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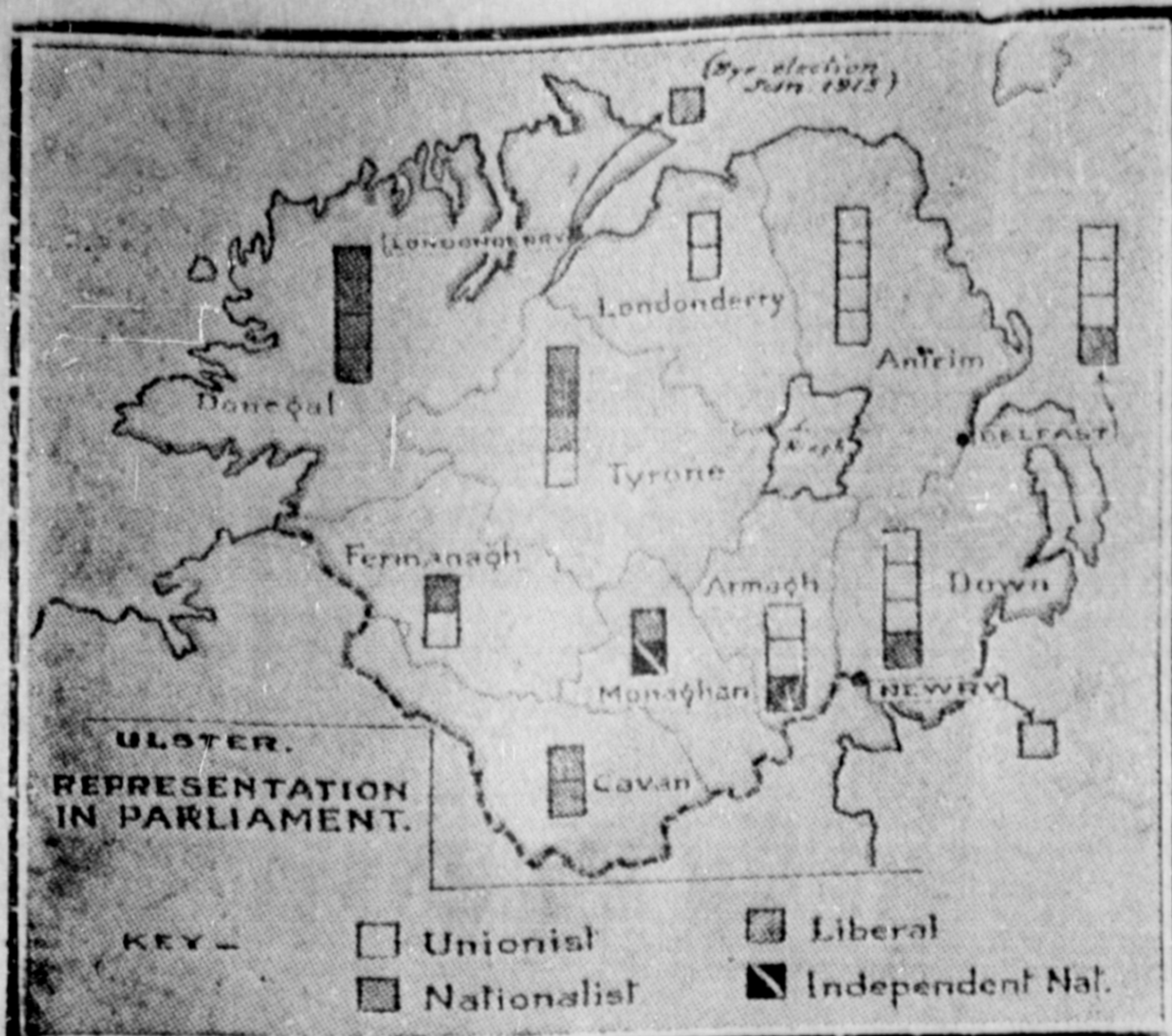
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Saturday, April 11, 1914



REPRESENTATION OF ULSTER IN COMMONS

A diagram giving a good idea of the representation of the Ulster counties in the British House of Commons

only excuse being given was the lack of funds.

The officers were not even placed on the reserve list. Did the audience consider that these men who had drilled in mud and rain to get an efficient corps got fair treatment.

The speaker then asked J. E. Merryfield, who he alleged was at the bottom of it, if he was responsible for the disbandment. "I won't tell you," shouted Mr. Merryfield.

"Then citizens it is up to you to say whether you are satisfied with that answer."

Sergeant Leek

Sergt. George Leek had rather a tempestuous hearing. When the hoodlum element endeavored to interrupt him he said he knew what they meant. He had been in Kelly's cut and he would do it again. He did what he believed to be right. In the tumult he invited any man to come and put him off the platform and if they couldn't, then let him speak.

He reviewed the organization of the Earl Grey's Rifles by Mr. Stork and the work done by Capt. Stork. Three years ago he had been invited to resign for the purpose of undermining Stork. He was a Conservative, but he refused. Politics were worse in Rupert than Tammany ever thought of. Those who caused this disbandment were not fit to wash Fred Stork's shoes.

J. Averill

"Chuch" Averill was a member of Earl Grey's Rifles—a non-com. He made his debut before a Prince Rupert audience and got a hearty reception. He is a young man of good physique. He explained to the audience that while he was a Conservative, he could not stand for the political jobbery in the disbandment of the Earl Grey's Rifles. He had protested to the party and had been threatened to have his position as secretary of the Kaien Island club taken away from him if he did not quit his "hollering." He had immediately resigned and also resigned his position in the Bank of B. N. A. in order that he might be free to stand for his principles. Mr. Averill is a typical young Englishman, the type that has made England and the British empire what it is today. He told his story of what he knew of the political deal in an honest and frank way that convinced the audience it was true.

Mr. Averill told of the incident when Joe Merryfield had first learned that the department intended increasing the corps to a four-company battalion and also of a telephone message he had sent to Partington saying it was all right four days before the

official notice came that the company was to be disbanded.

George Tite had advised him to go down and see Joe Merryfield and see the slate of officers for the new battalion. He went and Merryfield denied there was any slate.

It isn't for politicians to kick out the militia. The boys had struggled for years to make themselves efficient. Do you think they got a square deal?

The speaker read a list showing that nine out of the eleven non-commissioned officers were Conservatives, so that no claim could be made that Stork had attempted to make it a political organization.

The chairman had stated that Merryfield had said that Stork had no right to send a telegram to Pardee telling him to keep up the fight on the naval question. Merryfield told him he had better go over and join the other party.

Rev. Canon Rix remarked that success required united effort. This is especially needed in Prince Rupert. Party differences must be laid aside. Politics are for national problems—keep them out of your social, municipal and militia life. The spoils system has been fairly well kept out of the militia. Can you imagine Hon. R. L. Borden or Sir John Thompson doing this thing? If we fight and lose take it like men. If we fight and win be generous like men.

L. W. Patmore

asked if there was any one to justify the action of the Conservatives in disbanding this company. He had been born and bred in Canada and never knew an officer to be stripped of his uniform because he expressed an opinion on political issues at Ottawa. He had thought the militia and judiciary were above party politics. Now that it is in the militia it may next be in the judiciary. Are the people going to stand for this insidious thing? Where will it end? Mr. Patmore also read communications from the department which showed that after politics were introduced the officers had been invited to resign, but they were not the resigning kind. They are going to fight it through and fix the responsibility.

He said Mr. Merryfield had invited parties in this city to be lieutenant-colonel of the new regiment.

J. E. Merryfield—Name the party.

Mr. Patmore—You dare not deny it.

The chairman—He also invited a certain Conservative to be adjutant.

O. H. Nelson

Mr. Nelson thought it was a tempest in a teapot. There was

no occasion for an uproar. It savored too much of politics from the Liberal side. The resignations of the officers were not called for. The disbandment had been for the purpose of serving another branch of the service. He advocated garrison artillery. As one member of the Conservative executive he would support Stork and Merryfield for command of the new organization.

No one has the right to refer to the Conservative executive as a bunch.

The militia department does not recognize the Conservative executive, but they look to the member for information and the member recognizes the executive.

Did Maitland See List Too?

Another of the young men of the company stated to the meeting that Ald. Tom Maitland said he saw the list of new officers in Merryfield's office.

Ald. Maitland denied it. Dr. Clayton, a well known Conservative politician, and C. Halsey, an ex-member of the Conservative executive, spoke against the motion to spread a petition around the city protesting against the disbandment.

The latter moved an amendment that the meeting concur with any action the militia department might take.

On a show of hands the amendment was lost.

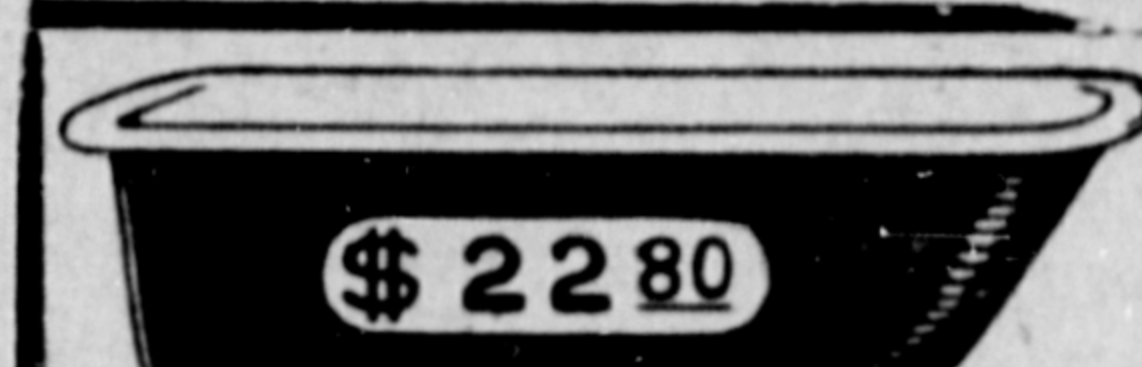
The motion to circulate the petition was then put and O. H. Nelson was asked to count the ballots. He said it was impossible to count the hands, but thought the motion was lost by 86 to 95. As there were four hundred people present and every one took a lively interest in the meeting the reported vote could not be correct and scores of people present declared it was carried.

Joe Merryfield in the gallery led the opposition to the motion.

THE WEATHER

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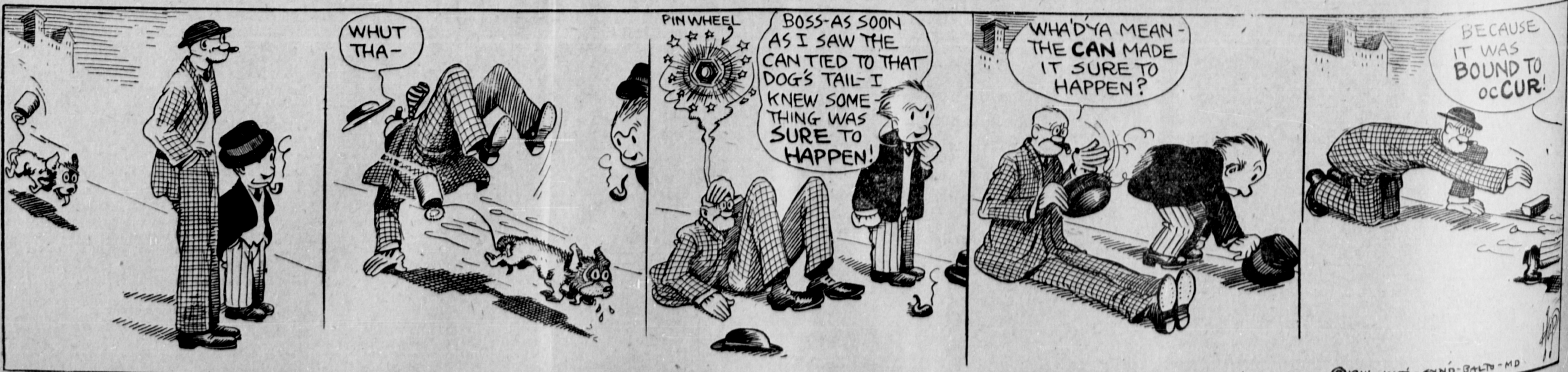
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