

AT THE HOUSE.

Colonial Secretary Auditor General and Government Engineer Appointed Railway Commissioners—West Indies Bill Turned Down by Government—Three and a Half Million Dollar Loan Arranged.

Mr. Higgins presented a petition on behalf of the residents of Freshwater, Bell Island, which was referred to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. Fox supported the petition which, if granted, will be greatly appreciated by the people living in that section of the Iron Islands.

Mr. Vincombe endorsed the views of his colleagues and asked that the sum required be allocated.

Questions were tabled by Mr. Higgins, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Fox and Sir M. P. Cashin, after which the House went into Committee on Supply.

MODEL FARM DONE AWAY WITH

Acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Higgins and other members of the Opposition, Premier Warren said the Government decided to do away with the Model Farm and that only one Commissioner of Agriculture would be continued in office. Mr. Winsor or Mr. Samson, present Commissioners, will be retained for one year only. A heated discussion was caused by the announcement of the Premier to the effect that he was not in a position to cancel the vote for the salary of Dr. Mosdell as a Commissioner of the Military Pensions Board.

Major Cashin and his colleague P. F. Moore objected to the vote and in doing so asked consideration for Major March or any other returned service man whom they thought should be given the appointment. Major Cashin asked the assistance of Mr. Small, one of the first five hundred, to see that the returned soldiers were going to be treated fairly.

Mr. Small said he had no objection to the appointment of Dr. Mosdell because a civilian in the person of the late Mr. Cliff had been there before him.

Mr. Cashin in reply said the circumstances were greatly different. The late Mr. Cliff's two sons paid the supreme sacrifice whilst Dr. Mosdell used the position to publish the private records of returned soldiers and was enjoying the salaries of thousands of dollars yearly in other Government appointments.

Mr. Higgins endorsed the views of his colleagues and asked the Government to reconsider the matter.

Mr. P. Cashin again expressed the hope that the Government would refrain from forcing the appointment and closed his remarks by stating "If the returned soldiers had the same pluck in them as they had in 1914-15, they would never allow Dr. Mosdell to sit on the Board."

Upon the Chairman reading the motion the Opposition replied in the negative.

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES.

Additional estimates were tabled as follows:

Finance Department.	
Assistant Typist	480.00
Auditor General's Department.	
Deputy Auditor General	2,800.00
Messenger	300.00
Public Works Department.	
Secretary to Minister	1,100.00
Justice Department.	
Labrador Gold Fields Police	18,500.00
Pensions—Fire Department.	
One Man at	1,300.00
One Man at	900.00
One Man at	768.75
One Man at	653.33
Police Annuitants.	
One man at	538.50
Constabulary Salaries.	
10 Constables at \$750.00	7,500.00
Constabulary Uniforms and Bedding	1,000.00
Burns & Burridge, Legal Expenses account Labrador Boundary	15,000.00
Constabulary Lodging Allowances	720.00
6 Men at \$120.00	720.00
Public Charities Department.	
Clerk	1,020.00
Typist	360.00
Contingencies.	
Colonial Exhibition	50,000.00
Total	\$102,988.53

The Prime Minister explained that the vote for special police at St. John's would not be more than half expended as the police are now on their way home as it is quite evident the gold rush did not materialize.

Mr. Higgins in dealing with these additional estimates said it was a scandal the way payments were made to employees of the Audit Department. If they are not getting salaries sufficient to enable them to live in decency then give them larger salaries legitimately. Why should the Auditor General be paid extra for auditing the Savings Bank account? The extra amounts for the police force was a disgrace. \$18,500 for Labrador police. The Inspector General read something in the papers that there was something doing on Labrador so he sent down a force of police. Now they are coming back. Nothing doing

down there. Ten new constables for the country. There are far too many policemen in this country. The Inspector General is a high class man. He was not born to manage a police force for Newfoundland. He should be managing the New York police force. The present condition of affairs should be availed of to put the deputy heads of departments in their places. They should be the sheet anchors of the country. Instead what are they? Take Mr. Harris. Why have he been given a thousand dollars? That money should have gone to the people who were hungry. Devoting again to the police force he reckoned that \$30,000 were being fired away this year on a fad. This country cannot afford that \$30,000. Where was it going to end? People thought that when the Prohibition Act was passed the police force would be reduced. It is by far greater than ever before.

Mr. Moore brought up the matter of Hon. Mr. Davey's appointment, which called for a salary of \$300.00 per month. Why was Mr. Wm. Churchill superseded by Mr. Davey? The \$300 per month he was getting paid now was an absolute waste. In this connection he wanted to raise the question as to whether Mr. Davey and Dr. Mosdell could legally hold their seats in the Upper House and continue to be Government servants.

Mr. Davey was a Government Inspector at \$360.00 per year and Dr. Mosdell was a member of the Pension Board and a number of other Boards for which he drew large salaries.

Mr. Higgins thought the point taken by Mr. Moore a good one in so far as that some years ago instructions were sent out from the Home Office to the effect that any member of the Legislative Council receiving voted emoluments forfeited their seats in that chamber.

Mr. Woodford promised the House that unless some definite answer were given to his plea on behalf of those men now seeking employment, he was prepared to remain there indefinitely. He was not prepared to accept the statement that the Government could not afford to give the necessary employment on the roads, etc. so long as he was confronted with scandals such as the Davey matter. He was not prepared to vote a salary to Mr. Davey of \$300.00 a month while men were walking the streets hungry.

He would suggest the putting of the railroad in good running order and by this means give employment. Here he wished to direct the Prime Minister's attention to a promise given the Leader of the Opposition a few days ago. That promise was in effect that elected members of a district whether on the Government side or Opposition side, should have a voice in the spending of moneys allocated to that district. That promise is not being carried out in Harbor Main, for Mr. Hixson and Mr. Hibbs had all to do with employing men in that District and they were using their position to discriminate against men who were known or suspected of being opponents of the Government. This is most unfair and should be put an end to. He then called attention to the fact that seventeen men who were employed in widening the road near Mr. Hibbs's property in St. John's, in June, have not been paid yet. He asked that they be paid at once.

Sir M. P. Cashin in a very lengthy address to the Assembly called attention to certain facts which are omitted or do not appear in the estimates as provided. The R.N. Co. loan is left out. No provision for this appears either in the general or in the additional estimates. The Government intends to raise a loan of three million dollars and no provision for the interest appears in the Estimates. If this loan be raised at five per cent. it means we must provide \$150,000 and if at five and one-half per cent we must provide \$165,000 interest. It is quite plain you have got to amend the Estimates. Last year the country was astounded to hear that Estimates had been falsely adopted of which thirty-five in the House were ignorant. The Clerk's office was prosecuted and the votes passed by this House tampered with. The vote for mounted police is again put in, in violation of a pledge given at the last session of this House.

We are also asked to vote \$18,500 for the St. John's force conditions in this country do not warrant such extravagance. In supplemental supply we are asked to vote another million dollars over and above that of last year. Yet no detail as to how this extra expenditure is to be met is given. Not one cent of the new loan will be left after you pay the bills now owed of the Armstrong-Whitworth Company loan \$650,000 is still due the colony. He then in dealing with the retiring allowances

recited the scandal which permitted Mr. Furey a defeated candidate receiving a salary of \$1,200 whilst Mr. Kennedy an experienced official was compelled to accept a pension of \$750.00 in order to make room for Mr. Furey. He wanted to learn what department was paying Mr. Furey. Then there is the matter of giving Mr. Penney a job at \$1,800 and expenses as Employment Agent at the Harbor? What is this for? It is none of our business to provide an employment agent for the Armstrong people. What Department is paying Mr. Penney? As an example of gross extravagance and the loose way in which public money has been handled, Sir Michael displayed seven sheets of census returns from St. John's. These sheets have not yet been in the hands of the binder yet \$7,500 have been paid the Daily Mail on account of printing them. This looks like robbery.

At this point Mr. Higgins interjected the remark that it was financing a political paper at the expense of the country and people.

Dr. Mosdell, Sir Michael continued, is the Editor of that newspaper. He is receiving thousands of dollars yearly from the finances of Newfoundland. According to the amount paid the publisher of the Mail the complete census should cost not less than \$100,000. Sir Michael read extracts from a letter by Inspector General Hutchings wherein he attempted to justify his claim to one thousand dollars reward for special services. These services it seemed were somehow connected with the employment question. Sir Michael read a letter from a disappointed citizen of Harbour Grace covering the reprehensible conduct of Relieving Officer Squires. According to the letter Relieving Officer Squires displayed unfair and harsh discrimination against all who were opposed to the Government in politics. A note was given the poor people to take to either Messrs. Simmonds, Walsh or Parsons. Sir Michael then referred to the wholesale attempts to purchase the electorate by the appointment of many additional Relieving Officers throughout the country during the election to distribute relief to buy votes. Mr. Simmonds here interjected a remark to say the electorate were not bribed or fooled. Sir Michael, turning his guns on the member for Harbor Grace, withered that gentleman in a torrent of sarcasm. He accused Mr. Simmonds of receiving \$22,000 from the Government on account of fishery supplies, not one cent of which has been returned. No wonder the country is in such a frightful condition, when even members of the Assembly are openly guilty of keeping money they have no right to. While he had a voice in the House Sir Michael intended to denounce such conduct. The member for Harbour Grace does not disdain to sell eggs to the Government at \$1.00 a dozen for which he pays the poor people of the District a paltry amount. He should keep his lips closed. We are here this afternoon trying intelligently to discuss a Budget that the House really knows nothing about. A Tariff Commission was appointed more than two years ago, but nothing resulted so far excepting that Mr. LeMessurier got \$600.00 and Dr. Mosdell \$2,000. There is a story too to be told about the way this country has been jockeyed in respect to Bell Island, and Sir Michael said he intended to tell that story when the time came. We remember it cost \$15,000 to bring certain auditors here from New York to try to fasten guilt upon him and his colleagues. What was the sequel? They gave Sir Michael and his associates a certificate of character. He deplored the fact that in all St. John's there could not be found three men to investigate the scandals of the late Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Mines. The House is mesmerized by repeated exposures of wrong doing, but before it was mesmerized it was pauperized. The House has been open a long time now and nothing has been done, yet we have seen this happen never before witnessed. We have seen the flight of two Ministers. From this he saw that in time right must triumph. He invited the Prime Minister to begin his career by putting his foot down firmly on wrongdoing and to weed out undesirables as quickly as possible.

At 6.30 p.m. the House adjourned to sit again at 8 p.m.

NIGHT SESSION.

Mr. P. F. Moore was the first to address the Committee when he complained of the manner in which native mechanics and workmen were being discriminated against. He told the story of five plasterers arriving by the Red Cross steamer to engage in work on the Normal School whilst we had competent men of the Chalkers and Conway type who were experts in this line of work.

Mr. Higgins agreed with Mr. Moore and said he hoped to see the Normal School as it is now termed by this administration into what is more useful, a hospital. He was in no sense a Normal School man. He believed it was a farce. This country cannot afford it, no matter how expert to lay out the grounds. He could show where the country lost thousands of dollars in not accepting the lowest tenders for work, and would prove his words when the tenders were tabled.

Sir M. P. Cashin brought up the position of Mr. Frank Penney, which

entailed a great deal of mystery as no department seemed to be responsible for his work or salary.

Hon. Mr. Warren said the appointment was not a permanent one and would not be voted in the Estimates.

Mr. Sullivan spoke on the Penney appointment and the unworkable system. He said a labor agent's duty was to get men when men were scarce, but in this instance we had men, thousands of them, falling over one another looking for work and a labor agent was unnecessary. In dealing with the Audit Act he said that some section of that part of the Government machinery had collapsed in so far as the results have shown. We must be serious in our idea of retrenchment if we expect to reduce the cost of living. The Audit Act should be amended. If not the Auditor General should be held responsible for the cost of the Government for the current year. The Labrador Police is a farce pure and simple and should be abolished. The Normal School, in his opinion, would be a splendid site for a hospital for women as hundreds of them are now seeking medical advice and treatment, but cannot get it owing to the fact that there is no room or space in the General Hospital. If the Normal School was converted into a Woman's Hospital greater room would be given the men at the General Hospital as a larger number were waiting admission to that institution. He asked that no provision be made for furnishing the Normal School pending a decision of the Legislature at the next session. There was a crying need for more hospital accommodation as the out-port people could not be admitted. The retiring allowances he could not countenance as they were unnecessary. He also spoke on Pensions and again related the story of the man Blandford who after 3 years received a pension of \$670.00, whilst an official who has been 54 years connected with the Postal Service was seeking an old age Pension. He asked the Committee to rise pending replies to several questions.

Mr. P. Cashin asked the attention of the Committee to the fact that a German was employed as gardener at Government House. As a returned soldier he protested.

The Prime Minister said he would see that representations would be made to those who appointed the man in question as to the views of the House in this connection.

Mr. Cashin thanked the Prime Minister and continued the debate along the same lines as the previous speaker and endorsed what Messrs. Higgins and Sullivan had said.

(Continued on 9th page.)

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!—Mr. Cashin Band Concert, at Victoria Park.—aug17.11

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