



FISHERMEN

Reject Merchants Offer WILL NOT ACCEPT \$4.30 FOR LABRADOR.

Sir John C. Crosbie Ad- dresses Meeting.

do with public expenditure, and the price of the necessities of life, when it was started Union men, non-Union men, and every other kind of men assembled under the one banner. When it sprang from the hearts of the fishermen and from their own intelligence which told them that all was not right it was a political move. Those who say and claim that he is using the fishermen for his own ends, are striking at the fishermen and are their worst enemies, and are endeavouring to inflict defeat upon their fight for a living in their own country. How anyone could be so vile and low down as to injure a movement that was started to give bread and butter to the women and children of those who are seeking reduction in taxation and higher prices for their fish, he could not understand. Why could they not for once forget Morine and remember the fishermen.

OPONENTS OF THE FISHERMEN.

The Advocate said, he was peeved because he was not present at the interviews which the delegates had with the merchants. It was true that he had kept back on all occasions except when he was asked by the chairman to attend. It was all the same to the Advocate, if he went with them, it was Morine in politics, and if he was not present, it was "Morine was peeved." The Free Lance, whatever that was, also says it was a Morine movement, when they know they are telling a falsehood. It was low, dirty politics written by a bunch of hangers on, who have soft jobs, and are always to be seen hanging around the parliament house and Government offices. They are a bunch who, no matter what party is in power, are ready to solicit patronage and take money from the public chest. One of these papers, said Mr. Morine, received \$50,000 from the public chest last year for printing, and it would have been well paid at \$10,000. They are prepared to go to any length, to kill this movement because they see their doom is sealed. In dealing with the matter of taxation Mr. Morine spoke of the tremendous waste that is going on in every branch of the public service, and how it could be abolished and yet have the public services conducted with the same benefits as now exist. In the matter of the public institutions, etc., a greedy crowd of needy politicians were receiving patronage and double prices were being paid for everything that was needed. Unnecessary marine works were being conducted and on these thousands of dollars were being squandered.

PEOPLE AWAKENING.

The people, however, are awakening to the fact, and are demanding a change from this squandering and the burdensome taxation that is being carried on. A new course and a new chart, a new man at the helm, is what the country is asking and that is why a lot of those who try to injure the fishermen are sore. They hear the voice of intelligence, awakening along the line, and see the light of a new day dawning. It's for you, the fishermen, to bring about the necessary reforms.

Spread the gospel throughout the length and breadth of the land, the new gospel of clean living, less expenditure, and honesty in public life. Offices that are not needed must be abolished, and those who are filling offices must do the work they are being paid for, while those who are not being paid for the work they are doing must be given a square deal. Every useless man is stealing the money from the tax-payers. It will be the duty of the next Government to see that a commission be appointed to go into this matter of the civil service. Everybody must be made a producer, a job for everyone must be found. Mr. Morine did not despair of the future, he believed that the country could be rescued from the present intolerable position. The fishermen are as productive as ever, the men are here to catch the fish, but it must be made profitable for them to catch it. The trouble to-day is the fisherman is unable to live by the fishery.

FOR REDUCED TAXATION.

The Chairman in opening the meeting for general discussion said they were "hanging 'er down" for higher prices for fish, and they intended "hanging 'er down" for reduction in taxation. The movement started at Wesleyville was going to continue, and it was for their liberty they were fighting.

Mr. Peter Roberts said that neither he nor anyone else was satisfied with conditions as they are to-day. Politics had nothing to do with the present movement. The fishermen had been compelled to take action on their own account as otherwise they would only have to lie down and die. He would travel from Cape Freels to Channell to spread this new gospel of honesty in our public life and a living for our countrymen. What we needed now was common sense, and three good men with common sense could run this whole country. The fishermen were deserving of better treatment, and the people of this country were going to see that they got it, otherwise the country was no place to live in. It was better for all concerned to get out while the going was good. He had a schooner, that was worth \$1500, but \$500 will take her to-day, because with taxation as it is, prosecuting the fishery next season was out of the question. He never talked before, but people who never said a word were talking now. It was immediate action that was needed, and he for one was going to stand to his guns, and see this matter to the end.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SHOULD MEET.

Mr. Frank Greene in a brief speech outlined his impressions received from the Committee's meetings with the merchants. He wanted the House to meet early so that a reduction of taxation could be put into force in order that the fishery may be prosecuted next spring. They were unfortunate in that while the fishermen who had sold their fish on the Labrador got as high as \$5.20 for it, those of the north side of Bonavista Bay have had to come here and were offered \$4.00 and now \$4.30. He did not expect \$15.00 or \$16.00 as in the war year. It was reasonable to expect that like all commodities fish had to come down, but he did want to see it so that the fisherman could live on the result of his toil. At present it is impossible for him to pay his account and get supplies for his family for the winter without going in debt. Taxation must be reduced and while it will mean sacrifice, all must be prepared to make that sacrifice.

WILL NOT STAND FOR MISREPRESENTATION.

Mr. Stewart Winsor, who followed, referred to the attack made on the fishermen by a paper called the "Free Lance." He said it would be a disgrace if they did not stop abusing the fishermen in their fight for fair play. This movement was started by them and they were going to see it through. It is said that John Wesley turned the world upside down. A man was needed now to turn this country upside down and make it better to live in. He did not want to go anywhere else to seek a livelihood, yet thousands of young men were compelled to find employment on the American continent because they could not exist here. He and his fellow fishermen had been insulted by Dr. Modest because they were patriotic enough to make an attempt to better conditions in their homeland. He would, like Captain

Roberts, travel the island north from Cape Freels to Channell and speak on every platform to see this movement to a successful conclusion.

SIR JOHN CROSBIE APPLAUDED.

Sir John Crosbie standing in the doorway was seen by the Chairman who invited him on to the platform. Sir John accepted the invitation and on moving through the crowd was given an ovation which fairly shook the building. Sir John had to wait several minutes for the applause to subside. In his opening remarks he stated that there was no doubt but that he would be accused of being a politician and of talking politics to the United Fishermen. He did not care what was thought. He was a politician. Having been invited to speak he was going to talk politics. The men here fighting for their rights as British citizens and as in times passed to secure those rights they had to fight it through politics and politicians. Any citizen who was convinced that their cause was right and just should be behind this movement. In his judgment their cause was perfectly just and they were working for the uplift of themselves, their families, and the Colony.

What interested the men most was the price of fish. Fish at \$4.00 and \$6.00 some years ago was considered a fair and reasonable price, but to-day every person knew that the fishermen could not exist on that price. And why? Simply because the cost of living was too high. In years past living expenses were at a margin low enough for the fisherman to support his family on his catch, and in many cases have some to spare. To-day this is impossible. What has warmed their hearts in the Assembly before him, and to make that possible it was absolutely necessary to cut out first, the useless expenditure indulged in by the Government, and so make it possible to remove the obnoxious taxation that is now forcing the best blood of the country to seek a livelihood on foreign soils. He could get along all right, in fact, he would not starve. He was sometimes spoken of as a man possessed of wealth, he was speaking to-night because he was interested in the men who made it possible for him to make his money, the most of which he had made from the produce of men like those before him. With the prospect therefore of being called a politician staring him in the face, he was behind the movement of the United Fishermen to the last ditch, and to prove that he was sincere and was going to fight hard to turn out the men from the Government who brought about the present conditions of the people he would not only oppose the Government and go to a District, but would go to any District that it would be thought advisable, and where it was thought his services would be most valuable and further he would there and then offer to go to Bonavista and help out from public life the Hon. "Bill" Coaker. Mr. Coaker said the other day before he could not do anything against the Government's interests in the consideration of your interests. He forgot all about your interests, he could not do anything that would jeopardize the interest of his Government, but your trouble could go to Hong Kong. This is the man who said he was going to revolutionize

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