

HIGGINS, FOX, VINNICOMBE

The Victory Trio for St. John's East.

Monster Meeting Acclaim Popular Candidates--General Expression of Opposition to Coakerism.



MR. J. R. BENNETT,
Leader of the Liberal-Labor-Progressive Party.

St. John's East demonstrated its attitude clearly at a monster gathering in the C.C.C. Hall, Mechanics Building, last night. The meeting, called at 8.30 for the purpose of announcing the candidates of the Bennett Party and forming a Committee to conduct the election campaign in the district, continued until near midnight, and was marked by unbounded enthusiasm. Every available seat (there were six hundred chairs provided in addition to the seats in the gallery) was occupied long before the meeting opened, and hundreds were obliged to stand. That such a gathering without a single exception, listened eagerly to the different speakers for a period of nearly four hours, shows that the people are aroused to the conditions confronting the country as never before. That the East End District would return three Bennett candidates has been admitted all along by the most hidebound supporters of the Squires-Coaker-Reform Party. The only question was the one of majority for the Bennett trio. The answer last night is that the Squires ticket will be buried under an avalanche of ballots. They have not a ghost of a chance of election, and may as well not contest the district at all.

When the meeting opened Mr. W. J. Higgins presented Mr. Jas. S. Gould, the popular manager of Baird's Retail Stores, and asked that he be accepted as Chairman of the East End Committee in place of the Veteran, Mr. Arthur Hiscock, whose health prevented his active participation in the contest. Mr. Gould was cheered to the echo. The nomination of Mr. Gould was seconded by Mr. T. Lynch. On motion of Messrs. J. J. Lacey and Levi Keen, Mr. W. E. Brophy, the popular East End grocer, was appointed Secretary.

Chairman Gould, who mentioned that it was his first appearance on a public platform, thanked the meeting for the very high honour conferred on him, and assured them that he would do his part on behalf of the East End trio. He felt assured of the hearty co-operation of all present and had no doubt of the victory that would ensue. He then called on Mr. J. R. Bennett, Leader of the Party, to address the meeting.

LEADER ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES.

Mr. Bennett, in opening, referred to a period just 3½ years ago, when in the same hall at a meeting presided over by Mr. Arthur Hiscock, Sir Michael Cashin presented the three winning candidates for the district. He regretted that owing to ill health, his medical advisers could not permit Mr. Hiscock to assume his active duties he then performed. He had no doubt, but the new Chairman would, in every way, measure up to the standard of his predecessor. Mr. Bennett congratulated Mr. Gould and Mr. Brophy the Secretary on their appointments. The Leader of the Opposition assured the audience that they had any doubt about the issue to which the West End Trio had in that district shown their determination to bury the Squires-Coaker administration and it remained for St. John's East to put the issue on. Mr. Bennett promised that within the week he would issue his manifesto. This will cover the wrong doings of

the present administration and show their shortcomings. The manifesto would outline a policy that would be moderate and in accordance with the ideals of the people. He stated that new men were going into the fight, these had already made a success in the business life of the community, and they had nobly responded to the call of Newfoundland in the hour of distress. There were no shirkers in the party; none had to be persuaded to join the cause. He had not to go into the highways and byways seeking candidates. The men enrolled under the Liberal-Labor-Progressive Banner would, he felt assured, bring back to Newfoundland the prosperity she enjoyed in 1919.

CANDIDATES PRESENTED.

As leader of the Opposition Party he had the honour to submit for their acceptance the three candidates whose herculean efforts on behalf of the district were well known, and whose work in the House of Assembly had brought honour to themselves and to their District. He had the great privilege of submitting first Mr. W. J. Higgins, K.C., as the leader of the ticket. Mr. Higgins, he said, had only recently been termed the "tiger" by his opponents, and he thought the name was applicable as when the votes were counted it would be found that Mr. Higgins' opponents would be in shreds. The next named Mr. Fox, one of the strongest debaters that ever sat in the House of Assembly. Last, but not least, he "introduced" Mr. N. J. Vinicombe, the full back of the trio. "Nix," though modest and retiring, had ably done his part during his term of office, and he felt that when the new Government took control he would play even a bigger part. Mr. J. P. Crofty, one of the old guard moved that the meeting accept the Candidates as put forward by Mr. Bennett. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arthur Snow of Quidi Vidi and carried by a standing vote. Thunderous cheering then followed.

MR. HIGGINS SCORES GOVERNMENT.

The Chairman next called upon Mr. Higgins, leader of the ticket, to address the meeting. On rising he was again cheered to the echo. His speech lasted about an hour, and during this period he subjected the Squires-Coaker Administration to a terrible castigation for their misrule of the past three and a half years. Mr. Higgins congratulated the new chairman, Mr. Gould, on his appointment and felt sure he would be a worthy successor to Mr. Hiscock who through ill-health, was prevented from occupying his old seat. Mr. Higgins also congratulated Mr. W. E. Brophy, the new secretary. Mr. Brophy had been offered at the suggestion of J. C. Barter who was prevented from occupying the position this year. Mr. Higgins was glad to see so many old friends and new ones present. It was good to know that Messrs. Crofty and Snow, who had proposed them three and a half years ago, were present to make the same motion. He trusted that he and his colleagues would justify the confidence placed in them in the years to come as in the past. The old crowd of supporters was going to be reinforced by many gentlemen who voted against the team last election, but who were manly enough to come forward and oppose them this time. The Liberal-Labor-Progressive Party in St. John's East would receive a right royal baptism and the candidates would be returned with a record majority.

SITUATION OFFERS NO CHOICE.

The party was out to fight clean and it could fight according to Queensbury rules, but it could give a bar-room fight if it was required. There was no need to lose any sleep over the tactics of their opponents if they had any. He appealed for any reason a man could not see his way clear to vote for all three then the one who got his vote would not be obliged for it. A straight ticket team they only wanted a straight ticket vote. Mr. Higgins hazarded the opinion that never in the memory of the oldest man in the audience was

there such a time as this. It was not a question of wanting a change, not a case of ins and outs, the welfare of the country was at stake and the only thing to do was to put the present Government out. It was proper for any body of electors to do as was done in 1919, and say honestly we will give a new Government a chance. It was just the same as employing a man. If a carpenter was wanted to put in a window and he put in a solid one that could not be seen through, he would not be employed again, the employer could not take a chance. So it was with the country. The electors said "we will try Squires and his programme." The time was now come to ask if the Government had lived up to its professions, had proved that it was capable of governing, if conditions were as good as they should be. If there was any man who thought that the present crowd had done their best and who honestly believed that present conditions could not be avoided, he had no right to do anything but vote for them, it was his duty; but, if conscience told him that they have not done a man's job, he cannot vote for them. Mr. Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe, had to live here and so had the men they represented, and what was there ahead? Here a man in the audience cried "Rocks!" "Yes," said Mr. Higgins. "Only Rocks, and beyond the rocks is the sea of Despondency, of Despair in which our families and ourselves will drown if the present conditions are allowed to continue." He invited any man to ask himself if conditions were as they should be, and if they were not, had the Government contributed to these conditions? The trouble was they had not tried to stay on the job. A man cannot run a business unless he keeps his eye on it, and so it is with a Government.

GOVERNMENT RUNNING ITSELF.

During the past three and a half years the Minister of Finance, through ill-health, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, all of them, had been away and the Government was literally running itself and it was impossible to find who was Acting Premier. The Government had borrowed three and a half years about fifteen million dollars, they had spent the revenue and there was nothing for it. Mr. Higgins referred to the failure of the Government to carry out any effective policy in connection with the railway. The manner in which the House of Assembly was juggled with in 1921 and 1922 was also dealt with and the failure to open in November because the Prime Minister was coming back with a Humber Deal. The Deal would be looked after properly by Bennett's Government who had the brains and intelligence to do it. No one knows just who is running the railway at present. One thing certain is that the people have to pay the debt. An attempt is now being made to say that the Humber Proposition is the main issue. That is a lie. The British Government has made a contract with Newfoundland, not with Dr. Campbell, and Mr. Higgins advised all present to broadcast this news. The real issue is Coaker. For over an hour Mr. Higgins held the undivided attention of his hearers and in conclusion he thanked them once more for the honor given him and requested again a continuance of the support received last election. He also referred to the great number of men who had proffered their support, and concluded his remarks by reiterating the desire for a straight ticket for HIGGINS, FOX and VINNICOMBE.

HUMBER DEAL IN LIMELIGHT.

Mr. C. J. Fox, the next speaker, was accorded a rousing reception. He first very heartily thanked the electors of the district for the honor and privilege bestowed upon him in being asked to be their candidate. The distinction, he said, was one to be proud of because it demonstrates trust, confidence, and faith and it is St. John's East with its traditions of loyalty and consistency, the honor was indeed very great. He paid a fitting tribute to Chairman Hiscock and welcomed Mr. Gould, who was respected and esteemed in this community and under whose guidance he felt success had been assured. Mr. Fox, continuing, re-



MR. W. J. HIGGINS, K.C.,
Leader of the Victorious Trio, St. John's East.

iterated his absolute and unswerving loyalty and that of his colleagues, to Mr. Bennett, the Leader of the Opposition. They were working shoulder to shoulder, and they extended the same loyalty to honest J. R. Bennett who was tendered to Sir Michael Cashin in the same hall three and a half years ago. He impressed upon his auditors the necessity of voting the straight ticket, the same principle that the ticket held in 1919. They were all in the same boat. The candidates were all backing Bennett and their doctrine was the straight ticket vote. Turning to the question of the hour, Mr. Fox said that never in her history was Newfoundland facing such a crisis. It was not a question of whether the Opposition got in power or the Government went out. It was the question of the preservation of Newfoundland.

GOVERNMENT ON TRIAL.

The Government papers say that Newfoundland has been brought to this condition by foes within. This is true. It is the foes within who have caused this country such sorrow, and these foes are the Government themselves. They are not to be found in the Opposition, who during the four years, have made an honest attempt for the good of their country. The right thinking citizen has to ask himself who are the foes of Newfoundland? The Government is now on its trial. The Opposition is the present attorney. The Government has to win its own case and must stand or fall by their record. The electors have to decide the issue. They will stand by their record. The Humber Deal is not, which is being trailed to deceive the electors. In November last the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice sent messages from London, stating that the Humber Deal had been finalized. They told the representatives of the British Government that the Deal would be sanctioned by the Newfoundland Legislature before the end of December.

NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE.

The Humber Deal was not a political issue, it was a private enterprise, in which capitalists in England and in Newfoundland were interested. The people in England who are interested in this deal do not want it to be a political issue, and made a political football. The British interests are so disgusted with the actions of the Prime Minister and Mr. Coaker that their representatives here, in February last, were serious considering packing their trunks and clearing out. The member for Fortune, the Hon. W. R. Warren, was so disgusted with Squires that he wanted to split and lead the Opposition, and for weeks he did not speak to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and Mr. Coaker kept the Humber Deal for their trump card to win their way back to power. Why did they not put it through the House of Assembly without loss of time? Why was it not done in November, December, January or February, he asked? It was not done, he said, because the Government wanted to deflect the thoughts of the people from the scandalous record of the past three and a half years. The real issue of today they have lost sight of. They are to be judged by

the promises of 1919, not one of which has been fulfilled. Mr. Fox asked his audience to review briefly the record of the Government. He began with the stagnation of Trade and Commerce.

1. Coaker ruined the fishery of the country by his Regulations. Coaker worked these regulations in his own interest, and the interest of the company which he controls. It was the dishonest manner in which the regulations were carried out that caused the disaster.

2. The Government had caused stagnation of business by an over-burden of taxation, Trade and Commerce was crippled through this cause.

3. There was the scandalous manner in which public funds were dissipated. The government took off taxes and put on taxes, and Mr. Coaker was allowed to ride the Treasury by vote in the North. There was only one way for him to save his face in regard to the price of fish and this he availed of by taking \$500,000 from the Treasury and making his now famous purchase.

4. There was a scandalous disregard of the rights of the people. Government was not by the voice of the people, it was by order in Council. Government of the people, by the people was now a joke in Newfoundland.

5. The Government's actions had demoralized the manhood of Newfoundland. Ten thousand of the bone and sinew had left the country because the country could not support them. Canada and the United States were eagerly looking for such a splendid type of manhood. When a country can't support its population it is time, said the speaker, to put up the shutters.

A few years ago we were told that the saddest place in Newfoundland was the Poor Asylum, but in Mr. Fox's opinion the saddest place to-day was the rockhobbs. Here able-bodied mechanics, journeymen and labourers, the finest men of the country, were driven by their fatherly and Christian Government to break stones or else be faced with starvation. Is that the kind of a record that any Government would be proud of? It was an insult to our manhood, and will be resented by an outraged electorate. In conclusion Mr. Fox referred to the whole sale purchasing with our money of Government candidates, and of his meeting a defeated Squires candidate who contested St. John's East in 1919, who, he said, told Squires that if he wanted to win St. John's East, all he had to do was appoint a Minister of Public Works and buy himself into the Squires ticket. Mr. Fox was thankful that this insult would be hurled back at them on Polling Day in an uncertain manner.

MR. N. J. VINNICOMBE.

Mr. N. J. Vinicombe, the "old reliable," as he was termed last night, was cheered to the echo when he addressed the meeting. He thanked them for the confidence they had placed in him, and he was sure that St. John's would do its duty towards itself on Polling Day. In 1919 they were told by the Squiresites that they were with Higgins, Reid's lawyer To-day, Coaker, Squires and Campbell were Reid's pawns and he was moving them around the chessboard just as he pleased. The tide was running with the Opposition, the people were awake and Mr. Vinicombe felt no misgivings as to the result. In conclusion Mr. Vinicombe urged all to vote the straight ticket for Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe.

MR. HICKMAN DEALS WITH COAKERISM.

The Chairman then called on Mr. A. E. Hickman to speak and he was given a great reception. Mr. Hickman's remarks were brief and to the point. "Now that you see me here," he said, "you know what side I'm on." He had been undecided as to whether he would enter political life this time or not, and all kinds of rumours had been circulated about him. He had finally decided to help back the work of putting the country back to a sound working condition again. The Humber Deal was the camouflage which the Government was using. It was being circulated through the country, private letters had gone to Union Clubs that the Humber Deal was going to give work and that all the men in the Union would have the first chance and would get the soft jobs and that those who went afterwards would have to do all the hard work. His policy was to fight Coakerism, which was the ruin of the country, and he would fight it until it was killed. The Fishery Regulations had ruined the West Coast and almost St. John's, and the policy of the Government is Nationalization, which is a short stop from Regulations. No merchant is going to give out supplies for which he will be paid in fish unless he knows that he is going to be able to market the fish as he likes. No man is going to give out supplies if he knows that before the fish is marketed there will be Regulations which will ruin him. Prior to, and in 1919, Newfoundland was blooming like a rose. Every man who wanted to work had plenty to do, his family was comfortable and everything was bright. A cancerous growth--Coakerism--crawled into the heart of the rose and to-day Newfoundland is fading. Mr. Hickman proved how the Regulations ruined the country. Prior to the Fishery Regulations British fish was not sold in Newfoundland fish, but the Regula-

tions put the price so high that they could not buy. Halifax, which could never sell there, is now getting nearly all the trade and where we ship one thousand we should be sending five or six thousand quitals, which means a loss to coopers, etc. The same applies to trade with other countries. On this account alone people are compelled to have a change to protect themselves again Coakerism. Concluding his remarks Mr. Hickman hoped that all would support the three Bennett candidates in St. John's East, Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe.

SOME FACTS FROM THE WEST COAST.

Mr. James MacDonnell, the member for St. George's, in a short address said that he was a Squire's candidate for that District last election and was elected, and he was going to be elected again, but this time for Bennett. Talking of the Humber and St. George's District, Mr. MacDonnell said that at present "we were working over time and were glad to see St. John's alive and this is what the Humber was doing for St. George's. Ten days ago, when he was home, there was only 27 tons of coal at Port aux Basques, and flat cars were bringing coal from Lewisporte to coal the Kyle when she reached there. That was some of the railroad management we were hearing so much about. He was eight days getting to the city, and now he was unable to get home. Along the South West Coast to-day only the firm of Emanuel Pike, at Channel, was above water. Mr. Pike was Small's chairman at the last election, and he is waiting for him to show up this time when he will tell him a story. The present Government could not run a bull's-eye shop, and they could not be trusted. Mr. MacDonnell said he was glad to see St. John's alive to the situation and was returning six Bennett candidates.

A POPULAR SPEAKER.

Mr. P. E. Outerbridge was next called upon and he was accorded a vociferous reception. He said, "this time it is one for Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe--We thank you." Mr. Outerbridge dealt with several items of expenditure by the Government. He said that five blind men of Newfoundland applied to Sir H. A. Squires for a little help to furnish a house and the answer they got was that all the blind men could go to H--- as far as he was concerned, and yet the Government could find \$500,000 for a normal school to give some old teachers a soft job. Returned soldiers who applied for a little increase in pensions were told that soldiers were paid to fight and that they could find \$50,000 for the Red de Luxe, which would only be of use if Kitty Gaul still had her license. An increase was refused the Old Age Pensioners and still money could be found to establish and keep the Mounted Police, which were raised because Squires was afraid of any disturbance which the unemployed might create. Coaker is often called "Croaker" and rightly so because he will "croak." In connection with the High Commissioner's office it was proposed to form a golfing club, and it was evidently proposed to send Mr. Warren over as High Commissioner with a salary of \$25,000 to play golf. Mr. Outerbridge in conclusion urged the straight ticket vote.

SIR MICHAEL CASHIN UNMASKS SQUIRES.

Chairman Gould next called upon Sir M. P. Cashin to address the gathering. The Leader of the Liberal-Labor Party in St. John's West was given an ovation and the East joined west in doing honour to the Bennett standard bearer in that district. Sir Michael complimented St. John's East on the interest that was so manifest by the large gathering present. He said his opponents are disturbed over why he is a candidate in St. John's West, but he esteemed it a very high honor indeed to be a candidate for that historic district. Sir Michael then referred to an action taken against him three and a half years ago for the purpose of making him stay silent. The title they now give him is the "saucy member of the House." Three and a half years ago, Sir Michael said, Squires handed out his manifesto to the people as an endorsement for his election. In 1919 Squires said we were growing under the burden of taxation, when it was \$36.00 per capita. Then fish was \$16.00 and \$17.00 per quintal. To-day taxation is \$65.00 per capita, and fish is \$4.00 and \$4.50. In 1919 everyone was happy and contented, now there is nothing but privation and destitution in the country. Referring to the Humber Deal Sir Michael said it was a closed book that no one was to see until Squires came back, that was possible after his record. Sir Michael followed by reading a challenge he had issued to the Prime Minister to meet him in the largest hall in the city to discuss the Humber Agreement, the Prime Minister to place his cards on the table. This challenge appeared on Monday, but the Government papers had not a word to say about it last evening. No intelligent person was going to vote for a deal that he knows nothing about. The people can't be fooled with such twaddle.

DECEIVED ADMINISTRATOR.

The details of the Humber Deal was locked in the bosoms of Messrs.

Footo, Halfyard, Shea, Winter, Campbell, and Dr. Barnes, and the people are asked to sign a contract that no-bid but these know anything about. The Prime Minister and Attorney General spent six months on the other side, and they deceived the Chief Justice who was then Administrator, as when the Opposition called upon him regarding the proroguing of the House, they were informed that it was absolutely necessary for the Prime Minister and Mr. Warren to remain in England as they were placing the finishing touches to the Humber and the House would open within a month to have the deal put through. The Chief Justice said he had messages to this effect. The House never opened, and he was deceived as well as the country, by the greatest political deceiver and liar that ever sat in the House. He had not hesitation in making the statements. The whole thing, he said, is chaos. They had now the cheek and impudence to ask people to elect them to pass the Humber Deal.

TAXATION THE TELL TALE.

The Coaker-Squires bunch had put Newfoundland up against the ropes and they were the greatest bunch of political hypocrites that ever adorned her assembly. \$15,000,000 to \$18,000,000 had been added to the public debt, the revenue had been collected and not a thing do we see for it. To-day it is dangerous to walk the streets for fear of being arrested and asked to stand as a candidate. The man in Ferryland who was given \$25,000 to go to that district and afterwards went to Sir Michael and asked him how to spend it, is even now in the district making out the allocations and acting according to his, Sir Michael's instructions, in that he gave him the name of one reputable man who could spend \$10,000 of the money on Marine and Road works. This money is being paid by the taxpayer and is raised on loans at the bank of Montreal. In conclusion Sir Michael stated the answer to the Government to-day is that in 1919 taxation was \$36.00 to-day it is \$65.00.

LABOR CANDIDATE SPEAKS.

Mr. Wm. F. Linger, Liberal Labour candidate for St. John's West in a short address complimented St. John's East on the splendid opening of the campaign and he bespoke for Messrs. Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe, large majorities. St. John's was doing its little bit and both St. John's East and West were going to show both Coaker and Squires, that the people resent their mishandling of the country's affairs and the destitution that has been brought upon us.

SIR JOHN CROSBIE.

In response to the insistent request of the meeting, Sir John Crosbie next addressed the audience. He began by congratulating the Chairman and Secretary and wished them success in their conduct of the campaign. Much had been said about the railway, the Humber Deal, Mr. Hickman told the story of the Fish position, he had fought the Regulations

for three years. They ruined Water Street, and it was entirely due to mismanagement. Coaker has said to the North, if you don't join the P.P.U., you won't get work on the Humber. Sir John said that the country is in a serious condition and that the Rosalind and Silvia are unable to take away all the young men who are anxious to leave.

MR. COAKER'S BLASPHEMY.

Sir John then read a letter written by Mr. Coaker to a friend, the text of which will be published in an early issue of the Telegram. Mr. Coaker's blasphemy was only equal to the Kaiser's me and Gott, Sir John said that Newfoundland will not have anything to do with Canada yet Coaker says if the Government is returned they will dispose of the Labrador. Coaker evidently has Confederation in his eye and it will make small difference to Sir Richard whether he likes it or not. "Are you going to stand this misrule," said Sir John. "I know St. John's East is not, and St. John's West is going to turn them out." Referring to the Government papers Sir John said they could not repeat their 1919 work. The party was standing behind J. R. Bennett and Squires would know it. The Government was seducing the public service to get candidates and was hauling all the men out and making them stand. Sir John referred to the General Hospital. He said that the "Government makes a man pay \$1.00 a day for treatment there or has to go on the paupers' list, and it can pay a man \$1800.00 a year to collect the dollar. Now is the time to save the country from going bankrupt. He urged any people of St. John's West who were present to vote the straight ticket for Cashin, Linger and Hunt, and keep out Squires and Campbell, and he said the same thing to the East Enders--the straight ticket for Higgins, Fox and Vinicombe and when that was done they could say they had done their duty. Hon. Sam Footo went on the Daisy and received his first intimation of his chances when the ship went ashore. It was a sign of the times as when the election is over the Government ship will be "on the rocks." Sir John concluded his address by promising an interesting story of how he saved the Union for Coaker, to be told at an early meeting in St. John's West.

At the conclusion of Sir J. C. Crosbie's address, the Chairman announced that all were asked to join the active committee, when hundreds signed the roll, and a further meeting will be held to-night for the arrangements as owing to the late hour many were unable to have their names entered. The meeting which ranks as the most successful in the history of St. John's East, closed at midnight with the National Anthem and cheers for Mr. J. R. Bennett, the winning team in St. John's East and West.

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