

Mr. Coaker's Speech on the Estimates Delivered on Monday

(Continued from page 2)

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—You around—well, it is time to cry "halt," and to ask that man to get out, and to find some other man who is willing to do whatever services are required, without dictating special terms.

Held Up Government Till he Was Given \$120.

The telegraph service between Beaverton and Change Islands was suspended last Fall, and Hennebury refused to attend to this work until the Government gave him \$120; and he held that work up for fourteen days during the busiest part of the season. When he did go to attend to the duties of his office he found that the cable was unharmed, and that the trouble lay in the telegraph office at Change Islands, where it was found that lightning had affected a ground wire; and for fourteen days the whole business of that station and Fogo Island was interrupted because the girl in charge of that office did not know how to test that wire and this man Hennebury refused to go and investigate the trouble until his demands were met. Is it any wonder that the people of the North have not any use for the Government? Do you know that this man is not only a repairer and an operator, but he is a political agitator as well, and very much opposed to the F.P.U.; he travels all over the North; and probably his services are very acceptable to the Government, and this is his reward for serving the Partp. But I am surprised that the Premier did not take some action—my confidence in the Premier led me to think that he would not be a party to any official holding up the public service for an increase of \$120.

War Expenditure.

There was one thing that was referred to by Dr. Lloyd and that has not been commented on by the Hon. Minister of Finance, and that was in reference to the War Expenditure. Dr. Lloyd said he had been a party to this war expenditure and that he was ready to shoulder his share of the responsibility. I can say for my part that I am willing to shoulder my portion of the responsibility for these expenses that you have incurred and that have to be properly met in the interests of the country and the Empire; but I am afraid that when the time for investigation comes, you will find that a large amount of this war vote which is going on now has been spent in a manner that will not give us satisfaction. Take the question of the "Petrel" and "Fogota" and their performance of patrol duties around our coasts last year. Why did you let these steamers go? Why did you charter these steamers? What use would the "Petrel" or the "Fogota" be in protecting the Colony if either of them met a submarine?

HON. MR. CASHIN.—There was an Admiral in charge.

Should Employ Fast Motor Boats.

MR. COAKER.—I am very much afraid that the Admiral would have made for the shore quickly if he had come in touch with a submarine. This year you are going to have the same expenditure. That being so, drop these steamers and get half a dozen small boats—fast motor boats—to do the patrol work. If there is a submarine to be seen on the ocean they will find her and also manage to get clear of her and get to land and give warning of the danger, but if a submarine gets sight of the H.M.S. "Petrel" or "Fogota," then good-bye to those steamers. With regard to the war expenditure, I may say that I do not intend to find fault with the Government for expending two or three million dollars in the defence of the Empire. If the necessity has arisen—and we all know it has—and Newfoundland has been called upon to do something for the maintenance of the Empire of which we love to be a part, I do not know there is any man in Newfoundland who is going to hesitate about giving you his support in expending money for this purpose. The other day when the Address in Reply was before the House, I said very little in regard to the matter because I thought I would have another opportunity when the vote for this purpose was being moved. I do not say that I am very much grieved over the response that has been made by some of the Northern Districts in connection with enrolment of young men. I do not think that any young man need feel ashamed of becoming a Naval Reservist or a Volunteer for the army under the circumstances that are now facing this Colony and the Empire generally. In my estimation there is nothing too good, no reward too great, for the young man that leaves his home, comes here and enlists, and offers his life for the service of the Empire. I hope that when these men return—and I feel sure a good many of them will—return with arms and legs off and physically unable to work, that the Colony will see that every one of these gallant men has enough to live on and sufficient to support themselves during the remaining years of their misery.

The Noblest Thing God Ever Made.

It is easy enough for a man to shirk his responsibility in a time like this and allow "the other fellow" to do his own and the staker's work, as well; it is easy enough for a man to shout "The King and Country are calling for men"—and then to himself say—"but I will remain at home and take it easy." But the young man that will leave his home—perhaps in some of the outports—and come up here and enlist and go to France or Gallipoli, or some other portion of the war-zone to which he is drafted, and risk his life for the furtherance of our cause, why, that man is the noblest creature that God ever made—he comes forward and willing offers his very life—he does not rest satisfied with protesting his loyalty to the Flag, he offers his all, and goes forward bravely to face death in order to protect his home and friends and maintain the liberty and freedom of the Colony. It is not a question of performing his obligations to his country by merely risking his money or worldly possessions. No, it is not merely that—but he comes forward and states his willingness to make, if necessary, the supreme sacrifice of all—that of his own life. Such is a man, and one of whom any country might well be proud. In connection with this subject I may say that I am a firm believer in the principles of Conscription at such times as those we are now passing through. In the past few months I have taken my stand on public platforms and expressed my feelings on the subject of enlistment; and have done my best to help the various recruiting campaigns and urged all eligible young men to come forward and voluntarily enlist for the defence of the Empire.

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Ladies, Misses & Children's American White Wear.
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power they will go on fighting? They are built of the same stuff as we are; they have the same determination to win; and that spirit is going to make the war all the longer. We should, therefore, leave no stone unturned to see that Britain is victorious in this struggle; and all I hope is that the Hon. Minister of Finance—or whoever has charge of our expenditures—will do everything in his power to see that good value is given for the money that we spend for this purpose.

Not Flowing With Milk and Honey.

Now, the Hon. Member for Hurin in his address on opening day stated that everything was blooming like the roses; that everything was prosperous and that prices were Work was abundant, he said; every branch of industry and trade had prospered, employment had been abundant, and our general position was one which might well be envied. The reply to all that is this: You have a revenue of four million dollars; a revenue for this wonderful year; a year in which we are told the country is prosperous and doing well. One would imagine from his description that the country was overflowing with milk and honey, and he considered it wonderful that you were getting a revenue of four million dollars, but I tell you that this is not so, the country is not prosperous. When that time comes the revenue will be six million. The tariff which you have at present, with everything taxed up to the highest point should give a revenue of six million in normal times. When that revenue is produced, you can make up your mind that the country is prosperous; but that is not the condition of affairs now. You are getting on very well, it is true; you have recovered from the bad condition of 1914. It is wonderful to see how well the country has got on; but you should not make it out better than it is. When the day comes when times are normal again, you can make up your mind that with the present tariff, the revenue will be six million dollars. That will be the day for Newfoundland!

Elected Road Boards.

During the year we have had elections held all over the country for the return of elective Road Boards. I am sorry that all the settlements are not represented by these Boards. There has been some hesitation on the part of some of the men on these Boards, because they thought by having elections, the control of money would pass out of their hands. In some settlements where there are no elective Boards, that is the reason, and the men in charge of the Old Boards did not call meetings, because they were afraid that they would not have control of the money under the new scheme, and the people themselves did not know how to carry it out. I am pleased to find that there has been such a response. In Bonavista Bay there are not half a dozen settlements that have not elective Boards. In Twillingate there are very few places that have not elected Boards, and I feel sure that when the next Board election comes around there will be no complaints from any part of the country in this regard. During the last few years members of the Government side of the House thought that we were wrong in our opinion as to the demand for this system, but the result has shown that they were wrong, and that we were right, and I hope that the Department of Public Works will do all in their power to see that everything runs harmoniously and that the Road Boards are given every assistance they require. I feel that the present Minister of Public Works will do his best in this regard. I have no occasion to complain of Mr. Woodford since I came to the House, and I feel sure that the same harmony will continue under the new system.

Useless Officials.

You will remember, sir, that I offered to give the Prime Minister a list showing where he could reduce the officials of the public services. I said that I would give the Prime Minister a list if he would promise to carry out my recommendations, but he would not make that promise, but I can tell the Minister of Finance and Customs and the Prime Minister that in Green Bay there are ten or fifteen officials that we could get on very well without. In fact they are nothing but a nuisance to the community. They are only breeders of strife, division and trouble. I suppose the same is true in other districts, but I know that we have several places in Twillingate where you might save many hundreds of dollars. I pointed out last year that at Exploits there is a Sub-collector of Customs, who you are paying four or five hundred dollars, when you might get forty or fifty men in the place to do for \$50.00. Moreton's Hr. you are paying \$400, and I am sure Mr. Jennings will bear me out when I say that you can get a man at \$50.00 to do the work a great deal better. Then at Lewisporte you have an official that is costing you \$300. You could get that work done just as well for \$200. The official there is a good man, energetic and attentive. You will remember that a letter was read from him the other day in which he gave particulars about the pit-prop business. He does his work all right, but the work at Lewisporte could be done for \$200, and that man could be given a position in some place where he would be necessary. At Botwood you are paying a man \$500 to do the magistrate work. Now, there is no need of a magistrate there. You have Mr. Fitzgerald, who does the work at Grand Falls, and who calls at Bishop's Falls, and if he can do the work in these two places and spend three days a

week in St. John's, he could easily go to Botwood and Lewisporte and do the work there, and he would do the work much better than the man you have there now. Then, again at Botwood shipping is done. You send down a couple of tide-waiters from outside the district and give them \$400 salary and \$30 and \$25 a month board money. Do you expect that men in similar position in other parts of the country are going to put up with paying their own board when they know the Botwood men are found by the Government? You don't give board money to men in other parts of the country? What do you send those men there for? Is there anything square or proper in a Government Department that takes men from other parts of the country to send to Botwood, when a hundred men could be found in the district? I would give you a list of officials not wanted that would save you \$50,000. Of course that list is not going to be accepted by the Government. You cannot go on much longer like this. By so doing you are piling up the majority in favor of Mr. Clift, Mr. Jennings and myself in Green Bay.

Refused Information Last Session.

There are some statements of expenditures in connection with 1914-1915 that I want. There is quite a list of them. I asked the Minister of Finance and Customs for a somewhat similar list last year, but I did not get it. I am going to ask this evening for some detailed statements of certain expenditures, and if the Minister will make a point of giving me that information, he will have very little trouble in connection with the Estimates. We do not intend to keep them here dodging from day to day; we do not want the session to be too long, and if you give us the information we ask for in connection with the expenditure of last year, you will find that we will facilitate business in every way possible.

An Expert

The Husband—"I do not know just how I offended you, I'm sure."
The Wife—"No wonder, Charles you have such a lot of ways!"

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