. L. Nicholson, R. J. Fanjoy, while those in opposition were C. Verner McKimney, H. N. Jonah and H. D. Baldwin. The judges awarded the decision to the latter. The issue was not an election issue by an independent debater and little reference was made to the politicians who won or lost, respectively, yesterday. The judges were Miss Lesley Fickett, G. E. Holly, G. L. Nicholson, while Mr. Bennett, president of the society, was in the chair.

After the debate the students visited Mr. Fisher, the mayor-elect, and in the process of congratulations were entertained.

LOCAL NEWS

LESS THAN WHOLESALE PRICES FOR THE PUBLIC. When buying your winter necessities, such as coal, oil, and other necessities, avoid the unnecessary extras. (Avoid this needless expense by buying at N. B. Electric Power Co. stores at 291 Prince Edward street. We show our merchandise on inexpensive tables, by which you benefit.)

CLIMOS. For Christmas for New Years, the personal greeting, your photograph, 85 Germain street. 8654-11-18

NOTICE. The steamer D. J. Purdy will make her last trip on Nov. 17 and the steamer Majestic on the 19th, weather permitting. If necessary the Majestic will make a trip to Fredericton. 8698-11-18

To clear a few children's plush and corduroy coats, \$1.98.—At Bassens, 14-16-18 Charlotte St.

TO CAR OWNERS. Watch your radiator from now on. Use Chromine as a freeze-proof. One filling does the entire season. It will not evaporate or congeal and is not injurious to circulating system; it stands 20 below zero, and prices are reasonable than other compounds. Chromine can be procured from local druggists or The Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Company, Limited, 75 Prince William street. 3484-11-16

Purity Frost Kist bars, 5 cents at all Purity Ice Cream dealers. 11-16

Mill end white shaker, one lot for 15c yard.—At Bassens, 14-16-18 Charlotte St.

RUMMAGE SALE. Help the Animal Rescue League rummage sale. Donations will be appreciated and goods called for by ringing Main 1934-11 on Thursday, Nov. 16. 3763-11-13

WEDNESDAY AT RITZ. Big novelty night. Come and bring your friends. Souvenirs for all. 3794-11-16

HOURS FOR BARKING OF DOGS ARE FIXED BY COUNCIL. It remained for the City Council of Lunenburg, N.S., to take all the joy out of a dog's life here, enacting a law prohibiting any and all dogs from barking after the curfew rings at night. It proves the old saying, that all things are possible with a City Council.

Owners of dogs guilty of barking after hours will be fined \$1 per bark.

IS KNOWN HERE. Rev. W. A. Cameron of the Bloor Street Baptist Church, Toronto, and well-known in St. John, has accepted an invitation to preach at the 7th Baptist World Congress, to be held at Stockholm, Sweden, July 27, 1923. On Sunday three official sermons are to be delivered, one in English, one in German and one in Russian, and Mr. Cameron has been chosen by the executive committee to preach to the English-speaking delegates.

W'LELLAN IS A POOR LOSER

Attributes Defeat to Ignorance of the Citizens—A Wild Speech Loaded with Threats Follows News of Fisher's Election—To Sue for a Million!

The election returns hit H. R. McLellan in the solar plexus. The speech he delivered in defeat, was in its very essence, the sequel of a bad loser. He had his henchmen about him in the testing hour but every decent man present knew that speech for what it was—namely, the speech of a pretender who could not stand the gaff.

A large gathering received the returns at the McLellan headquarters in St. Malachi's hall. As each ward return was completed they were posted on a bulletin board. After three wards had been posted the posting stopped and after a prolonged wait "Fisher wins" was scrawled across the bottom.

The intelligence was received in painful silence. Mr. McLellan had come into the hall about half an hour previous, and had been greeted with prolonged cheers. As soon as it was known that Mr. Fisher had won there were cries for the defeated candidate who presented himself on the platform. As soon as order was restored Mr. McLellan said: "Gentlemen, workers and intelligent citizens: I will admit that I am disappointed. I am not making any grandstand play when I say that, having been recalled once before, one more does not hurt. This is not the first time I have been defeated. I am just as sure tonight that I am correct in the stand I have taken as that I am standing on this platform. The fight is not over. I am going to start out tomorrow morning to fight a greater battle than ever, and am not going to forsake those who have stood by me. I am going to save the people of St. John from themselves and not allow them to be the prey of politicians."

Sorry for Them. Continuing, he said that he had incurred the displeasure of many. He said that he was not diplomatic, and that he would never make an emissary to Washington. His chief regret was for the ignorance of the people of the issue at stake. They had given a decision as to whether they should be led with rings in their noses like cattle by a few families and cliques, or whether they would exercise their British freedom. He did not feel a bit sorry, though he was tired and disappointed and felt very badly over the fact that the people of St. John had been so easily fooled. He said he was absolutely and positively sorry for them.

"As recalls have become so fashionable," he said, "let's have another one. This is not sourness but a right and a manner to justify the intelligence of some of the electorate. You will need a less number of names than you had last time. The city charter is a charge must be laid, justified and proven in order to have a recall election. They recalled me because they said I was to you that I have deserted my platform; it is the same as last spring. I am not through and I am not discouraged."

Disgusted. "I am disgusted because the people of St. John failed to display that amount of intelligence which would have been displayed by the people of any other city. Just so soon as the new Mayor is

inaugurated a recall petition may be signed. It is not at the will of the Council to order a recall, but they must do so when called upon. If you exercise the recall you may get some one of better intellect, morals and standing than I am to be your candidate, and I will assist that candidate without vindictiveness.

"Everything that could be used against me today has been used, and has been used right along by the Telegraph, Times and Globe. I will head the petition of recall myself."

"Idiocy" of Others. He then took the returns ward by ward and commented on some of them. Sydney ward, which gave him a majority, he thanked for its intelligence. He expressed regret over the idiocy of the voters in Queens ward. He thought they had been misled by personal prejudice and by aristocrats. If it was going to be a matter of class, he declared that he could stir one up. Referring to Victoria ward, he said he knew the means that had been used there. Of Prince ward he said he expected a majority of 300 but it had been considerably less than that. (He was beaten in Prince.) In Wellington ward he had expected a great event. It gave Mr. Fisher a good majority. He had expected a small majority in Dufferin ward. Lorne ward was his home ward. He made no comment on the remaining wards. The grand total, he said, was a huge disappointment.

The Merchants. The merchants had said that his platform was all right, but they would not vote for McLellan. The merchants had knifed him. They would never get the chance to recall him. The fight had only begun. There were nearly five thousand voters not out to the polls. He was going to try to show these people that they should have been out. "So long," he said, "I have breath and strength to fight the fight I have to go to the N. B. Power Company and ask them to give a rate that others cannot meet."

Referring to the Scheidtmann report, he said that there referred to money voted to pay for the experts and the report had been presented. There might be opposition at the Council to paying the bills. "When you are making a recall," he said, "recall the whole 4—4 lot of them." He urged a return to the administrative form of government. He declared that he would not look for a place on the ticket.

"If Fisher is permitted to occupy the mayor's chair long," he said, "the reasons for returning to the ward system will be much accentuated. The Telegraph, Times and Globe have told you that I am no business man, but I would be glad to enter into a contract to manage the city of St. John and would not take a cent unless I made \$100,000 from the election. If Fisher does not watch his step he will be smothered."

He repeated his intention of going to the Power Company and putting a proposition before them. Then the commission could sell its Musquash power where it could. He reiterated his intention to get an injunction to restrain Mr. Fisher from signing the contract because the power was not there and he could convince any judge of that. He declared that a writ for \$100,000 apiece would be served on The Telegraph, Times and Globe within ten days, and he would be interested in seeing what reply they would make.

Never again, he said, would he enter the civic arena in the city of St. John. He would work night and day until such time as he had to leave St. John to make a living somewhere else, to show the people the facts in their true light. In closing he thanked those who had supported him and urged them not to forget the recalls.

Exit Mr. H. R. McLellan.

It is reported that Frank J. Casey, collector of inland revenue at Charlottetown, has been promoted to the office of assistant inspector of customs and excise at Truro. Mr. Casey is a north end man.