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powder and industrial processes which the East had produced. He was an innovator as a military architect and as a bridge builder. He opened the eyes of the business men of Europe and through them of the world as we know it to-day, to the possibilities of trade with the Orient. He knew at least three of the important languages of the East, and stimulated the West to a study of them. He described accurately valuable regions with which Europe did not really get in touch until the nineteenth century, and this in spite of the fact that his explorations came in the last part of the thirteenth century.

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Longest and Stormiest Session of House.

Exposures of Government Wrong Doing--Sensational Administration Scandals--A Review of 1921 Proceedings.

(Continued)
THE IRRESPONSIBLES.
The less said of the Government members, the better, for if one searched the world over it would be impossible to find a more incompetent set of men than those who sit on the Speaker's left. To call them irresponsibles is perhaps paying them a compliment for they are devoid of all reason, power and for four months sat quietly through a storm of hostile criticism, which was so true and so pointed that it would have generated the hide of a rhinoceros. The Executive Council have already been dealt with. Of those who held office without seats in the cabinet there is little to be said. Mr. Cave, the Minister of Shipping is a follower of Sir Richard Squires and Mr. Jennings, the Minister of Public Works is a Coakerite. Both of these men are negligible. Mr. Jennings, however, with the control of the Public Works Department in his hands, had to stand some severe criticism in the House and his replies were not such as would do him a great deal of credit. He was most unwise at times and brought a great deal of unnecessary trouble on his head through his lack of tact and his hasty temper. Of the remaining Government members, eight were Coakerites. Bound to their leader by obligation, (as if any man could serve two masters), these men were mere puppets. They lacked initiative, spirit, courage—everything that goes to the make-up of a man. Their personalities were completely effaced and they bowed silently to the dictates of the despotic Mr. Coaker. Through them the Minister of Marine and Fisheries kept a tight hold on the Prime Minister. Through them he could control the Government. They had been elected because they were his nominees. If he had put waxfigures up for election in 1919 they would have been returned, such was Mr. Coaker's influence in the North. Sed tempora mutantur! The remaining members of the Squires party were also lacking in spirit. They realized the terrible position in which the Government had placed the country, but did not have the courage to cross the floor or take an independent stand. All that is, except Mr. Frank Archibald of St. John's, who proved himself a true man. More will be said of him later.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.
At this juncture a brief explanation of Parliamentary procedure in connection with the Speech from the Throne may not be out of place. At the time called for the opening of the Legislature, the Governor attends at the Legislative Council Chamber. The members of the Council are present in their seats, whilst outside the Bar of the House stand the Speaker and members of the Lower House. His Excellency is handed a speech which he reads from the President's desk. This is what is known as the Speech from the Throne. It has been previously prepared by the Prime Minister in conjunction with his cabinet, and contains, in brief, the policy of the Government during the coming session. After the Speech from the Throne has been read to both Houses assembled in the Council Chamber, the Governor takes his departure, and the members of the Assembly return to their own Chamber. There, the Speech is again read, but this time, by the Speaker. Two members of the Government who have been previously selected for the task, then respectively, and in speeches of varying length, move and second "that a Select Committee of this House be appointed to draft an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne."

On the address in Reply being presented, it is open for debate before adoption. No member may, however, speak more than once to a motion before the House unless he should speak to an amendment moved and seconded after he has spoken. As a consequence, when there is much to be criticized in the Speech from the Throne, all the addresses are lengthy. Generally, however, the Address in Reply is adopted within two or three days of the opening of the House.

AN EMPTY DOCUMENT.
Never in the history of Responsible Government in this country, has a Speech from the Throne of such an empty nature, so devoid of policy, been delivered as that which was read by H. E. the Governor on March 30th, 1921. It was apparent to all that the country was in a bad state financially. Our fish markets were gone, over half a million quintals of fish were in the country unsold, people were starving! Despite all this, to quote Sir Michael Cashin, "there is not one ray of hope in the Speech, nor one statement of what has been done or will be done."

The salient points of the Speech were few, and all were of minor importance when compared with the real difficulties which confronted the Government. The paragraph dealing with the Fish Regulations would have been laughable in the extreme, were the matter not such a serious one. Consider this extract: "The practical application by the Board (The Codfish Exportation Board) of the policy so unanimously adopted has met with difficulties as well as those inherent in all policies which seek to regulate the trade of nations."

This was the manner in which the Government dismissed the Regulations which had effected the economic ruin of the country. The next paragraph dealt with the Labrador Boundary and the likelihood of a speedy settlement of this question. The two paragraphs which followed, dealt with the financial condition of the colony. As a consequence of world depression, the year was expressed that there would be "a large shrinkage in revenue for the current fiscal year." It was further intimated that the "necessary readjustment of expenditure to income" was under consideration. This would mean that economy of the strictest nature would have to be practiced and the necessary curtailments would be very large. Legislation was promised in connection with the German Indemnity!

The announcement was made that the Prime Minister had been invited to attend the Imperial conference to be held at London in June. Legislation was promised in connection with the exportation of pulp wood, the welfare of children, inland and coastal transportation, and the Charter for the City of St. John's. All this, and nothing more did the Speech from the Throne contain. Not an inkling of any policy of reconstruction manifested itself in the Speech. No legislation of importance was intimated. Indeed, an empty document.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.
Never before was a Speech from the Throne debated at greater length than was that which has just been reviewed. Never has a Government had to stand such severe criticism, and criticism which ranked all the more because it was deserved. For four weeks the Government members sat silently in their places whilst amidst after amidst was brought home to them through this storm of hostile criticism they sat immovable, unable to reply. They seemed to be in a trance.

The motion for a Select Committee was made by Mr. Scammell, a member of the Coaker party. Young, and a talented speaker, he made the best of a bad job. But his statements lacked conviction. In the words of the Leader of the Opposition, "He made a good case out of nothing." Capt. Jones, another Coaker member, seconded the motion. His address was negligible, delivered as it was in a low tone and from typewritten manuscript. Sir Michael Cashin, on the first day, opened the debate which was to last for a period of a month. He delivered a powerful speech in which he ridiculed everything contained in the Speech from the Throne, and said it was "impertinence on the part of the Government to come in with such a Speech and ask the House to swallow it." Sir Michael touched briefly on the revenue which in an address of over seven hours duration, he later elaborated on. Amongst other statements made by him, was that our purchasing power had dropped over \$20,000,000. He estimated further that at the end of the fiscal year our revenue would be short \$3,000,000. How true a prophet Sir Michael was will be shown later when the Budget Speech is reviewed.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.
Early in the session the Auditor General's Report was tabled by the Prime Minister upon the insistent demand of the Opposition and the information gleaned from this Report formed the chief basis of the Opposition speeches on the Address in Reply. Never before have so many scandals been revealed in connection with any Newfoundland Government. In this review it is both impossible and impracticable to deal at any length with these revelations of administrative incompetency, but they must receive at least passing mention. Of primary importance is, perhaps, the appropriation of Government funds for the purchase of fish. It had long been suspected that the Government had guaranteed the price of fish to certain merchants in November 1920, but no actual proof could be obtained until it was fully revealed in the Auditor General's Report. The first point to be considered in connection with this fish purchase was that it was done not only without legislative sanction, but even whilst the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice were absent from the country. Secondly, it was a most discriminatory act for only the fishermen of the North benefited. And thirdly, the authority to purchase this fish was given to only three merchants, all of whom were Government supporters. The amount appropriated by Hon. W. Coaker for the fish was \$500,000 but a little over \$350,000 was used, the rest of the money being returned to the surplus Trust Fund from which it had been taken. All the men who benefitted by this discriminatory and illegal guarantee were constituents of Mr. Coaker. If he had not given the guarantee the influence he held over the Northern people would have been lost permanently. During the debate on the Address in Reply further startling statements were made in this connection by Sir John Coakley, but these will be dealt with later.

THE SALT SCANDAL.
The next revelation of importance was that connected with salt. It was found that some time in 1920 S.S. Tuckaboe brought a cargo of German salt to this country, and it was unloaded at Port Union. The cost of this salt to the Government was \$77,767.02. According to the Auditor General's Report, this salt was sold to some firm, at a loss of over \$10,000.00. Not only did the Government make this large loss on the transaction, but the firm which bought the salt had not paid for it up to the date that the Report was tabled. That shipping was an expensive item in Government accounts was also shown by the Report. The British Admiralty were kind enough to present our Government with "four condemned trawlers." These trawlers were fitted up for our coastal service, for which they are entirely unsuited, at the cost of \$256,000. An expensive gift if ever there were one! Another gift from the benevolent British Admiralty was H.M.S. Lobelia which for considerably over a year has lain at anchor in the harbor, a menace to shipping services and a heavy loss. She has so far cost only \$25,820.85. Still, she has proved rather an expensive toy. Finally, there was the sugar scandal. The action of the Food Control Board had for months been the subject of much unfavourable comment. Now it was found that this criticism was deserved for from the 2nd portor General's Report, it was discovered that there was a huge balance against the Board of \$105,443.38. Was there necessary curtailments would be very large. Legislation was promised in connection with another Government which



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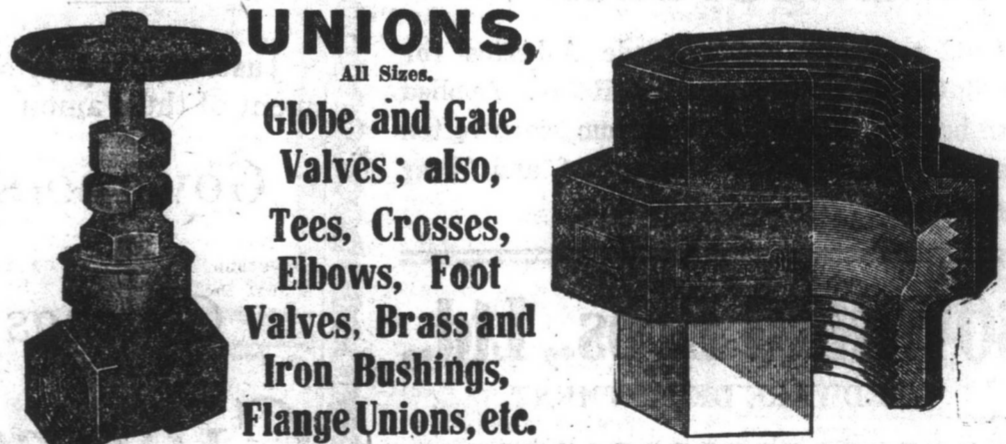
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could hold the reins of power unshaken after exposures such as these? (To be continued)
For an appetizer at a formal dinner Put a little currant jelly in the heart one might have poached eggs, neatly trimmed and served cold in a sauce of lettuce which accompanies the ravigote. It will delight both eyes and palate.