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### At the House

Petitions were presented by Mr. Downey, asking for a change in the Fox Laws at Codroy, and a road at Little Barachois; from Mr. Grimes for a wharf and a well at Barened; from Mr. Jennings for a wharf at Moreton's Harbor; by Mr. Stone for a road at New Chelsea and telephone connection at Long Beach; by Mr. Coaker for shed on wharf at King's Cove, for a road at Charlottetown and a road at St. Brendan's; by Mr. Moulton, for a road at Cape Ray; by Mr. Hickman, for winches to lift boats in Bay de Verde District; by Mr. Targett for a road at New Chelsea, and by Mr. Clapp, asking that Groats Islands, a most important fishing centre, be made a port of call.

The Bills respecting advertisements, Dental, and Cruelty to Animals were read a third time and ordered to be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

#### SALARIES OF TIDEWAITERS.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply. The votes for Customs and Contingencies were passed.

Mr. Coaker.—In going through the Customs Supply, he noticed that the tidewaiter at Change Islands had his salary increased from \$150 to \$200. This, he said, was done for political purposes, as the official in question worked for the present Government in the elections and even now has his tongue going on the highways, interfering with other people. He thought the increase was not deserving as the tidewaiter at Change Islands has a small amount of work to do and most of the time he is going around sporting his brass buttons and making himself a public eyesore.

Mr. Kent.—He believed that there were discrepancies in the stipends of tidewaiters in the different places, but did not know whether there was any justification for distinctions or not. The estimates showed that the tidewaiters on Bell Island were paid \$200 and the tidewaiters at Botwood, Mr. Breton and Port aux Basques, \$400, \$450 and \$500 respectively. He would like to have the reason explained for this distinction. Bell Island is one of the busiest places in

Newfoundland; the sub-collector there was paid a larger salary than at any other outpost, therefore he did not see why the tidewaiters, who were engaged from one end of the year to the other, were not entitled to the highest salaries, or, at least, to as much as the officers at Botwood, Mr. Breton and Port aux Basques. In any event it was his opinion that the salaries of tidewaiters at all the principal places should be paid on the same level.

The Finance Minister.—Port aux Basques was an open port all the year round, but that Bell Island was closed during the winter months. He was quite enough not to dilate on the salaries of the officials at the places referred to by the hon. leader or the Opposition.

Mr. Jennings.—He had no experience of the larger places, but was familiar with such fishing settlements as Greenspond, Change Islands and Moreton's Harbor. He believed that \$150 was sufficient annual pay for the tidewaiters at these places, as these men have lots of time at their disposal to get supplementary incomes. He cited instances in which tidewaiters go on the fishing grounds and return to duty when they get a signal from the lighthouses when a coastal boat is approaching.

THE AGRICULTURAL PORTFOLIO.

Mr. Kent.—He said the Committee were advancing in the supply; the office of Agriculture and Mines yet remained unfilled and he was anxious to know exactly how the matter stood in connection with the appointment of a Minister. There were many hon. gentlemen in the Government ranks who would be only too pleased to fill the vacancy, and probably with as great a competency as any predecessor. He thought it unfair to the House and to the whole country to be going into the supply for this department until something definite was arrived at. Continuing, he said it is now nearly four months since the election when the Minister was defeated, and no attempt has been made to appoint a successor. He was informed by the Prime Minister that Mr. Blandford vacated office on the 2nd of January. Are we to understand that the office has since been left vacant and that the work is being done by the Deputy Minister. There has been no repre-

sentative in the Legislature during the present session and we ought to have the Minister of Agriculture and Mines in the House dealing with supplies for that Department. You will not find a case before where the supply belonging to a department went through the Legislature and not represented by its actual head, yet we are here to-day with no person responsible for the departments under discussion. Each department of the Government has its own head and the monies voted in this Committee handed over and the department given in charge to the Minister who is responsible for all amounts allocated for the various works, therefore we ought to have a change in the existing deadlock policy, and have a Minister of Agriculture and Mines in this House before going into the supply. We notice in the estimate that the vote of \$40,000 to promote Agriculture is cut in two. In looking over the expenses of the Department the question arises are you going to have one, two or three commissioners, or are you going to cut off some of the "trappings" that are going on. This is a striking instance in which the Minister should be here to explain. The report of the Board of Agriculture tabled, shows that imports of Agricultural product from Canada and America were increasing, and this was one of the serious matters that required the presence of the Minister of Agriculture in the House.

The Prime Minister.—He said he had already dealt with the constitutional position in relation to the vacancy of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines.

Mr. Kent.—It is a practical inconvenience.

The Prime Minister.—To that he had no objection, but emphasized that the constitutional position is that where there is a vacancy in a departmental office and the Government are prepared to assume the responsibility here in relation to the department, that the absence of the Minister is not a matter for serious comment or serious criticism. He said all questions asked regarding the Department of Agriculture and Mines, would be answered by him and all information concerning the estimates would be furnished by the Finance Minister. He said that the vote for Agriculture had been reduced one half for the purposes of economy, and that no exhibitions would be held for one year as they cost \$10,000 annually already. His reason for the increase of Canadian and American products imported here was that people were consuming more vegetables, notably the sealers, and that the working men were not going to live on bread and tea any longer. (This ironical insinuation elicited a heavy sigh from the men in the galleries.)

Mr. Lloyd.—Regarding the absence of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, in the Legislature, it was incomprehensible to him how the leader of the popular branch of the Legislature could declare that the absence of two

political heads of administrative departments from the Legislature was not a matter for serious comment. He took issue with the leader of the Government. It was surely a matter of serious comment that an extraordinary, unusual and anomalous condition in respect of the departments had existed for fourteen weeks. It is customary when a minister is defeated at the polls, either to resign

immediately or an opening is provided for him to go to another constituency. This course was not followed in the present instance. Messrs. Morison and Blandford did not resign until two months after the elections, and secondly the Government has not offered them or any one replacing them a chance to seek reelection. It is an interesting feature of the situation that we have on record a letter from His Excellency the Governor setting forth views at variance materially with the course pursued by the Prime Minister. It is now two months since the Supreme Council of the F.P.U. drew the attention of the Governor to the fact that no ministers were occupying offices who had not been sustained at the polls, and that the Government had made no move in the matter. A reply from His Excellency was received, but the views of reasonable men to arrange matters does not ally with the course followed by the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister.—Dr. Lloyd is in relation to the communication sent the Governor by the F.P.U. the matter laid before him by the F.P.U. was that the ministers of the Government were defeated, and that six weeks had passed and the Government had taken no steps in the matter. In considering the matters laid before him, the Governor said that a reasonable time should be given the Government to deal with the matter, but His Excellency said nothing about vacancies of Departmental offices and their absence from the Legislature.

Mr. Lloyd.—He did not accept the view that the discussion was limited to the situation which had arisen since the resignation of the Ministers in January 2nd. The stand-pat and nothing attitude of the Government began on Nov. 3rd, when they new of the defeat of Messrs. Morison and Blandford, and had continued until to-day, and the end was not in sight, as the Prime Minister declined to take the House into his confidence as to his intentions. The unconstitutionality and inconvenience of the absence of departmental heads were in the minds of the memorialists.

They had drawn the Governor's attention early in December to the fact that inconvenience would arise in relation to the House if the then situation was permitted to continue to exist, and this inconvenience was before the Governor when he hid down his rule about reasonable time to straighten out the situation. The Prime Minister should have made his decision in November last. It was a matter of grave concern that the Prime Minister had done nothing and even now, after the situation had existed for fourteen weeks, that the Prime Minister should from his place, tell the House that he had nothing to communicate as to his intentions in the premises, and virtually to intimate to the House that he was not prepared to take the House into his

confidence on the matter. Two Ministers were retained in office for over eight weeks after their defeat, and five weeks had elapsed since their resignation and no successors have been appointed. The Government should at least explain what they intended to do. We were assured that what they do, when they do it, will not be unconstitutional. The leader of the Government said that he and his colleagues would take the responsibility for what they are doing. Of course, they have to do that. But the gravamen of the offence was that the Government had done nothing to resolve the situation in four weeks, and at the present they refuse to budge from their attitude of standing pat and doing nothing, and the irony of the situation was that the course of conduct of the Government was dictated not by the convenience of the House or the interests of the country, but by partisan expediency.

The Prime Minister.—In reply he said that the document published by the Governor had no analogy to the absence of the two defeated ministers. He insisted that the non-filling of these offices was not a matter of serious comment when the other members of the Government are prepared to take the responsibility of the positions. He questioned the unconstitutionality of this position as he knew of cases where men held offices, and never went back to constituencies for months, and when they did go back were defeated and still retained their portfolios. He said the Solicitor Generalship of the country was not filled for eight or ten years, though that position was not in the same category with the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Coaker.—There may have been an agreement between the two parties in power.

The Prime Minister.—There could be no such agreement between two political parties, as it would be immoral and not in the public interest. He said that the Solicitor Generalship of the Dominion of Canada was vacant for two years, and that Sir Wilfred Laurier was criticizing the Borden Government as to when the vacancy would be filled. He cited instances from the British Ministry of over 70 years ago, where ministers lost their seats and were retained in office, and later instances about law officers of Scotland and Ireland.

Mr. Lloyd.—He contended that the instances named by the Leader of the Government were not analogous to the

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stances quoted by the Premier had no parallel to the question now before the House and the country as they only dealt with inferior officers and not Cabinet Ministers. The Memorials presented to the Governor by the Supreme Council of the F. I. U. drew His Excellency's attention to the fact that immediate action should be taken, as if such a state of affairs continued to exist there would be no time for Minister to go to election to get a seat before the Legislature met. These prognostications had turned out to be correct. The Premier is trying to bolster up a bad case by quoting a bad Canadian precedent. If the precedent was good for two Ministers it was good for four and for more and in that way the Prime Minister might justify the absence of all other Ministerial heads from the House by taking the responsibility and becoming the Pooh-Bah of the Administration.

Mr. Coaker agreed with the arguments advanced by the previous speaker and thought it was time the Premier should come to a decision and take the House into his confidence. He said there were stories abroad that Messrs. LeFevre and Currie were aspirants for the Minister of Agriculture portfolio; but in his opinion Mr. LeFevre, who was in harness the longest, should get the appointment even though the junior member for Burin, Mr. Currie, was good looking. He suggested that the fire patrol methods for protecting our forests and timber areas should be remedied, but believed that the Government should not protect properties belonging to individuals. He said that the majority of cattle imported were found dead when they arrived at St. John's and steps should be taken to remedy this.

Mr. Kent.—He did not think the Committee should go ahead with the Supply until the Minister of Agriculture was in the House and that the Prime Minister had not justified absence of the head of the department. The Minister of two of our

most important resources should be in the House to justify his policy in the past and outline his policy for the future. The latest revenue from the Crown Lands showed an abnormal decrease. A few years ago the revenue was \$250,000, in 1913 it was \$100,000.

Mr. Hallyard.—He was surprised to see the Premier hunting up the records of the misty past to find the reason why he did not fill two im-

portant departments. He thought it an injustice to the Premier, who with his other multifarious duties was responsible for the departments of Justice, and Agriculture. According to work of the three departments. He thought the Premier must be a modern Hercules, and was now dragging off having his salary increased the Governor was. He (Mr. H.) was strongly of the opinion that the departments under discussion should be properly represented in this House. It was only on Friday last that the Prime Minister endeavored to show up to the country what little indignity Coaker and the F. P. U. had done. He (Mr. H.) thought that the Premier had an excellent opportunity of proving his assertion by sending two men to Northern districts. The Committee then rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again this afternoon.

### For the Children's Use.

"Can you," I said to my Druggist, "suggest anything for irritable skin in children. Mine are very prone to skin irritation in winter. A new woolen garment, a slight chafe, exposure to cold winds, and they are in trouble at once. Is there anything to relieve it?"

He handed me a cake of soap, saying: "You will find in this what you need. This is Zylex Soap, and is really first rate for the purpose. Try it."

I did so with most satisfactory results too. Zylex Soap (as well as the Ointment which I always keep on hand) has proven its value to me. Zylex Soap is 25c. a cake; the Ointment, 50c. a box. At all druggists. Jan 28, 1914.

### Western Fishery Good

Passengers who arrived in the city from the South West Coast, report the fishery good in the vicinity of Rose Blanche. Two Beltonian vessels, operating there, secured 100 quintals each in one day last week. About fifteen vessels are at Rose Blanche at present, and all are supplied with baitings of frozen herring. With favorable weather these schooners should secure good fares, as fish is reported to be plentiful on the coast. The Belton fleet are now getting ready, and several of them were to leave for the Western fishing grounds yesterday, but were delayed by the storm. They will wait the first opportunity.

### Stanfield's Underwear.

Sleeping in the cold and silent clay to-day are many men who should be alive and active — an asset to their country, but they allowed cold after cold to go on unheeded for—result—Death. Many of these colds were contracted through wearing cotton underwear. There is nothing more dangerous in cold climates. After perspiring freely it is like a cold wet rag round the body, and the fleece rolls off in little icy knobs. Throw it away. Wear wool, it absorbs all moisture and lessens the chances of catching cold. Stanfield's, from \$1.00 per garment.

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