

# MANIFESTO

## OF MR. WALTER S. MONROE

### To the People of Newfoundland.

#### FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,—

Compelled by the conviction that it is my duty to aid in rescuing the Country from a disaster which menaces it, I have accepted the leadership of a party in opposition to the present Government, tendered to me by the unanimous vote of a public meeting held in this City on Saturday night last, and I respectfully request your support, by your votes, for the candidates of the Opposition party.

#### THE CONTROLLING COAKER INFLUENCE.

Nominally, Mr. A. E. Hickman is the leader of the new temporary Government, but, actually, Sir William Coaker is its creator and its master, and he will be more supremely in control of public affairs than he has been at any previous time, if the new Government be supported by you at the coming general election. Not a member of the Cabinet is known as a personal supporter of the Premier, and he is surrounded at the Council table by men created politically by "the big boss." All the Ministers in charge of departments, except one, are instruments of the autocracy which Sir William Coaker has practiced for years, and now seeks to make all-powerful. The distribution of seats in the Cabinet, and of departmental offices, bears indelibly the marks of this design, for, except in an inconsiderable degree, representation therein is denied to all the people between Bacallieu, South about, to Cape Ray, and power and patronage have been handed over as far as possible to districts thought by the Coakerites to be subservient to them.

The principles of a representative Assembly and responsible Government, for which your forefathers fought and suffered, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people," the very essence of Liberalism, have been set at naught of late years by the autocracy created and exercised by the Master of the Government, Sir William Coaker. He has controlled the Assembly by delegates of his own creation, and the Government by the seats at the Council board of his subservient tools. He has sustained his power by the direct and indirect expenditure of public money, extorted from the people at large by grinding taxation. He has used the money of the many for the benefit of the favoured few, and he now seeks an opportunity to dip his hands still more deeply into the public treasury to maintain that control which he sees tottering to a fall, and which you can end forever by your votes for Opposition candidates.

#### THE ACUTE ISSUE.

This, therefore, is the really acute issue presented to the people for solution at this juncture—Shall the mis-government, the mis-conduct, the tragedies of the past few years, be duplicated under the sinister control which has worked so much harm? Shall Coakerism, naked and unshaped, be permitted to control and to increase its control over our public affairs, or shall a change be wrought for the people? It is time for you to decide this by your votes for the men who carry the Opposition banners, or for those who are put forward in the name of Hickman, but are the chosen tools of Coaker. "It is time for a change," and the opportunity to work it is yours.

I am no plausible, professional politician, no writer of pleasing promises intended to corrupt an electorate, but a plain man of business, meaning what I say, and trying to say

what I mean in a way you will understand, and in view especially of the condition of public affairs, and of the trade of the Colony, I shall not follow recent examples by appealing to you for your support in a Manifesto of sound and fury. I shall, on the contrary, endeavour to state, simply and honestly, the policy which I shall aim to carry out if entrusted by you with the Government. It has been well expressed as "Clean up; Keep clean; and a Square deal for All."

#### THE HOLLIS WALKER ENQUIRY.

The public Enquiry which has been so well begun, and has resulted in such startling revelations, shall be promptly and vigorously continued to the end. The Liquor Control, Pit-prop and kindred questions have not been probed to the bottom, and, obviously, will not be so probed if the present Government be sustained, its dominant members having been too closely connected with those matters to permit us to hope that they will ever allow the whole truth to be told. Impartial justice shall be meted out to those evil-doers whose misconduct shall be disclosed by the Enquiry.

Speaking for the Government, the "Advocate" promises "a thorough cleansing of scandals such as were revealed by the Walker Enquiry." But these scandals concerned matters largely originated by the hypocrites in whose name this promise of a clean-up is made. Members of the present Government sat in the seats of the mighty when all the evil things referred to were being done, and they were privy to, and partners in, the doings of most of them. Can—"The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth"—ever be expected, for instance, from any enquiry conducted by a Coaker Government?

#### THE VITAL INDUSTRY.

The fisheries will ever be the mainstay and greatest concern of the people of this Country. Everything that can minister to the prosperity of the fisherman should be undertaken. I am personally favourable to a bounty upon fish caught, believing that the stimulating effect would abundantly repay the expenditure. How large such a bounty should be would obviously depend upon the financial condition of the country, and how it should be paid is a difficult question requiring investigation; but I promise that if my party be returned to power, a bounty shall be given, commensurate with the ability of the country, and in a manner best calculated to benefit the fishermen. They and I are in business together; they to catch, I to export. If they prosper, I prosper. If their energies and rewards decrease, so will mine. We should work together for the common good. This is a fisherman's paradise, and we should all work together for the good of each other.

"Steps for the rehabilitation and encouragement of the fisheries" are promised by the Government whose master and chief members, by the infamous Fishery Regulations of 1920, gave a most deadly blow to the prosperity of this country. Coaker enforced these Regulations, and Hickman aided their destruction, after they had almost wholly ruined us, and Hickman has ever since been denounced by the men who now seek a renewal of power under the cover of his name. Who is to dictate the fishery policy of the new Government? Coaker or Hickman? Having regard to the dominance of the former in the Cabinet, can there be any reasonable doubt that Coaker will be able to impose upon this country some policy equally

disastrous with the notorious Fishery Regulations, if by your votes you give his party power to do so?

#### ECONOMY AND RETRENCHMENT.

The condition of public finances is very bad. I fear that it is worse than is generally known. Public expenditure must be drastically reduced. The Customs Tariff requires rearrangement, with a view especially to encourage the prosecution of the fisheries. The cost of the public service must be reduced, and efficiency increased. It would be worse than useless—it would be deceptive—for me to enter into details in this connection; for only a Government in office, filled with a reforming zeal and energy, could wisely decide the directions in which reform should be undertaken. I promise that, if given power, I shall cause a careful investigation to be made into the way in which improvement can best be made in the financial methods of the country, and I shall enforce a policy of wise economy and retrenchment.

The trappings of Government are too costly. There are too many unearned salaries. Sessions of the Legislature are held too late in the year, and are unnecessarily long, while the pay of the members is greater than their work deserves, or the Colony can afford. In all these matters a great reduction in cost, and an increase in the quality and quantity of the work done, should be made.

"Rigid retrenchment and the utmost economy" is promised for the Government by the "Advocate" on the authority of the greatest spendthrifts ever in office. The unbridled waste of public money since 1919 was chiefly due to Sir William Coaker and his satellites in power. The mere mention of road-building or pit-prop cutting, of fish-buying and salt scandals, will serve to remind the public that the wicked waste of past years is not chiefly due to the men upon whom, by insinuation, the Government now seeks to cast the blame; but in the main upon the hypocrites now in office, who rifled the public treasury when in office, and seek a longer lease of power to complete the career of looting.

#### OTHER INDUSTRIES.

The Pulp and Mining industries are capable of expansion. The former does not seem to need stimulation, only consideration and encouragement; but Mining is not giving the employment the mineral resources justify. Earnest enquiry should be made by qualified persons how best to encourage the development of mineral resources, and I promise the appointment of a committee of qualified men to enquire and report upon this matter. In this connection I cannot but remark upon the disquieting reports that come from the Humber enterprise as to the non-employment of Newfoundlanders upon work which they can do as well as others, and to which they are entitled. If these reports be true, or if, in any sense of degree, injustice is being done to our people, a remedy should be at once applied. All labour necessary to the development of the resources of this Colony should be given to its people. They should be well-paid and well-housed. The profitable employment of our workmen shall be with me a prime object, and I will not tolerate anything less than a fair deal to all.

#### PROHIBITION ACT.

Open, gross and continuous violation of the Prohibition Act have prevailed for years. As administered, the Act is

profitable only to law-breakers of various kinds and degrees. It is the cause of smuggling, boot-legging and other forms of law-breaking. Considered all in all, the conditions it has created are worse than those it was intended to suppress. Speaking about this matter for the Government, the "Advocate" says:—"As the law is, so must it be enforced. The alternative is the alteration of an unpopular law, when the people demand it. That is the position of the Coaker-Hickman party." But the men on whose authority this thing is said have had power for many years, during all of which time they have conspired at the violation of the Act, and the evil results which are mourned to-day are chiefly due to their misconduct or neglect. Now, declaring that the Act is unpopular, they would throw upon the people at large the burden of demanding its repeal; at a referendum of course. But why should the great expense of such a vote be incurred for a mandate to repeal a law admittedly unpopular and ineffective, the enforcement of which has long been openly abandoned? How could the people intelligently and prudently vote to repeal a measure in ignorance of the alternative measure which might replace it? No such cowardly and expensive expedient shall be resorted to by any Government I may lead. If empowered by your votes at this election to act in this matter, a measure embodying the repeal of the Prohibition Act, and the principles of an alternative measure, shall be introduced in the Legislature, and be referred to a joint Committee of both Houses, before which Representative people shall have the opportunity to express their views fully and freely; and I shall hope to thus be enabled to procure the enactment of satisfactory law upon this important matter.

#### WEST INDIAN SERVICE.

It has been proposed by Sir Wm. Coaker that a subsidy shall be given to a line of steamers operating between this Colony and the West Indies. That proposition has been discussed, and rejected as expensive and useless, by all competent thinkers not prejudiced in its favour, or by improper motives. Messrs. Coaker and Hickman have an axe to grind in the matter, by a scheme to acquire and operate the steamers, and the great cost of that scheme they will impose upon you, by increasing your taxes, unless you resolutely forbid it by defeating their candidates.

This is a time when what has been done should be recalled as a guide for our footsteps in the future. "Shall we have the old bad Government, at the hands of those who gave it, or a better Government at the hands of new men?"—is the question demanding an answer at your hands. Shall our course be downward or upward? Shall the Colony sink beneath a load of incompetency and corruption, or go onward and upward to a better, happier day? The torch of progress has been placed in my hands, and I have accepted the trust. With your help I shall keep it flaming, so long as I retain your confidence and the power which you shall confide to me. Upon those who demand a thorough cleansing of public life, and an effort to clean up, to keep clean, and to give stable government to this country, I make a claim for support, and if that support be freely and strongly given, I promise the devotion of my energies to the service of my Country.

(Sgd.) W. S. MONROE.

St. John's, Nfld., May 14, 1924.

# MONROE IS THE MAN FOR NFLD

#### Clothes Cheats

#### HOW SOME UNSCRUPULOUS WOMEN DRESS WELL ON NOTHING A YEAR.

At a West End dress show recently the designer of the gowns refused the suggestion of a lady of title that certain gowns should be sent to her daughter "on approval."

The lady was surprised, and inclined to doubt his statement that it was a strict rule of the firm to send nothing

out on such conditions. But it was quite true, and when there is not a dress show on the salons of many of the great dressmakers have notices to this effect prominently displayed.

Not without reason. Since the war there has been a big increase in cheap dressers—women who obtain clothes "on approval" wear them once, and then return them as being not what they require. Consequently many firms now refuse to countenance the custom of sending goods on approval at all—though, even so, there are occasional lapses.

The manageress of one big dress establishment was recently persuaded by a young Society girl client to let her have two dance frocks sent home on approval. It was late afternoon; the girl said she wanted a new dress for a dance on the following night, but was unable to decide between two models. She promised to send one back early in the morning, and faithfully kept that promise. Unfortunately, the morning papers included her name among the assets at a function which had taken place the night before, and the description given of her dress was that of the model which she had returned to the dressmaker.

That is how some women get the credit of two gowns for the price of one, and the custom is by no means confined to those who are too poor to pay. Some quite well-to-do women go in for "on approval" clothes—cheating, apparently for the sheer joy of getting something for nothing.

Tell-This Trifle.

In one case a lady had a dinner dress sent "on approval" and when it was returned in a couple of days' time a scarf of valuable lace was

found about the corsege. The dress had been worn, though it was in no wise soiled or damaged. The lady discovered what had happened almost at once, and came to the shop to collect her lace. She made no attempt to explain how the lace had come to be attached to the gown, and her position was such that nobody dared suggest that anything untoward had happened. Had such a suggestion been

made the lady would have removed her custom and her friends would have done likewise.

Shops which do send clothes on approval often find traces of their having been worn when the goods are returned. Hats are returned with pins or veils attached, while dance frocks often yield up programmes, handkerchiefs, or the clinging fragrance of perfume.

In one case an evening frock was sent back with the lace trimming mended, and a tactful letter was sent to the customer who had ordered the dress. She ignored the letter but sent another to the firm saying that her maid had stupidly sent back the dress, after she herself had decided to keep it.

#### "Hubby" Said No!

A leading milliner told of a wealthy lady who invariably came to her salon during the season, selected anything up to half a dozen hats, and had them sent to her house "on approval." Never did she keep more than two of a batch, but she gave each model at least one wearing-free, gratis, and for nothing.

In another case a lady would not decide about buying a hat until her husband had seen it, so she left the price as deposit and took the model home on approval. Later in the day the hat came back and the money-exchanged hands again. Not even the hardened shop-folk suspected anything until photographs of a Society reception appeared in the papers, including a photograph of the lady in question wearing the hat which her husband did not like!

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april 15, 1924

#### Successful Sale of Work

A successful sale of work was conducted yesterday afternoon by the lady workers of St. Michael's Parish. The sale took place in the Lecture Hall and was formally opened by His Lordship the Bishop at 3.30 p.m. During the afternoon, teas were served by

the Ladies' Auxiliary. The sale

close to-night with a concert.

Help the Brigade Ladies

Carry on by going to the C. Ladies' Auxiliary Show, Wednesday next in the Armoury, Grand

entertainment. Admission 50c. See the Pedlars' in fancy dress selling novelties. Nothing

50c.—may 14, 21

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