

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 28, 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Finance

THE House yesterday for seven hours discussed Finance and the discussion was one of the best heard in the House for many years.

The Opposition refused to vote Supply until the Government supplied more information as to how they intended raising extra revenue, and how they intended to cover the shortage in revenue for 1914-15.

In the afternoon Mr. Kent opened the debate and delivered a very able speech upon the General condition of the Colony's finances. Mr. Cliff followed and strongly backed up the demand for fuller information.

Mr. Cashin followed and asserted that the Government had considered the request made by the Opposition on Friday and had decided not to make any further statement.

Mr. Morine followed, delivering a very able speech and again backed up the request for fuller information. During Mr. Morine's speech Mr. Cashin again attempted to indulge in personalities and he did succeed in forgetting that he was the servant of the House, a Minister of the Crown, and gentlemanly conduct was what the House expected from him.

Mr. Coaker appealed once more for fuller information and intimated that the refusal of the Government meant holding up Supply by the Opposition and prolonging the session until June, as not one member of the Opposition would leave town until the session closed if the Government refused to be reasonable and afford information required in order to properly consider public finance.

Mr. Coaker showed that \$120,000 had been spent this year so far on Executive responsibility, the greater portion of which was illegally spent. He stated that the Governor under our laws was held responsible for every cent expended under Executive responsibility and not the Executive, that the Country and this House relied upon the Governor to stand by the laws of the Country, and as \$90,000 was spent in overdrafts, increases of salaries, new offices and pensions during the present fiscal year; that the Governor could be held responsible for all that expenditure, according to the terms of the Audit Act, and that he therefore was open to a charge of impeachment and that some day if those infringements of the law went on some Governor would find himself face to face with impeachment.

Mr. Morine later backed up Mr. Coaker's position very strongly and pointed out very clearly the Governor was responsible and not the Executive and it was time the Governor realized his responsibility. Mr. Morine intimated that he would bring a resolution before the House dealing with very serious matter and just before the midnight session closed he gave the following notice:

NOTICE OF QUESTION
RESOLVED that an address of this House be presented to His Excellency the Governor in Council on the subject of the practice of expending public money of the assumed and illegal authority of the Governor-in-Council in violation of the express provisions of the Audit Act, 1898, and in derogation of the ancient exclusive and undoubted rights of this Assembly.

Mr. Coaker showed that the Reid Nfld. Co. were now receiving about \$250,000 from the Colony as subsidies for steamers and railways and it was time the Colony enquired as to whether good value was being received for such a large sum of money. The Reids had contracts and obligations to live up to and it was time the Government awoke from its slumbers and insisted upon the Reids living up to their obligations.

Mr. Coaker then read a letter signed by 30 or 40 passengers who had been on the train en route for Sydney when the accident occurred near Codroy last week and the contents of the letter were so serious that he felt it his duty to bring the matter before the House and the Government in order that an investigation may be held and the true conditions made known, for if the statements contained in the letter were true the time had arrived for a general clear up with the Reid Nfld. Co.

The Premier asked for the letter and promised to make an announcement in a day or two upon the matter. The letter will be found in another column. Its reading caused quite a sensation

in the House and the private opinion expressed by members showed that most of them considered the statements as serious, which required immediate attention at the hands of the Government and the Reid Nfld. Co.

The debate on Finance was continued after tea, when Dr. Lloyd, Mr. Morine, Mr. Cashin and the Premier took part. Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Morine spoke for nearly three hours. The result was, the Government supplied the information asked for by the Opposition which revealed the facts that no extra taxation would be attempted and if the shortage in revenue was considerable, it would be covered by a loan.

The House did not close until midnight, when the Opposition went home pleased with having once more secured from the Government against its will information sought.

Another revelation yesterday was contained in a statement tabled by the Premier showing the Judges of the Supreme Court had been paid \$2500 for hearing the election petitions and not \$1000 as previously stated. Mr. Coaker asked the Premier to make sure of his facts in this respect and the Premier promised to make further enquiry and report to-day.

A Lesson in Addition

FINANCE MINISTER CASHIN during the debate in the House last evening clearly proved his utter inability to deal with financial questions affecting the Colony.

He is either totally ignorant of how to deal with these matters or he deliberately tried to make five and five add five. Both Mr. Morine and Dr. Lloyd showed clearly in figures and words that the deficit facing this Colony on June 30th next will be over a million dollars and not five hundred thousand dollars as stated by the Finance Minister.

No provision has been made by the Finance Minister for the interest charges of \$525,000 due the Bond holders in London on June 30th. This \$525,000 with the admitted deficit of \$500,000 makes a total of \$1,025,000 (One Million and 25 Thousand Dollars). When he found the truth confronting him Cashin tried his usual bluff and bully tactics but he was quickly "put to the mat" by Mr. Morine and made no further attempt to argue the points so ably and forcefully put forward by that gentleman.

At this stage of the game the Premier seeing the Finance Minister "caught red-handed" took a hand in the debate and for over half an hour labored in trying to show that his Finance Minister was correct when he stated that FIVE and FIVE were FIVE. The Premier quoted what he called undisputed facts from a report of the Auditor General "that the estimated deficit for the year ending June 30th next of \$500,000 included all interest charges owed by the Colony to the London Bond holders."

This statement of the Premier's was challenged by Dr. Lloyd who proved from the Government's own figures tabled that the estimated expenditure referred to by the Premier DID NOT include his charge for interest up to June 30th next and that even taking for granted that the expenditure of the Government was equal to the amount of revenue collected to the same period that the Colony would still be faced with a deficit of over ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

The Premier then staged the old stunt of drawing the "red herring across the trail." He appealed to the galleries but was met with angry reception. He explained (?) why it was that the Government waited until the eve of the last election to take off the duties on flour, pork, tea, and sugar, which he had promised the people he would do in 1909. It was said Sir Tax "our solemn pledge to the people of this country and we simply followed out that pledge."

This humorous statement evoked laughter from the galleries and the Opposition side of the House. The Premier, like Morrison, forgot to tell his hearers why he clapped on TWICE the amount of duties he had taken off in 1913 on his return to power in 1914. This was right twelve months previous to the outbreak of war which the Premier so pathetically referred to as the cause of the present state of the financial affairs of the Colony.

Both the Premier and his Finance Minister met their Waterloo Tuesday evening. Cashin may still be of the opinion that the "illiterate cullage" will be fooled again but in this he makes a bigger error than he does when he tries to make "five and five add five."

Proceedings at the House of Assembly

TUESDAY, April 27th, 1915. House met at 3.20 p.m.

MR. HIGGINS presented a petition from Portugal Cove and Bell Island regarding the wharf at Portugal Cove. This petition asked for an allocation sufficient to the making of a complete wharf which was of great importance. Mr. Kent warmly supported the prayer of the petition, emphasizing the utility of a wharf at that place in the interests of most of the constituents, and the petition was also supported by Mr. Dwyer.

MR. HALFYARD presented a petition from Musgrave Harbor and vicinity on the hook and line fishery there, its protection and the reservation of certain ground for hook and line fishing.

MR. CLIFT presented a petition from Revd. Mr. Stirling and 700 inhabitants of Twillingate on the subject of Total Prohibition. Mr. Jennings warmly supported this petition, as did also Mr. Coaker, who commented on the recent debate in the House on the question, and pointed out to the Government the effect it would have on the proposed enactment of the Government in the near future.

MR. CLIFT presented a petition from James Elsworth and many other inhabitants of Lawrence town for a sum of money to repair roads. The needs were great and nothing had been spent in that locality on roads for a considerable time.

MR. WINSOR presented a petition from Brooklyn, Bonavista Bay, on the subject of telegraph office there. Mr. Coaker supported the petition and stated that he would again refer to this matter when the estimates were being considered.

MR. STONE presented a petition from Trouty and other places in Trinity Bay regarding a fishery ward in that vicinity.

MR. CLIFT presented a petition from S. J. Blackler and others of Nipper's Harbor and vicinity relating to a telephone service for Rogues HF.

MR. HALFYARD presented a petition from Barr'd Islands, Tilton and other places in Fogo district, asking that Joe Batt's Arm be made a port of call for the S.S. Clyde.

In reply to Messrs Jennings and Grimes regarding sums of money that had been expended in their districts without any returns, the MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS gave the information that no definite answers had yet been received, but he hoped soon to be able to give the necessary information.

With regard to Mr. Grime's enquiry, MR. WOODFORD admitted that the sum of seventy-five dollars had been illegally used, but that the Government were doing all they could to get the money back, or the work performed.

Notice of Questions were tabled by Messrs Abbott, Halfyard, Clift and Kent, and the usual form of Notice of Questions on the order gone through.

THE SPEAKER announced that the Legislative Council had passed the Act referring to patents and trade marks and then came the "Order of the Day."

House went into Committee of the Whole on the Supply Bill, and Minister of Finance Cashin said that the financial statement asked for by the Opposition was not forthcoming and that the usual course would not be deviated from.

MR. KENT said it was a pity that the Government had not acceded to the request of the Opposition, but he met it with a blank refusal. To refuse such was most unreasonable, because there were several matters in the Estimates that called for very serious consideration. The Estimates year by year had been growing and in five years and increased over one million dollars, and yet we are told that all was carried out with a due regard to economy. This was not true because the Government had always underestimated their expenditure and the estimates that we voted on last year had been exceeded which must be provided for by supplemental supply before the committee rose.

He (Mr. Kent) also drew attention to the fact that large sums had been paid without authority or without due attention to the Audit Act and which had been repeatedly pointed out by the Auditor General.

In a lengthy speech the Leader of the Opposition severely criticised the actions of the present government in connection with their lavish expenditure in all departments of the public service.

MR. CASHIN said that Mr. Kent had little fault to find and tried to justify

the Government regarding the expenditure incurred under the provisions of the Audit Act, but the only position of this expenditure that he could clearly give valid reasons for, was the amount given towards the sealing disasters of the past year.

MR. CLIFT didn't think the Minister could be congratulated on his reply to the Leader of the Opposition. He (Mr. Clift) didn't wish to make much comment on the question before them, only this. He entered his emphatic protest against the consideration of the estimates until we had some kind of a general statement of our financial position up to date. The general accounts had been submitted up to June 30th, 1914 and since then we have had nothing beyond the fact that there had been a decrease in the revenue and an increase in our Expenditure.

Mr. Clift made a capital speech, and in closing emphasized his statement that he could not and would not vote on a single item of the Estimates before them without having some knowledge of our present financial position and that he intended to apply personally to the Auditor General for a statement which, if he got, he might be able to vote intelligently on the question of Supply.

DR. LLOYD asked for information from the Finance Minister and having got the necessary information, proceeded to score the Finance Minister regarding Railway Loan Balances and the Government for their mode of raising loans generally. Some altercation took place between the Finance Minister and Dr. Lloyd, in which the latter maintained his position.

MR. MORINE referred to the statement made by the Finance Minister that he had only followed out the usual practice, and referred to his (Mr. Morine's) action in 1898 as being somewhat similar. Well, he had refreshed his memory and found that he, then being the Finance Minister, had brought in the Estimates and Budget Speech at one and the same time, thus proving that in 1898 to provide for unusual circumstances an unusual course had been adopted. Mr. Morine also referred to the Loan Bill, stating that it was absurd for the Government to think a loan could be floated at 4 per cent.

MR. COAKER said that before going into the Estimates he thought that the members on his side of the House should have all the necessary information relative to "How and where we stood" financially, before starting to vote away four million dollars, and while he instanced the desirability of getting through the business as quickly as possible, unless the Opposition had the information asked for they were in it to stay till the close, and from the present appearances it meant the end of June before the Session would be ended. Referring to the Estimates he noted the tremendous amount of money to be voted to the Reid Newfoundland Company. In connection with this company's service, the recent accident at South Branch was a matter that called for very serious consideration and he (Mr. Coaker) had a letter forwarded to him, largely signed by passengers who had gone through the said accident and referred to the treatment they had received from the officials of the company. Mr. Coaker read the letter which showed that the entire system was in a deplorable condition, which must be remedied. At the conclusion of reading the letter the Premier requested to get it from Mr. Coaker, which he did, saying that it would have his immediate attention. Mr. Coaker then money on Executive Authority that he proceeded to criticise the spending of argued was illegal, or if it was legal, why couldn't they vote the entire four millions asked for in the Estimates. He also referred to a number of overdraft accounts in all Departments, quoting from the Estimates, and insisted on having some explanation of how the money had been expended. Speaking of the money appropriated for the Sealing Disaster, which he said was perfectly justifiable, he still wanted to know how the money had been appropriated to the sufferers. Another serious amount was the St. John's Agricultural Society deficit of \$8,300 which the Government had to assume responsibility for and pay.

THE PREMIER, in explanation of the Agricultural Society incident, referred to the hay famine of a few years ago as being the means of the Government having to be responsible for the deficit.

MR. DWYER also spoke of the Hay Question and said that lots of people had taken possession of the hay without thinking of paying for it at all.

THE PREMIER interjected by saying that this was the first admission they had from his hon. friend Mr. Dwyer of anybody receiving any benefit from the present Government, to which Mr. Dwyer promptly replied that the people had not received it, but they had taken it.

DR. LLOYD said that was also the position of the Government in connection with the Estimates, viz., they had not given us a statement as to how they were going to raise the money to meet the Supply Bill.

He (Dr. Lloyd) instanced the extraordinary position we were in, according to the Bank account, not the Finance Minister's statement, and proceeded to detail our present financial position as gleaned from the statement of Bank account furnished him by the Finance Minister and for which he thanked him. The Member for Trinity spoke of overdrafts on Eschquer account amounting to \$388,000 and \$170,000 over expenditure under other headings that never should have occurred, and pointed out to the Finance Minister that if this sort of thing goes on the deficit would be \$300,000 by June 31st.

It was thus that the Government put up the Finance Minister to pursue the usual course—in most unusual times—and ask us to vote this four million dollars without a word as to how they mean to finance for the future. Dr. Lloyd then made reference to the great war which had been attributed as the main cause of our present condition, but which he (Dr. Lloyd) contended had nothing to do with it, for no one dreamt of the war at June 30th, 1914, when the revenue was \$114,000 short of the Estimates up to that period, and this in spite of the fact that taxation had been increased some four months prior. We were told the other day that the revenue for 12 months from alcohol was something like \$300,000, and yet, although there had been an increased tax put on only \$27,000 had been paid in during these 4 months, instead of the expected \$110,000, all of which showed that the additional or added tax had been very intelligently interpreted by most of the importers interested.

At this point recess was taken till 8 o'clock.

On resuming after recess, Dr. Lloyd continued in criticising the financial policy of the Government of the past and in a speech of an hour's duration, proved from facts and figures submitted, that there was every likelihood, if this freak system of financing was indulged in, of the deficit being \$800,000 at the end of the Fiscal year.

MR. CASHIN had listened attentively to the hon. member for Trinity, who, he said, could make good speeches and who had on the present occasion done his best, as a lawyer, to prove his case. The Minister of Finance, however, could not agree with the hon. gentleman on the matter of a deficit, and tried to paint a glowing picture of future prosperity, at the same time giving no idea as to how the Government intended to bring about the prosperity alluded to and the lessening of the deficit, unless the fact that there was now on the way some 3000 tons of general cargo for the port, and that imports were used to increase to such an extent that the deficit would be decreased some \$200,000 before the end of the Fiscal year at the end of June. Mr. Cashin again repeated his statement as to the tabling of more information than that already on the table.

MR. MORINE contended that the Finance Minister was quite right in saying that he was not going to give them his Budget speech in advance. The question had been, could not the Minister give us some kind of a statement giving us some indication of how they intended to meet their financial obligations. Well, now the Minister had given us as a reason the expected increase in the Revenue from new imports during the next three months.

Mr. Morine then in a slashing manner denounced the reckless handling of matters of finance by the present government, dealing with the question from all standpoints, and making strong allusion to the floating of loans, also to the expenditures on so-called Executive Authority, the latter being a matter which he intended bringing before the House in another shape in the near future. Some cross firing then took place between Dr. Lloyd and Messrs. Cashin and Morine, the end of which was that the Prime Minister came to the Finance Minister's assistance reading a statement of the Auditor-General's that at the worst the deficit for the two fiscal years, 1913-14, and 1914-15 would be one million dollars, and against this was half a million dollars to the credit of the Colony in the Bank of Montreal,

Outrageous Condition of Railroad

Exposed by Mr. Coaker in the House

Joint Letter From Forty Passengers By the Bruce, Detailing Complaints as to Condition of Road Bed--Read Before the House

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir.—We the undersigned passengers and others of the train that was wrecked near South Branch desire to publish a few facts concerning the travelling public by the Reid Nfld. Co. and also the unsafe and dangerous condition of the road we travel over.

Since the old shed at Brigue Junction was destroyed, passengers have been forced to seek shelter in an old car, that sometimes will hold only about half the passengers. Men, women and children are all bundled together in that stuffy old car, filled with tobacco smoke.

When again there is an old dump at Whitebourne where passengers, often women and children are obliged to wait for hours. There are no seats, no fire, or anything to afford the slightest comfort.

But, Sir, the most brutal act perpetrated on the travelling public, who pay extreme and extortionate rates for conveyance is the gross negligence of the company to take even the most necessary precautions to guard their safety by making the track firm and secure.

The railroad track through the country is in such a rotten and shaky condition that it was necessary to be tied in one's berth in order to stay in them, and the rocking and bolting of the train kept people in constant fear.

In regard to the condition of the track where the wreck occurred, we beg to state that the sleepers were so rotten that some of them could be kicked to pieces, and spikes pulled when rail leaned over under the heavy weight. Consequently the train was precipitated over the embankment. The outer rail near this steep embankment was much lower than the inside one and when the section men came to repair it they found it necessary to raise it several inches to right position.

In our opinion, it would seem almost impossible for trains to pass such a place in safety.

You may imagine our predicament when the whole train of six cars tumbled over, some bottom up, over the embankment, which was sixty or seventy feet deep. All fully realize that it was only through the providential care of a merciful God that all are alive to tell the story, and only a few are injured. There was very little excitement for the greater number kept cool, as Newfoundlanders generally do, and before long, by the quick assistance of the men, the women and children were got out through the top-sides or wherever a hole was available.

Now, Mr. Editor, we think it is high time for every inhabitant of our Island home to stand up in his own shoes and demand better conditions. How long are we going to submit to such a tyrannical system? Many of us lost our lunches in the wreckage and now in this hot weather, we have to pay twenty cents for a pitcher of tea alone and some were absolute-

which would be used to wipe off this deficit. The Premier enlarged somewhat on the general position of the Colony, and did not think there was any indication of the "blue ruin" as voiced by hon. members of the Opposition. He, therefore, suggested that the Committee should proceed to take up the various votes and deal with them. Some further discussion of the question took place in which Dr. Lloyd, the Premier and Mr. Morine took part and eventually the Committee rose, reported some progress and asked leave to sit again on Thursday.

MR. MORINE gave notice of Questions bearing on supply and other matters of Finance relating to the Newfoundland Products Corporation. House adjourned at midnight to meet on the morrow at 3 p.m.

by refused even that for their wives and children. The Reid Co. may treat this affair as lightly as they treat most of the things which concern the public. They may try to shift the blame on whomever they may. They may claim that it was an unavoidable accident, but we claim that it was the fault of the road, and though we may not all hold the same view on politics, we feel, Mr. Coaker, that you are the man to give the public a genuine view of the treatment which is accorded the public by the Reid Company. We understand that the section men's pay has been reduced and the number diminished, so that it seems impossible for them to cover the whole distance and keep the track properly repaired.

This is a contemptible state of affairs and we trust that you will give it your immediate and earnest attention, and that whatever steps you take to improve conditions and benefit humanity will be supported by every intelligent and honourable Newfoundland.

Kenneth M. Mercer, Bay Roberts. William Belbin, Bay Roberts. William Butler, St. John's. Richard Mercer, Bay Roberts. Hayward Bowring, Coley's Point. James A. Vokey, Bay Roberts. John H. Yetman, Bryant's Cove. Joe Snook, Carbonear. Edward Sullivan, Hr. Grace. Mike Walsh, Harbor Grace. Jacob Snow, Bay Roberts. John Cleary, Hr. Grace. Peter Butler, Hr. Grace. Eliot George, Heart's Content. Sandy Roberts, Briggs. Edward Murphy, Winsor Lake. Edward Kehoe, Hr. Grace. Stephen Shea, Hr. Grace. Elijah Sellers, Western Bay. Amelius Fry. Gordon King, Western Bay. James Fowler, Clarke's Beach. John F. King, Western Bay. Ernest Tucker, Elliston. Ernest Kelloway, Perry's Cove. Bernard Ronan, Adam's Cove. Solomon Kennedy, Western Bay. Jabez King, Perry's Cove. Bernard Gullfoyle, Hr. Grace. V. J. Coatsy, Hr. Grace. Walter Higgins, Hr. Grace. William Morris, North River. Frank Russell, Hr. Grace. Mrs. A. Fy, Charleston, B.H. Mrs. M. Hiscock, Whitney Pier, Sydney.

Mrs. S. Kelly, Carbonear. Mrs. Joseph Snook, Bay Roberts. Mrs. Richard Mercer, Bay Roberts. On board S. S. Bruce, April 22, 1915.

Patriotic Concert At St. Mary's Hall

The patriotic concert which took place in St. Mary's Hall last night and was in aid of the "sick and wounded soldiers, was a most enjoyable affair. Those who sustained the splendid programme were Rev. H. Uphill, Misses Bidel (2), D. Skinner, Mrs. Stranger, Messrs. Snow, G. Nurse, M. Clouston, J. Harris, K. Myler, Maundel, Marshall, Fox, Mackintosh, Chaplin, Francis and Evans. To Misses G. Nurse and B. Snow who conducted the arrangements much praise is due, for having made the affair so successful.

Mr. W. Knowling who had been to Canada on business returns to the city by to-night Kyle's express.

The principal discussion at the Fireman's Union meeting last night was the matter of asking a further increase of wages. After the question had been fully debated it was decided to consult with Hon. M. P. Gibbs, who is the Union's solicitor.

Advertisement for East... boots in... the... 304 and... JU... S.S. Ca... ord... Ba... A... 'PR... BANAN... NE... Fr... CU... IR... Also, 20... 'Ph... Tw... JUST OUT... Sinking of... Australian... German ra... merchant sh... picture sh... Mons. who... machine es... decorated... OF BRITIS... colors, in... pictures, in... WE WANT... pictures, fr... We always... customers... P.O. Bo...