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("To Every Man His Own.")

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Editor and Business Manager: JOHN J. ST. JOHN.

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THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE MEETING

ACCORDING to The News the Committee occupied the full time of last night's meeting in discussing the decision of the Joint Select Committee of the Legislature which met yesterday to consider the Municipal Bill.

The decision in no way clashed with what had been done by the Citizens Committee, as it had decided at a former meeting that the election of a Council should take place in June.

There was no other proper course open to the Select Committee in view of the fact that the House was being kept open especially to consider the Municipal Bill. Had it not been for this Bill the House might have closed on the 20th, but the work of closing the session was not proceeded with simply because the Premier and other leaders in the House thought something might be done to pass the Bill before closing.

The Citizens Committee must take into consideration the fact that there are 30 outport members in the House and the Spring season is opened and all have their ordinary avocation to attend to, and it would be unwise to rush such an important measure through the House without giving the citizens a chance to thoroughly discuss the new proposals.

Do they consider that a Legislative Committee which included the five members for St. John's, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the F.P.U., the Hon. Geo. Knowling, John Harvey, S. Milley, M. Power, S. Blandford and Mr. Clift would be parties to anything unfair, or would be unanimous in arriving at decisions that were not fully justified?

As for the publication of the decision by us, it will be remembered that Mr. Coaker was a member of the Committee, and when the decision was arrived at, that decision was public property; and our announcement was not official in any way, but an item of information interesting to the reading public of the City. We do not

know of any right the Committee possessed which compelled the Legislative Committee to officially communicate this decision to it. The Select Committee was appointed by both Houses to consider the Municipal Bill and report to the respective Houses. There was nothing about consulting or concurring or notifying any Citizens Committee in relation to the matter. It was thought that if the Citizens Committee had anything to report officially, it would be done through its Secretary, but although the Select Committee had been in existence for a week no communication had reached it from the Citizens Committee.

In conclusion we can assure the Citizens Committee that every member of the Select Committee is as desirous of securing a Municipal Bill acceptable to the citizens and fair all around, as any member of the Citizens Committee, for all realized the necessity of ascertaining the opinions of the Citizens and of initiating reforms in the government of the City that would prove beneficial to all concerned.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

WHEN Mr. Abbott in the early days of the session referred to the treatment meted out to some old fishermen, he little thought that his words would result in securing 400 additional pensions for the worn out toilers of his native land.

Another proof of the great influence of the Opposition Party is the additional vote of \$50,000 passed yesterday for Public Works. That appeal was made by Mr. Coaker when speaking of the necessity of constructing a breakwater at Shoal Tickle, Twillingate, and was warmly supported by Mr. F. Morris, the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Fisheries, as well as several Opposition members.

The Premier deserves credit for accepting suggestions from the Opposition side of the House, and the increased vote for Old Age Pensions and Public Works show that he is not a thin-skinned politician, but ready to listen to the reasonable suggestions of the Party in the House that represents the people in a far greater measure than his own Party. The \$50,000 for Public Works won't amount to much for each district when divided up according to population, but it is better than nothing.

In the whole history of the Colony no Opposition Party that ever sat in the House has wielded such influence in the House, for almost all the constructive and progressive legislation passed since the session of 1914, can be traced to the proposals and suggestions of the Union members in the House. It is a blessing to the Colony to have such a Party in the House.

When Mr. Coaker decided to place Union members in the House selected from the ranks of labor, he conferred a great benefit upon his native land, for during the trying days of the past two years the Union members have proven to be the right men in the right place, and have placed Country always first in their considerations. Every day the Country is beholding proofs of this fact, and the votes passed by the House yesterday for Old Age Pensions and necessary Public Works are but events that foreshadow the great influence for good and for clean politics that the Union is destined to wield on behalf of the Colony in future years.

AN INTERESTING MEETING

When Private Tibbs, the dangerously wounded one of our returned boys, met yesterday with Pte. Phil Jensen their coming together was of much interest to both. Tibbs' wounds due to a shot in the foot and shrapnel in the hips are of a dangerous character and it was Jens Jensen, brother of Phil, who was wounded in Ypres, bound the wound up.

LONDON, April 18.—In the presence of a distinguished company, Sir George Perley, Acting High Commissioner of Canada, on Saturday handed over, on behalf of the Canadian Government, No. 4 Stationary Hospital at Paris to the President of the French Republic. The hospital was inaugurated by the admission of 155 wounded from Verdun.

YESTERDAY AT THE HOUSE.

House met at 3 p.m. yesterday. Petitions were presented by Mr. Devereaux from Baine Hr. for a public wharf; from Mr. Walsh for a harbor wharf; from Mr. Targert from Hant's Hr. asking that a magistrate be appointed for the South side of Trinity Bay; and from Mr. Stone from the inhabitants of St. Jones Within asking for repairs to an important road and bridge.

The Guarantied Companies Act, the Intangible Substance Act, and Patent Act, all received their 3rd reading. THE FINANCE MINISTER moved the House into Committee of the whole on additional estimates. These provide for sums aggregating \$83,515.00, including amounts which the Opposition have advocated so strongly since supply have been before the House, viz: old age pensions to provide for the remaining 400 persons qualified, \$20,000; for public works, \$50,000; for light house building and repairing, \$12,475; for public charities, \$1,000, etc.

DR. LLOYD congratulated the Government upon their willingness to accept suggestions from the Opposition for the general benefit of the country. MR. CLAPP again called the attention of the Government to the condition of the mail and passenger service in Bonne Bay, and after strongly upbraiding the Government for their neglect of that District asked that an amount of \$500,000 be voted for a motor boat to ply from Bonne Bay to Norris Brook.

MR. COAKER strongly supported Mr. Clapp on behalf of Bonne Bay service and told the Committee that such an important grant as Bonne Bay should get more attention, and he moved the grant of \$500,000 should be made for the motor service as outlined by Mr. Clapp. MR. JENNINGS spoke of the water supply in his district.

MR. COAKER congratulated the Government in falling in line with the Opposition proposals and suggestions re granting the additional old age pensions; also the \$50,000 for public works, and asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries if he intended to experiment with the new system of light houses in order to test the merits of the system.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES replied that the Government proposed to adopt the system at three places, including Groais Islands and Harbor Deep.

MR. HALFYARD again made a strong appeal on behalf of a better water supply for Change Islands and pointed out the gravity of the situation there, quoting from the reports of Dr. Brehm, who attributed the outbreak of fever there last year to the lack of pure water supply. Mr. Halfyard, as in former sessions, impressed upon the Government the necessity of immediate attention being given to this matter so as to prevent a recurrence of an epidemic such as the one which had occurred last year. He had hoped from the remarks of the Minister of Public Works something would be done.

DR. LLOYD supported Mr. Halfyard and asked the lives of these people were jeopardized, and he thought some pronouncement should be made by the Government.

MR. CASHIN thought that the matter should be attended to out of the grant for the public works in that district, and that conditions were much the same in every other district.

DR. LLOYD said this was not so and told the Minister that if the water supply of this place was not attended to now you will have to spend money in connection with it later on, and the people will suffer and death will result. This, said Dr. Lloyd, is a preventive measure. All parts of the Island are not alike in this respect. Special conditions exist in Change Island and a special grant should be voted to cope with it. It is quite plain that in some places the water is good because of the nature of the soil, in other places it is excessively bad, and such is the condition in Change Islands.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not think that anything could be done unless the same privilege was extended to other districts, but he believed from the reports of Dr. Brehm that the conditions due to the bad water supply may repeat itself again if the matter was not attended to.

MR. HALFYARD was glad the Colonial Secretary had some sympathy for the people of Change Islands and he wished to point out that the general condition of his district was such that it was impossible to take \$1,400 of their share of the special grant of \$2,000 to give this one place the im-

proved water supply it required. Mr. Halfyard told the Committee that there was no money spent in Folgo District digging wells, as was the case in so many other places. He knew places where wells were dug for the mere purpose of spending the money which was given and where there was already an abundance of good water. The grant of \$2,000 was already inadequate to put the various public works in proper condition and instance the public wharf at Seldom Come By and the bridge at Cat Hr. which was totally gone and should be replaced. The bridge at the South side of Gander Bay was also washed away, and if \$1,400 was taken out of the \$2,000 only \$600 remained, which would make very little improvements in his district, where so much was now needed. Mr. Halfyard asked to have the entire special grants for his district during 1912-13 tabled.

MR. COAKER supported Mr. Halfyard's plea on behalf of Change Islands and stated that it would take three or four thousand dollars to build a wharf at Change Islands, and he did not think the small grant for public works should be taken for this purpose, and hoped the Government would make some special effort to cope with conditions at Change Islands. Mr. Cashin had said that "Fogo had got its share in the past, but the Minister should bear in mind that the Premier had paid a visit to Fogo and had promised the District many good things, and of course had to redeem some of his promises. We could not give the Government so much credit for that since the Premier did it, no doubt, for the purpose of strengthening his party in the District. This was why the Government had to find the sum of \$6,000 which the Premier had compromised them for.

The Premier tried to show that these grants were asked for before he went down, but Mr. Coaker corrected the Premier by stating that the grants were made before the Premier's visit in anticipation of his visit to prepare the way for him.

THE PREMIER then tried to wriggle out of the matter by stating that Mr. Earle had asked for these grants, and that he had not made any reference to wharfs while he was there.

MR. COAKER said he did not wish to convey the impression that the Premier had got upon a platform and promised this five or six thousand dollars, but there was always another way of doing these things, and it was sufficient to say that the grants were made on account of the visit, and he was not surprised that Mr. Halfyard had invited the Premier to come down to his district again. He (Mr. Coaker) was sorry the Premier did not favour his District with an occasional visit, as some improvements were sure to result therefrom, whatever the motive may be.

MR. HALFYARD called the attention to the irregularities of supplies of fuel and oil to the different post offices and read a report showing that these supplies vary in the supply of coals from half a ton to eight tons. The sum \$957.51 was spent for this purpose, but was very unequally distributed, and asked for all to be put on the same basis, as matters were very much complicated under the present system. Mr. Halfyard said he would like to know if the recommendation of the outport post office inspector was being acted upon.

The House then went into Committee on the Sealing Bill. MR. PICCOTT on reintroducing the matter referred to the attitude of the Upper House on this measure last year, but he believed that an understanding would be reached this year, as Select Committees of both sides, comprising men whose experience and knowledge of the sealing industry was great, had given it every consideration. He referred to certain remarks from gentlemen on Water St. that the Committee was prejudiced in favour of the industry, but he would like it to be understood that the Committee took the matter up as Newfoundlanders, whose object it was to assist and foster the industry, having regard to the owners, masters and crews. The Minister then gave some details of the objects to be attained by the bill, and asked the whole House to consider the bill from an unprejudiced standpoint.

DR. LLOYD in rising stated that as this bill was introduced from the Opposition side of the House last, when the Upper House failed to concur with it, he was glad to see it coming again under more favourable circumstances this year, being introduced by the official head of the proper Department. The Leader of the Opposition then reviewed in his very able style the salient points of the bill. The recom-

mendations made by the Commission were very wise; the installation of the Marconi system; the responsibility of the captains and owners for sending men on the ice between dark and daylight, was justifiable as men's lives should be protected in every way. If the industry was not able to bear the burden then who was going to bear it. It was under the principle of the Workmen's Compensation Act, though not so broad. It compels the rich owners and not the poor unfortunate workman or sealer to bear the burden. When the owners or masters throws extraordinary risks upon the crew only then under this act are they responsible for compensation in the event of death or injury. It has been said that the industry could not stand it. Well, then, he thought, an industry that could not stand the compensating of those who it injures is not worth having. Some life is lost, some family is bereft and somebody must be the loser, and let it be those who stand to profit most out of the venture.

Dr. Lloyd spoke of the responsibility of owners, captains and officers and the penalties for felony or misdemeanour in this connection. MR. COAKER then made one of those forcible, practical speeches, which he is so notable for, showing the great grasp and intimate knowledge he has of the sealing industry in all its different phases. He stated that the bill had received a lot of consideration and nobody could convict the Committee of anything like an attempt to inflict the least injury on any particular party or person. Two points mainly were considered, one was to safeguard the lives of the crews, and the other was to assist the owners in carrying on the industry in the best possible manner. We took in consideration that the captain was in charge at the ice and was responsible for the safety of the crews under him. On shore, the owners were responsible for the fitting out of the steamers for the accommodation and comforts of the men. In referring to the punishment which was meted out to masters under this bill for sending crews on the ice after dark he thought no punishment too severe for such an act, where men's lives were placed in jeopardy, and while not wishing to do anything to hamper the captains in securing a voyage, all are anxious to get seals, but men's lives and not seals should be the first and paramount consideration.

Mr. Coaker scouted the idea of the large ships clearing from Canadian ports, if prohibited here, as he believed the Canadian authorities would pass a similar bill if approached on the subject. If, said Mr. Coaker, we permit one large steamer over 450 tons to prosecute the sealfishery you must accord the same privilege to others and in the event of the other vessels sold to the Russian Government being brought back these too will expect permission to engage in the industry. Why then risk the discouragement of the wooden and smaller vessel in order to grant a privilege to one firm. He did not think the Florizel would lose by being debarred, as there was good opportunities offering for freighting etc. The larger vessel was not so profitable to the owners, as they cost so very much for outfitting over and above the smaller and more adaptable vessel. He (Mr. Coaker) expected to see one of the old ships engaging, such as the Aurora which would likely be bought back, and under this act we would have a sufficient fleet of these small vessels to bring in all the seals obtainable on the ocean with a more equal distribution of the profits

to the crews. Mr. Coaker referred in approving terms to the Compensation Clause and expressed the hope that under this new act we would never experience another disaster, such as the country suffered two years ago. DR. LLOYD proposed an amendment to the Penalty Clause, making the punishment for violation of the Act more severe. MR. DEVEREAUX then arose and after some attempt to show that the Florizel should have the special privilege of being permitted to engage in the sealfishery, surprised the House again by moving an amendment to that effect.

What motive the member for Placentia could have had for his indiscreet butting in with such an amendment, after the Committee already petitioned by the owners of the Florizel for this privilege, and being refused, as the Committee was determined to support the original Bill which has been framed in accordance with the wishes of some hundreds of petitions representing some thousands of life time practical sealers. The only solution of Mr. Devereaux's Act of yesterday is that he is still smarting under the well-merited castigation he received from the Opposition over the Agricultural fizzle, and since is noticed to be saying and doing funny things. It is a well known fact that the wooden ships have increased in value 100 per cent this year owing to the withdrawal of the large steel fleet which was monopolizing the industry. If the Government supported this ridiculous amendment it would simply risk the discouragement of the wooden fleet from which the producers obtain a fairer distribution of the wealth of the voyage for the sake of climbing down and catering to one wealthy firm whose only ambition is to add to their own wealth. Mr. Devereaux is getting notorious for doing unusual strange things lately, but it is unthinkable that the Committee could entertain the thought of such a backdown. The Premier who was a party to refusing special privilege to Bowring Bros. in this connection, as well as the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is challenged by this amendment. It is pleasing, however, to see the Government members possessing the courage of their convictions and expressing themselves fearlessly as did the Minister of Public Works yesterday. Messrs. Grimes and Winsor made very practical speeches, showing the unfairness of the amendment, and that a more equal division of the wealth of the sealing industry would always result when the smaller ships were

engaged, as against the monopoly which was inevitable should the powerful, large ships be allowed to operate. The Committee then rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again on to-morrow. DR. LLOYD asked that the Minister of Justice be requested to take some action re the Prohibition question before the Courts. THE PREMIER in reply stated that he understood the petitions before the Court were being withdrawn. The House then adjourned until 8 o'clock this evening.

F.P.U. NOTES

Schr. Cabot, Capt. Barbour of Newtown, is taking a load of supplies for the Union store at Newtown. Schr. Olivia May, Capt. Hounsell, is taking a full load of supplies for the Union store at Darling Cove and Seldom.

Schr. Sunflower, Capt. Day of Port Rexton, is taking a load of supplies at the Union wharf for the new F.P.U. store at Champneys.

GLEANINGS OF GONE BY DAYS

APRIL 18 MISS PROWSE accidentally killed by falling from window on Water Street, 1858. James Baird opened business, 1872. J. B. Bulley died, 1872. Police Inspector Foley died suddenly, 1873. Spurgeon Tabernacle, London, burnt, 1898. Miss Journeaux driven out of Jersey in open boat without oars, 1886.

Von Papen Indicted by Federal Grand Jury

NEW YORK, April 17.—Capt. Franz von Papen, the recalled military attaché to the German Embassy at Washington, was to-day indicted by the Federal Grand Jury in connection with an alleged plot to blow up the Welland Canal, September, 1914. Von Papen was one of five persons indicted in the case, including Capt. Hans Tauscher, who is already under arrest, charged with being concerned in the plot.

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