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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MAY 27, 1915.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

**At the House**

The Budget debate was resumed in the afternoon. Dr. Lloyd delivered a splendid speech of nearly an hour duration, in which he reviewed the financial condition of the Colony, pointing out that at the best the Government would have a deficit of \$600,000 for the year ending June, 1916. We will publish the Doctor's speech later.

Mr. Kent was absent from illness; Mr. Morine was in Court defending the Snowden case.

Mr. Clift followed Dr. Lloyd and blamed the Government for not retrenching. He claimed that \$500,000 might have been cut off the expenditure at such a national crisis.

The Premier replied, delivering the usual speech of expenditures for lighthouses and roads—a speech that now jars upon the nerves of all who hear it, for it has been delivered twenty times during the last two years.

Mr. Coaker replied to the Premier's remarks, delivering a serious, logical and impressive speech of forty minutes, which principally dealt with the present financial and commercial outlook, and showed that the tax on the fishery industry of \$250,000 extra new taxes was unfair and would cause great dissatisfaction and discourage the fishermen.

Mr. Coaker showed that last year the toilers' earnings were \$4,000,000 less than they would be if things were normal. The \$4,000,000 less earnings for present fiscal year were thus:

250,000 qtls. fish shortage at \$6. . . . .	\$1,500,000
Loss of 50c. per qtl. on 1,000,000 qtls. . . . .	500,000
Shortage in value of Lobster fishery . . . . .	100,000
Shortage in men's returns for Seal fishery . . . . .	250,000
Extra profits on provisions . . . . .	250,000
Extra war tax on provisions . . . . .	750,000
Shortage earnings Bell Island . . . . .	500,000
Shortage labor St. John's . . . . .	200,000
Shortage in railway labor . . . . .	200,000
	<b>\$4,250,000</b>

Even this season, the loss already in connection with the lobster fishery and herring fishery was very considerable. There would not be much labor at St. John's, at Bell Island or in railway construction. The lobster fishery would not be worth \$20,

000 instead of \$250,000 as formerly. The herring fishery would be \$100,000 less than normal. The difference in cost of provisions and groceries over normal prices would amount to \$1,500,000. New taxes would amount to \$1,000,000. And if the fishery would be normal with fair prices the coming financial year would find the earning power of the people less by nearly \$4,000,000, which would mean a shortage in revenue of \$1,200,000 less than normal conditions would produce.

Fish would not be a high figure during the early portion of the season. It would be higher than last year's price, but the highest price would be paid as usual in the late fall. Oil would be a high price but fishery supplies would cost 25 per cent. higher than last year. A quintal of fish would require to be worth \$7 to be equal to the purchasing power of \$6 last year. He therefore was of opinion that the year 1915-16 would prove a far more disastrous one for the finances of the Government than the year 1914-15.

Mr. Coaker opposed the Government's proposals to tax agriculture and the fishery industry. He strongly urged the Government not to tax motor engines, kero oil and gasoline, which would cripple the fishing industry, while every other industry in the Country was protected.

There was no talk about taxing the raw material of the Rope Walk, which Company had grabbed all sorts of profits from the fishermen, having started with a capital of \$30,000, which had through profits and protection grown to \$1,000,000 to-day. Big dividends, big reserves and large expenditures had been secured to the Rope Walk, which had all come from the fishermen's pockets, and that huge grabbing concern was still to enjoy free entry for its raw material, while the fishermen's engines and fuel for those engines, which was utilized to take wealth from the ocean to maintain every other industry in the Colony, was to be taxed \$135,000.

The Standard Mfg. Co., the Tobacco Factory, the Butterine Factory, the Nail Factory, the Clothing Factory, the Boot and Shoe Factories and the Wool Factories were all protected and raw material in many cases were admitted free. Yet the poor wretched fishermen were now to have \$250,000—in addition to \$750,000 taxes taken at the war session—placed on their banded backs.

Surely the Government had gone mad, and had given up all hope of ever appealing again to the people, for this was the proof that they had lost all fear for the evil consequences of their actions. The toilers had to pay as extra taxes since last September some \$700,000, made up thus:

On extra Sugar . . . . .	\$155,000
Tobacco . . . . .	100,000
Butter . . . . .	40,000
Tea . . . . .	42,000
Liquor . . . . .	125,000
Flour . . . . .	100,000
Kero Oil and Gasoline . . . . .	76,000
Beef and Pork . . . . .	52,000
	<b>\$690,000</b>

To this enormous taxation the fishermen will now have to pay an additional \$250,000 provided by the present budget, made up thus:

Tax on Motor Engines . . . . .	\$ 25,000
Kero Oil and Gasoline . . . . .	110,000
Molasses . . . . .	30,000
Cattle Feed . . . . .	50,000
Other articles included in New Budget . . . . .	40,000
	<b>\$255,000</b>

Even school books and material for building and repairing vessels are taxed. Yet Editor Robinson stated last week that the people had much to be grateful for, seeing things were no worse. His pockets went grow lighter in consequence of this taxation but many a poor fisherman's family will have less food, less clothing

and endure much misery because of those extra taxes, while Mr. Robinson's big purse will grow fatter and fatter from legalized robs secured for Government printing, of which he has scooped in some \$150,000 since Morris became Premier. How dare such a man speak on behalf of the people.

Mr. Coaker said that this was not all that would have to be borne by the fishermen, for this year supplies would be 25 per cent. higher than paid for supplies last spring. They would have to pay 80c. per hgh. more for salt, 14c. per gallon more for molasses, \$2.50 per barrel more for flour, 10c. per lb. more for tea, 4c. per lb. more for sugar, 2c. per lb. more for butter, 70c. per bag more for hard bread, 2c. per lb. more for biscuits, 10c. per lb. more for tobacco, 6c. per gallon more for kero oil.

Yet the Premier declared it was a crime to economize, and the member for Placentia said it was a crime to interfere with the Government's proposals to tax the fishery industry.

Mr. Coaker showed that \$250,000 might easily have been cut off the estimates passed this session, which would, if done, show that every effort was being made by the Government to do their utmost at this crisis to aid the fishermen, but while more money than ever before spent had been voted for 1915-16 (\$4,072,000) the Government knew when voting such an expenditure that they would tax fishermen another \$250,000.

One day they claim the people are starving and must have labor and pass deep laid plots to gull the people in the hope of supplying labor, while to-day the Minister of Finance and Customs states that the fishermen own all the money in the banks and can well afford to pay taxes on motor engines and kero oil and feed for their cattle to the tune of \$250,000.

Mr. Coaker's speech on the Budget will be published and also all the F.P.U. members' speeches made yesterday.

Splendid speeches were made at the after tea session by Messrs. Halfyard, Grimes, Winsor, Stone and Morine. The debate ended at 10.30 when Dr. Lloyd proposed the following resolution:

**RESOLVED—That all the resolutions relating to taxation on the Fishery and Agriculture and cancelling the drawbacks on Kero Oil and Gasoline be read six months hence.**

This resolution really meant that the proposed taxes on cattle feed, agriculture, machinery and seeds, motor engines, kero oil, gasoline, pure bred animals, extract of bark, catch, manures and fertilizers, material for ship building should be cut out, which resolution was voted down by the following Government members who were present:

- SIR E. P. MORRIS.**  
**BENNETT.**  
**EMERSON.**  
**CROSBIE.**  
**CASHIN.**  
**KENNEDY, St. John's.**  
**KENNEDY, Harbor Main.**  
**MOULTON.**  
**FRANK MORRIS.**  
**WALSH.**  
**MOORE.**  
**CURRIE.**  
**HIGGINS.**  
**LeFEUVRE.**  
**DEVEREAUX.**
- The following Government members were absent when the vote was taken:
- PICCOTT (Absent)**  
**DOWNEY**  
**WOODFORD**  
**YOUNG**

All the Opposition members present voted in favor of Dr. Lloyd's resolution. Consequently every fisherman will now know who their true friends are, for this \$250,000 tax passed last night is the first direct tax ever placed by a Newfoundland Government on the fishing industry as such.

**Proceedings at the House of Assembly**

WEDNESDAY, May 26th, 1915  
House met at 3.30 p.m.

**MR. STONE** gave notice of question.

Questions on the Order Paper were considered, then came the Order of the Day. The Grand Bank Water Bill and Products Bill got their third reading and were relegated to the Council for concurrence. Council's amendments to the Hospital Bill were concurred in, and House went into committee of the whole on Ways and Means, Mr. Parsons, chairman.

**DR. LLOYD**, in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Kent) opened the debate on the Budget by stating that the Minister of Finance had laid particular emphasis on the war conditions as having displaced all business arrangements, and whilst the war had doubtless something to do with the deficit of \$715,000 that the Government had admitted as likely at end of the Fiscal year in June, the war was not by any means the sole cause. It was rather bad financing on the part of the Government, for although the Minister had alluded to the financial depression in existence before the war it was a well known fact that the exports of the Colony for the year 1914, were the largest in the history of the Colony. In that year we had therefore more money to spend than ever, and yet we were told that depression in trade had materially helped to create the deficit of June 20th, 1914 of \$302,000, a deficit that had been wiped out by the reserve on hand, left them by the Bond Government.

Referring to the calculations for the coming year, Dr. Lloyd said they were really based on a very large shortage in the revenue, and he didn't say it in a disparaging sense, only for the purpose of pointing out the difficulties we had to face. In the new taxation proposed, the government had only given us the semblance of taxation that could only bring in something like \$100,000 in a normal year. Dr. Lloyd scored the government for having made a bad break in 1913, by the removal of taxes and not having the courage to abandon it and frankly admitting the war basis as the main factor on our revenue. He (Dr. Lloyd) objected to the new taxation because it gives no great revenue, and also because it is a complete reversal of the policy of the government in Agricultural matters.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Cashin) replying to Dr. Lloyd, whom he termed one of the keenest critics in the House, said the learned doctor had let him down easy, and that he had admitted the war conditions. Referring to the conditions prior to the war, Mr. Cashin said that although the exports in 1914 were the largest on record the imports were smaller, clear of foodstuffs, which he alluded to as being occasioned by the general depression all over the world. The Minister then dilated at length on the prosperous condition of the Colony to-day as compared with ten years ago, and once the war was over, and things back to their normal condition, he gave a glowing description of the new area of prosperity in store for all.

**MR. CLIFT** had a few observations to make on the subject now before the chair, not so much to criticize the new taxation, but rather to make comment on the reckless expenditure of the present government. The depression in trade alluded to should have caused the Minister to look round for chances to cut down expenditure, and there were numerous instances in the estimates where retrenchment could have been applied instead of making any fresh taxation. In view of the large deficit to meet which we had to raise a loan, and with the prospects of a still further deficit in 1916, it was highly expedient for us to economize. None of us could foresee what the war means, or what it would mean in the future, and since the outbreak of the war, the government had met twice without making any effort to reduce expenditure. He had all along thought that the government when they met this session, in addition to any necessary taxation, would certainly have applied a cutting down or policy of retrenchment and reform.

**THE PREMIER** said that in the opinion of the Hon. Member, Mr. Clift, the estimates might have been cut down some \$500,000, and if that was so, the Hon. Gentleman should have suggested the same in committee.

In any case, he (the Premier) could not see where any cutting down could have been made, and he instanced the various large votes, steam and other subsidies & that had to be paid. In one of his stereotyped labored speeches, the Premier defended the policy of government ever since they assumed

power, reiterating the old worn out cry about the country coming out of the present crisis, as it always has done in the past—on top—after war is over of course.

**MR. COAKER** could not at all agree with the remarks of the Premier and the Finance Minister. He (Mr. C.) would certainly prefer having a surplus of \$500,000 rather than deficits, but in the allusion to the great fishery we were to have and the question of labor, had the government thought anything at all about the matter. In thinking over future prospects, had they considered that practically nothing was to be derived from the lobster fishery this year, not only were the men not fishing, but weather conditions were all against operations. Then the laboring classes would be short some \$500,000 through scarcity of labor. The Government were building up hopes on an increased revenue from imports, occasioned by short stocks held by importers, who were selling off their old goods, when as a matter of fact the people were not buying dry goods at all, only the bare necessities of life. Had the Government considered the tremendous losses to the people last year, independent of the war circumstances altogether, the 250,000 qtls of fish short on the season's catch—scarcity of labor at Bell Island and St. John's. Then there was this year the worst seal fishery on record, and the shortage from railway construction work involved, because of course in present circumstances the Government had not that to offer.

Again, Mr. Coaker spoke of the great damage done the Fish Trade, by the announcement of a certain hon. gentleman in the Upper Chamber, that fish was going down in price. Generally speaking, financial affairs would be much worse in 1916 than they were in 1914-15, because we would undoubtedly have a big shortage in the revenue. In reviewing the new taxation scheme of the government, the intrepid F.P.U. Leader showed up the reckless indifference displayed towards the fishermen by the imposition of taxation on motor engines, kero, oil and other articles absolutely necessary for the prosecution of their calling, as also the taxation of agricultural implements, molasses tax &c., all clearly for the want of consideration. If the Government had acted wisely and taken off the estimates some \$200,000 or \$250,000 in place of this taxation, then they might have had the hearty support of all members in the House.

Mr. Coaker also contrasted the position of the Government in the Pitt Prop Scheme that was to furnish such a vast amount of labour, that was so badly wanted, and to-day telling us that the country never was in a more prosperous condition. Mr. Coaker also alluded to the protection afforded every factory in the country which compelled the poor fishermen to pay a tax on all superior imported articles for use in pursuit of his precarious calling, instead of being encouraged in every way as he ought to be, by the Government. With all the cry about short supplies this year for the fishery, why didn't the Government do something out of the common for the fishermen, and help him out of his difficulties instead of grounding him down with motor engine and kerosene taxation.

**MR. CASHIN** replying to Mr. Coaker on the motor engine tax, said it was not the poor fishermen they were taxing, but only those who had money in the banks, as being the only class of fishermen that were buying motor boats, and to this Mr. Coaker promptly retorted by saying that whilst at first the buyers of engines may have been independent men, but now a motor boat was no longer a luxury, but a necessity for the fishermen, and engines were being furnished the men on a two and three years payment plan, or with the assistance of friends.

At this point recess was taken till 8 p.m.

Resuming after recess, **MR. HALFYARD**, in a sound practical address, reviewed the reckless policy of expenditure by the Morris Government ever since it assumed the reins of power. With regard to the new taxation now proposed, it was the last straw to break the camel's back, so far as the fishermen of the country were concerned.

The only policy the present Government seemed to possess was borrow and spend.

The Finance Minister had alluded to the depression previous to the war, and all the difficulties occasioned by the war, but had done nothing to try and economize.

The prudent mariner when he sees the clouds on the horizon, shortens sail and slackens speed, also takes in every yard—and some say Halfyard, but the Finance Minister piles on every yard of canvas in the same extravagant fashion, and so the poor old barque Terra Nova is now pounding on the rocks. Mr. Halfyard said that the Government had blamed the war for the bulk of their financial troubles, but let us go back prior to the war, and we find that the financial policy of the Government had been a failure. He strongly emphasized the cutting out of the motor engine, kero oil, school books and other taxes, as the placing of such taxes was the most unpopular thing the Government could do. If the Government could point out the necessity of any of the proposed taxations, backed up by a policy of Retrenchment and Reform, then they might see fit to support the Resolutions, but as they presently stood it was disgraceful even to think of such unjustifiable taxation.

**MR. GRIMES**, in a rattling speech, severely censured the Government for such an unequal form of taxation as that proposed, and pointed out to the Government the fact that it was not the man with the money in the Bank that had to pay the taxes, but rather the fishermen and laboring classes, who were now contributing one third of their income, as against 14 to 17 per cent. of their income that the big men, with big salaries and incomes were contributing. Now, said Mr. Grimes, you want to tax the fishermen—the bone and sinew of the land—on his motor engine, kero oil, cattle and other materials for use in his calling, as well as the oil cake, cattle feed, and other necessities, instead of coming in and providing for an income tax, which there might be something to prove your sincerity.

In conclusion, Mr. Grimes strongly advised the Finance Minister to reconsider his Budget in the interests of the fishermen and working men of the colony.

**MR. MORINE** thought it would serve no good purpose to criticize the Financial proposals of the Government. The purpose of the Government seemed to be to take it out of one pocket of the people and put it in another pocket. The thing for us to consider now was whether the taxes now imposed were wise or not. Some of the items were to his mind altogether unwise, and should certainly not be placed on the list of dutiable goods. There had been a great deal of talk about the rich man paying all the taxes, but where did the rich man get the money to pay the said taxes but from the producer, and as for professional men generally, they were simply tax gatherers who prey on the producers who are their clients. Instead of putting these taxes on, Mr. Morine contended, that ways and means might have been devised for collecting more revenue by a reduction of the tariff on several articles such as butterine, clothing, etc. In any case, said Mr. Morine, he couldn't for the life of him see any occasion at all for this taxation, and he had heard of nothing to justify it. If the credit of the Colony is so good, why not borrow. Then what about all the revenue that was to be derived from the exportation of pit props. Altogether, the proposed taxation was most unwise, unfair, and unnecessary and for these reasons, he would vote against them at the proper time.

Messrs. Winsor, Targett and Stone also made capital speeches protesting against this latest bleeding of the fishermen by the Morris Government, and in recording their solid vote against the motor engine tax particularly told the Government Party that they were simply sounding their death knell.

**MR. DEVEREAUX** was the only speaker on the Government Side, and he simply contented himself by telling the House in effect that the people of Newfoundland should consider it an honor and privilege to contribute "War Taxes" as he deemed it, in support of our Great Empire during the present crisis.

**MR. COAKER** finished up the debate on Ways and Means in another slashing speech, in which he scored the Government on every point. He would advise the men to have nothing to do with motor engines until the tax was taken off, and if you have no fishermen, how are you going to pay your bills, said Mr. Coaker. He questioned the fact of any one of them ever coming back to this House if they carried out the Resolutions.

Replying to Mr. Devereaux, who had so much to say about what the Government had done for the fishermen, Mr. Coaker wondered how it was that

everybody didn't want to be fishermen.

The Government could easily have saved the \$250,000, that this taxation was supposed to turn in to the revenue, by retrenchment in branches of the civil service, and as for the pit prop scheme, he didn't object to the cutting of such during the duration of the war, but never would consent to a ten years extension as proposed. Mr. Coaker knew that if the Opposition kept at it till August, the Government still seemed bent on their reckless made career of extravagance and for which course of procedure they would have much cause to regret.

On the resolution being read, Dr. Lloyd moved that the resolutions taxing agriculture and fishery be read that day 6 month, and this was lost by a party vote.

The Revenue Bill was then read a first time, second reading on the morrow. The Total Prohibition and Volunteer Force Bill passed the Committee Stage, and Councils amendments to the Patriotic Logging and Municipal Bills were read a first time.

**THE PREMIER** gave notice that on Friday he would move the suspension of the rules relating to all matters before the House and other items on Order Paper being deferred, the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m. till the morrow at 3 p.m.

**Answers to Questions Of Mr. Stone**

**Re Elective Road Boards, District of Trinity, 1914 and 1915**

New Melbourne, Sibley's Cove, fant's Harbor, New Chelsea, Winterton, New Perlican, Green's Harbor, Norman's Cove, Chapel Arm, Hillview, Queen's Cove, Jarenville, Shoal Harbor, Foster's Point, Snook's Harbor, New Jonaventure, Trinity, Port Rexton, British Harbor, Champney's, English Harbor, Catalina, Ellison, Whitbourne, Blaketown, Old Jonaventure, Islington.

No full Boards have been appointed by the Government. One individual member has been appointed, however to vacancies upon Mr. Stone's recommendation, or the following Boards:

Heart's Desire, Hopeall, Britannia Cove.

**Tearing Up the Public Wharf at Lewisporte**

(Editor Mail and Advocate)

Dear Sir,—Can you tell the Public through the columns of your paper who gave the Reid Mill Co. the authority to tear up the wharf which was built here some years ago for the purpose of shipping lumber? I understood that this wharf was paid for by the Government when the R. N. Co. put in their claim years ago. If this is true, then what right have Reid's men to tear it up? If a poor man took any thing from Reid's wharf or yard he would be arrested and have to pay a fine greater than the value of what he took, but the Reid's can take away the property that was paid for out of the people's money, and nobody must say a word. I believe the R. N. Co. are under obligation to keep this wharf in repair, unless Morris has given it with all the rest to them in the new deal. We all know that Morris is Reid's best man.

Anyway it is time that some one interest themselves in these public matters here and see that Reid's men are stopped from tearing up what the public believe to be their property, and which is estimated to have cost the country \$48,000.

PIT PROP.  
Lewisporte, May 12, 1915.

**Obituary**

It is with regret that we announce the death of our brother Joseph Oake, sr., who died at the ripe old age of eighty-four. He has been a loyal member of our Lodge for the last forty years, and he will be missed from our midst very much.

We find it difficult to express our thoughts of respect and sorrow for him who was so loyal. He will be missed very much from his home, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to those bereaved ones who are left behind to mourn their sad loss. We hope to meet our brother again in heaven.

"Where loyal hearts are true,  
Stand ever in the light;  
All rapture through and through,  
In God's most holy light."

EZEKIEL LUDLOW, Sec.  
St. Andrew Lodge, No. 10, S.U.F.,  
Fogo, May 11, 1915.

U can get Elastic Cement Roofing Paint in 1, 2, 5 and 10 gallon tins from your dealer.—apl14, eod