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At the House.

THURSDAY, May 27th.
Mr. Kent presented a petition asking that the Newfoundland Building Association be incorporated. The petition was referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following:—Mr. Kent, Mr. Lloyd, the Premier, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Coaker, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Emerson.

Mr. Woodford presented petitions re wharf and road.
The Prohibition and Volunteer Force Bills were read a third time and sent to the Upper House for concurrence.

The Council's amendment to the Patriotic Association Bill was concurred in and sent back to the other Chamber.

A despatch was laid on the table informing the House of the appointment of Mr. Bonar Law, as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Council's Amendments to the Municipal Bill were read a second time. These were mainly the amendments proposed by Mr. Lloyd, which were supported by the Government but voted down by the Opposition but endorsed and adopted by the Upper House. The amendments had the effect of allowing the present Commissioners an extra twelve months to finish their work, ending June 1916. The original clause provided to give the Board an extension of only six months.

Mr. Kent was of the opinion that the amendments were a great improvement to the Bill. Twelve months ago he had expressed himself, which he reiterated now, that the old Council should go on as it was going and that a special Commission be appointed to formulate a new system of Civic Government. They were now in office about a year, but to terminate their term in the middle of their work would stultify everything the Commissioners had done. In all probability, said Mr. Kent, they will be able to make some remedy for civic improvement when they come into this House next winter, with their report, whereas if they had gone out of power in the meantime their work would be incomplete and would be taken up incompletely by other people who would necessarily have to go over the same ground again. The amendments were concurred in and sent back to the other Chamber.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Council's amendments to the Logging Bill.

Mr. Coaker objected to most of the amendments which were entirely in favor of the Logging Companies and were unjust to the men. He suggested that the matter be taken up in Committee with a view of effecting a compromise.

Mr. Kent found a way to adjust the disagreement existing between both Houses, regarding the Logging Bill. He proposed that a Select Committee of both Houses meet and discuss fully their differences about the Bill, that a satisfactory compromise could be made and a law enacted satisfactory to all concerned. It matters are allowed to remain as they are nothing would be arrived at. Mr. Kent's solution to the difficulty was acted upon and the following members comprised the Select Committee:—Messrs. Kent, Lloyd, Coaker, Emerson, Clapp, Moulton and Higgins.

The House then went into Committee on Supply.
Mr. Clapp rose and indignantly complained of the unfair treatment meted out to his district (Bonnie Bay) from time to time by the present Government. He first asked the reason why the motor ferry boat was discontinued running between Woody Point and Norris' Point. In 1913, shortly before the elections the boat was put into operation for the conveyance of passengers to and from these places. It appears that the boat was taken off in 1914 and substituted by an ordinary row boat. He (Mr. Clapp) then brought down to the House an influentially signed petition to have matters remedied and he was given the impression that the Government had accepted the request until he recently received a letter from a prominent clergyman of the district complaining of a row boat being used. An extraordinary circumstance is, said Mr. Clapp, that this gasoline boat was authorized to be run by the Public Works Department which also sent a supply of gasoline to a Government supporter at Bonnie Bay.

However, the motor boat was not allowed to run after the elections were over. It must be borne in mind, emphasized the indefatigable member for the district, that Bonnie Bay contributes a considerable amount to the revenue of the Colony and deserves, at least, a passing notice from the Government. In 1914 Bonnie Bay paid \$10,128 and there was no reason at all why the people there should be deprived of the use of a paltry ferry boat whereas Pogo could get a large wharf erected in election year that cost the Government \$12,000. In addition Mr. Clapp pointed out that there was not a single public building in his district. The Post Office was a disgrace prior to the elections, a fact that the Premier knew well. In conclusion he asked that some provision be made to supply a much needed motor boat or allow the former ferry to be reinstated and that the people be given a convenience for travelling between the points mentioned.

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tioned. He merely drew the attention of the House to the injustice being done the people of Bonnie Bay.

Mr. Hallyard referred to bad postal facilities in his district and said that the postmistress at Assey's Cove was also doing the work of courier, all for \$10 a month. He asked that an enquiry be made.

Mr. Stone spoke at length on irregularities, he was informed, had been and were going on in the Postal Telegraphs Department and asked for a commission of enquiry. Last year there were numerous questions asked concerning that portion of the civil service, but the answers were only partial, especially as far as expenditures were concerned. This year since the session opened he had asked many questions about this department. Some had been answered, others had not. Mr. Stone then read to the House a series of communications dealing with certain objectionable features of the system, the conduct going on, the inefficiency and incapacity of officials, which he mentioned, on duty, especially when outside the city. Speaking of the expenditures in connection with the Department he enumerated irregularities on account of expenses and amounts paid to individuals of the civil service. Reference was made to the great cost of laying the Ramea cable. The Telegraph Department was demoralized and warranted an enquiry. He was prepared to furnish the Colonial Secretary with all the information he had in his possession provided the enquiry was going to go ahead.

The Colonial Secretary admitted that Mr. Stone had seen a busy and industrious man in getting together the information supplied to the House. Mr. Bennett said some of the charges were exaggerated and other he said had happened before he was Colonial Secretary. He knew though of insubordination going on and said there was inefficiency abounding in the service, as he had been told repeatedly by business men that they would not do business with the Department as they had no confidence in it. He was glad personally that Mr. Stone had brought the matter up and hoped it would get the information desired an enquiry would be held. He then said that he had already written to Canada for an expert to come here and advise matters. He said the Postmaster General had been a sick man for the past four months and any way was too old to give it his attention. He promised a Commission of Enquiry.

Mr. Morine suggested the superannuation of Mr. Woods and that Hon. J. A. Robbison be nominated right away in his place.

Mr. Moulton denied having got a big grab re the repairing arrangement, he was only a shareholder of a company that got pickings.

Mr. Coaker could not congratulate the Colonial Secretary on his defence he had put up. He knew last year irregularities were going on in connection with the Postal Department and did not like to create a fuss over the matter.

Mr. Kent said he did not intend to labor the matter as the Colonial Secretary had given the House the assurance that there would be an investigation. Continuing, he said, we ought not to despise the details of the statements made by Mr. Stone, the member for Trinity, in view of the confirmation of some portions of the statements made by the Colonial Secretary. He (Mr. K.) thought that Mr. Stone deserved the thanks of the House and the whole country for bringing the matter to light. He believed circumstances warranted an enquiry into the Postal Telegraph Department.

The House then went into Committee on the Resolutions re exportation of timber.

Mr. Morine opposed the Resolutions. He thought the new policy a mad one and was simply asking to skin the country and leaving it barren the same as the scuttling of a ship. What timber is in the country should be kept here to be manufactured and not let another acre go out unless the Colony got the benefit. The property on the Labrador was procured under the law that timber should be manufactured here and not be monopolized by speculators.

The Premier then occupied the House and was speaking when recess was taken.

AFTER RECESS.
The Premier continued his speech in defence of the Pt. Prop Resolutions after recess. He quoted some millions of figures as usual and showed the immense amount of labor that would accrue from the adoption of the measure.
(Continued on next page.)

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