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### House of Assembly.

WEDNESDAY, May 4.  
The business of the House yesterday was the presentation of the Woman's Suffrage Petition by the Minister of Justice, whilst the matter of relief for the destitute in Placentia and St. Mary's also came up for considerable discussion. The House met at 3.15 p.m. and by that time the gallery was filled with ladies interested in the following petition which the Minister of Justice laid on the table of the House.

"To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly in Session Convened:

The Petition of the Underaged Women of Newfoundland Humbly Sheweth That:

WHEREAS—We regard ourselves as Partners in the responsible business of Home-keeping, which is so vital to the best interests of the Dominion; and

WHEREAS—We are subject to all the laws and taxation which apply to men; and

WHEREAS—Many of us are workers; helping to produce the wealth of the Dominion; and

WHEREAS—In other parts of the British Empire women enjoy all the rights of the franchise, and assume its responsibilities;

WHEREAS—The women of Newfoundland rose to every call made upon them during the Great War, and showed energy and executive ability in the organization of relief and other work, and that many of them served overseas as Nurses, V.A.D.s and Ambulance Drivers.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that Your Honourable House, will, during its present Session, pass a law by which there will be given to the Women of this Dominion the rights of the franchise, on conditions similar to those commonly required of men.

And as in duty bound,

Your Petitioners will ever pray."

In doing so the Minister said that this petition was presented by him on behalf of the women of Newfoundland and there were nearly 8000 signatories to it. People in nearly every district in the island had signed it. He was keeping an open mind as regards the advisability of introducing a Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women during the present session although he was in favour of the principle at stake.

If the matter were not proceeded with during the present session the women would be sure to have the right to vote before the next general election. Mr. Higgins supported the petition. He said it was only a question of time when votes for women would be a

reality. He did not care whether the petition was signed by one or one thousand for it was a matter of the principle of the thing. He personally could offer no objection to the request for enfranchisement. The Opposition was inclined to think a woman's government could have done a great deal better than the present one. Mr. Higgins then turned for himself the underlying support of all the women of the country by stating that in all affairs women had in many respects, shown themselves our superiors. He concluded by hoping the day was not far distant when the women of this country will have the right to vote.

Mr. MacDonnell thought the enfranchisement of women meant a drastic change in the constitution of the country. He said a referendum would be necessary before anything could be done in the matter owing to the fact that the enfranchisement of women would cause a duplication of the number of voters and would also raise questions concerning the qualifications of the voter. He would not commit himself on the matter. He caused considerable amusement by stating, in the course of his speech, that women would leave nothing to be desired from the point of view of obstruction if they had seats in the House.

Mr. Moore briefly supported the petition.

Sir John Croble suggested that a Bill be brought in during the present session so that the opinion of the House on the matter could be determined. It would have his hearty support.

Mr. Fox in supporting the petition, asked if it was the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill for enfranchising women during the present session.

The Minister of Justice did not know what the Government would do, but it was certainly not his personal intention to bring in any such Bill.

Mr. Fox was sorry for that as he had understood the Bill would be introduced this session if it failed last year. He asked the Government to justify their promises of last year and not to look upon the matter from a party viewpoint.

Mr. Bennett also gave his support to the petition and said the Legislature was fully qualified to deal with the matter. He too, thought that women were deserving of the vote on their merits.

The Prime Minister said a lot about consulting barristers and English suffrage leaders in the matter but when he concluded nobody was quite sure whether he had said anything or not. The Bill to Amend the Act concerning the Prosecution of the Sealfishery was introduced, and read a first time.

Mr. Sullivan then created a sensation in the House by stating that a doctor who had been sent to the Western Shore of Placentia Bay to make a report on conditions there, had returned yesterday and had informed him that never before had he come in contact with such destitution and misery as had been brought to his notice on this trip. It was necessary for the Government to do something at once. There were fifty cases needing immediate medical attention and eight cases must come here to hospital at once if they are to live. Starvation was rampant all over the place. A quantity of seed potatoes were now necessary too, and the Government must act in the matter at once.

Mr. Walsh regretted that the matter should have been brought up in the House as he had desired a secret session for the same purpose. But as it had been made public he wished to support Mr. Sullivan's appeal for immediate attention for the destitute of his district.

Sir Michael Cashin said the Government would be well advised if they sent a competent inspector to bring in reliable reports from the destitute districts. It was their duty as representatives to send some one to find out the conditions and furthermore it was up to the Government to do it. It was a case of acting for humanity's sake. For once, let party politics be forgotten. There are several cases of starvation now in the hospital who were not going to live. He promised the support of the Opposition in any outlay the Government might undertake in the matter.

Mr. Higgins said no one would find fault with any expenditure made for this purpose. He suggested that several inspectors be sent out endowed with the power of distributing relief if necessary.

Mr. Bennett endorsed Sir Michael Cashin's speech. It was imperative that the Government should take drastic measures. The matter was all the more alarming because districts not yet heard from may be in a worse condition. He appreciated the Government's difficulty but this did not lessen their responsibility. He suggested the organization of a band of medical workers.

Sir John Croble went further and stated that the Government should send a steamer with supplies direct to the relief of the destitute districts. If the people were sick from want of nourishment, it was necessary to act quickly. The Opposition would support any action taken by the Government.

The Government, he said, were not to blame but they must do all possible to alleviate the distress. At this juncture a government heeler in the gallery interrupted Sir John with a remark which was anything but fitted to the seriousness of the occasion. The Speaker ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to have the man removed.

Dr. Jones spoke briefly concerning the destitution now rampant in Placentia, St. Mary's and Ferryland and said that the people there were suffering from malnutrition, as they were living on a diet of water and milk. It was a matter of great urgency that proper nourishment be given them. The disease might put people out of business permanently.

The Prime Minister appreciated the attitude of the Opposition and stated that everything necessary was being done. He had suggested that relief should be distributed through the Road Boards instead of through the relieving officers so as to save shoddy men from the ignominy of receiving poor relief.

Mr. Fox thought relief should be sent right away.

The Questions on the Order Paper were next taken up. The Prime Minister told Mr. Moore that no more live stock would be purchased this year. He also told Capt. Lewis that Mr. Colshaw had not been commissioned to visit Canada and the States with a view to disposing of pit-prop.

The Prime Minister also informed Sir Michael Cashin that since January last a loan of \$1,600,000 had been obtained from the Bank of Montreal at 5 per cent. Of this \$1,600,000 had been handed over to the Railway Commission and \$250,000 had been placed in the Surplus Trust Fund. It was the intention of the Government to bring in a Loan Bill during the present session but for what amount he was not yet prepared to say. The Leader of the Government was not aware of the fact that there were flagrant breaches of the Prohibition Law going on and that smuggling was being done on a wide spread scale.

Sir Michael Cashin took the opportunity of stating that smuggling of the worst kind was going on about the West Coast. Schooners were going to St. Pierre indiscriminately and took stocks of liquors for the summer and there was no one there to stop them. He thought it an absolutely disgraceful business. Discussion on the following was deferred:

Committee of the Whole on Resolutions Respecting "An Act to confirm an agreement between the Government and the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., and the Nova Scotia Steel and Co., Ltd."

Committee of the Whole on Bill entitled, "An Act respecting the Cutting and Exportation of Timber for special purposes."

Committee of the Whole on Bill entitled, "An Act to Repeal 10-12 Geo. V, Chap. 25, entitled, 'An Act to Regulate the Exportation of Salt Codfish.'"

Committee of the Whole on Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the War Measures Act, 1914."

Second reading of Bill entitled, "An Act to amend Chapter 22 of the Consolidated Statutes, entitled, 'Of the Auditing of Public Accounts.'"

Second reading of Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Profiteering Act, 1920."

On the motion to adjourn some discussion took place concerning the printing of the Order Papers. Adjournment was then taken until 8 p.m. today.

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### Obituary.

WILLIAM KING.

On Tuesday, April 26th, in the Cemetery at Fox Harbour, Placentia Bay, the remains of the late William King were laid to rest. The deceased was the second son of William and Elizabeth King, and was just 26 years of age. Although he had been ailing for nearly a year, still his death came unexpected to everyone, as he was never heard to murmur or complain but bore his cross with patience. His funeral was the largest seen in Fox Harbour for some time, which showed the esteem in which he was held by everyone. He left home Thursday, April 21st, to enter the General Hospital for treatment where he passed peacefully away, the following Sunday at 3.45 a.m. His sorrowing and broken-hearted relatives have the consolation of knowing that he died fortified by the rites of Holy Church and was attended in his last hours by Rev. Dr. Carter, and many other loving hands who did everything possible for him. His remains were enclosed in a handsome casket and sent home by Monday evening's train for burial, accompanied by his sister Annie and Mr. P. O'Reilly. Requiem Mass was celebrated at Fox Harbour by Rev. Fr. Savin on Wednesday morning for the repose of his soul. Besides his sorrowing mother and father, he leaves to mourn him two brothers, James and Richard at home, and five sisters, Mary, operator at the G.P.O. St. John's; Teresa, operator at Grate's Cove, Bay-de-Verde; Annie at St. Bride's College, Littlefield, and Rose and Cecilia at home. The writer extends heartfelt sympathy to the sorrowing relatives in which other friends and acquaintances join.

—COR.

Fox Harbour, May 2, 1921.

### The Unemployed Problem.

The Municipal Council have now about 400 men employed on new works in various parts of the city. Somewhat over 400 more are seeking employment, and the Committee of the unemployed are puzzled to know what to do with them. Those at work refuse to knock off until all of the \$50,000 is expended. As work can be found to do, more men are being taken on, and yesterday some 80 went to work at a gravel pit near Bennett's Dam. The rate of pay is \$3.33 per day of 10 hours. Over one hundred dollars worth of damage has been done the City Hall during the past few days by the crowds of men seeking employment, and in consequence of the men congregating in the hallways, the regular business of the Council has been greatly interfered with, and the officials say that the revenue receipts have fallen considerably in consequence.

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Wine Palace Hall), cor. Gower Street  
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Evenings \$5 up. Afternoons \$3.50. Apply  
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### Artichokes, per lb., 8c.

Aster Seed, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Balsam Seed, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Bengonia, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Carnation, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Candytuft, per pkt. . . . . 5c.  
Cockscomb, per pkt. . . . . 5c.

### New Laid Eggs, per doz., 50c.

Creamery Butter, per lb. . . . . 44c.  
Sunshine Butter, per lb. . . . . 35c.  
Lard, per lb. . . . . 25c.  
Cooked Tongue, per lb. . . . . 70c.  
Cooked Ham, per lb. . . . . 80c.  
Breakfast Bacon, per lb. . . . . 65c.

### Savory Seed, per pkt., 10c.

Oranges, per doz. . . . . 60c.  
Table Apples, per doz. . . . . 70c.  
Pears, per doz. . . . . 90c.  
Grape Fruit, each . . . . . 15c.  
Lemons, per doz. . . . . 40c.  
Lawn Grass Seed, finest, pkt. . . . . 45c.  
Lawn Grass Seed, loose, per lb. . . . . 40c.  
Lawn Grass Seed, Shady Nook, per pkt. . . . . 75c.

### Parsnip Seed, per oz., 8c.

Daisy Seed, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Lobelia, per pkt. . . . . 5c.  
Marigold, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Mignonette, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Nasturtium, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Poppy, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Petunia, per pkt. . . . . 15c.

### Turnip Seed, Swede, per oz., 5c.

Pansy Seed, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Stocks Seed, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Sunflower Seed, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Sweet William Seed, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Wallflower Seed, per pkt. . . . . 15c.

### Lettuce Seed, "Ice Berg" per pkt., 10c.

Sweet Pea, Early Empress, Pink, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Sweet Pea, Early Bluebird, Blue, per pkt. . . . . 10c.  
Sweet Pea, Glorious, Purple, per pkt. . . . . 15c.  
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Sweet Pea, Snowstorm, White, per pkt. . . . . 15c.

### Spinach Seed, per pkt., 10c.

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### ONIONS:

200 sacks due April 5th.  
Booking orders new.

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20 cs. CALIF. LEMONS.  
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Goodwin's "Grand Lake" Washing Soap, 3c. and 5c. bar.

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Vasseur Desiccated Cocoanut, finest Ceylon, 25c. lb.

Nestle's Thick Rich Cream.

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Good Laundry Starch, 14c. lb.

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