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THE DAILY MAIL.

WEATHER REPORT.

Toronto (noon)—Strong winds and gales N.W. to N., decreasing to-night; local snow flurries but generally fair and very cold to-day and on Saturday.

VOLUME 1, No. 26.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1914.

PRICE:—1 CENT.

THE DAILY MAIL CAUSED SOME HEARTBURNINGS AT HOUSE YESTERDAY.

Member for Ferryland Roused Up By The Letter Of "Success"

GOVERNMENT PUTS SUPPLY THROUGH

Ignores Opposition's Demand For Appointment Of Ministers.

The climax of an exciting session was reached yesterday when a few minutes before six, Mr. Moore, the member for Ferryland, closely followed by the Minister of Finance and other members rushed into the Assembly room. In his right hand Mr. Moore carried a paper, which proved to be a copy of The Daily Mail. The member for Ferryland was in a very excited condition, as he rose in his seat to a question of privilege and asked permission of the Speaker to make a personal explanation to the House. He read part of a letter from a correspondent published in yesterday's Daily Mail headed "If I Were Premier" in which it is stated that Mr. Moore, in a certain club room in the city had made references of an insulting character to the Salvation Army coat worn by the honorable member for Twillingate, Mr. Jennings.

In tones which could be heard far beyond the precincts of the Assembly Chamber, Mr. Moore repudiated the charge. He also assured the House and the honorable member, that he, Mr. Moore, held the Salvation Army in the highest esteem.

As to the cut of Mr. Jennings's coat he had not even noticed the pattern until this very afternoon.

Accepted the Explanation.

Mr. Jennings very graciously accepted the honorable member's disclaimer. He had worn the coat because it happened to be the only one he had with him; but if the rules of the House were in any way infringed upon he would endeavor to get one of a more conventional cut ere the Committee met again.

Mr. Jennings's bon homme captured the Government benches from the Speaker's right down the line.

Mr. Coaker disclaimed any knowledge of the contribution which had appeared in The Daily Mail this afternoon.

After adjournment Mr. Higgins made a bee line for Mr. Coaker's seat and engaged in an animated conversation with the F.P.U. President, while at the same time the Hon. Jno. C. Crosbie struck out for the N.E. corner

of the back row benches and when last heard from was discussing the Coaker Sealing Bill with Messrs. Abbott and Winsor, the Bonavista F.P.U. members.

Forced it Through.

Of more general interest to the Country was the action of the Government yesterday in putting through by sheer force of numbers, the votes for supply for the Department of Agriculture and Mines. The Opposition have repeatedly protested against the delay in appointing a Ministerial head for this important department, pointing out that this conduct is absolutely unconstitutional and contrary to all Parliamentary precedent.

The House met at the usual hour yesterday. All the seats were quickly taken up. Some little delay occurred awaiting arrival of members, as it was expected there would be "something doing" before the Order of the Day had been far proceeded with.

A question by Mr. Clift asking for a detailed statement of all expenditures under the heading of Old Age Pensions for the year 1912-1913, and from the 30th of June 1913 to date is in course of preparation; a statement showing the expenditure under the heading of Tuberculosis Campaign during the same period had already been tabled.

Extend Limits of District.

Leave was granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Act entitled "Representation in the House of Assembly and the Powers and Privileges thereof" and the Bill read a first time. This makes a simple change in the present law extending the territorial limits of Twillingate district.

The Prime Minister also has a Bill on the Order paper, the scope of which is to give the Government certain powers to investigate Combines and Monopolies. He may rely on the hearty support of such a Bill by the Opposition.

Mr. Coaker's campaign last spring which destroyed the Salt Combine and his bringing the S.S. Kintail to St. John's last month with a load of cheap coal to help the City's poor may have something very real to do with the Government's activity along these lines.

Anti-Trust legislation is amongst the most difficult to formulate and to put into force as it is intended to reach a genteel class of speculators which will permit them to plunder both public utilities and the poor man's pocketbook within the letter of the law.

The votes in Supply for Postal, Telegraph and Steam Boat Mail Subsidies were put through Committee.

ROYAL TOUR ARRANGED

London, Feb. 12.—Preliminary plans for the tour of the British Empire by the Prince of Wales, and, possibly, Prince Albert in 1915, have been drafted. They will probably go first to Australia and New Zealand, returning by Canada and the States. The visit to India has been reserved for a later date.

Mr. Hickman Interrogated

The Prime Minister re the law suit between the Commercial Cable Co. and the Government. The Morris Government had repudiated the contract entered into by the late administration. In an action taken by the Cable Company the Privy Council had decided against the Newfoundland Government and he (Mr. Hickman) understood the Colony stood to be mulcted for heavy damages.

Another matter which the member for Bay de Verde brought up was the exorbitant rate charged Labrador fishermen by the Reid Nfd. Company for handling Marconi messages. We had twelve Marconi stations on Labrador and messages were sent under our contract with the Company at the rate of five cents per word or 50 cents for 10 words. But to repeat a similar message from a Marconi station to one of Reid's ships for delivery at a Labrador port were there was no Marconi station, the Reid Nfd. Co. made a charge of \$2.20. This figured out meant that a ten word message sent to Venison Island and repeated to the mail steamer Kyle cost the sender or the person whose business it was to pay for the message \$2.70.

Exorbitant Charge.

Now this was altogether an exorbitant charge and some better arrangement should be entered into. The Labrador fishermen also claim that some of the Marconi stations are miles away from the settlements. This was also a great inconvenience and some system of telephoning would be very beneficial. It would be a good idea to take this matter into consideration, when the general question of extension of the telephone system was being considered.

Mr. Stone asked the Colonial Secretary, if he was prepared to state the reasons why Mr. Gardner had been dismissed from the job of mail courier between British Harbor and Ireland's Eye, Trinity Bay. Hon. Mr. Bennett read a copy of a letter he had just received from the P.M.G. This letter will bear some F.P.U. scrutiny. A copy of that letter was asked for by Mr. Coaker and the end of why Gardner, an F.P.U. man, lost his job because he was an F.P.U. man is not yet.

Case Still On.

The Premier replied to Mr. Hickman, the Commercial Cable Company case was still before the Courts and he did not consider it expedient to go into the matter particularly at the present time.

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CITIZENS ENDORSE REFORMS

Big Public Meeting Accepts Proposals Of The Committee

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Petition To Be Presented To The House Of Assembly Soon.

The general meeting of citizens in the Casino Theatre last night to receive the report of the Citizens' Committee re municipal matters was largely attended, all classes being represented and the greatest enthusiasm was manifested.

The meeting was called to order a few minutes past eight by the Chairman, Mr. W. G. Gosling, who has associated with him on the platform Hons. J. Harris, J. Hawley, M. P. Gibbs; Messrs. C. O'N. Conroy, F. W. Angel, C. P. Ayre, J. Penelon, F. Bradshaw, G. Shea, G. Power, E. M. Jackman, F. McNamara, J. C. Barter, Dr. Brehm, W. R. Howley.

In the audience we noted Hon. M. G. Winter, Mr. A. E. Hickman, Rev. Dr. Curtis, Rev. H. Uphill, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Mitchell, Messrs. J. S. Munn, F. W. Ayre, Gerald Harvey, E. A. Bowring, W. J. Clouston, C. R. Thompson, and many others, all believing that municipal reform is needed and anxious to assist in the work.

Opening Address

Mr. Gosling in his opening address briefly reviewed the work of the Committee in its preparation of the report. He first wished to make it clear that there was no intention of making an attack on the present Municipal Council. He sympathized with that Board, because he knew how limited their powers were. In fact our Municipal Councils have done marvellously considering the conditions they have labored under.

He then covered the whole ground and cited some other cities abroad as good examples. Mr. Gosling then read the Report of the Committee.

Resolution Passed

Hon. J. Harris followed, and after congratulating the previous speaker, moved the following resolution: WHEREAS the present deplorable condition of the city of St. John's is a matter of serious concern both to its citizens and to the general population of the Colony, with whose interests the welfare of the capital city is closely connected; AND WHEREAS under the existing law the Municipal Council are fully occupied in carrying out to the best of their ability a system which they did not create, and which has proved utterly inadequate to the needs of the

LOARDS TURN DOWN HOME RULE BILL

London, Feb. 12.—The Lords to-day passed an amendment to the Address in Reply by 243 to 55, demanding a General Election on Home Rule.

city, and have neither the time nor the machinery at their disposal for the study of a scheme for reforming that system so as to bring it into line with modern requirements;

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of this meeting it is in the interest of the city that a larger body of electors should have an opportunity of studying the civic problem at first hand;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a petition from the citizens of St. John's be presented to the Legislature praying that the next Municipal Election be deferred until June, 1915, and that upon the expiration of the term of the present Council the government of the city be vested in a Board of 12 citizens to be appointed by the Governor in Council, to hold office for 12 months, to act without pay or remuneration of any kind, to study during their term of office the whole civic problem, and to submit to the citizens by plebiscite in time for action at the 1915 session of the Legislature their recommendations for the improvement of the Municipal Act.

Reform Questions

Mr. Harris thought very little could be said in the matter. The passing of the resolution would be the endorsement of the Committee's work. The question of reform had loomed largely of late and for this reason the Committee thought the best place to discuss the resolution proposed was at a public meeting.

The movement, continued Mr. Harris, is by no means an attempt to belittle the work or the earnestness of the present or past Councils. With the facilities and means at their disposal they had done well. In fact they showed remarkable courage to undertake and accomplish what they did. He regretted, however, that a more systematic and proper distribution of the water supply had not been made during the past four or five years, following the expense of laying the new 16 inch main. In the city, according to the engineer's report, 11,230 feet of street was without any water connection, and 19,000 feet of street was connected with 4 inch mains that were so corroded that it was impossible to tell the bore. It was true the Council had laid many feet of pipes and installed sewerage, but his idea was that the city first be given a proper water supply, and then sewerage.

Had Worked Hard

Mr. C. P. Ayre seconded the Resolutions and said: "I wish to refer briefly to the work done by the Executive Committee. The excellent report to which we have listened is an indication that someone has been hard at work. It re-

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HOME RULE HAS ALREADY BEEN PASSED TWICE BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

But The House Of Lords Turned It Down On Each Occasion.

PROVISIONS OF HOME RULE BILL

Limits The Powers Of The Irish Houses Of Parliament.

London, Feb. 11.—The present session of the British House of Commons is the third at which the Irish Home Rule Bill has been brought up for a final reading, and judging from speeches that have been made at the various sittings so far by Unionist members the measure bids fair to receive even more active opposition now than at former times.

The Home Rule Bill has already passed through all its stages at two sessions of the House of Commons under the Asquith administration, but on each occasion it was rejected by the House of Lords. Under the Parliament Act any Bill passed three times in succession by the House of Commons automatically becomes law, after it receives the consent of the Sovereign, whether passed by the House of Lords or not. If the Irish Home Rule Bill passes through all its stages in the House of Commons this time it will therefore become law whether the Peers assent or dissent.

Unalterably Opposed

The leaders of the Unionist Party have expressed themselves as being unalterably opposed to the measure unless the Province of Ulster is excluded from its provisions and to such an alternative the Liberal ministry absolutely refuses to assent. It was hoped that the recent proposal of Sir Horace Plunkett that Ulster should take Home Rule on approval for a few years, with the option of backing out at the end of the time if it wished, would satisfy the politicians who professed to be anxious to safeguard the rights, privileges and liberties of the people of the protesting Province. But the Unionist leaders of the Ulster agitation are scornful of the proposal and declaring that they will have nothing to do with the Home Rule measure unless it be modelled according to their own particular ideas of what would suit the north of Ireland.

Encouraged the Agitators

The Liberal administrators on the other hand have really gone out of their way to hold out the olive branch, which doubtless has had the effect of encouraging Carson and the other prominent Unionists in their career of agitation. It is doubtless that the

opposition leaders wish to have the matter settled amicably for Carson speaking in the House of Commons to-day refused to pledge himself to abide by the results of the general election which he and his colleagues have suggested as an alternative to and amended-to-death Home Rule Bill. Of the Liberal leaders Churchill is the one who has shown himself most anxious to be conciliatory. Redmond is urging the Government to "go full steam ahead" with this business and Lloyd George, the fighting member of the Cabinet, is understood to be fully in accord with the Nationalist leader. Churchill on the other hand has expressed himself on more than one occasion as being extremely desirous to see a settlement of this question reached by mutual agreement between the parties concerned.

Advantages of a Settlement

"A settlement by agreement," said Mr. Churchill at Dundee, "would offer advantages far beyond anything now in sight. Peace is better than triumph, provided it is peace with honour. Are we quite sure that such a peace is impossible? Our Bill is not unalterable and the procedure of the Parliament Act renders far-reaching alterations possible, but only upon one condition—there must be agreement."

"Only one thing would make it worth while, or even possible, to recast or alter the measure on which so much depends. It is a very simple thing—goodwill."

"Only one thing could compensate the Irish Parliament for that grievous loss to its efficiency and strength which would result from even the temporary absence of the representation of Ulster—I mean the binding in honour of both political parties in this country to carry a settlement through and bring it in the course of years to final and complete success."

Provisions of the Bill

The Home Rule Bill, which has been up as so many sessions of the House of Commons and over which so many legislative battles royal have been fought provides that the supreme power and authority of the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall remain unaffected and undiminished over all persons, matters and things in Ireland and every part thereof.

After the day of the first meeting of the Irish Parliament the members returned by Irish constituencies to the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall be reduced from one hundred and three to forty-two members. The first Tuesday in the eighth month after the month in which the Act is passed is set as the date for the first meeting of the proposed new Irish Parliament, which is to consist (Continued on page 2)

RINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus.

