

Tenders Required!

Tenders are requested for extension to the water works and sewerage system of the Town of Corner Brook. Also for the street grading work within the town site. Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of Mr. F. W. Angel, Board of Trade Building, St. John's, and at the Offices of Messrs. Pickings & Wilson, Halifax, Canada. Tenders for all or part of the work to be addressed to the Newfoundland Power & Paper Company, Limited, Corner Brook. Mark tenders for sewers and water works, or street grading, whichever part the tender covers. Tenders must be received at Corner Brook not later than April 8th, 1925.

House of Assembly Proceedings

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 1925.

PETITIONS.
HON. J. J. LONG presented a petition from Lord's Cove, in the district of Burin, on the subject of a road. Mr. H. B. C. Lake gave the petition his support.

MR. HALFYARD presented a petition from Hodge's Cove on the subject of a road. Hon. Mr. Woodford supported the petition.

MR. C. J. CAHILL presented a petition from Harbour Main on the subject of a road. Hon. Mr. Woodford supported the petition.

THE PRIME MINISTER presenting his first petition to the House said that coming from the side of the House it was like talking to oneself. The petition was from the people of Bonavista Bay signed by 200 people. It asked that the old age pensions be granted to the widows of the old age pensioners. He said that when last in Bonavista Mr. Lawrence gave a speech calling attention to the fact that very often the old lady who had borne the burden and heat of the day with the old fishermen was left destitute when he died, and asked if it might not be possible for the Government to have the old age pension continued to the old lady after her partner's death. The Prime Minister stated that this suggestion appealed to Captain Winsor and himself as being just and reasonable, and since the whole party has expressed approval.

THE PRIME MINISTER tabled further correspondence in relation to the Labrador Boundary question. (Correspondence appears in another column). He said he hoped that the House is satisfied that they have done everything in their power in connection with the settlement of this matter out of Court. There had been certain satirical references to their sort of junketing party to Montreal, but he pointed out they did not court any

trip there. They received an invitation from Mr. Taschereau to come to Montreal to discuss the matter, and it appeared to him that it would have been very wrong for this country to have refused the invitation on that occasion. They were asked to come up and discuss the Labrador Boundary question, and they could do nothing else but go up. The House would realize that everything possible has been done, and now the Attorney General will try and get the Ottawa authorities to bring the case before the Privy Council so that a settlement of the dispute as quickly as possible may be made.

MR. WARREN said that at the beginning of the session there was a great deal of criticism of his connection with the Labrador Boundary question, and now he shared that with the honourable gentlemen who went to Montreal a few months ago. He considered a long time ago that the boundary question was one that was a case for settlement, and he was glad indeed when the Prime Minister took advantage of the invitation from Ottawa—from the Dominion of Canada to go there and talk over the matter of a settlement of the question. He considered that the Prime Minister has made every possible effort to settle a case which, in his opinion ought to be settled, if possible. Continuing he said it seems now that the question will have to be settled before the Privy Council, and he hoped that the Attorney General would make every effort to see that the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Quebec will, with all possible speed, bring their case to completion, as ours is now completed.

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE said that for the information of the House, and following out what the Hon. Member for Fortune had said, even while this correspondence was going on, and about a week following their return from Canada he wrote officially to Mr. Taschereau to have his case

ready for presentation, but the correspondence may have given an excuse to postpone the filing of the case. It is possible that these negotiations being carried on might have afforded some excuse for delay, but he agreed with the Hon. Member for Fortune, that now there is no further excuse in that direction, and we will certainly ask immediately that the case be filed.

MR. HICKMAN said he did not see how it could be claimed that the matter was one for settlement out of court. He was altogether set back and surprised that the Prime Minister should intimate that he would accept a small sum of 15 millions. He believed the water powers alone worth half our public debt. Taking the timber in to consideration according to Mr. Halfyard's valuation in a speech on the question, it alone was worth 153 million dollars figuring the wood at \$1 per cord. He felt glad that Canada had turned down the Government offer to Canada.

Before the House went into Committee of the Whole on supply, resolutions in connection with Justice Education and Public Charities Department were given second reading.

SUPPLY.

When the speaker put the motion that I do now leave the chair, Mr. Warren moved an amendment and took occasion to refer to answers he had received relative to the Railway and Liquor Control. He said it was a well established rule that no supplies may be granted before there is a redress of grievances. He discussed at some length the standing of the Railway Commission and the Board of Liquor Control. He suggested that a vote "in toto" be incorporated in the estimates for all expenditures for the Railway Commission and for the Board of Liquor Control.

The motion that the Speaker do now leave the chair being put, was passed and the House went into Committee on the Whole on Supply.

MR. ASHBORNE speaking on the vote for Marine & Fisheries thought that it was very inadequate and he thought it ridiculous to be asked to vote \$20,000 for the fisheries, especially as \$20,000 was to be allocated for the encouragement of Agriculture. He did not understand the apathy of the Government towards the fisheries. He thought that there was very little evidence of economy in other directions. If it was necessary to increase many of the votes it would be the duty of the Opposition to insist that more money be expended for repairs and that would benefit the fishery. Referring to the sealing industry, he said, as far as the sealers on the front are concerned it looks as if there will be just about a saving voyage. We should have certain information in this colony as regards the breeding seals so that we might be able to get some idea as to whether the seals are in sufficient numbers to send ten or eleven or twelve steamers to the sealfishery every year. As we do not want to have the seals exterminated the Government ought to make some move in this important subject. Regarding the report of Mr. Huxman on the temperature of water, he intended this year to fit all their schooners with thermometers.

In regard to the Fisheries Department, he suggested getting a statistician here so that we may gather data and have it at our fingers end when needed. He congratulated the Marine & Fisheries Department on the manner in which the cod liver oil industry is being developed. The time will come when Newfoundland will have to depend for its own protection and for its own life not only on the catching and on its curing but on the utilisation of the waste products that are being thrown away to-day. And the time will come when we shall have a development in Newfoundland of the curing of cod roes. In Norway they derive an income of about a million and a half from the cod roes Newfoundland derives practically nothing from this source. Caplin are used for bait and food in the outports, but nothing has been done to make them a source of revenue. The squid had not been exploited to any extent and in regard to herring fishery Norway with a population two or three times that of Newfoundland we should have an income from this industry of about seven millions of dollars. Instead of that we get about a half a million. Mr. Ashbourne urged that the time is opportune when some standardization might take place, whereby the quality of our fish might be perhaps improved from what it is now. Speaking of the halibut he said, halibut industry, they have halibut over at Port au Port, and they fish for it in about twenty fathoms of water. In England they fish for halibut in one hundred to one hundred and fifty fathoms of water; and to-day we find that there are only seventy thousand pounds of halibut being exported per year from Newfoundland. We are also told that there are English and Norwegian trawlers going to Greenland, and that this year the Norwegians will probably send some vessels to Newfoundland in order to catch halibut, and take it back fresh to England. What are we doing in this regard? We are doing nothing. And yet there is an enormous supply of halibut on the West Coast. There are a great many things that need speaking of in these estimates. There are many increases, but there are very few decreases to be found. In regard to stenographers

they are getting a sum that is in excess of what the average fisherman in the outports—the family man gets in a year to support his family. In regard to pensions he thought they should be taken out of the arena of politics and he wished to know why it was that men who got good salaries had been pensioned as such high rates. He endorsed what had been said by the member for Burin in regard to old age pensions. He considered that the fishery service had been neglected whilst the government could find money for anything else.

MR. H. B. C. LAKE pointed out that Mr. Ashbourne, being a member of the Fishery Board, was equally responsible with him and all others on the Government side for the meagre vote for that purpose. He felt sure that the party of which he had the honour to belong was taking the necessary steps to encourage the fishery industry and that as soon as the Board had the chance that the previous party had, they would do something really worth while for the industry. He knew that this Government would take such steps as could be taken to encourage the fisheries. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries was a man who knew his job and who would attend to it. To-day on the S.W. Coast they had a twenty-five per cent. increase in the bank fishery over last year. Referring to the matter of pensioning he pointed out that the Prime Minister had forecasted when he presented a petition on the subject. Upon some interruption on the part of Mr. Halfyard, he said that he opposed the scheme of giving pensions to men who drew full salaries all their life, as the Honourable member for Trinity had done.

MAJOR CASHIN pointed out in reply to Mr. Lake's remarks, of the previous day, that the men of Ferryland did not want to hinder the work of the bank fishermen. He suggested that the petition that Mr. Lake had referred to, was to prevent the hauling of bait in little coves and creeks where there was not enough to supply the shore fishermen. The fishermen of the Southern Shore, he asserted, were fishermen of the best possible type, and did not desire to hinder the work of any branch of the industry. He was as strong an advocate of the fishermen as either Mr. Lake or Mr. Ashbourne.

The weak spot in the fisheries was the total lack of interest taken in by the trade of Water Street. The bank fishery, which thirty years ago was prosecuted by some 157 sail, to-day consisted of only 30 sail. Why, in that time, from Bay Bulls in his district, there were 27 vessels going to the banks, commanded by Williams. Now there is not one vessel. The reason for this was that to-day there were no merchants in St. John's supplying bankers with the exception of Mr. Monroe and Harvey & Co., at their Bellefleur branch. From certain facts and figures he showed that the bank fishery of Lunenburg showed a profit that we might have had. Last week the Fishery Board asked the exporters to meet them and discuss fishery matters. Mr. Templeman, Mr. Baird, of the Monroe Export Company, Mr. Baird, Jr., of James Baird, Ltd., and Mr. Outerbridge, of Harvey's, exclusive of the exporters on the Board, were the only ones who attended. This was indicative of the apathy displayed by the exporters. He was an advocate of a law to compel exporters to put the article in a package that the label calls for.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES, speaking on behalf of his Department, pointed out that one individual could not always have his way in Government. There were many calls and a lot of opinions to be considered. He had heard that this Government were doing nothing for the fishermen. He did not mind that coming from Mr. Ashbourne or Mr. Hickman, but he did object to such remarks coming from anyone who sat under the rule of Sir R. A. Squires or Sir W. F. Coaker during their term of office. They were a group of men who had driven a lot of fishermen out of the country, and had driven a lot more almost to starvation. The Prime Minister had offered a bonus on fish provided that the finances of the country allowed of it and if the price of fish was low and demanded it and the Minister was pleased to state the bonus was never demanded. The bounty given on shipbuilding would cost the taxpayers forty to fifty thousand dollars this year and he asked if this was not encouraging the fisheries. In the proposed highway construction the Government were taking a chance, but they were simply doing as all fishermen did, and that was taking a chance. We had to have roads, for in his own district alone there were 45 miles of coast without even a footpath. There were no bridges to get across the streams and it is a great hardship to the men who had to travel along that coast owing to the lack of bridges. Especially was this so between Gambo and Wesleyville. The men in their travelling, when they came to an overflowing brook had to take off their clothes and swim across.

MR. HALFYARD—How did they get their clothes across?
CAPTAIN WINSOR—They had to risk throwing it across in some way, but if you had been there you would be like Lot's wife, turn back and become a pillar of salt. (This remark, at the expense of the member for Trinity, brought down the House). When he assumed office he found that the Fishery Board had been

abolished, because he supposed his predecessor had felt capable of running the Department all by himself. Referring to lighthouses, the Minister said they are in a deplorable state, and had been badly neglected. Since he assumed office he had erected six and repaired three others. They got the money by buying the supplies for the lighthouses cheaper than they were bought before. That is where he got it. When he went down to that department there were bills coming in there for thirty cents a pound for rope, and he rang up certain parties and asked them what it meant, and they told him that it was a special kind of rope. It was plain Manila rope that he could get anywhere in town for twenty-five cents a pound. Referring to Twillingate Fog Alarm, he said the lighthouses around this country are in many cases in a very dangerous condition, and he hoped to be able to manage to repair them out of the maintenance that is voted each year for repairing and also for maintenance of buildings.

There are demands coming from certain parts of this country to have more lighthouses and more fog alarms. In Placentia, it was about fifteen years ago, when the Morris Government was in, there were cries coming from Placentia like a cry out of Macedonia, for fog alarms and lighthouses; but they have not got them yet, and he guaranteed that the cry from Macedonia will soon be answered.

He was prepared to fight with Mr. Monroe or with any other members of the Government to get what ever was possible for the fisheries of this country. Neither his constituents nor any men throughout this country wants him to try and press the Government for money that will put an additional burden on the taxpayers of this country, if they can get a proportionate share for the fishery. As they have to remember that there are other men in this country outside the fishermen. In regard to the vote of \$20,000, he informed the House that a sum of \$20,000 was being asked from the Government for scientific research in connection with the fisheries, and he assured the House that it would not be wasted as had been done before. Referring to the temperature of the water in reference to the fishery he claimed no scientific knowledge, but he had been fishing at Bear Gut, Ryan's Bay, when the fish were poking their nose through the slob ice.

Speaking of pensions, he said that the man who works for the Government for fifteen or twenty years and gives faithful service, if he does not get paid enough to put by something for his old age, then it is up to the taxpayers of this country to look after him. And he agreed too that the man who gets enough to put by some money for his old age should not get any pension.

Referring to cod liver oil, he said that there is to-day in the United States a demand for one hundred and fifty thousand gallons of Newfoundland cod liver oil. Before this industry was put on its present basis, a Mr. Johnson was being sent to Norway by the American Government. They were prepared to pay his passage out there, and prepared to pay all his expenses, and everything else in connection with his trip out there; but

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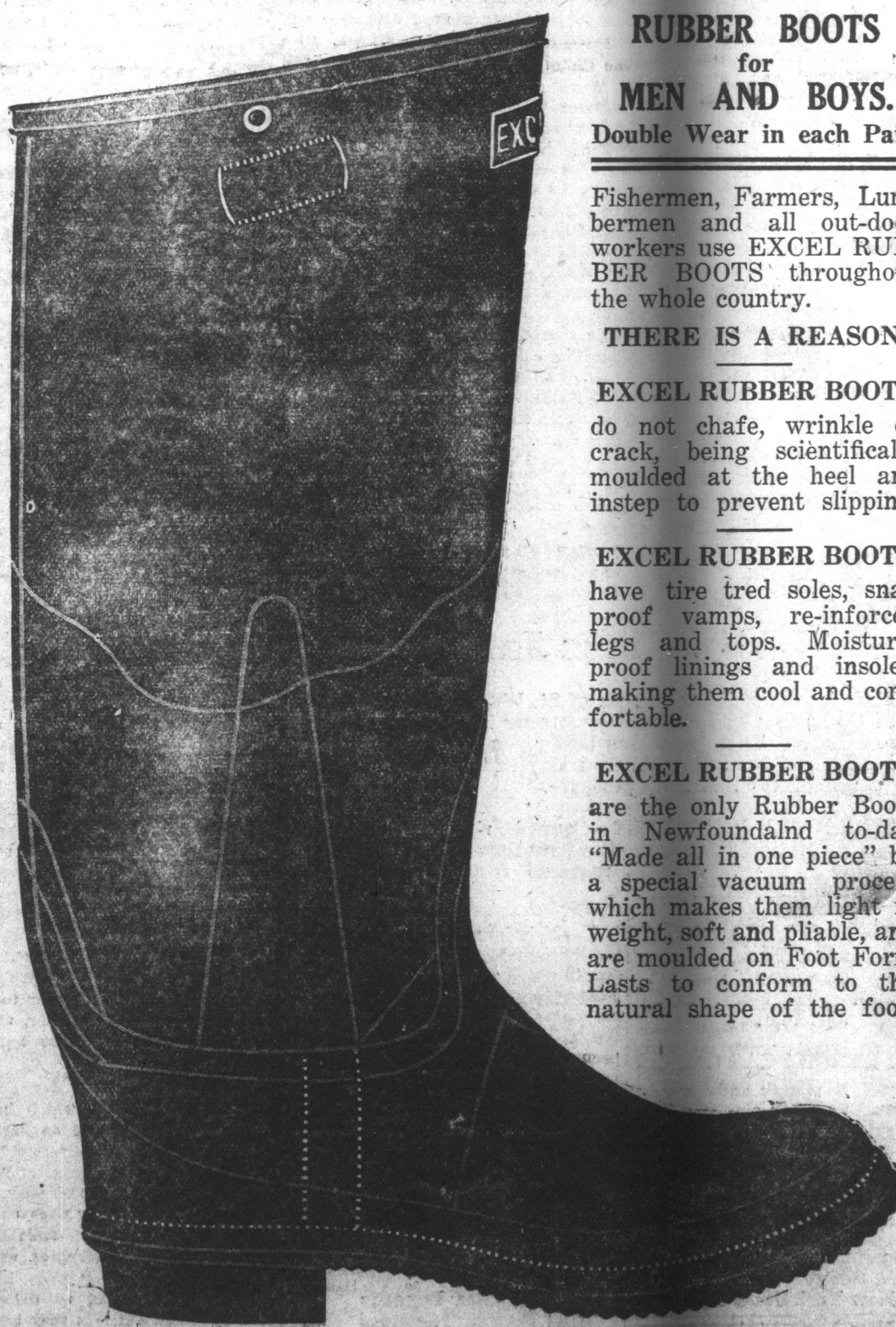
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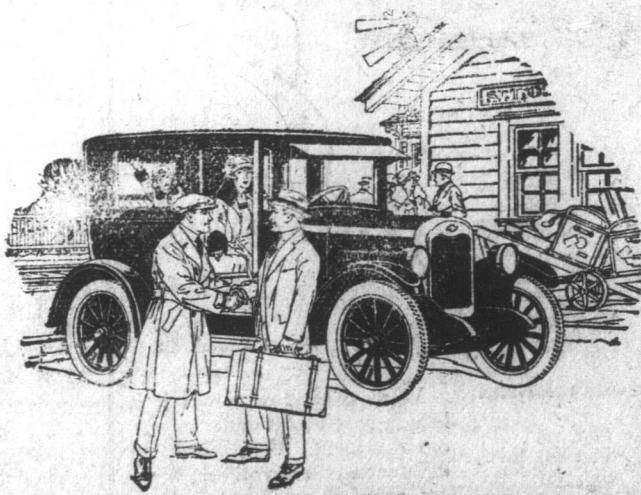
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