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**House of Assembly Proceedings.**

**OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS**

(Continued.)

The proposed amendment came up last session and was rejected by the Government then, and at the time it was argued that they had an ulterior motive in so doing. It was charged then that the amendment was rejected because it would give the vote to electors of Bonavista that were resident in the Humber area and that this would materially affect their chances in the bye-election. As a matter of fact he felt confident that had the amendment been granted then the majority for himself and his colleagues would have been decidedly higher. He had opposed this amendment last year when it was before the Select Committee as being altogether wrong in principle and he still held that such was the case. He repeated that he thought that the Leader of the Opposition was taking an altogether unfair advantage of the Bill then before them, to work in this measure.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE thought that the proposed amendment was drawing a red herring of the worst description across the Bill by the Leader of Opposition, either intentionally or unintentionally. The House could not in any circumstances consider it. He pointed out that though rejected as an amendment to the present Bill, there was nothing to debar the introduction at another time of an amendment to the Election Act in the form introduced by Mr. Hickman. As a matter of fact he regarded the amendment as being of little service, owing to the approaching Redistribution Bill, that would provide most of those centres with their own representatives.

MR. SCAMMELL regretted that he was unable to be present at the second reading of the Bill to record his strong support of the measure, but that he now took the opportunity of doing so. He deplored the Attorney General's charge that their Leader had purposely drawn a red herring across the Bill. (The Attorney General pointed out to the hon. member that he had given Mr. Hickman the benefit of the doubt and that he had said that it might have been unintentional.) Resuming, Mr. Scammell urged that even with the assumption that the Redistribution Bill passed the House this would in no way provide for any bye-elections that might crop up before the Bill came into operation, which would not be for some years.

THE PRIME MINISTER again pointed out that when the matter had come before the House last year it had been turned down, on the grounds that it was an improper measure and leading to many abuses, and the same conditions prevailed to-day and he still thought and held that it was not a proper measure.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION desired to make his position very clear and said that, if this amendment was in any way going to hamper the Bill before the Committee, he would immediately withdraw it. He intimated that the amendment would come before the House in another form later on in the session.

MR. HALFYARD also spoke at some great length on the amendment and strongly urged that legislation be brought in to effect it.

MR. GRIMES deeply regretted the attitude that the Prime Minister took towards the amendment and deplored the disfranchisement of so many men, who were away from their districts and hence could not be relieved unless in this form. He strongly urged that the matter be again brought before the House.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL pointed out that the Bill before the House was purely a private Bill and not one on which the Government took any stand, or had any set policy. But the amendment was a matter that had been rejected by the Government last year, a matter that would bring in Government responsibility on way or another, and should not be introduced in

conjunction with the present measure.

THE PRIME MINISTER totally agreed with the Attorney General, in so much as the present Bill, being a private measure should not have tacked on to it any amendments that would render it a party measure, as the present amendment would. In reply to Mr. Grimes, he said that the Government could not afford to adopt the policy of creating booths in one district for men belonging to other districts, as there would be no stopping it, and every district would have to have booths for every other district in it, and this would lead to much tangle and confusion.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION said that whenever assumed that the Government were going to regard his amendment as being a party measure, otherwise, in view of what had happened last year, he would never have brought it in. The present Bill being an amendment to the Election Act, he thought that the time was opportune to bring in any other amendment, but he now quite saw that it was not fit or proper to do so.

Before the Committee arose the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & MINES desired to offer his congratulations to his Honour the Speaker, on the fact that the Bill had now arrived at this stage, and that he, the Speaker, had been the first to present a petition on behalf of the women. Now after two years the Bill was in its final stages and only required the concurrence of the other Chamber and the Royal Assent before becoming effective. He had supported the measure always, not because of any propaganda, but as a sincere conviction. He was glad to see that at last the measure was through and that women would be able to utilize their right and help purify public life.

HON. MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS before the Committee rose, wished to place himself on record as regards the Bill, and began by reading a resolution passed by the G. W. V. A. Continuing his remarks the Minister said in part:—Mr. Chairman I strongly support the measure now before the chair. Yesterday afternoon at the second reading of the Bill the House was pretty well taken up by members on both sides speaking in support of it, and I have only to add my quota and say that I am a firm believer in extending the franchise to the women of Newfoundland. If I were a member of St. John's, either East or West, I would certainly strongly support the Bill, because of the many ladies here present. I am sorry that a number of my lady friends from the district of Harbour Main are not here to-day to help me say that I am strongly in favor of extending the franchise to the women of Newfoundland. Capt. Winsor told

me yesterday that he had promised the women of Bonavista Bay that he would support a measure that would give them the vote. I have no doubt that he got a good many votes by making that promise, and the Hon. Prime Minister also. But the Prime Minister and Capt. Winsor have proved their sincerity in their strong advocacy of the measure yesterday afternoon. The Prime Minister, as always, was sincere and earnest and no one can deny that he is honest in his intentions, and firmly determined to carry out his promises. I feel proud of such a man being at the helm of our country to-day; a man of backbone and a man of honour, whose word is his bond, a man who is determined to do justice to all and recognize that the women of this country should be put on a par with the men when it comes down to the franchise.

I think I might say that I owe my election during the thirty-five years that I have been in politics to the good women in my district. All the good women in my district were on my side. I do not know that there are any bad women in the district; but if they were, they were on the other side of course.

When we think of the good work done by such women as Florence Nightingale, the great heroine of England, and of the women whom we admire who became known to us during the late war, such as Edith Cavell, their sacrifices on behalf of their countrymen appeal to us all. And have we not many an Edith Cavell here in our midst? Have we not Florence Nightingales all over the country, women prepared to lay down their lives on behalf of their brothers, and uncles, and cousins and fathers? Who is doing more on behalf of the country than the women of the country? I say certainly sir, we are doing the right thing in giving the women the franchise. The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world. I feel that every member of this House will favor this measure, and I hope to live to see it being carried out, and that please God, we will see some of the ladies take their seats in this House, and I am sure that we will all extend to them the greatest welcome and help. As the father of the House, I would advise all the members to do all that is in their power to give all the encouragement that they possibly can to the women of the country. Perhaps I shall not go back for election to my district, but if I should be prevailed upon to do so, the first section of the people to whom I should appeal for political support would be the women. I expect that you young men, yourself, Mr. Chairman, and all young men that sit on either side of this House, will be out early to-morrow morning canvassing the young ladies, and looking for their votes to help return you to your seats at the next election.

I believe the ladies have as much brains in connection with politics as the men and if I live

long enough I expect to see great and beneficial legislation enacted through their efforts. I regret to say that in my experience I have found the men rather careless as to recording their votes at an election. A man will say, "why should I bother about voting and lose my time and get nothing out of it. I did get a few dollars for a well or a road to my garden but my neighbor got the benefit of that as well as myself." I do not believe this will be the attitude of the women. I imagine they will vote for Mr. Monroe, of whom they have heard so much and whose reputation stands so high in the public estimation, and I feel they will not be disappointed, as he has the ability and integrity to carry out his programme of reforms and to clean up and keep clean. He will give a square deal to the ladies and I hope in a short time to see far-reaching and beneficial results from the enactment of this measure. My congratulations to the ladies and I trust they will enjoy in full measure the privilege extended them.

The Bill passed the Committee and having been reported, was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

The other items on the Order Paper were deferred.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:—Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the adjournment of the House I would like to say that on to-morrow I hope to table not only the report of Mr. Crandell, who has been making an inspection of the Dry Dock, but also that of Colonel Mitchell, who has been doing the same, and who is in connection with the firm of W. I. Bishop, of Montreal. Both these gentlemen report that the Dock is in a very dangerous condition, and that it is absolutely necessary to have something done immediately. Colonel Mitchell presents a very interesting report on the whole Dock situation, and I am having it printed and will give every member a copy so that he may consider it fully as until it is read through thoroughly no one will be in a position to discuss the situation. I think it is necessary that some action be taken immediately because the reports of both these gentlemen are extremely alarming. Colonel Mitchell tells me that it is quite possible that the next steamer that goes in Dock will be found up in the Railway Yard and her crew with her, and that it is

very dangerous to use the dock any longer. I want to bring in this report to-morrow so that you all may consider it fully, and I will present Mr. Crandell's at the same time. The latter expert did not go into the details of the situation so fully as Colonel Mitchell who has taken every possible step to ascertain the true condition of the Dock; and not only of the Dock itself but of the piers around it and the general working of the whole situation. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition asked me the other day if there was any suggestion as to selling the Dock or of giving it over the any body else to operate it. I spoke of this to Colonel Mitchell and he said to get in touch with the firm of Vickers of Montreal. Colonel Peel of the Vickers Company was here last Summer and he asked me to let him know if we were prepared to sell the Dock. Now Colonel Mitchell says that we really have nothing in the form of a dock to sell but it seems to me that as we have to make repairs, if the Vickers people want it they may be a party to those repairs, and in communication with them I asked Colonel Mitchell to get

(Continued on page 3.)

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7.—(1) A Ship belonging to a British Subject shall hoist the proper national colors—

- (a) on a signal made to her by one of His Majesty's ships, including any vessel under the command of an officer of His Majesty's navy or full pay, and
- (b) on entering or leaving any foreign port and
- (c) if of fifty tons gross tonnage or upwards, on entering or leaving any British Port.

(2) If default is made on board any ship in complying with this section the master of the ship shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

A time of war it is necessary for every British Ship to hoist the colours and heave to if signalled by a British Warship; if a vessel hoists no colours and runs away, it is liable to be fired upon.

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