GOVERNMENT EXPOSED

To the Ridicule and Contempt of the Community!

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Premier in introducing these Resolutions, but I have failed to observe him advance any argument in justification sion. There was no unnecessary de

and, so far as I am concerned shall remain a non-party question. A few They Had to Work out a Scheme of days ago an attempt was made by a member of the Government to give it respect to the matter, and this afternoon the Premier had followed in the speeches delivered by the Hon. John Anderson in which he had a public meeting condemned an Old Age Pension Scheme. This speech the Premier had declared was delivered by Mr Anderson on behalf of the late Government, and must be accepted as the therefore must, and could only, have no provocation will induce me to descend from the position that I took up in the year 1906 on the question of Old Age Pensions. At that time, it will be observed on reference to the official report of the debates, I said that in the principle of Old Age Pensions the House of Assembly.

Might Unanimously Concur

of these past the allotted span for work. I declared that it was the duty of the State to extend every possible consideration, sympathy and relief to the aged poor and infirm, for they had done something in the building up of the country for which they should be recommensed On the 27th of Anril 1906 an Address was unanimously adopted by the Legislature praying His Excellency the Governor to apthe subject of providing pensions for Right Hon. Charles Booth, raised the aged persons," and in pursuance thereof the then Minister of Finance, "No Reduction of Taxes Without Firs the Commissioner of Public Charities the Hon J S Pitts Hon Edgar Bow-"that regular meetings of the Commis- this kind so as to do justice and in pected considering its personnel, in a tee or Commission appointed by the Correspondence was exchanged with ject of Old Age Pensions was acting mation, blue books and other data passed upon them for delay.

39 Sets Dress Steels, at .

Pensions was procured for the guid-March 14th, 1911. ance of the Commission in their de-SIR ROBERT BOND. I have lis- liberations. Several meetings were tened intently and have followed held, but before the Commission was close the remarks of the Hon. the in a position to report a General Election took place, and, as I advised, ter minated the labours of that Commislay on the part of those gentlemen tirely unsatisfactory, measure before dealing with the question sumbitted to them. The work work to them. The work was a gigantic one, having regard to the general fin-

> Old Age Pensions that the Legislature Would be Warranted in Adopting, and that Would Commend Itself to the Whole Country.

earching enquiry and the greatest eaution. First there was a Royal these words:sions which was representative of the nothing but a cruel deception. Any ad for a nucleus such distinguishd leaders of thought as the Right ion. Charles Booth, Francis Herbert Stead, M. A., and Frederick Rogers. was several years before the Labour nions could agree as to a scheme Old Age Pensions, but guided by the isdom and moderation of the gentlemay appear at first sight the South frican War hastened the day for Old war had called upon the taxpayers of Ifreat Britain to contribute two hunered and sixty million pounds sterling in extra taxes for its carrying out. At he close of the war the National Comnittee on 'Old Age Pensions, under

battle cry of Providing for Old Age Pensions,"

ring. Hon, John Harvey and W. B. and it was taken up by the whole Grieve. Esq., were appointed such country forcing Parliament to pass Commissioners. The chairman of the the Act of 1908. The history of the Commission was the Minister of Fin- Old Age Pension movement in Great ance, and the Secretary was the Hon. Britain is a most fascinating study John Harvey. The first meeting of and at the same time conveys a lesson the Commission was held on Decem- as to the care and caution that is neber 13, 1907, when it was decided cessary in dealing with a matter of sion shall be held on alternate Fridays | flict no injury on any person. I have hereafter." The Commission entered scanned the history of this movement on its duties, as might have been ex- in England to show that the Committhoroughly business like manner. late Government to deal with the subofficials in Great Britain, Canada, and on the proper lines and were not elsewhere, and a lot of valuable infor- open to the censure that has been bearing on the subject of Old Age Again, the Premier says that the

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eclipses completely all past attempts to save money for the

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SIR ROBERT BOND'S SPEECH ON **OLD AGE PENSIONS.**

question of Old Age Pensions was Government by their proposed legis- (\$50) fifty dollars per year as the anof very narrow financial resources and to give a solemn pledge that they of the utmost social utility with hardparties hesitated to move in this mat- as solemnly breaking that promise by country are to be left to starve or to ter of Old Age Pensions without providing in substitution a pauper go down to pauper graves. You cal

"With regard to Old Age Pensions: From my place in the House of Asommittee of Reports, and then a sembly I have clearly defined my posielect Committee of the House of tion in relation to the same, and have ommons. Twelve years were thus clearly indicated the source from which such provision must necessarthe Imperial Parliament in 1908 Revenue of the Country-when the was the outcome of the labours of the old age pension scheme is adopted. A statement to the centrary would be

abour Unions of Great Britain num- scheme of old age pensions would ering three million members. These have to be provided for upon a basis nions sent delegates to what was beyond peradventure; therefore any ermed the National Committee which body of men who realize their responibility as trustees of the public are bound in honour to move very careully in a matter of this kind. The resent Government, appreciating heir responsibility in the premises, and having regard to the general financial exigencies of the country, determined to call into their deliberanen I have named they became as a tions several gentlemen who hold the nit, and acting in unison they won sighest position in this city as finanhe nation to their will. Strange as ciers. These gentlemen have been vork out a scheme that the Legislaare will be warranted in adopting. ountry may therefore confidently deringing into force such a measure at

be earliest possible date."

In the face of this evidence how ain party capital at the expense of Zealand at 65; New South Wales at allowance under the Poor Commisge Pension Scheme. To my mind Labrador, his proposal is neither practical, or Females. edequate, or just. The secret force 65 to 70 years of age f social evolution, working the world | 70 to 75 years of age ... ver, has declared that the expecta- 75 to 80 years of age . on of the aged poor shall not fail; 80 upwards at poor relief with its degradation nd disfranchisement shall give place the honour and repect that properbelongs to old age, and that no aint of pauperism shall attach or cling to the provision which the State

confers on its veterans of industry. Now Universality Alone Can Remove the Pauper Taint, and in My Opinion the Only Right and Just Plan is to Years-Man and Woman Alike.

odern conditions of industry do no

favor the aged. Work nowadays is rushed, and it needs more nerve and strength than the old can bring to it. The community gains, perhaps but the old people suffer, and hence their claim to special consideration This House is under a greater obligation to-day to pass an Old Age Pension Scheme than ever it was before. Since 1906 we have passed the Workingman's Compensation Act, which provides compensation to the laborer from the employer if he should be injured or incapacitated while performing his employer's work. This has forced employers in self protection to cull the men they engage, and the old and weakly are thus thrown out of employment. Then with respect to the women. Are they }-----not deserving of consideration? The

made an issue at the last General lation say no. Why not? Do they Election. That is not correct. How not represent the wives and mothers culd a question be made an issue who have kept the homes together when both political parties had agreed | under in very many instances a strugon that question. The statement was gle for bare existence? The case of not only incorrect but absurd. What the women is even stronger than that the present Government had done was, of the men, for they may spend live would immediately if returned to ly any opportunity of saving a cen power give Old Age Pensions to all for themselves. Yet under the prodeserving persons, and now they were posed Act the poor old women of the dole. In my manifesto of 1908 I used this an Old Age Pension Scheme do you? I call it a most heartless tray estry, a cruel injustice. Again, the Premier's remarks would lead the House and the country to believe that there is a precedent for this legislation in the acts of other countries. 1 must remove that impression by de claring, without fear of successful contradiction, that there is no pre cedent in the world for such a bill as this. You may look to Great Britain, Denmark, Belgium, Germany France, Canada, New South Wales New Zealand and Victoria, which are the countries where old age pension

> And I Defy the Government to Show That Their Proposal in Any Way Resembles the Scheme of Either of These Countries.

The Right, Hon, Charles Booth, the father of the British scheme, says in nis work on Old Age Pensions: "The nost desirable age for a State pension is put by various authorities at 60. 65 and 70. If we consider solely the usual working powers of men, 60 is gratuitously giving of their time to now late enough in most manual inhe consideration of this important dustries; but some employments press subject, and, together with the Execu- less hardly, and in most cases the ive Government, are endeavouring to industrial breakdown precedes the financial breakdown by several years, so that we find 65 to be the age senting the time when strength is gone and money spent and pensions re most excellent. As 65 is the isually accepted age so five shillings can the Premier truthfully declare per week is the usually accepted pen- hundred old men of 75 years of age hat the question was a party issue sion." England fixed the age at 70. who we may consider are deserving, the late General Election? The Germany and France the same. Den- and to give them FIFTY DOLLARS ssertion is only an attempt to ob- mark at 60; Belgium at 65; New per year, or to increase their present

ence of what the impelling motive overnment fix the age at which the How can this be termed an Old Age pehind this motion really is. The poor man will be entitled to an inovernment evidenly desires to be crease pauper dole, for it is not a pen-selecting from among the poor those he first to place on record in our sion, at 75, for which as I say there whom the Governor-in-Council may tatute Books an Act entitled "Of Old is no precedent in the world. They consider the most deserving is evige Pensions, while in reality it is have evidently done this to make dence that extreme poverty is the imply what parliamentarians term their absurdly small allocation of qualification under the proposed bill. a bastard arrangement" designed to twenty thousand dollars cover more The very thing that a pension scheme seceive. Sir, I think the Government cases. Now, according to the last is designed to overcome, namely, the ould have acted wisely if they had Census there are within our jurisdictiaint of pauperism, the Government vorked out a full and complete Old tion, that is to say Newfoundland and propose to perpetuate under this bill.

> 65 to 70 years of age 70 to 75 years of age ... 75 to 80 years of age 80 upwards

Total number of males and females. Give a Pension to Everyone Who Nine Thousand One Hundred and Needs it on Attaining the Age of 65 | Sixty. Taking 65 as the age limit and |



Pensions?

annum equals \$458,000.00

But we must deduct or those whose incomes exceed say \$2.00 per week say 50 per cent. . or aliens, criminals, lunatics and permanent pau-

pers, 5 per cent. .. 22,900.00 5,038, would amount to \$251,900 per annum. A vote of that sum would sons with \$50 per year AND LEAVE ABLE PERSONS WITHOUT ANY THIS BILL. Or, if this amount is livided amongst all who, under my alculation, would be entitled to it. Scheme only amounts to Four Dellars per year, or less than One Cent per day and less than Eight Cents per week. Was there ever such a piece of absurdity and cruelty blended together before? Imagine a poor old ouple, of whom it might truthfully ne said that they had reached the period of life when the shadows of them, endeavouring to keep body and soul together on EIGHT CENTS PER that England has produced. A por nd that will commend itself to the at which pauperism increases by WEEK. But, I would be perfectly tion of that surplus, namely, that thole community. The electors of the leaps and bounds, and thus this age air to my political opponents. They which goes to pay the interest on say we don't propose to divide up the the Railway Loan of last year, migh twenty thousand dollars among all more properly have been reserved i

solitical opponents, and it is an evi- 65, and Victoria at 65. The present sioner from \$24 to \$50 per annum. Again, this bill is bound to cause the Persons. most bitter heartburnings, for out of 1,830 fourteen hundred and twenty-one old 1,308 men of 75 years of age and upwards 799 in this Colony the Government pro-.. 618 pose to select only four hundred for this charity dole, that is to say two 4.555 persons in every seven. What is to become of the one thousand old men

We propose, they say, to select four

of 75 years of age and upwards to whom this bill will bring no comfort, no provision whatever? What is to become of the old men and old women, numbering four thousand six hundred and thirty-eight, between the ages of 65 and 80 upwards who are not considered at all under the proposed bill? The Premier says "half a loaf is better than no bread." But there is no half loaf; the whole loaf goes to the chosen favorites of the

There is Not Even a Crumb of the Loaf to Divide Among the Four Thousand and Odd Poor Old People, Who Are Not Considered in the Proposed Bill.

Government.

Again I say, this vote is nothing but dole or largess to be distributed y the Government on no principle of justice. Such a scheme as is proposed by the Government must necessarily administered with some appearance of arbitrary dealing, for under it the Government must appoint some one to draw and enforce the lines of demarcation decreed by the proposed bill. Some one in such locality, probably the Relieving Officer, will have the task assigned him of dividing the

and "undeserving." Such an investigation would necessarily have the taint of pauperism about it, and would thereby be entirely inconsistant with sions. Then again, the Relieving Officer may be at personal or political enmity to the applicant, and the most deserving case may be left to suffer. Since the late Government went out auity, what amount shall we require administration of public affairs dur-'or a universal scheme of Old Age ing their ten years of office, the revenues of the Colony have been yielding large surpluses, so that the difficulties that forced the late Government and the Commissioners appointed in 1906 to consider of Old Age Pensions do not exist to-day. There is no reason why a universal scheme of Old Age Pensions should not be dealt with at once.

aged poor into classes of "deserving"

because, first, the surplus revenue is equired for telegraph extension, the building of light houses and other ber of pensionable poor persons, say such works. My reply is that to take current revenue for such purposes is improper, because such public works illow every pensionable person, male are a proper charge against capital and female, over 65 years of age account, and what is required for Fifty dollars per year pension. The such purposes should be raised by Jovernment's proposal is to vote loan. The late Government were cenwenty thousand dollars. That amount sured by the present Minister of Fivill only provide four hundred per- nance for their temporary loans, which it was the intention of the late Government to cover by a permanent oan, for such public works; but the ourse was entirely proper, and to argue that other Governments had paid or telegraph extension and lighthouses out of current account was not to justify in any way the practice Further, the present Government have then this so-called Old Age Pension been boasting of their surplus rev nue-a revenue that did not flow rom anything that they had doneut I would remind the Minister of Sinance that it is not sound finance o have large surpluses. We should only tax to the extent of the absolute equirements of the public service This principle was laid down by Mi Hadstone, who, with the possible ex leath are rapidly gathering around ception of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was the greatest Finance Ministe

who would be entitled to it under any aid of Old Age Pensions. Now it goes pension scheme known to the world, out of the country to foregn bond schemes. Then there is another large portion which flows into the Treasury rom the great industry at Grand

the Revenue From Grand Falls this Year will be no Less Than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars, of Twillingate, which I have the hon-

our to represent, to pay nearly the whole amount necessary for a universal scheme of Old Age Pensions. Another excuse put forward by the Premier on behalf of his resolutions is that time would be required in order to furnish necessary machinery fo carrying out a large measure. this I might reply that no special machinery worth considering would be necessary. The Census to be taken within a few weeks from now will furnish the number of those who would qualify under a Universal Scheme, and if we follow the English precedent, the pensions would be paid through the various post offices upon the production of a statutory slip fur-The Premier Says This Cannot be nished the applicant from the Treasnry Department. Nothing more simple, nothing more secure could be devised for carrying out a pension scheme. So the Premier's excuse under this head vanishes. The pension would not be a loss to the State, i would represent money in circulation which eventually would find its way back to the Treasury. Under the circumstances to which I have directed attention I cannot support the Reso lutions before the chair, which as have endeavored to indicate are neith er practical, adequate or just.

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OBITUARY

Grate's Cove. March 1

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SALVIA destroys Dandi ed and fed that a new er springs up, to the amazem

soft and fluffy. Like all preparations SALVIA is da fumed. It is hard to find who does not use SALVIA c Ladies of society and in no other. SALVIA is a non-stick

tion, and is the ladies' far large, generous bottle, 50c bell Drug Co., St. Cather dian distributors. For sa First Class Drug Stores.

OVERSEAS CLUB.-A the Overseas Club (non-d al) was held at the Oddfel last night. The club now about 30 members.

WILL BE ABSENT SIX V Mayor Ellis, who leaves press for Montreal this e be absent about six week

Run Dou

You have a steady, e about it. Secure hi