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At the House

The Colonial Secretary tabled reports from the Commissioners on Lunacy, the Superintendent of the Penitentiary and the Superintendent of the Insane Asylum.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Jennings, from Farmer's Arm, for a post office and telephone connection, and by Mr. Targett from Chelsea for a road.

The vote from Committee on Supply for roads, bridges and ferries was reported and adopted.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the Bill "An Act to amend Chap. 109 of the Consolidated Statutes Respecting Patents."

Mr. Kent proposed a certain amendment to the Act, pointing out that the law at present was a very imperfect and unsatisfactory one as it entailed great risk to patent holders, as a person who obtained a patent in this country was under obligation to bring it into operation within two years.

The Prime Minister endorsed the remarks of the leader of the Opposition, and stated that the amendment proposed by Mr. Kent was very desirable. The bill passed the committee and will be read a third time to-day.

The Bill, entitled the Aliens' Act passed without amendment.

The Bill respecting the Inspector of Food stuffs, then went into Committee.

The Prime Minister—The Bill should stimulate cleanliness among those dealing in foods in the city, and referred to the great work being done in other countries.

Mr. Kent considered the object of the Bill a commendable one and a good deal of common sense and system would be required to carry it out. It has been found in other countries that a certain amount of discretion and good judgment was necessary to accomplish any results. He referred to the great work being done by Dr. Brohm and Inspector O'Brien and suggested that if these capable officials were to be overburdened that they should be reimbursed commensurate with their work. He believed that a man of suitable training would be necessary to inspect the foods made up in factories.

Mr. Coaker—He endorsed what Mr. Kent had said, emphasized that much difficulty would be experienced in the carrying out of the Act, unless provision was made for an additional staff of inspectors, and contended that the sum of \$20,000 should be voted for this purpose. He had reason to believe that molasses, pork and beef should be subject to examination more so than the commodities stated in the Bill. He knew that 20 per cent. of the beef and pork that he had imported here from the United States last year was unfit for consumption and had to be sent back. Besides he was aware that when they cannot sell fresh beef in the markets in New York, the decayed stuff is salted and packed to supply markets like ours. There were cases in which lime was an ingredient in molasses. The butter produced and supplied in this country was not of a uniform standard. He said some of the milk retailed in the city contained a percentage of water and not one per cent. of fat.

Mr. Higgins rose to concur with Mr. Coaker on various matters, but disagreed with what he said about milk. He considered the statement of watering milk a bald one, and an injustice to our farmers, and he never knew an instance in which milk did not contain the standard per centage of fat.

Mr. Dwyer—When farmers in St. John's have good milk they look for the best prices, and any farmer who has not the reputation of selling good milk won't do the business.

The Prime Minister—He mentioned the names of Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Coaker, whom he considered two competent inspectors of milk and meat respectively. He thought that Mr. Coaker's statement in reference to the bad meat imported was a strong argument in favor of inspection. A great grievance, he said, and a difficult problem to grapple with, was the sale of liquors. The liquors sold in some places were very detrimental to health because of so many adulterations.

Mr. Bennett—He did not think the carrying out of the Bill would mean an expenditure of \$20,000, as stated by Mr. Coaker; that their milk was good and pure. He did not give credence to the statement any concern in the United States packed bad beef for exportation, because of the strict public health rules in American cities.

Mr. Kent—From the general principle of the Act, no person could reasonably take exception. Primarily the object to be attained in the enforcement of the Act was to amend the prevailing wrongs, but to cope with the conditions, sufficient machinery was necessary. The present machinery was inadequate. The two officers who had been doing the work, accomplished a great deal, but they were always busily engaged, and to thrust further responsibilities on them would interfere with the good work they had done. Mr. Kent thought the matter of bad beef being imported into the Colony one of serious character. This was taking a

great risk owing to the large amount of beef imported here, and immediate steps should be taken. The Government, he said, in order to get good results and bring about reforms would have to engage a competent and efficient staff of inspectors. He suggested that in a case where an inspector enters a store and finds what he considers impure food, he should be compelled to take samples and seal them as is provided in the Licensing Act. In regard to milk supply in St. John's, he was of the opinion that farmers would not adulterate their milk knowingly and intentionally.

Mr. Coaker—An Inspector of butter is absolutely necessary. He had been misinterpreted as to what he said about the milk supply. He did not say that farmers watered their milk, but that such was retailed in St. John's. He suggested that a place be appointed for farmers to get their milk examined and analyzed.

Mr. Stone—Salt beef was an article largely used by our people and should be included in the Act relating to the inspection of foods in St. John's. He contended that only experienced men should be engaged as inspectors and politics should not be a consideration in making appointments.

Mr. Moulton expressed himself in favor of the Bill. He said in his 37 years' experience he never found bad beef in direct shipments from Chicago. He said the members of the Opposition side seemed very suspicious and had termed the Government members rogues and robbers.

Mr. Coaker—It's not true. Mr. Moulton—You said it in the Advocate, and what paper was lower than the Advocate?

Mr. Halfyard—The Herald.

Mr. Coaker—I would defy any member to stand up here and say that we have been abusing them as rogues and robbers. He ventured to say that never in the history of the House was there such a body of men who acted as decently as this Opposition. I gave Mr. Moulton credit for having common sense. I always looked upon Mr. M. as a gentleman and do now, and I know that it is very little trouble he got out of the Government. The Advocate has done its duty and will not take back anything it has written.

Prime Minister—It had an effect in the north.

Mr. Coaker—It will have effect in more places than you'll expect, next time. We on the Opposition side of the House came here to perform a duty, and that we intend to do. He did not expect the Government members to criticize themselves and it was the duty of the Opposition to do it.

Mr. Moulton—He did not wish to make any insinuation, and meant by what he said that the Opposition members were very suspicious of those on the other side of the House.

Mr. Kent—The attitude of the Opposition has taken all through this session has been to criticize fairly and honestly and honorably the Government measures brought before the House. He had been here every day since the Legislature opened and he never heard any accusation made across this House by the Opposition members, and he had heard more accusations in former sessions in the course of one debate than probably he will hear for all this session. Mr. Moulton was evidently looking at the reverse side of the shield at the time he had a seat on this side of the House. The Opposition came to the House to criticize the actions, conduct and policy of the Government, and that they were doing fearlessly and honestly, and the Government could reasonably say that the Opposition had treated them gentlemanly and courteously. He believed that the sting of the late general election was still hovering around the hon. member for Burgeo. What was said outside in the campaign he is bringing here in the House.

Mr. Houlton—There is more said on that side.

Mr. Kent—There must be more on your side because you have the most members. Things that were said in the elections have not been said in this House, and he thought that the expression "rogues and robbers" thrown across the floors of the House by the member for Burgeo, was uncalled for. He had known Mr. Moulton for years and was sorry he used the words referred to.

Mr. Halfyard—He denied stoutly that the Advocate even mentioned such words as "rogues and robbers," and it seemed to him as if some members were all stomach and no head. He considered that the mental and intellectual well-being was more important than the physical well-being and that compulsory education was more important than discussing food stuffs, but the policy of the Government is to keep the electorate contented. He dwelt on the influence the denominational schools cry had in the election while he read from the Journals of the House an extract from a speech of Mr. Morrison, then Minister of Justice, who had advocated strongly the system of denominational schools. Mr. Halfyard said, "By your deeds you shall

be judged." The Opposition had been termed suspicious whilst the Government members had given him to believe that they were political patriots and above suspicion.

Mr. Kennedy agreed with the Bill and thought it a move in the proper direction, but believed that it could be carried into effect without any additional expense.

Mr. Grimes pointed out that food stuffs inside shop windows are hot beds for flies and dust, and in this respect believed measures should be taken.

Mr. Lloyd suggested that in Section 1 of the Bill the word "fresh" before fish be stricken out; also the addition of sugar and jams to the Bill, as the latter were articles of food subject to adulteration.

Mr. Kent—All rules made under Section 9, besides being published in the papers, should be tabled in the House within a certain time, for discussion, and the Act should not be brought into force until a certain period and that no officer should be appointed by the Governor in Council unless he has a certificate of competency from the Medical Health Officer.

The Prime Minister—He believed that the suggestions laid down by Mr. Kent would be a decided improvement and thought that the rules and regulations should not be brought into operation for about six months, whereby sufficient time could be had to prepare for the changes enacted.

The Bill will go into Committee again to-day for amendments.

The Prime Minister gave notice of Resolutions in relation to the Fisheries.

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M. C. L. Debate.

The question for debate at the M. C. L. Rooms last night proved a highly interesting one, as evidenced by the

large attendance. The topic was, "Are the present tactics of the Militant Suffragettes—advancing their cause?" and the leaders for the affirmative were: Messrs. George Peters, Watson and Blair, whilst the negative was supported by Messrs. J. V. Wylie, Templeton and Ayre. The chair was occupied by Mr. Albert Snider.

The affirmative side contended that the agitation of these women had aroused much public attention, and that whereas all their tactics may not be advisable they were following in the with many reforms that are now taking place in national and parliamentary matters.

The negative side claimed that the steps taken by these women to assert their cause were illegal, and instead of evoking the sympathy of the public they were awakening their prejudices by their acts of violence. Such outrages as have been committed during the past five years were detrimental to their cause, as their actions bordered on sacrilege and anarchy, rather than law and order. Their tactics in general were not at all in keeping with the dignity of true womanhood. After the leaders had finished, an interesting discussion took place, and on the vote being taken up the negative side won by 24 to 19.

Amongst the visitors last night were the Rev. Mr. Uphill, Rector of St. Mary's, and Mr. W. F. Frelegan, a respected citizen and worthy member of the Star of the Sea, both of whom spoke, and received a cordial welcome.



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That's the slogan of the sale. Shrewd and economical housekeepers will hasten to take advantage of these tremendous reductions.

Sale Starts SATURDAY February 7th, 9 o'clock.

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We positively lead in BEDS, SPRINGS and MATTRESSES. Having a large selection of Mattresses made for this Sale, we have decided to give special reductions during the Sale. Our Crescent Felt Mattress outdoes them all. Made of fine cotton, absolutely sanitary and guaranteed to last a lifetime. Made by expert workmen in our own building. Built (not stuffed) by the only machine in the country. You can rely on getting the best that can be produced at 1-3 off the imported price.

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