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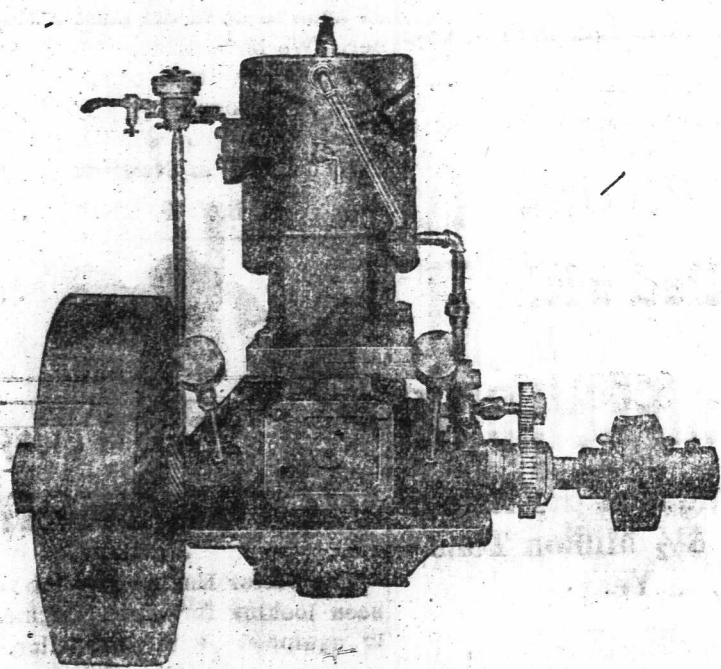
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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Seventh Session of the Twenty-Third General Assembly.

WEDNESDAY, May 8, 1918.

HON. MR. BISHOP (Continued).—

The Minister of Finance is no free booter, he is, as far as my knowledge goes, disposed at all times to be fair and to recognize what is equitable, and I cannot understand how he was influenced to agree to the change that was made in the Bill. It appears, however, that business people are showing a spirit that is consistently loyal and patriotic in respect to the payment of the tax. I refer to this subject here because this House is unlikely to discuss any other Bill imposing taxation.

I feel that the absence of any intimation by the Government that it is intended to open districts this year, which have been for a long time unrepresented or to ask those who have accepted permanent appointments to resign their seats, indicate defiance of public opinion and of constitutional rights which ought not to be countenanced by hon. members here.

I can see no evidence of a desire on the part of the Government as a whole, to sink party differences and to work united and solely for the interest of the state, and those dominating the governing party are losing no opportunity to secure personal and party advantage. There is no real union and it is not intended there shall be.

The speeches delivered in this House upon this Bill will rank among the best ever delivered here and indicate the importance of the measure and the realization of hon. members of their responsibility in relation to it.

There are differences of opinion upon the measure, of course, but I agree with the remarks of Hon. Mr. Goodridge that this measure should not have been coupled with the Military Service Bill nor should it have been sent up to us at the commencement of the session. When the work of the session was nearing completion, it seems to me, be the time that an Extension Bill should come here. The plea that it comes coupled with the other Bill, because the one will be inoperative without the other, is one which the least reflection must convince hon. members is not the real reason.

We have been told by the Prime Minister the aim of the Government is to meet the request made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which is 300 men at once and sixty per month to follow. The 300 are in sight without any Conscription Bill, and two men per day from the whole of Newfoundland is all the Government are aiming at, and yet we are asked to distrust our intelligence and accept the assurance of the Government when they claim that two men per day cannot be secured without the whole and undivided attention of every department of the Government being left undisturbed throughout the year, notwithstanding the fact that Deputy Ministers and an able staff in every department are permanent officials and will do 95 per cent. of the work entailed, anyway.

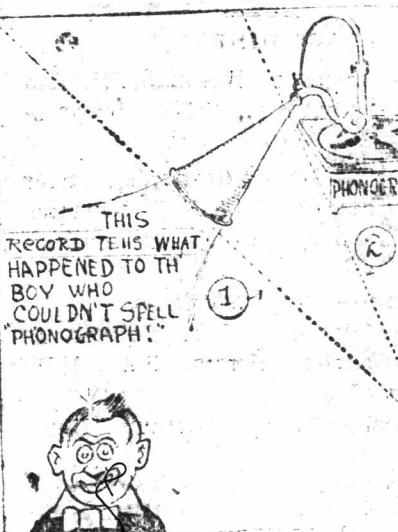
If two or three classes were to be ordered to report at once and the demand was for 1,000 men within three months, I could understand the plea that such an effort might be prejudiced by the holding on an election in October, but when the acknowledged aim is two men per day only, it is an insult to the intelligence of this House to endeavour to make us believe that the enforcement of the Military Service Bill is the real reason for asking an extension of parliament.

Mr. President, the vote will go in favour of the Bill. I am no master of English, but the Prime Minister is, and as such, it must be presumed that Bills which pass the House of Assembly and come up to us are entirely framed in accordance with his instructions, and to meet his ideas. Take the Bill as it is, give it the assent of this House without amendment, and when will the life of the present Government end. Will it be a year hence, will it be at the end of 1919? Oh, no, not unless the war has ended, or the Government elect, because it may suit them, to go to the country they can under this Bill decide in 1919 to extend their term indefinitely. Now, please, don't tell me such is not the intention. There is no person in this House who can, and no person elsewhere who will tell what is the intention. Apart from this Bill, it is my intention and desire to assist the passage of all legislation which is calculated to be of advantage to the Dominion, or the carrying on of the public service, and I believe that is the sentiment of the House.

HON. MR. MEWS—Mr. President, I have very few remarks to make on the Extension Bill now before the House. I listened with great interest to the speech of Hon. Mr. Gibbs yesterday. The subject of representation of the people is one which I have thought of a good deal since I left school, and I enjoyed Hon. Mr. Gibbs' speech because he gave me data, that, perhaps I should never have had the opportunity of gathering in relation to constitutional law and practice. But what mystified me, Mr. President, was the fact that when I turned up the official report of the proceedings of the House of July 26th, 1917, I find that Hon. Mr. Gibbs voted for an extension of Parliament, the very Act that he now declares is illegal and against the Constitution. At the same time Hon. Mr. Gibbs was a member of the Executive and realized exactly what the Bill was and what it involved. Yet now Mr. Gibbs gives an elaborate dissertation on the iniquity of extending the life of Parliament this year. What was all right a year ago is quite wrong this year. Hon. Mr. Gibbs also took us into the realm of figures, following the example of our hon. friend Mr. Anderson. He told us that there were about 125,000 of the population not represented in the lower House. Because members of the House do not happen to be here when legislation is passed it does not necessarily follow that such legislation is at all vitiated. As a matter of fact there are but two districts in the Island which are unrepresented at the present time. There are districts partially represented, but surely such districts cannot be put down as wholly unrepresented. Hon. Mr. Gibbs figures are altogether misleading, and are very far from the truth.

With regard to the reasons for the Extension of Parliament, there are two things to my mind that are of importance. First, the Regiment, second the Imports and Exports of the country. We have just reached our crisis, and while and until that

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Mr. B. E. S. Dunfield Enters the Firm of Job Bros. & Co.

Mr. B. E. S. Dunfield, one of the leading young lawyers of this city, became a director of the long established firm of Job Brothers and Co., Ltd. yesterday. Mr. Dunfield has been regarded as one of the brightest of the younger men at the bar. During the past year or two he had been engaged as counsel in some of the biggest cases before the courts, and had already built up a large and lucrative practise. He takes into his new duties, therefore, the knowledge and experience of a successful practitioner. Mr. Dunfield was at his desk this morning when we called upon him to extend our congratulations. The amount of legal work which necessarily calls for the opinion of the trained mind in big commercial interests has increased in our day, and we feel sure that Mr. Dunfield's associations with the firm of Job Bros. will be of great benefit to the firm.

Published by Authority

MILITIA ORDERS—No. 15.
By Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. Rendell, Chief Staff Officer.

1. Promotion:
Temporary rank of Captain W. J. Pippy made substantive, with effect from 1st October, 1916.

2. Retirement:
Lieut. R. B. Herder is placed on the Reserve List of Officers as from June 30th, 1918.

3. Act of Courage:
The following noble act was performed by No. 744, Acting Staff Q. M. S. H. S. Batson, Royal Newfoundland Regiment:
"On April 15th he voluntarily submitted to the transfusion of 300 cubic centimeters of his blood, in order to help save the life of a patient in the London Hospital."

W. F. RENDELL, Lieut. Col.,
Chief Staff Officer.
July 2nd, 1918.

Invested With M.C.

Word has been received that on June 29th, Captain J. Clift was invested with the Military Cross, by His Majesty the King, at Buckingham Palace.

Weather Forecast

TORONTO (noon).—Fresh to strong South Easterly winds with local showers and much fog to-day and on Thursday.

The wise business man advertises in the newspaper that reaches the greatest number of readers—try an ad in THE ADVOCATE.

crisis it tackled no one will want an election. Whether that crisis was caused by the present Government or past Governments—does not concern us—it has been tackled and in a manner acceptable to all members of both Houses.

And yet the passing of the M. S. Act is not the only thing, there must be unity if its enforcement would be harmoniously carried out. The Government are not afraid of an election. I see no reason why they should be, but they are certainly in earnest in looking after the needs of the Regiment, and in making sure that in these unusual times our trade shall not fail, and that the year may see us enjoying as much prosperity as we may expect.

On motion of Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Patent Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Bishop in the Chair.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I do not think these bills should be allowed to go through without some explanation. I personally do not know what this Bill means.

HON. MR. SQUIRES—In response to the inquiry of the Hon. Mr. Harvey I would say that this action is merely intended to correct an irregularity which appears in Chapter 109 of the Consolidated Statutes entitled "Patents." Section 4 of that Chapter provides that before any person shall receive any Letters Patent that person shall take oath that he believes that the patent has not been known or used in Newfoundland or in any other country. Section 10 provides that an applicant shall not be deprived of his right to take out a patent in Newfoundland by reason of his having previously taken out Letters Patent for the same invention in any other country, subject to a certain provision that the invention shall not have been introduced into the Colony and in public use in Newfoundland prior to his application for a patent in Newfoundland.

(To be Continued.)

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