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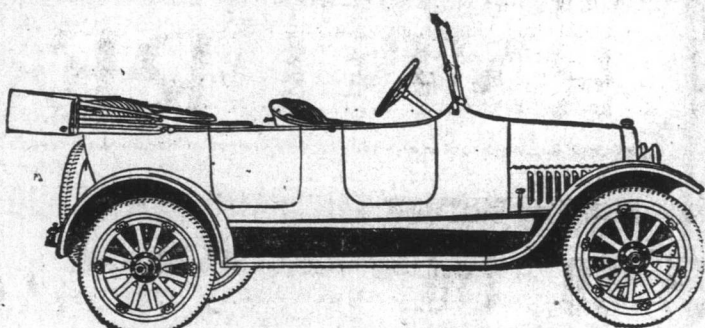
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At the House.

(Yesterday.)

The House, meeting at 3 p.m. yesterday, petitions were presented by Mr. J. R. Goodson (Carbonear), from Victoria, for public buildings; by Mr. A. B. Morine (Bonavista), from various parts of Bonavista Bay on the bay steamship service; by Mr. J. P. Downey (St. George's) from South Branch for a bridge; by Mr. J. G. Stone (Trinity), on the subject of roads; by Mr. Jennings (Trillington), from numerous places in that district on the subject of roads and the preservation of timber; by Mr. Winsor (Bonavista), on the subject of a lighthouse and dredge; and by the Prime Minister from Ladgis and Horse Islands on the coastal service.

Mr. J. S. Currie (Burin), then presented the resolutions passed at the mass meeting held on Friday night, asking for delay in the date of the general election, the clerk reading them to the House. Mr. Currie felt it an honor to be entrusted by the citizens of St. John's to present the resolutions. They were the spontaneous expressions of a large majority of the citizens of St. John's, and were in every sense the resolutions of the people, and not emanating from politicians. All the resolutions asked for was that both parties be given a fair chance to discuss the record of the Government on the public platforms of the eighteen districts of the country, and for the candidates to be given ample time to become acquainted with the voters of the districts. It was apparent to all that this could not be done if the election took place on May 8th or any date near that decided upon by the Government. Coming from a large body of citizens, the resolutions should be respected as such. The prime objection to an early election was that there would not be time enough between the issuing of the proclamation and polling day, to give the necessary mature consideration to the issues that would be placed before the country. The Prime Minister had estimated a day or so ago that no date had yet been set for the election, and that it would be delayed sufficiently to permit the soldiers now overseas to return home and record their votes. From enquiries he had made he had been unable to see how those men could be brought home in time to vote in an election to be held so early in May. The soldiers had been thought good enough to go across and fight and risk their lives for liberty and exercise of the right to vote should not be denied them. In 1909, twenty-eight days' notice was given, but that election was unique and made necessary by conditions that do not now exist. No surprise was sprung on the people then and they were fully familiar with the issues of the contest. He had much pleasure in giving the resolutions his heartiest support.

Mr. A. B. Morine (Bonavista), thought that the resolutions should be treated with the utmost respect, the spontaneous expressions of the citizens of St. John's. The changes in the parties of the past two years have also brought about a change in the way people have of expressing themselves. The popular way now was to call a public meeting and show forth the public sentiment by a series of resolutions. He thought that a mistake had been made by the citizens and others in thinking that the Act stated that the Governor, in person, selected the date of an election and that he was solely responsible. The constitutional position was that the responsible ministers advised the Governor in this as in every other instance, and the Governor was bound to accept the advice of his ministers or get other ministers who would tender him other advice. The Governor was, therefore, in no way responsible for the date of the election but the responsibility must rest on his ministers and they alone should shoulder the blame, it blame there be. This is a democratic country, and to say that the Governor could set a date for a general election without getting the advice of his ministers was destroying the very principle of Responsible Government that our fathers had fought for. He thought it only fair to His Excellency that he should say this, and he said it also in the interests of democracy and responsible government. The Prime Minister, Sir Wm. Lloyd, is the man to tender the advice to the Governor as to whether he accedes to the request of the citizens or not, and on him and the Government, and him in particular, must the responsibility rest. In connection with the resolutions he would support them because he was against the spring election in toto. He supported a fall election for various reasons which he had already stated in the House. The question with him was how much intelligence would the voter be able to exercise in the casting of his vote if an election was held early in May. In some instances he would not have even the opportunity of seeing his candidate and it was not fair to ask him to vote for a man he had never seen. He had no opportunity of discussing the record of the Government. They had been in power for nearly two years but the electors had no opportunity of judging how they had exercised that power. The people ought to know them through the public accounts and how could they know them through these when they were not tabled at this session.

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Other information also should be forthcoming at this session by the means of which the people could draw conclusions as to their record, but no information was forthcoming. The Prime Minister's manifesto cannot be debated in the Legislature. He had no hesitation in saying that any election held in May was a disfranchisement of the people of this country along the lines laid down by him. Money bills should be put through, and he could see where disaster was ahead if we were not careful. He asked the Premier to introduce his loan bills and before the election make the country safe financially. The election could go on, but financial matters that were so urgent should be introduced and put through.

Mr. J. R. Bennett (St. John's West), had given the matter deep consideration. The resolutions were worthy of the best thought and respect of all. It was a mistake to belittle the movement as had been done in some quarters. He would not in the least disparage it. Some of those who were present at the meeting were our best citizens. He had seen the parade and it impressed him very much. They were a body of decent, orderly, law-abiding citizens on the way to Government House to lay their grievances before the Governor, and they had a perfect right to do so. He thought it a great blunder to belittle or in any way besmirch them, and he deprecated any such spirit as that. On the other hand the Govt. had given consideration to the request of the citizens and, as they thought, in the best interests of the country, advised the Governor that an early election was best.

The Prime Minister said that it should not for one moment be thought that any disrespect was shown the petition, but on the other hand it had received full consideration. No final date had yet been fixed, but the Government had decided that polling day would not be earlier in May than it could help.

Mr. Walsh (Placentia), supported the resolutions in a rattling speech that brought considerable applause.

He observed that the Prime Minister and Mr. Bennett had taken the presentation of these resolutions as the occasion to deliver their funeral orations. It was not often that this was done by the corpse, but in this case both gentlemen had done it just before they passed off the stage of political action. He referred to the formation of the National Government, and later the stepping out of Lord Morris and the stepping in of Dr. Lloyd as a great piece of political jobbery, the like of which had never before been practiced in this country. He took issue with Mr. Bennett when he said that the unanimous decision of both parties was to form a coalition government. As far as he was concerned, he was never a party to it, and had broken with the government as soon as he was acquainted with the jobbery that was practiced. He did not for one moment think that the advice tendered the Governor by the government was legal advice, as the Prime Minister was never elected as such by the people, and the government as a whole was in power without the consent of the electors of the country, and how could their advice be worth anything. The advice tendered by such a Ministry should be repudiated by the public of the country, as they had by no means the confidence of the people. The government was then severely criticized for its neglect of the railway and the way it had allowed the contractor to do as he pleased and neglect the roadbed and rolling stock. The utterances of the Colonial Secretary in this regard a day or two ago when he made the statement that the road was not safe for human transportation was without parallel in this or any other country. They could not make the contractor live up to his obligations when they were accepting favors at his hands, and were acting in conjunction with the Reids in political matters. He did not object to a spring election as far as he was concerned, because he was well known in his district and had a thorough acquaintance with it, but such was not the case with new men, and it was not fair to them to send them to districts with which they were unacquainted. It was all right for Union men, who had their Councils, etc., which were to them committees working all the time for them. He closed by asking the Prime Minister to table the public accounts. He had no use for flowery speeches about trips, etc., and adopt a policy of do-nothing beyond trying to conceive a plan to get back in power. He gave his hearty support to the resolutions.

Mr. Walsh's address was heartily applauded by the visitors in the galleries.

Mr. Coaker closed the debate with some brief remarks, and the House adjourned till this afternoon.

Observed at the Council.

Many excellent precepts were enumerated by Hon. Mr. Mews yesterday evening, the chief of which was "Don't waste time." We are glad indeed that there is one member in the Legislature that is bawling the mispent time of the present Government, and now stands forward and declares in no uncertain voice, "Don't waste time." We won't. The poor President is spending a very unpleasant period, if his irritability is in anyway suggestive. Yesterday afternoon he was most circumspect in trying to preserve the order of the House, but as Mr. Gibbs persisted in speaking the Hon. President merely lay back in a recumbent attitude, assuming the pose of injured pride, and that look of fatherly forbearance for which the gentleman is so well known.

Hon. Mr. Ellis, the leader of the present mis-government had his doubts as to the power of the Government to put the railway into a safe condition. We say the same, for as long as the present clique is playing second fiddle, then so long must the present railway conditions continue, and Mr. Ellis's own words are explicable of the position the party holds and also accounts for the apathy of the Government in all things pertaining to the good of the country.

We were amused to by the Hon. gentleman speaking of ice roads over the bays etc., in the early days of May. The member may be well versed in the art of getting contracts, but we would humbly suggest that he get more faith ere he start across the bays on ice in May month, especially in such a mild year as this.

Hon. John Anderson stated that the only problem the Government were troubled about was how to get back to parliament. That is precisely what is troubling the Government in these days, and if they were only sure of obtaining a new lease of power they would not talk so much of consistency and vice versa, as the Hon. MacNamara instanced yesterday. They talk of consistency, but it would do no harm if some of the gentlemen revised the meaning of that term as applied to their own lines of conduct.

The leader of the Government in a very sickly manner managed to rise up to almost his full height, when asked to retract the vile insinuation against Mr. Squires. He retracted it, but with poor grace. It is such men that this city has to fight against in the forthcoming election. Too many contracts have been handed out or rather taken by the Hon. leader of the Government and it is time that the bunch should be ousted forever from power.

Back at His Work in Quebec Woods.

William H. McDonald Shouts Praises of Dodd's Kidney Pills.

His Troubles Were Not Only Painful But Alarming Till He Found Relief in Dodd's Kidney Pills.

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C. P. EA

Duckworth Street and

Legislative Council.

House met yesterday evening 7 o'clock to discuss the Election Bill, but before the went into Committee Hon. Gibbs moved for an adjournment of the House until the report of the Engineer as previously for. He told the hon. leader of the Government he intended to the House open until the report for were tabled. He made many remarks upon the present of the railroad, and the de the magisterial enquiries held, delay was such that no action be taken by the relatives of killed and injured. This, as a member pointed out, was due neglect of the Government. Mr. also referred to the past when of the Executive were loud in denunciation of Reid but now are silent on railway conditions, reiterated once again his demand the reports wanted.

Mr. Squires followed and that the condition of the road disgrace to the present party. He pressed how only a short time the lighted lamp had been extinguished in the car for fear of toppling over. A couple of years ago the Glenwood accident, when passengers were burnt to death, promised to light all cars with electricity but such had not been done there had been no one to force to live up to their obligations. He declared that the time was come further delay might cause a tragedy than has hitherto happened.

Mr. Gibbs rose to speak the time, but perhaps the President had touched the President the raw" for he ruled the Speaker of order. Mr. Gibbs persisted in speaking and although the President motioned the Usher of the Black to put the member out, the Usher evidently did not understand, and

Information.

