

A BARGAIN 150 Sax Corn Meal at \$1.85 per sack. J. J. ROSSITER Real Estate Agent

Our Motto: "SUM CUIQUE"



The Mail and Advocate Issued every day from the office of publication, 167 Water Street, St. John's, Newfoundland, Union Publishing Co. Ltd., Proprietors.

ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., APRIL 30, 1915.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

Unnecessary Extravagance

At the House yesterday Mr. Coaker protested against the votes for Secretary Fishery Board, \$400; Secretary Light-house, \$1000; Pickled Fish Inspector, \$600; Inspector of Fisheries, \$750, and Deputy Surveyor of Shipping, \$800.

During the past year Allan Goodridge has drawn the allowance of Secretary of Fishery Board. The other portions are held by Messrs. Rogerson, Fitzgerald, Dea and Bell.

Here was an opportunity to save \$3500, which of course the Government refused to do, preferring to keep those officials drawing salaries while the fishermen are taxed almost to the point of starvation in order to maintain officials that seldom do much else than fly around the Colony on picnic trips.

Besides the salaries those officials cost about \$3000 more for travelling expenses. The portion of the Surveyor of Shipping is nothing but a pure waste of money, as he will not have to survey but two or three vessels for the bounty this year.

Yet the waste of \$1400 was defended by the Minister. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries showed that Mr. Goodridge only took \$200 during the past year for the work and the balance of \$200 went into drop balances and came back to the chest.

Dr. Lloyd thereupon claimed that if the Minister could get the work done for \$200, there was no use in voting \$400, and moved that the vote be reduced to \$200. The House divided, and the Government saved themselves from defeat by one vote, there being 13 opposed and 14 in favor.

Mr. Piccott became very weary, as it looked as if his innocent statement re Goodridge \$200 would cause a reverse vote. He promised to cut down the vote before the division, but when it was called for, he of course stood by the Government, but he should have crossed the floor and voted with the Opposition.

The incident caused some little excitement, and is an indication of coming events casting their shadows.

The Logging and Sealing Bills passed Committee stage and will be read the third time to-day. Both Bills will be published in this paper as they passed the House in order to give our readers an idea of their scope and meaning. Both Bills were considered by Select Committees and passed without any opposition in the Lower House. They will fill a long felt want if passed into law.

This afternoon the new Reid Deal will come before the House for further discussion.

The Colonial Secretary tabled the evidence taken by the Hospital Commission, which evidence was tabled on condition that members would not give it out for publication.

The suggestion of Mr. Coaker to encourage shipbuilding by forming companies to operate

ship building yards, guaranteeing 7 per cent. on the investment for 20 years met with a favorable reception. The Minister of Fisheries might do worse than introduce a Bill at this session, covering Mr. Coaker's suggestions, which would result in the establishment of ship building yards all over the Colony.

Harbor Grace itself might be able to compete with other parts of the Colony under such conditions, as most of the timber for ship building would have to be secured from the interior and that timber could be placed at Harbor Grace as cheaply as it could be placed at some of the Northern towns that might establish such yards.

Let the Government seriously consider this proposal and be prepared to bring down a measure dealing with it at this session and guarantee 7 or 8 per cent. on the investment and there will be very few Nova Scotia vessels imported after two or three years. A duty of 10 per cent. might then be placed on vessels purchased outside of the Colony to be engaged in the fishing or freighting business of the Colony.

A sum amounting to from Seventy to One Hundred Thousand Dollars is being sent out of the Colony annually, to purchase vessels for the fisheries and trade of the Colony, which is an outrage. Vessels can be built in this Colony as good as they can be built anywhere in America and every effort should be made now to give new life to this dying industry, which a few years ago produced 50 to 70 schooners annually.

Come, Mr. Piccott, bring in your Bill and the Opposition will give it their hearty support.

For Spotless Reputation

"Who steals my purse, steal trash. But he who fleches from me, my good name, Robs me of that which not makes him rich, But makes me poor indeed."

In the above words does the immortal bard of Avon apostrophize him who would deprive another of an honorable reputation.

Nor in our estimation is the deprivation the less a crime, when the wretch fleches from himself his spotless reputation, or deprives himself of an opportunity of establishing a good name for himself, or turns his back on honor when it pleads with his conscience.

Fate is trying many a man at this very minute, and his attitude towards the tempter at this very hour, will assign him his position forever in the eyes of men, and indeed of God Himself.

We have in our mind now the men who in the Country has trusted to carry on her business and to foster her career.

A measure is now before the Peoples House, that if carried into effect, will do our native land eternal injury.

An infamous measure it is that surpasses everything for a cold-blooded attempt to make our Country the pawn of a designing clique, who would scruple not to divest every son and daughter of Terra Nova of any claim to his or her natural heritage. Nothing less than this in the infamous resolution brought down by Sir E. P. Morris, and to which he has the face to ask the legislature's assent.

During this present session of the Assembly we have heard speech after speech from members of both sides of the House, each one avowing patriotism. Now to our mind patriotism is love of native land.

Can those men be sincere who speak of patriotism, who for paltry gain or for the sake of holding on to paltry office, would sacrifice every interest of native land.

If they have one spark of the patriotism of which they speak, they will, with voice of indignation stand up and denounce this iniquitous scheme, this cursed attempt to rob us of a right to call Terra Nova our own. The Reids have fixed their greedy claws into our flesh deep enough already, let us not prostrate ourselves at their feet entirely.

Let us keep what we own, and be very jealous of our right. We appeal now especially to the young men who happen to be sitting on the Government benches. Throw overboard all selfish aims, and be men. You may sacrifice a bit by doing so, but you gain in the end.

Life is not worth living if during your brief sojourn here you wreck your title to honored memory, although you may gain the world. Surely in the breasts of our young men, there lives the

Notable Speech By Mr. Kent Criticizes Sir Edward's Silence

Says He Has Not Justified Himself in Answer to Adverse Comment from the Opposition Side of the House--Comment Made in Discharge of a Duty Toward the Country

MR. KENT—Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to address the House at any length, as I have already spoken in connection with the Speech from the Throne; but there are one or two matters to which I would like to refer before the debate closes.

I could not help thinking when the Prime Minister was speaking the other day that he had not attempted any justification in reply to the comments or any answer to the criticisms that have been directed against the Government's policy from this side of the House and particularly by the member for Trinity, Dr. Lloyd. Dr. Lloyd had directed a criticism fairly, honestly and squarely against the financial actions of the Government and the critical condition to which these actions had reduced the Colony. The Prime Minister instead of answering these criticisms as one would have expected, he should have done, treated them lightly by referring to them as being similar to those he had been hearing from the Opposition for thirty years in the House.

Perhaps, there is a certain amount of truth in the fact that generally the Opposition does not see eye to eye with the Government, as you always expect criticism of its actions from this side of the House, and to that extent it is probably true that the Government must expect its wrong doings to be dealt with by us. I know supporters will not do so. It is one of our first duties to criticize—to criticize fairly and honestly, and I think the criticism directed from this side of the House during this debate has been fair and honest and made in discharge of our public duties towards the electors of the Country. It is a confession of weakness, to answer criticisms of this kind by commentaries such as those the Prime Minister has used.

If you consider the present position of the Colony and if you impartially judge the actions of the present Government since they assumed power, what conclusion must you come to. I should like to premise my remarks by saying that Newfoundland as a whole is a sound country. It has valuable

resources, it has a fine geographical position, it has a splendid and virile people. Nature has in some respects been kind to it. All it requires is a fair opportunity to develop along natural lines. If it is given the chance it will take its place and rank first amongst the Dominions of the Empire. But, you may have a healthy state and many of the ills that affect the condition of the state itself, but to the actions of those who rule it.

In the present case, I am sorry to say that the condition which you find in this country to-day is attributable to the policy, or rather want of policy, that the Government has acted on since coming into power. They have been time they assumed office the country. It had developed its resources during the preceding years. A number of industrial undertakings had been established and everything pointed to a great future along the lines of legitimate development of our natural resources. Our financial strain to-day is partly due to the fact that we have not had from time to time this one single industrial undertaking which would tend to develop the resources of the country from a condition in which our finances were sound and healthy to a condition in which we must admit it is the reverse.

You had under the former administration that of Sir Robert Bond year after year surpluses of revenue over expenditure. You had the reduction and readjustment of the tariff in a manner that caused the burdens of taxation to fall upon the shoulders of those best able to bear them by removing the duties from the necessities of life and enabling the poor man to enjoy as far as his condition will allow him free imports of necessities for his business and his needs. You had also at that time a reserve accumulated from revenue placed to the credit of the Colony which was available as a strong asset in case of emergency and was a strong asset

must content ourselves with saying, that with all the strength and vehemence at our control do we oppose them, for the sake of Terra Nova, our native land.

Our Reason For Kicking

In answer to the News' complaint that the proposition now before the Assembly is being kicked vigorously, instead of being discussed seriously, we have only to say that a proposition that deserves, and has received the title of being "the most infamous proposition ever submitted to a legislature" is fit only to be kicked, and furthermore, those who have had the cheek to bring such a proposition before the Country deserve to be kicked also.

As far as the connection of the Reids with the News' proposition, and as far as that affects the attitude of the community towards it, it must be given to the Editor of the News that the Reid connection with any measure of such gigantic proportions is reasonably certain to direct the suspicions of the people towards that scheme.

This Country has nothing to thank the Reids for. We owe them nothing. We have been battling against the Reids and their grasping propensities ever since they landed on our shores, and it is only because of our constant battle that we have anything left of Newfoundland to call our own.

when necessary to apply for loans to carry on public works and public undertakings. You had during that time most of the public works, which during recent years have been charged to capital account, undertaken and carried out of ordinary revenue and still you had surpluses and were able to accumulate a reserve.

To-day, unfortunately, we have conditions which were not so promising as they were. Another feature of that time was the yearly increasing balance of trade, which was continually favouring the Colony showing the Colony at that time to be absolutely sound in every way. To-day the same resources are there, but they are not being used in a way that the people of this Colony should expect. To-day the picture is reversed. During the first years of the present Government's administration there were still the benefits and fruits of the undertakings of the previous Government and prosperity which had flourished at that time continued to flourish. It continued in spite of the actions of the present Government. But, as time went on and as the inevitable consequences of the policy of the present Government worked itself out you have to-day increased taxation, a very heavy burden of debt, an adverse balance of trade and no reverse.

That is a condition, that ought not to exist. It is not due to any possibility of the Colony itself. I said before, Newfoundland is sound through and through. All its needs is proper administration in order to recuperate rapidly from the present condition to which its affairs have been reduced. The only undertaking of any magnitude by the present Government has been the construction of branch railways and this was done under the worst possible conditions. It is not necessary for me to go into the history of that undertaking. I have repeated it year after year. It is one of these things it is necessary to keep before us all the time.

The Prime Minister the other day said that he had a mandate from the people to build these railways. Yes, he did have a mandate to build branch railways but he had no mandate from the people to carry out the contracts upon the terms and conditions and obligations submitted to this House. To-day the condition of borrowing on the foreign financial market shows how foolish it was for this country under the circumstances to have constituted the payment of the contractor in gold instead of bonds.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the concession for this was that \$600 a mile was taken off the contract price. Even on the contract itself as I pointed out last year that was only a nominal concession because where it is taken off the mileage construction price it is more than made up on the payment for material. But even suppose it was. Look at the difference in amount paid contractors as between \$600 a mile and the amount that will be lost on the actual contract price (which will probably be in the vicinity of \$10,000,000) before it is finished due to the paying in gold instead of bonds. To-day, Sir, you would probably have to pay—as the Dominion of Canada has had to pay—four and half per cent. You would certainly have to pay four, as the Prime Minister found last year when he went to float a loan which had been passed through this House at 3 1/2 in spite of the warnings and the protests which we made during the Session.

The expenditure was another the Prime Minister referred to the other day and the fact that the Government during the term of its administration had had surpluses aggregating \$900,000 and that they gave this back to the people. These surpluses are due not to the careful management of the revenue, not to careful expenditure of the revenue, not to the fact that public works were economically carried on, but due primarily to the fact that works which other governments in this country have always performed out of current account, were executed under Loans by the present Government.

Take this condition in 1909. There was a loan Bill that year of \$430,000 part of which was to cover what was termed a deficit on the previous year's account. I dealt with this last year and showed from the figures that the deficit was in no way traceable to the previous administration which had only occupied office for two-thirds of the year, and had no voice in making up the accounts.

There was another loan Bill for \$400,000 in 1910. In 1911 there was one for \$520,000; in 1912 \$250,000 and in 1914 \$360,000, in all \$1,960,000. If you take of that

Proceedings at the House of Assembly

Thursday, April 29, 1915.

House met at 3.25 p.m. MR. STONE gave notice of Question.

COLONIAL SECRETARY tabled reply to a question of Mr. Stone's of April 13th.

MR. MORINE presented a petition from Alexander Bay on the subject of Road Boards.

The House resolved itself into Committee of Whole on the question of Supply and the following votes were passed, viz.:

Table with 2 columns: Department Name and Amount. Includes Government House (\$2,760.00), Prime Minister's Department (1,400.00), Colonial Secretary's Department (5,580.00), etc.

CONTINGENCIES (Ordinary)

Table with 2 columns: Department Name and Amount. Includes Government House (3,500.00), Prime Minister's Department (500.00), Colonial Secretary's Department (20,800.00), etc.

When the estimates for Marine and Fisheries' Department were being considered, MR. COAKER made a stirring speech in which he scored the Government for having several useless servants in the Civil Service—particularly in the Customs Department. He pointed out to the Government the chance they had of cutting out several "dead heads" and thus putting into effect the economy that was so badly wanted.

MINISTER OF FISHERIES PICCOTT made a vigorous and patriotic

1910 loan which was never raised and which was implicitly cancelled the following year, there remain \$1,560,000. You must add to that the amount of the Surplus Trust Fund that was left there by preceding Governments and which amounted to \$500,000. That gives you \$2,060,000. It was by borrowing these amounts that the Government was able to carry on this work and show surpluses of \$900,000.

In reality our finances of these years show deficits which would have been apparent if you had carried out public works on Current account as is usual in this country. If it was the intention to cover these works by loans then the first thing the Government should have done when it came into power in 1909 was to meet the amount which would be allocated to capital account by reduction of taxation at that time. Instead of that we all know the unfortunate history of their dealing with taxation.

The Session before last—preceding the General Election—a most sweeping reduction of taxation was brought in by the Minister of Finance. He at that time indicated a surplus for the next year, a surplus of about \$250,000. Before that year expired, last year during the session he found that his financial proposition would not work out as he had been told it would work out and he not only replaced an amount equivalent to that previously removed but placed an amount of nearly three quarters of a million dollars a year on the ordinary taxation.

This was all before the War occurred, and before the War was even thought of being in course of development. This was in face of the statement of two or three months before that he had anticipated a surplus. His anticipated surplus turned out into an actual deficit of \$300,000. His predictions were made at a time when the Government, through the Minister of Finance painted the condition of the country as being of unprecedented prosperity.

Just one or two words more, I would like to refer to our re-

speech, ably defending the staff of under officials in his Department. The Minister said in effect that he had no room for loafers, neither did he want any, and all that came to him had to work. He also clearly explained the position and circumstances attached to the absence of the Deputy Head (Mr. Goodridge) from his post, owing to the war situation. He (the Minister) eulogised Mr. Goodridge for the service he had rendered King and Country, and emphasized the fact of his Deputy being a most capable official, although being the lowest paid Deputy-Head connected with the Public Service. Mr. Piccott, in the course of his remarks also alluded to the service rendered the Empire, remarking that "an ounce of help was worth a ton of prayer" and instanced the "Evening Herald," of this city as having stated that Mr. Goodridge was being paid \$2800.00 yearly out of the Government chest, but it was a matter anything at all about how much the "Herald" itself was getting out of the Government. Mr. Piccott also, in dealing with the inspection of shipping referred to the superiority of local shipbuilding, and corroborating evidence was adduced by Messrs. Jennings, Moulton and Coaker, the latter commenting on the desirability of encouraging the industry.

DR. LLOYD congratulated the Minister of Fisheries on his excellent address and hoped we would have more speeches of such a practical nature, and which proved that Mr. Piccott was carefully looking after all matters pertaining to the Department of which he had charge.

An exchange of witticisms between the Minister and Dr. Lloyd took place which kept everybody in good humor with honours fairly even.

Dr. Lloyd also moved an amendment to have the vote of \$400.00 for Secretary of Fishery Board reduced to \$200.00, which on being put was lost by a majority of one.

The Loggers' Bill, which had been referred to a Select Committee, was then introduced by MR. COAKER and passed its second reading. It will be read a third time to-morrow.

The Seal Fishery Bill also passed the committee stage with slight amendment.

THE PREMIER brought before the Committee the Bill "Respecting the Administration of Local Affairs." He stated it had been in the hands of a

(Continued on page 5)

sources. I do not think the Government has had any definite policy regarding the development of our resources. They propose year after year projects which never materialize. Year after year we have heard in Governor's speech after Governor's speech that negotiations have been entered into but we never have anything definite or concrete that you can point to as a definite concrete business like proposition. Now we have to-day a proposition which from the language itself would puzzle the wit of man to find out what it means. The Speech from the Throne says: (Quotes paragraph)

I had hope that that veiled cloud of words which is placed in that paragraph would have been explained by the Prime Minister or by some person else in the course of debate on the Address in Reply I think, when Ministers put a proposition like that in a speech from the Throne and when you ask the Governor of the Colony to read that seriously in his Speech then, if you do not consider it expedient to put some definite information concerning it in the Speech, some explanation or something concerning the subject matter of the negotiations ought to be explained to the House during the Session.

I came across a cutting the other day in a paper. I do not know if it refers to this proposition. It is taken from a Canadian paper and is dated St. John's, Nfld., January 22.—"The extraction of nitrogen from the atmosphere on a large scale for use as a fertilizer is proposed by capitalists who have just obtained a concession from the colonial government for the use of Grand Falls in Labrador. The plans call for the development of one million horsepower from the falls to generate electricity."

I do not know whether that is the proposition. If it is I would like to ask the Prime Minister, or the Minister of Agriculture and Mines if he were here, whether there is any truth in the statement that this concession of Grand Falls Labrador has been made.