

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS

(Continued)

THE PRIME MINISTER expressed himself as being perfectly satisfied with the explanation offered by the Leader of the Opposition.

The House then adjourned.

March 31st.
The House met at the usual hour.

HON. W. J. HIGGINS presented petitions from the residents of the Battery Road and From Flat-rook on the subjects of an amendment to the Local Affairs Act, Street Light and Marine Works, respectively.

MR. ASHBORNE presented a petition which had been courteously passed to him by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary from the residents of Botwood and vicinity on the subject of a road. Mr. K. M. Brown supported the petition.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY replied to a question of Mr. Halfyard enquiring for the cost of the road built near Lead Cove T. B., last Fall, also road from Wesleyville to Gambo.

Lead Cove Road
Pay rolls from Oct.
11th to Oct. 31st,
1924 \$10,862.08
For materials supplied,
Railway freight, etc. 1,180.49

J. Goodyear & Sons,
10% on above as per agreement 1,204.25

J. Goodyear & Sons
hire of horses, tractors, rollers and tools 1,257.75

Nfld. Government
Railway, freight on bridge girders to Old Perlican 60.00

C. F. Lester, Carriage on girders to station 49.00

Travelling and living expenses, Government Engineer, 2 trips 66.85

Survey party, pay roll, travelling expenses, etc. 405.55

Postal Telegraphs Department, telegrams 6.08

Wesleyville to Gambo.
Pay rolls, survey party \$1,772.64

Board and Travelling Expenses of survey party 108.35

Hire of motor-boats, etc. 114.00

Outfit, supplies, tents, etc., for survey party 625.42

Travelling expenses Government Engineer 14.30

Telegrams 5.12

Total \$2,639.83

The Legislative Council's Amendments to the Highways Traffic Act were passed with some amendment and a message was sent up asking concurrence therein.

A message from the Council advised that they had passed the amendments to the Highways Bill and the Bank Amendment Bill without amendment, and the Firearms Bill and Lobster Bill with some amendments. These amendments were concurred in.

The Redistribution Bill, the Foreign going Vessels Survey Amendment Bill and the Terra Nova Sulphite Company Amendment Bill were all read for the third time and sent to the Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that body.

The House went into Committee of the Whole to supply.

The votes for the Justice Department and Public Charities were passed, with but little comment, and the vote for the Department of Marine and Fisheries taken up.

On the vote for the Marine and Fisheries Department MR. WARREN thought that in the opinion of 99% of the people of this island they were discussing the most important department in the Government, the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and he again desired to draw the attention of the House to the importance of this industry, especially in view of the large number of unemployed there.

are at present in this country. Compare this country with other countries as far as the fisheries are concerned, and it will be found that we are a long way behind the others. Our fisheries mean as a whole a lot to us. They mean very little to Canada. But they mean more to the Canadians in figures than our fisheries do to us. There they are trying to do everything they possibly can to develop the industry. In a few days there will be a crowd of fishermen down to the department of Marine & Fisheries drawing for favourite trap berths. Now does it appear to anybody that we ought to enquire why a particular berth is a good berth, why another berth is a poor berth, and why it is necessary to draw lots for the berths and things of that sort?

We have no institution in this country which could explain to the fishermen why a certain berth is a good berth and they ought to try and get it. But we ought to try and do something in that direction. He wished to draw attention to Mr. Huntsman's report. He thought that these reports that we have got from Mr. Huntsman and Mr. Taylor are sufficient encouragement for us to do something, however small it may be. As a matter of fact when the Prime Minister referred to the thermometer in his speech the other day there was a certain man in the House listening to him and he is the biggest fish-killer that we have in Newfoundland or Lunenburg and afterwards he asked him (Mr. Warren) if the Prime Minister was joking about the thermometer and thought that the thermometer had nothing to do with fish. This man told him that as far as the bank fishing is concerned the banking skippers go to certain places on the banks according to the condition of the weather in January and February. Of course they do it by the rule of thumb and their intuition and according to the depth of the water. If this is a practical result we ought to do all that we can to help them by all the means at our disposal to obtain more information, that scientific men have been able to collect. Mr. Warren referred to the fact that in England vessels are not allowed to pump out fuel oil in navigable waters, and it was stopped because the oil floats on the top of the water and spreads to such an extent that it prevents the oxygen from getting into the water so that not only the fish but the food that the fish consume cannot breathe. Now in this country there is no doubt that the motors which they use in the motor boats pump the oil from their exhausts and the effect must be harmful and he suggested to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that he should collect all the available information on the subject. He drew the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to another matter, the marketing of some of our products. We have, as everybody knows, in Fortune Bay the home of the herring. Although they disappeared for a long while, they are back again now bigger and more plentiful than ever. Our people are doing their best to export the products as best they can but there is a market for herring which we have not yet explored and we have the machinery to explore it. We have the High Commissioner in London and there is a department of the British Government at our disposal, namely the Department of Overseas Trade. Purchases are made by Russia of large quantities of herring from Great Britain. He knew that Latvia bought over five thousand tons of herring from Great Britain. And besides that place you have Estonia and all these little republics. If these markets had been properly explored he had nothing more to say, but if they had not been explored then he suggested to the Government that they take advantage of the High Commissioner and he Overseas Trade and get in touch with the markets of that nature. That applies not only to the herring but to many other of our products. There was one other matter that appealed to him. Of course the Bait Act is in force, but the Minister of Marine and Fisheries sent him a circular about a firm in St. Pierre which is going to send vessels to buy fish and he only wanted to express the hope, that while we should do all we can to prevent the exportation of bait, everything possible should be done to encourage the enterprise of the company in order that a new market for our fish

will be found for the West Coast.

MR. H. B. C. LAKE considered that the amount of \$2,000 voted for Fisheries protection as being a very insignificant amount as compared with the \$20,000 vote for a practically identical object in the Department of Agriculture and Mines. He was rather interested in the answer given the hon. member for Carbonear by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the other day, in reply to question as to the number of bankers cleared for the Bank fishery. The answer was that no definite knowledge had yet come to hand, and would not until later on in the season. He now drew attention to the fact that some thirty vessels had already cleared and that good reports had been received from the most of them. This answer showed the lack of statistical knowledge at our disposal at the present. In taking up the matter of bait supplies he informed the House that he had a letter in his possession stating that certain residents of the District of Ferryland were endeavouring to get up a petition to prevent the hauling of bait on that section of the coast. Indeed there were already certain coves in that region, in which the bank fishermen were prohibited from hauling bait. Prohibitions of this nature appeared to him as being an outrage, and he contended that our fishermen should be allowed to haul bait anywhere and anyhow they liked on the coast. He felt that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was not the type of man that would permit of any such regulations being allowed. He contended that any fisherman should be able to catch fish or bait where, when and how he liked, with only one stipulation and that was that he should not be allowed to use traps of small mesh. He trusted that the House would not consider other legislation and said that any man who would condone any regulations against trawling in any specified area would be wrong. He desired to impress upon the House the necessity of spending more money upon the encouragement of the fisheries. Touching the matter of petitioning for the prohibition of taking fish by trawling in various sections, he had heard of a proposed petition to this effect from the Labrador and trusted that no member would be so unwise as to bring in and support such a petition. He knew of a petition that had been very recently presented to the Fishery Board praying for the prohibition of trawling in the whole of the Green Bay area, which he regarded as being wholly ridiculous. Trawling did not destroy fish, in the manner that trap-fishing did, as in many parts of the country they were using traps of such a small mesh that it was destroying many fish. So far had this matter of the disallowance of trawling fish gone, that last year when the bankers

were hauling fish on the Labrador, off Batteau, the shore fishermen went so far as to threaten to destroy their gear, and did destroy some, and to petition the House for regulations forbidding the practice. The Bankers never went to the Labrador earlier than September 1st, at a time when the shore men were preparing to get ready to leave for home, and to seriously consider such a petition was absurd. As long as he remained a member of the House he would strongly oppose any such legislation, too much of which we already had. The fishermen who trawl fish start sometime on the first of January and usually keep at it until the last day of December. He actually knew of vessels that were on the Labrador as late as November. Legislation that would be brought to bear against such a class of men as this was utterly unfair, and on the other hand one should rather endeavour to encourage them in their work, and the laws that were effective to-day of this nature should be repealed in order that they might be able to fish where, when and how they liked, with the restriction against the small mesh trap only. The loggers had an advocate in the hon. member for Twillingate and he trusted that he might be the advocate of the fishermen, particularly the bank fishermen. He had been going to the banks since he was 13 years old and he knew and understood their work and their hardships. He strongly advocated the establishment of bait depots in the various areas and wanted to see one at Burin. They wanted the government to establish a depot, but they wanted to pay for every bit of bait that they required and obtained from the depot. It was a shame to try and strangle such an important industry as the fisheries were to us. In the district of Burin they haven't roads and they haven't bridges, and all that they were asking for was a bait depot. They deserved something, and they would later on look for roads and bridges. In that district they did not get anything in the shape of relief as was evidenced by the fact that the total paper paid for the town of Fortune to date was the sum of \$23.60, which amount had to be practically forced out of the Department by the member himself, and now he finds that Upper Island Cove has received the sum of \$25,000 and if they could get such an amount as this from the Government for the erecting of bait freezers, there would never be any demand from the whole district for relief. He was vastly surprised at the remarks of the hon. member for Carbonear, regarding the uselessness of the lights on the Labrador. They fished on the Labrador from early morning till late at night and they certainly required the lights to enable them to get back to shelter in the darkness of a bad night. There were not enough lights on that coast, and he hoped that there would be a possibility of getting more at some future time. For the proper collection of statistical information relative to the prosecution of the fisheries, we would require a man who had an accurate knowledge and that we would require a far larger sum be voted for it, and that it was necessary to make provision for this sum of money now. He referred in passing to the Civil Service pensions, compared to the Old Age pensions. The former get a fine pension and was able to live in ease after a certain period of his life had been spent in the Government service, but the poor fishermen when he reached the age of 75 had to be content with a sum of about fifty dollars in order to support himself in his old age, and often one old man has to die in order for another to get it. This position was untenable and he drew the attention of the Government to it, and suggested that the old age pensions should be at least doubled and paid to a man when he reached 70, and after his death to his wife, and that it should never be anything less than \$100.

freight that we would have to pay in order to get the fish there. He had thoroughly thrashed the matter out with a Russian that had come here in that connection and the only conclusion that he could reach was that if the Government would pay a bounty that would cover the freight and the purchase price and the incidental expenses in connection with the marketing of fish there, then there might be a chance of profitable sales in Russia.

The Committee rose, reported progress and was granted leave to sit again.

The remaining orders were deferred until the usual hour Wednesday.

April 1st.
The House assembled at the usual hour.

PETITIONS.

HON. J. J. LONG presented a petition from Lords Cove, in the district of Burin, on the subject of a road. Mr. H. B. C. Lake gave the petition his support.

MR. HALFYARD presented a petition from Hodge's Cove on the subject of a road.

HON. W. S. MONROE presented a petition from some 200 residents of Bonavista, relative to the granting of Old Age Pensions to the widows of pensioners. The petition was supported by Cape. W. C. Winsor. In this connection the Prime Minister has given notice of a bill granting the prayer of the petition.

MR. C. J. CAHILL presented a petition from Harbour Main on the subject of a road. Hon. Mr. Woodford supported the petition.

LABRADOR BOUNDARY

THE PRIME MINISTER tabled further correspondence relative to the Labrador Boundary. He pointed out that no agreement could be reached unless the sovereignty of the coast be assured to Newfoundland. This correspondence consisted of a request from Quebec that the price be fixed; a reply stating that no definite price could be discussed until the sovereignty of the coast was assured; a letter from Quebec suggesting that all negotiations be called on and the matter left in the hands of the Privy Council; a letter without prejudice to Quebec suggesting \$15,000,000 for all the Labrador, with the exception of a three mile reservation on the coast; a reply to this letter from the Attorney General of Canada stating that Quebec could not assent to the terms and that the Federal Government were of a like opinion and suggesting that the Privy Council be left to determine the question; and a final communication from Quebec repeating the substance of the letter from the Attorney General of Canada.

(To be continued.)



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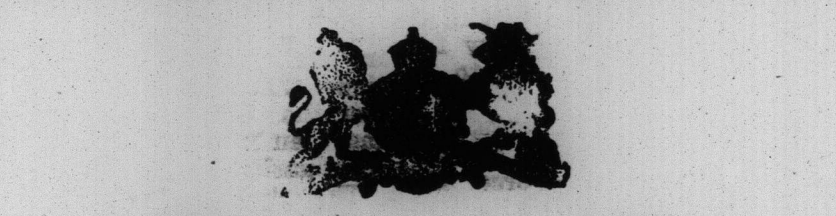
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