

# Proceedings at the House of Assembly

THURSDAY, May 27, 1915  
 Speaker took the chair at 3.15 p.m.  
**MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS** presented two petitions from the district of Harbor Main, one on the subject of a wharf, the other asking for a road grant.

**MR. KENT** presented a petition from the Builders Association of St. John's asking for that body to be incorporated. On motion the matter was referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following:—The Premier Messrs Kent, Lloyd, Coaker, Higgins, Emerson and Colonial Secretary Bennett.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** tabled a dispatch from the Right Hon A. Bonar Law, announcing his appointment as Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Questions on the Order Paper were then considered and Order of the Day was announced.

The Prohibition Bill and Volunteer Force Act got their third reading and were sent to Legislative Council.

The Councils amendments to Patriotic Bill and Municipal Act were concurred and sent back to the Upper Chamber, the amendments to the Municipal Bill being practically the amendments proposed by the Opposition in the Assembly when in committee, the present Civic Board having an extension of their term of office for twelve months, or until June 30th., 1915.

Councils amendments to Logging Bill then came up for second reading, and Mr. Coaker said that with some of the suggested amendments he agreed, but some of them were objectionable in the extreme, and whilst he had no objection to have them read for the second time, he thought some compromise might be made in committee. He read some of the clauses and said that unless the amendments were modified it was just as well to abolish the bill altogether.

On motion the House went into Committee of the Whole to consider the amendments, and Mr. Kent suggested that the amendments be submitted to a joint sub-committee of the two houses who could best deal with the matter. This course was adopted and the Speaker named the following as sub-committee of the Lower House, Messrs Coaker, Kent, Lloyd, Emerson, Higgins, Moulton and Clapp.

In Committee on supply the vote for Prohibition was passed and on the motion for committee to rise, Mr. Clapp took the opportunity of referring to the Ferry Service at Norris Point, Bonne Bay. He (Mr. C.) had presented a petition some time ago on the subject, and he now was in receipt of a letter from Revd. G. H. Maidment on the matter, which he read to the House. The matter being one that required immediate attention, Mr. Clapp hoped the government would give it serious consideration.

**MR. HALFYARD** also drew the attention of Colonial Secretary to Postal Telegraph matters in the district of Fogo making special reference to Carmanville, Cat Harbor and Apsey's Cove.

**MR. STONE** rose for the purpose of drawing attention to the state of affairs generally in connection with the Postal and Telegraph Department, as gleaned from the partial replies and partial information tabled by the Colonial Secretary during the session, and also as derived from other sources of information in his possession. Mr. Stone quoted from statistics of accounts submitted as to the expenses incurred in connection with Telegraph Extension, Cable Laying, Repairs &c., and read letters received in connection therewith, which, if correct showed a most corrupt state of affairs in connection with the department that demanded the immediate attentions of the Government.

Mr. Stone's statement which was a lengthy one, gave details of gross carelessness as well as drunkenness and graft on the part of leading officials of the Telegraph Department that were scandalous in the extreme, and which as the member for Trinity said called for a Commission of Enquiry, to which if appointed, he, Mr. Stone, would gladly submit all the proofs and information in his possession.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** in reply to Mr. Stone, said that it had been rather difficult to reply to all the questions the Hon. Member had tabled ever since the opening of the session, but from the statement submitted by him this afternoon, it was apparent to all in the House, that Mr. Stone had been most active in getting all the information he could from other sources. With regard to his (Col Secy's) position in the matter, he had no knowledge whatever of the irregularities referred to as most of them occurred before his assumption

of office. During his term of office, he had an opportunity of seeing, and consulting with the Superintendent of Telegraphs, and so far had never seen him under the influence of liquor. Mr. Bennett grew a bit heated over the matter, and stated that he knew that things at the Postal Department were not at all satisfactory, but of course there were always two sides to a question, and whilst he knew there was insubordination in the Telegraph service he didn't think that irregularities of such a concrete nature as that instanced by Mr. Stone existed. The statement made by the Hon. Member for Trinity, however, would be probed to the bottom, or else he (Col. Secy) would resign his seat in the Government. An investigation would be held, in fact he had already taken some facts himself, but the Postmaster General having been laid off for some time through sickness and it was rather difficult to get at.

Mr. Bennett also referred to the necessity of the Telegraph System being under the control of the Postmaster General and under his (Col Secy's) department at all. He had tried his best to do all he could and would spare no efforts now to get the department into thorough working order.

**MR. MORINE** thought that all would agree with him when he said that there was no question as to the sincerity of the Col. Secretary in the matter and in connection with the statements made by the member for Trinity, Mr. Stone, whom all must congratulate for his energy and activity displayed in bringing the matter before the House. There was nothing else left for the Government to do than have this immediate enquiry, and he felt sure that Mr. Stone would give them all the assistance in his power. Mr. Morine then made reference to the desirability of superannuating the Hon. H. J. B. Woods, and the appointment of a strong and capable successor, and in this connection, Mr. Morine mentioned the Hon. J. A. Robinson as a most competent and worthy man for the position.

With regard to the enquiry that was to be held, Mr. Morine suggested that it should be a judicial enquiry, that should be held at once, whilst the House is in session, and he strongly advised the appointment of a new post master general and enquiry to be made during this week.

**MR. STONE** again stated that if the information he had was correct, and he had no reasons to doubt it—and a commission appointed, he would certainly give them all possible assistance, and he stated that they all had every confidence in the Colonial Secretary.

**MR. MOULTON** made a brief speech in reference to the Ramea Cable Laying, and decried any alleged insinuations, as far as he (Mr. Moulton) was concerned, as he had never been guilty of any irregularities whatever.

**MR. COAKER** didn't quite agree with all the Colonial Secretary had said with reference to the state of affairs at the post office. Last year he had drawn attention to the scandalous condition of affairs there, and again this session, and he thought the hon gentleman would have done something before now, which had he done, the episode of the afternoon would not have occurred.

**COLONIAL SECRETARY** replied that he had written Postmaster General last year to get an expert down here from Canada to get the Department on a sound basis, but the war had upset his arrangements.

**MR. KENT** thought that in the interests of the public the matter should at once be attended to, and the Postal Department put on a thoroughly satisfactory basis.

Committee then rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again. The next item on the Order Paper was the Pit Prop Resolutions, and the discussion on this question continued till end of sitting.

**MR. MORINE** was entirely opposed to the Exportation of Timber, as he had always thought it was wise policy to keep our timber for manufacturing purposes in the country. Regarding a 10 years extension, if the policy is good for 10 years, it seemed madness to place any restrictions whatever. The Government should take steps to see that the holdings of those now on the Labrador should revert to the Colony then start a new policy. Mr. Morine characterized the whole scheme as madness, thus to scuttle the ship under present circumstances. Let us look at the matter as sensible men. We had no right to impose any limitations whatever.

**THE PREMIER** was quite prepared to admit the good intentions of Mr. Morine but he differed from him on policy, all past governments had desired that no raw lumber should go out of the country, but we were now dealing with the timber under their heads. He referred to the conditions regarding the pit props, and was just starting in on an exhaustive speech when recess was taken till 8 o'clock. The House met after recess, at 8 p.m.

**THE PREMIER** continued his refutation of Mr. Morine's statements which had been made at the afternoon session. He (the Premier) claimed the policy a united one on the part of the Government to do something with our timber areas on the Labrador. He quoted large figures (assumed) to the very large profit which the exporting of pit props from the Labrador would mean. Sir Edward spoke for some 15 minutes in an effort to prove that the whole returns of the industry were to flow back to the people. He claimed that the Anglo N. D. Co'y had not yet paid any dividend, and intimated that that company was remaining in the country at a decided loss to themselves.

**MR. KENT** thought that nothing the Prime Minister had said appealed to him (Mr. K.) as a strong enough and sufficient reason, why the measure should receive the approval of the Opposition. He was as willing as any other man in the Assembly to go as far as possible in reasonable acceptance of any Bill which might have certain sections in it devoted to some or other patriotic cause. It was understood that the transportation of pit props to the Empire or France was recognized in a section of that Bill, and he (Mr. K.) felt that such a request would receive the support of all, but when it appeared that the whole measure was hidden under a guise of patriotism, and on extension of ten years asked for, when that Government knew that the war would not last that length of time, then it was a duty to criticise and refute the whole resolutions. Mr. Kent gave some attention to the statement made by Sir Edward Morris that the three mile limit had not been cut into, and showed that that statement was not altogether correct. The bringing in of the present Bill shows that Government has not been strong enough to withhold force of campaign in favor of pit prop exporting. In continuing his speech, Mr. Kent referred to the Premier's statement: "that the Anglo N. D. Co. had not yet shown any dividend," but if the Harnsworth people, or the A. E. Reid Co. were not making profit they certainly would not continue to remain here. They were not here to give employment, they were here to get profit. Mr. Kent spoke of the vast resources of the Labrador, and the depopulation of forestry there if timber was cut and no provision made for a regrowth. The whole question was one of the destruction of large areas of forest, and within the ten years which the Government were going to permit to run, the whole place would be cleaned up, and no means of renewal provided for. In conclusion, Mr. Kent moved an amendment to the Resolutions as published elsewhere. This amendment was lost on the usual party vote.

Following Mr. Kent's clever argument, Sir Edward and that gentleman held a brief controversy across the floors, the Premier as usual taking the rosy optimistic view in defiance of an uncompromising action.

**MR. COAKER** in rising to say a few words on the subject, pointed out that the Premier's statement of the exportation of 4,000,000 cords in ten years led to a danger in that the Government will issue leases to all who request them. The Premier and Mr. Coaker here indulged in some sparring, Mr. C. informing Sir Edward that it was not at all possible that he (the Premier) would be leader of any government, or in the House at the expiration of this four years term.

Mr. Coaker referred to an extract from an English publication, and sent by a correspondent from here, dealing with that very pit prop industry. Mr. Coaker then proved how intricate were the workings of the Government, when their own interests were at stake. Speaking of this pit prop policy, the leader of the Fishermen's Party called the attention of the House to the fact that nobody outside of the land grabber, or those who were hand in hand with the Government had asked for permits in question. Mr. Coaker never gave his consent to the exporting of pit props from Newfoundland. In Newfoundland we should have four or five Grand Falls to-day. Such would be

## Resolutions Moved By Mr. Kent Last Night re the Pit Props Matter, Which Was Turned Down By a Party Vote

1. It shall be lawful for the Governor or in Council to grant a license to any person to cut timber for pit props on any Crown Lands on Labrador and to export the timber cut under such license to any port in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of France for pit props and to grant a license to any person being the holder of a license to cut timber for pit props on lands on Labrador to export timber cut or any area held under and included in such license to any port in the United Kingdom or in the Republic of France for pit-props. All licenses granted hereunder shall be subject to the following conditions:—

(1) The license shall continue to force until June 30, 1916 or during the duration of the present war if it be not then terminated and no longer provided, the licensee shall have the right to export as aforesaid timber cut before June 30, 1916 under the said license at any time up to and including December 31, 1916, and in the event of the war continuing after June 30, 1916, wood cut for the same purposes between June 30, 1916 and the termination of the war may be exported at any time up to six months after the termination of the said war.

(2) The licensee shall pay an export duty on any timber exported of more than \$1.00 per cord.

(3) The license shall be subject to such conditions and regulations as to the time, manner, place and area of cutting timber and for the preservation of the growing trees and of the forest areas as the Governor in Council may from time to time prescribe.

(4) Before any export entry therefor is granted the person applying for such export entry shall satisfy the Collector of Customs on oath that the timber for which he is seeking export entry was cut on Labrador and that it is exported for pit props only and that all other conditions contained in the Act and in the license have been observed and fulfilled.

(5) Nothing in the license contained shall authorize the cutting or exporting of timber cut in Newfoundland.

2. Any person exporting pit props without a license under this Act or being a holder of such license without entering the same for export or without paying the export duties thereon shall be liable, in addition to the penalties provided by the Crown Lands Act, to a penalty for any such offence of \$5000.00 and an amount equal to double the amount of the duty payable on any pulp wood so exported to be recovered in a summary manner before a Stipendiary Magistrate.

the case if men were treated properly. It had been the intention to put up a large industry at Bishop's Falls, Gander and Deer Lake. What stopped the realization of those splendid projects? The R. N. Co'y.

The R. N. people threatened the Co. with injunctions, so that in the end the Bishop's Falls people abandoned their contemplated plans, declaring that they were not going to buy a law suit. Last year that House had passed a measure for a one-year permit in cutting. Now we were asking for an extension of two years in Newfoundland and ten on the Labrador, and the war was made the excuse for the extension, when the Premier knew and the Government knew that the war could not last for a quarter of that period.

Another industry had been projected at Deer Lake, but the Reids again stopped it, as they had done with the Glenwood and Bishop's Falls arrangements. In a positive and convincing way, Mr. Coaker showed the necessity of manufacturing our own timber even into pulp and thereby giving labor. A pulp mill is worth from fifty to seventy thousand dollars to the revenue of the Colony, and he knew that there was available space up the country for twenty, such mills.

If the Grand Falls Co. were not making money out of their industry, then, it was the Premier's duty to find out why? Mr. Coaker then cited the case of the Reids in Norway who had vast plants there, but had not declared any profits for the first several years, they however made money later. Mr. Coaker now electrified the Assembly by the statement that some two years ago he had been waited upon by a henchman of those timber grabbers, and told that if he (Mr. Coaker) would support the Morris party, and use his influence to allow the exportation of pit props abroad for one dollar a cord, he would be paid a large sum of money for such action. He (Mr. C) would never consent to this, and would never consent to ship one cord of wood to enrich speculators abroad, when the wealth of this resource could be kept in our own country.

Mr. Coaker spoke for some further time, giving his own experience on the question, and cited examples where three-mile limit had been cut into long ere this. In language that was applauded by the House, Mr. Coaker spoke of the rights of the people, the great people who are the masters of the situation, and whose right it is to rule, being as they are the highest cost in the country. Mr. Coaker concluded his able and telling speech by an appeal to the Government to consider carefully the resolutions before the House, to hesitate before arriving at mistaken legislation.

Messrs Emerson, Bennett, Lloyd, Halfyard, and Higgins then spoke on the question, and also Mr Winsor who gave an excellent speech, and quoted facts and figures in substantiation of his remarks.

The resolutions were then passed, and the Bill giving them effect was read a first time. The House then adjourned,—it being 12.30 a.m.—till 3 o'clock this afternoon.

### Delayed Letters Admiralty Explains

The following despatch from the Admiralty respecting delay in the delivery of letters addressed to Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve men is published for the information of the relatives and friends of our Naval Reservists.

J. R. BENNETT,  
 Colonial Secretary,  
 May 27, 1915.

Admiralty,  
 May 2nd., 1915.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 18th March No. 12740 respecting delay in the delivery of letters addressed to Nfld R.N.R. men I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that enquiry has been made at the Home Ports and it appears that in many cases the delay has been caused by the letters having been insufficiently addressed. Any letters intended for Newfoundland R.N.R. men should be addressed in the following manner:—Name, Rating (s.g. A.B.) followed by the words "Newfoundland, R.N.R." Service No. (if known), name of ship in which serving, or R. N. Barracks, Ports mouth, Devonport or Chatham, if serving in any of these establishments. The last words should be "C/o G.P.O."

I am to suggest that the proper method of addressing letters should be published in Newfoundland. Men in the Fleet belonging to Newfoundland R.N.R. will also be informed and will be advised to communicate to their relatives the name of the ship or establishment where they are serving.

I am, etc.,  
 (Sgd) J. W. S. ANDERSON,  
 for Secretary,  
 The Under Secretary of State,  
 Colonial Office.

The Boethic sails to-day for Blanc Sablon and other points in the Straits with supplies.

Velvet pencils for commercial use.—ap12,tf

The S.S. Wasils loads coal at North Sydney to-day for Messrs. Mullaly and Co. and will likely arrive here early next week.

Venus and Velvet pencils will give you satisfaction.—ap12,tf

The Municipal Board meets to-night when some considerable business, so it is thought, will be attended to.

Wallace's Chocolates R most excellent.—ap12,tf

Hon. James Baird, who had not been well of late, is much better. A speedy and full recovery is hoped for.

Don't forget to ask your grocer about LaFrance & Satina Tablets.—ap12,tf

### VOLUNTEERS

The following enlisted yesterday bringing the number on the roll of volunteers up to 183:  
 Bell Island—Rd. Fleming;  
 St. John's—Jas. Harvey, Sol. Chate;  
 Catalina—Ephraim King.

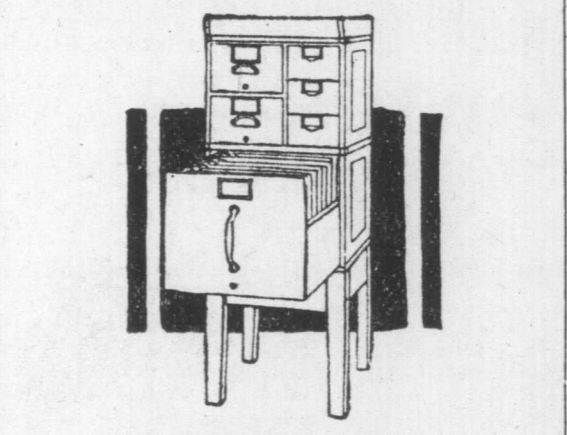
### THE NICKELS

**PANTOMIME AND CONTEST**  
 The "Gala night" in St. John's is the contest night at Rossleys, for every one is anxious to see their own talent, and there is lots of it. Jack Rossley, the popular proprietor of the East and West End theatres, is making those contests very enjoyable. In the first place they are conducted in good style, and no noise or anything rough is tolerated, therefore patrons are assured of a good night's enjoyment. To-night will be the double contest, there will be the six first prize winners to compete, beside the usual contest to make up another six, there will also be the full pantomime. The doors will be open at 6.45 p.m. to avoid the crush, and those intending to sing must come in by the side door. Patrons will be delighted with the pantomime, for it is the event of the season, and its at Rossleys East End theatre.

### "OURS" IN THE WEST END

There was a crowded house last night at the cosy little house and a fine programme was arranged for the enjoyment of all patrons. The sweet little singer received great applause and has already proved a great favourite. There will be an entire change of programme to-night. The contest at Rossley's East End Theatre promises to be the best yet, a large number of names have been handed in, and will this grand pantomime is one long night's entertainment.

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