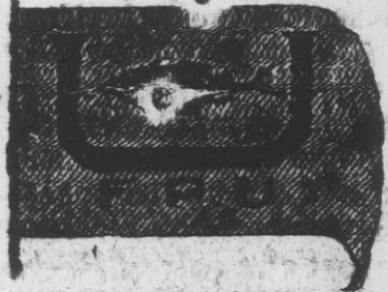


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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MAY 5th., 1915.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

**POSTAL TELEGRAPH DEPT.**

**Y**ESTERDAY at the House the Postal Telegraph Dept. vote caused considerable discussion and Mr. Coaker severely criticized the manner in which that department was being conducted. He showed that public money was being used to purchase material that was used once and then passed to some friend and that expenses had been incurred that were not justified. He asked the Government to pension both the heads of this department and suggested the appointment of Mr. J. A. Robinson as Postmaster General, who he claimed was the best man for the position amongst the Government supporters.

Mr. Stott was no longer capable or competent to manage the telegraph system now operated by the Colony. A energetic, tactful, and strong willed man was necessary at the head of the telegraph department if the public was to get the worth of the money expended on this department. He stated that the system was operated loosely and inefficiently and quoted facts to show that the lines were often interrupted for four continuous days. He asked the Government to give close attention to this department or he would be compelled to ask for a commission to enquire into the conduct of the department during recent years.

The Colonial Secretary stated that the department wanted to be renovated. He also stated that he had ordered an investigation into the shortage at the Registration Office and would table the report to-day.

The expenditure for cable repairs and construction has been attended with much waste of money. Ramea cable that ought to have been completed for \$5000, has cost \$30,000, and is not giving anything like satisfaction.

The time has come for a big cleaning up in the Postal-Telegraph Department and the proper method would be to retire Mr. Woods and place the ablest man procurable in his position. Then retire Mr. Stott and place the Telegraph Department under the best available man in the service.

Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars is now annually expended by this department, and the public should see that good value is given for that large expenditure and a satisfactory service is forthcoming and all leakages cut out of which many exist at present.

**ANOTHER GRAB FOR CROSBIE**

**T**HE Minister of Fisheries yesterday in replying to a question put by Mr. Jennings regarding the lower Labrador steamers stated that the Government intended sending a steamer about June 1st to the Treaty Shore and Straits with a magistrate to enforce fishery rules. The same steamer would proceed to the Lower Labrador about July 1st and enforce fishery rules and perform the mail ser-

vice on the lower portion of the coast.

This means another \$10,000 for Crosbie who will be given the contract and who will commission the whaler Cabot for that service. Whether the Cabot will prove large enough for the Lower Labrador service remains to be seen, but why two magistrates should be employed for the Labrador at a cost of seven or eight hundred dollars each, and the expenses of a steamer be incurred to enforce fishery rules on the Treaty Shore, is something that will have to be proved. The people will not be over anxious to see money expended in such a manner in view of the almost unbearable taxation now inflicted upon the taxpayers. No attempt has been made by the Government to economize. Any Government wishing to economize could easily save \$100,000 on the votes for the public service. When voting the estimates this session the Opposition has continually pointed out where money might be saved, which is now given out without reason or justification, but the Government have not cut off one cent of the huge expenditure of former years that have been brought to their notice by the Opposition.

The carnival of waste and extravagance is again to run riot, while the chest is empty and the revenue short by \$500,000 for this year with every prospect of having another quarter of a million added before the end of June, and a further half million by the close of the year 1916.

**TELEGRAPH CONSTRUCTION**

**Y**ESTERDAY Mr. Coaker drew attention to the large sums of money expended on Telegraph Construction and asked for accounts to show in detail what those amounts covered. Elsewhere to-day we publish some of the expenditure for last year and our readers will be amazed to find large sums of money given out to a few individuals.

Park Brennan received \$3000; Hayward Burt, Lady Cove, \$130; John McDonnell, Bay St. George, \$1110; Rev. O. F. Adams, \$430; P. Bannister, \$402; J. Cunningham's crew cost \$4285; a Fortunate Bay crew received \$1204; Freshwater, \$263; A. Critchell, \$127; Capt. Geo. Mussell, \$175 for not giving him a contract; K. Short, \$218. The last three payments being charged to Twillingate District.

Horwood Lumber Co., only \$3311 in one amount; R. Breaker, \$197; Chins, \$186; J. W. Curran, \$3371; J. W. Grant, \$925; Ed. Head, \$243; P. Marshall, \$113; McCarthy Bros., \$1012; Reid Nid. Co., \$3851, presumably for freight on construction material; Ed. Spry, \$176; Jas. Stott, \$1593 for one bill, there were several others. G. J. Veitch, \$100, for what? This is the clerk in charge of the department. R. Voisey, \$170; P. Wall, \$630.

Cunningham's crew, \$4410. This is another payment to Cunningham's crew in the same year; another mentioned above was for \$2505. Pennell's crew, \$6253. This is the crew that Mr. Coaker referred to last year in the House as the boozing crew. Saunders' crew, \$4365; Wall's crew, \$4696.

In Placentia Bay, P. Boland got \$132; S. Boland, \$95; Jas. Brown, \$167; Jas. Brown, Jr., \$117; M. Brown, \$166; Thos. Brown, \$141; Quite a family affair. They had a fairly good haul. Thos. Burton, \$100; Thos. Clayton, \$150; Wm. Eady, \$190; John Foote, \$15—presume this is Chair man Road Board, Lamaline Alex. Gabriel, \$108; Jas. Gilbert, \$166; John Gilbert, \$150; W. H. Beck, \$110; Geo. F. Best, \$124; P. Best, \$150.

Some thousands of dollars are included in this expenditure and whether good value was received for one half of it, will never be known until investigated by a commission. The Telegraph Dept. is rotten to the core and the proper course for the Government to adopt would be to appoint a commission to investigate the whole expenditure for ten years, and establish the whole concern on an up to date basis and place first class men in charge who are competent to operate and supervise a department of such great importance.

**PATENT FOR LUBRICATING OIL FROM MOLASSES**

Berlin, via London, April 29.—Herr Steffens, a German inventor, has applied for letters of patent for the lubricating oil from molasses. He announces that exhaustive tests of the output of his process have Steffens' investigations into the manufacture of lubricating oil were due to the war, which interrupted the customary supplies from Russia and the United States.

**Proceedings at the House of Assembly**

**Postal Telegraphs Dept. Under Scrutiny--Mr. Coaker Demands the Appointment of a New P.M.G. and Supt. of Telegraph--Some of the Big Contingency Grabs Exposed**

TUESDAY, May 4th., 1915.

When the House opened this afternoon there was a regular fusillade of petitions.

**MR. DOWNEY** presented a petition from South Branch in his district, asking for a telegraph station at that place.

**MR. CURRIE** on the Speaker's behalf presented a petition from Victoria Village on the subject of a well.

**MR. TARGETT** presented a petition from Hant's Harbor, on the subject of prohibition, and petitions on the same subject from Revd. W. Harris and others of Moreton's Harbor, Captain Hodder, S. A., Cattle Island, and Revd. W. Monland, Summerford, all in the district of Twillingate, by Mr. Jennings.

**MR. ABBOTT** presented a petition from King's Cove on the question of Road Grant.

**MR. KENT** presented a petition on the question of a pension from Mr. Costigan of Bell Island, the prayer of the petition being supported by Messrs Dwyer and Higgins.

**MR. CLAPP** presented a petition asking that Duggan's Cove in White Bay be made a port of call for coastal steamer.

**MR. KENT** on behalf of Select Committee to report on affairs at Pen- tentiary, asked for extension of time and 10 days more were given for same.

Questions and answers followed, then House went into Committee on Supply.

The entire afternoon was taken up in considering various items in the Estimates, the Union members keeping up a regular bombardment on all branches of the public service until recess at 3.30 p.m.

**MR. HALFYARD** started in when the question of Public Charities was being considered. He asked the Finance Minister if there was any scale of salaries for outpost relieving officers, drawing attention to the fact that in the entire district of Fogo the sum of \$60.00 was paid two officials, one at Fogo getting \$40.00 the other at Musgrave Harbor getting \$20.00, whilst at Carbonear one official alone got \$300.00. He (Mr. Halfyard) thought this very unfair and that Fogo was not at all getting its share, which according to population should be at least \$160.00.

**MR. CASHIN** replied that there was no scale, and that he certainly agreed with Mr. Halfyard that there should be an adjustment. With regard to Carbonear, all that he knew about it was that it had been the same for the past 20 years.

To this lame reply, Mr. Halfyard gave the retort that it seemed to him that the further away from St. John's the less regard was paid to any requirements for the districts.

**MR. COAKER** complimented Carbonear on having such a capital representative. He (Mr. C.) said there was no town outside of St. John's that got more than Carbonear from the Government. He also protested strongly against these "sops" and supported Mr. Halfyard in his contentions about Fogo district. Whilst he didn't expect we would have the adjustment just yet, he said that if time would soon come when the Government would have to seriously consider matters like these.

When the vote for Lunatic Asylum was under consideration, **MR. COAKER** referred to the trouble in that institution last Fall. He spoke of the Commission of Enquiry, and judging from the evidence given in connection with it he considered the statement as published in this paper was perfectly justifiable. There was no question but that some one had been very lax in their duty, and something should have been done, but it wasn't done. It shouldn't be possible that such conditions could exist, and had the Superintendent done his duty he would have known all about it before and had the matter put right. He hoped that the Government would have a right inspection, and if the Superintendent couldn't do his work, someone else should be put in his place.

Mr. Coaker also made reference to the Hospital, remarking that the Gov-

ernment knew a good deal but didn't have the moral courage to act. At Mr. Coaker's request the Hospital Estimates were deferred.

The question of Ferries also evoked considerable discussion. **MR. HALFYARD** wanted to know who had charge of the ferry at Change Islands. It seemed, according to the Minister of Public Works, that a man had been appointed who didn't act. A woman, who had two children, now ran it, said Mr. Halfyard, and it was a place that was extremely dangerous to run a ferry. This was a very serious matter that required the immediate attention of the Government, who should get a competent man appointed for the job if it cost them more money, and Mr. Halfyard again asserted that the District of Fogo was not getting its just share of appropriations.

**MR. COAKER** warmly supported Mr. Halfyard's claims regarding the ferry service at Change Islands, commenting on the nature of the place and its importance. He said that he had crossed in this ferry a good many times, and had never found a man on the job. He also emphasised the urgency of the case and said that the Government should have a good man stationed there if it cost them \$250.00 a year. Mr. Coaker also called attention to several supposed ferries that didn't exist.

Lighthouses and fog alarms also called for severe criticism at the hands of Messrs. Coaker, Abbott and Jennings and in this connection the Minister of Fisheries (Piccott) stated that it wouldn't be his fault but the Government's if remedied measures were not applied.

It was, however, in connection with Postal and Telegraph matters that the liveliest engagement for the afternoon took place. In connection with this department **MR. COAKER** drew the attention of Colonial Secretary to negligence and leakages going on that called for immediate attention. Last year in connection with same department he had placed the matter before the House and the time had now come when a thorough inspection should be made of the entire postal and telegraph system. There really was something serious going on, and Mr. Coaker enlarged on various items of Expenditure unaccounted for in connection with telegraph extension—so-called. He also enumerated various items of Supplies from Bills in his possession that had been furnished him which showed gross carelessness and waste on the part of some of the officials that must be promptly dealt with.

Mr. Coaker also drew attention of the Colonial Secretary to the many breaks that occurred in the Telegraph Service and the great delay caused thereby, stating that now with so many men at work on the system repairs ought to be effected within 24 hours. In connection with the whole business Mr. Coaker hoped the Department would have his words reported to them.

**COLONIAL SECRETARY BENNETT** thanked Mr. Coaker for bringing the matter before him. He was quite in accord with the Hon. Member for Twillingate that if such irregularities existed they should be probed and if should be brought before him he would do all in his power to have the matter remedied.

**MR. KENT** thought that if the statements of Mr. Coaker were correct the entire Department should at once be put on a proper basis. He also referred to the current rumour as to the pensioning of the Postmaster-General, if such was the case he hoped that the best possible man for the post available would be secured, having at the same time a due regard to experience, etc.

**THE PREMIER**, replying to Mr. Kent, said that there was no truth in the rumour and that the Government had not been considering any change, whereupon Mr. Coaker, told the Premier he was sorry to hear it, because the present Postmaster, who is now over 70 years of age and was ailing, should be pensioned, and a strong man, the best man you can get, put in the position, and if something of this nature is not done very soon,

he (Mr. Coaker) would move for a Commission of Enquiry.

An exchange of witticisms here occurred between the Premier, Dr. Lloyd and Mr. Coaker, during which Dr. Lloyd referred to Hon. P. T. McGrath as the coming P.M.G. and Mr. Coaker said the same gentleman (McGrath) was slated for the Sheriffship.

An interesting discussion was on connected with the Labrador mail service in which Messrs. Coaker, Jennings and Piccott were active, when recess was taken till 8 o'clock.

House resumed into sitting at 3 p.m., when the discussion on the Question of Supply was continued.

**MR. GRIMES** had some figures to evolve in connection with the Postal Telegraph Office at Brigus. He noticed an increase of \$120 in connection with that office, and he (Mr. Grimes) strongly protested against that unnecessary expenditure on the part of the Government. This was over the way of the present Administration, one had to be a supporter of the Government to be assured of securing a job in the civil service.

He (Mr. Grimes) believed in seniority being recognized and rewarded in the civil service. He believed in raising and promoting any civil servant qualified in acceptance, but he would call the attention of the house to a case in point where a certain person had been given a higher position in the service of the Postal Telegraphs, though he had no previous experience, and the action had simply been the outcome of party pull and danger-on influence.

This kind of thing did not help the Government, did not advance the interests of the Government, or make the movements of the Government popular. Mr. Grimes pointed out that whereas there is more telegraph business transacted at Clark's Beach, the operator there does not receive as large a stipend as the clerk at Brigus. He did not understand this increased outlay of \$120.00, he said where this money could have been, and should be divided between the offices of Clark's Beach and Port de Grave. The whole dealings of the Government with the Civil Service are leading towards demoralizing effects. There is a large margin for readjustment, and he (Mr. Grimes) would hope that when the supplementary vote is taken, this matter will get careful and considerate attention. Mr. Grimes spoke of the assistant to the operator who is drawing a salary, though the volume of work done is too small and insignificant to call for such help. He also understood that this assistant had been placed in the position to the exclusion of a more competent party.

**MR. COAKER** in rising, begged to support the grievance of Mr. Grimes, \$120.00, was simply being wasted in this case. He was glad to prove to the Government from the details of Mr. Grimes' remarks, that whereas members, as a rule, never attempt to curtail unnecessary expenses when those expenses are in connection with those members own constituency, the Opposition were honest enough to dispense with this mistaken precedent, even at the cost of forfeited support. (This point of Mr. Coaker's remarks was loudly applauded.)

**MR. WINSOR**—Would draw the attention of the Government to Postal Telegraph affairs at Brookfield. Money was being squandered, nothing was being done; it was one round of extravagance. The residents of Brookfield should be given a fair show. The Postal Telegraph office at Brookfield had been erected, and fitted out seemingly for the use of Dr. Smith. Dr. Smith was now gone, and since then the people of the place had not enjoyed any privileges from the office. Everything is now there waiting for an operator, so he (Mr. Winsor) hoped that the Government would give the matter necessary and due consideration.

**MR. BENNETT**—The office will be opened if practicable.

**MR. GRIMES**—Would petition the Government to grant the people of Cupids a Postal Telegraph Office. There is already an office with all ap-

pointments there, belonging to the Anglo American Telegraph, a small outlay would arrange this matter. There are some 1500 residents at Cupids and Brigus Cross roads. Those people have now to go up to Brigus to do any telegraph business. He (Mr. Grimes) would advise the Government to consider this matter.

**MR. BENNETT** conceded to the request, and would see what could be done. At the same time he (Mr. Bennett) would say that the returns from the telegraph office at Brigus were not large—nor to the encouragement of opening a new office at Cupids.

**MR. GRIMES**—The returns are not large, because the operator there is a business man, and his own affairs and general business clash with the transactions of the public at Brigus, and who look for which is but just and right—privacy and personal attention.

**MR. STONE** presented a petition from the people of Trinity East. It was a large place, not in touch with other settlements, and he would request that the \$120 which had been paid to the Clarendville office, now be given to an operator at Trinity East.

**DR. LLOYD** had nothing to offer against any persons conducting a telegraph office, but did object to a telegraph office conducting other business as well. Thought that this interfered with the rights of the public, who certainly object to it.

**MR. COAKER** distinctly saw the justice and right of the people in protesting against the above, and fully agreed with Dr. Lloyd re the matter.

**MR. HALFYARD**—Would ask the appointment of a messenger to the Fogo Telegraph office.

**MR. COAKER** read a list of the names of various telegraph lines, which had been interrupted, dating from the early part of 1914 to the close of that year. Mr. Coaker showed that whereas two, three, and four days had been spent in every case in the repair of those lines, the work could have been accomplished from two to five hours. This was not creditable to the department. The head of the Postal Telegraphs was not doing his duty. There are actually 40 blue repairers costing the country over \$11,000. Some cross-firing occurred here between Mr. Coaker and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Coaker wholly protesting to the army of useless Custom officials who swarm the out-ports, draw large salaries and earn not a tithe of the wages paid them.

He (Mr. Coaker) pointed out that Mr. Cashin would not naturally see eye-to-eye with anyone who sought to economise and save, to which Mr. Cashin replied without sense or point that the people North were "cute." Mr. Coaker perceived that the Government were very kind and liberal to some friends in the voting of contingencies.

**MR. JENNINGS** did not see why we had so many sub-collectors. Many of those could be done without. He was of the opinion that such expenses in connection with the Customs at Moreton's Hr. and Exploits could be much curtailed. Cut those salaries, as those men, nine-tenths of their time have nothing to do.

**MR. HALFYARD** brought Mr. Crosbie to book for interfering in Fogo District matters by giving P. J. Bryon of Tilting, \$60 out of Fogo District Grant last Fall and Mr. Hickman protested against the manner in which Mr. Crosbie gave out Bay de Verde District monies and demanded that in future he be consulted, which point the Premier conceded.

Mr. Targett further objected to the office at New Melburne being permitted to remain in Button's store and asked that it be removed.

A Bill dealing with local affairs, wherein the Road Board—an ancient matter—came up for discussion. The Hospital Bill being read a second time, the House adjourned at 11.30 till 3 o'clock this afternoon.

**PRO-GERMANS IN U.S.**

The Gloucester, Mass., Times, remarks: Pro-Germans in the United States never tire of railing against the British "barbarity" of attempting to "starve the German people,"—seventy millions of them, more or less—by shutting off foreign food supplies. They say that the attempt justifies the Germans in retaliating with submarine savagery. And yet the cutting off of a nation's or a city's food supplies has always been recognized as a legitimate war measure. Nobody was foolish enough to protest against the measures taken by the German army in 1871 to starve Paris, with its two millions of people, into surrender. These measures were successful, and we don't believe they have troubled the conscience of a single German since that time.

**BANK CLEARINGS**

London, Ont., April 22.—Bank clearings for the week ending to-day were \$1,673,263 as against \$1,755,701 a year ago.



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