

Crown Lands Act, (striking at the section which gives power to the Governor in Council to reserve or dispose of certain mineral areas as seen fit).

MR. MOULTON presented a petition.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

It is a pleasure to me to be able to relieve you thus early from the duties which your attendance at this session has involved. Having regard to the number and importance of the measures which have formed the subject of your deliberations, it is gratifying that you have been able to dispose of them with such despatch, and so clear the way for what will be to most of you a very busy season.

The measures which you have taken for dealing with the revenue are, I trust, such as will amply provide for the increasing needs of the Public Service, and the growing pressure of those war burthens which you have shouldered in common with the rest of the Empire. Guided, as you have been, in their enactment by the underlying principles of justice and equity, I believe they will be regarded as eminently fair and reasonable.

Your prompt and patriotic action in providing for the enrolment of men in order to keep at full strength the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and ensure the maintenance of the splendid record which has been achieved by our forces, will meet with universal commendation, and form another evidence of that loyalty which has ever been the proud boast of this oldest Colony.

The provision which you have made for the raising of a loan locally for war purposes, displays a confidence in the practical patriotism of our people which I am certain will be fully justified.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

I thank you for the liberal nature of the supplies which you have provided for the Public Service. The appropriations will be expended with due regard to obtaining the fullest returns to the public.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

I sincerely trust that the fishery operations of our people, in which they are now about to engage, will be attended with the fullest measure of success, and that it will be found possible to arrange for the profitable marketing of the catch.

In taking leave of you I would express the hope that Divine Providence may bless and prosper you and our common country, and that the terrible struggle in which we, in common with the Mother Country and her Allies, are participating may be brought to an early and victorious conclusion.

The Legislative Council SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES

APRIL 2nd.

The 6th session of the 23rd General Assembly of Newfoundland was opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir C. Alexander Harris, with the usual ceremonies.

After the Governor had taken his seat on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod summoned Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislature to the Bar of the House where His Excellency was pleased to read the Speech (Speech already published) from the Throne.

After His Excellency had retired Hon. W. J. Ellis, leader of the Government, moved the following resolutions, which were seconded by Hon. John Anderson.

RESOLVED—That this House desires to record its sense of the loss sustained by it through the decease of the late Hon. James Ryan, who for the past few years occupied a seat in this Council, and was a valuable acquisition to the Council, because of his wide knowledge of the country's affairs.

RESOLVED—Further that a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to Mrs. Ryan with an expression of the sympathy of the Council with her and the family of their late Brother Member on the loss they have sustained.

After the resolution had been adopted, Hon. Mr. Harvey, after extolling the war work of Hon. Sir P. T. McGrath, since the outbreak of hostilities, moved the following resolutions which were seconded by Hon. Mr. Bishop, and supported by Hon. Mr. Ellis.

RESOLVED—That this House records its pleasure and hereby tenders its heartiest congratulations to its President, the Hon. P. T. McGrath upon the well deserved honor recently conferred upon him by our Most Gracious Sovereign through his appointment to the rank of Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Hon. the President heartily thanked the House for their kind references though the honor in his opinion was an appreciation of the work of the colony, and a recognition of the position of President of the Council, and not because of his efforts, which were given without desire for, or even the remotest expectation of reward.

The House then attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, when he was pleased to prorogue the Legislature with the following speech.

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minion and believed that his good judgment and ripe experience would be of great advantage during these days of trial. With the proposer he agreed that the Dominion was prosperous. The catch of cod last year showed an increase of 200,000 qtls. over the previous year, and the prices were much higher. The Colony's trade showed an increase of \$8,000,000 during the year closed which was an evidence of prosperity. The year's sealishery was most successful. The outlay in fitting the fleet was much less than in former years, owing to the number of steamers being reduced, and with the high markets for oil and skins, the profits would be remunerative all round. He was pleased that the Tonnage Committee was making every effort to get in salt, and felt sure that the fishery would be as successfully conducted this year as last. The floating of a local loan was a move in the right direction. Many of our people had money in the banks at 3 per cent. and many others had it home drawing percentage. He was sure with the inducements the Government would hold out that these people would subscribe to the proposed loan. He gave his hearty support to the proposal of extending the life of Parliament.

The cost of the last general election was about \$50,000, and if the election were held now it would cost from \$80,000 to \$100,000. He thought the money should be saved and spent to better advantage. No one in his opinion, wanted an election, only the professional politicians. Owing to the disaffection of Russia the Motherland had been forced to call further on the Dominions for support. For this reason it was necessary to have a conscription measure which had his support. Hon. Mr. McNamara concluded by paying splendid tribute to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and the boys of the Royal Naval Reserve.

HON. MR. GIBBS congratulated both speakers, inasmuch as dealing with a speech that contained nothing they had done remarkably well. In his opinion the speech outlined nothing of a constructive or future policy for the Dominion. As regards the surplus revenue, the present Government had nothing to do with it, any more than they had with the prosperity that existed in certain sections of the Island. The high price of our produce was absolutely the result of the war. The great bulk of fishermen who, in peace times plied the seas, had been called to the battlefields or had been driven from the ocean, and consequently our product were the only ones reaching the markets. He would not support the Government measures of conscription and proposed new taxation. The Government had no right to introduce such measures. They did not represent the people; they did not have the confidence of the people. As a matter of fact, one-fourth of the Dominion was unrepresented, and it would be both immoral and unconstitutional to pass either of these measures until the people had pronounced upon them. The great struggle of the last four years was for liberty but here was a case where the very liberty of the people was bartered away by a body who did not represent them. Such utter disregard of the people's rights was an outrage and could not enlist the honest support of any right-thinking person. Our soldiers and sailors were fighting for right and justice, and at home it was being denied to them. Referring to the proposed local loan, Hon. M. P. Gibbs said the Government took its idea from the Evening Telegram, which for some months had been suggesting of them. He thought Hon. Mews' conscription and a liberty loan. He did not think the loan would be a success. In fact, it was impossible, as the people would not trust their money with a Government that did not have their confidence—nor would it be expected and McNamara were unfortunate in reference to the Tonnage Committee. He would draw their attention to a controversy of little time back, and how one of the members refused to sit with another member unless certain matters were cleaned up, which the Premier had promised to do, but so far had failed. If the Tonnage Committee had done any good, it was not the creation of the National Government. It was formed before the National Government, and if any credit was due it would go to the right parties. He did not at all think that patriotism inspired the Government's proposed measure of prolonging the life of Parliament. It was mere taking advantage of a national crisis, and making it a pretext to hold on to office against

the people's wishes. It was mere sham and hypocrisy. He for one was not going to stand idly by and see the country sacrificed and the Constitution made a "scrap of paper." The people were not so disloyal as they could not be trusted to decide for themselves. The present Government was the result of a dishonest and corrupt bargain by ambitious politicians who were prepared to trample the Constitution and the rights of the people under their feet to hold on, being fully aware of what would happen if they appealed to the country.

HON. MR. ELLIS congratulated the movers of the Address, on their efforts, which he considered were among the best heard in the Chamber for some time, and was sure that their knowledge of public matters would be valuable during the progress of the session.

The motion then passed, and the following were appointed to draft the Address in Reply:—Hons. Mews, McNamara, Anderson, Cook, and Bell.

HON. MR. GIBBS gave notice of question.

The House adjourned till Thursday at 4 o'clock.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25th.

The House met at 4 p.m. HON. MR. MEWS presented the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech and asked that it be read a first time.

On motion for second reading, Hon. Mr. Squires, who was absent on the opening day, wished to congratulate the mover and second of the Address on their very able maiden efforts, and thought they would be a valuable adjunct to the debating powers of the House. He wished to join in the word of regret at the loss occasioned by the House and the community through the death of Hon. James Ryan, who, without any of the usual advantages of education which he occupied at the time of his death. He also joined with the other speakers in their meed of congratulations to the President on the honor which had been conferred upon him and the Council, by His Majesty, of a knighthood in recognition of his valuable services since the outbreak of war. He welcomed back to the oldest Colony and newest Dominion, Sir Alexander Harris, who had spent his boyhood days in Newfoundland and bespoke for Lady Harris an equally warm welcome to that already accorded Miss Harris. With regard to the various matters dealt with in His Excellency's Speech, he would refer to these as they came up for consideration later on.

HON. MR. MILLEY supported the Bill, which he thought, should be known as "the Anderson Daylight Saving Act."

HON. MR. ELLIS on behalf of the Government, also expressed his approval and support of the Bill, as also did Hon. Mr. Squires, who had recently had experience in Canada and the United States of the satisfaction which was being expressed by all parties over the scheme.

The Bill was then read a second time. The remaining stages of the Bill were put through under suspended rules and it was finally sent to the House of Assembly for its concurrence.

HON. MR. ELLIS tabled replies to questions asked by Hon. Mr. Mr. Gibbs, after which the House adjourned till Monday at 4.30 p.m.

MONDAY APRIL 29.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

HON. D. A. RYAN, who had been appointed to the vacancy in the Chamber by His Excellency the Governor during the day, and had taken the oath of office, appeared with his commission which was read by the clerk.

Mr. Ryan was welcomed to the House by Hon. Mr. Ellis on behalf of the Government, Hon. Messrs. Squires, Anderson and Bishop, and the President likewise extended felicitations, to all of which the recipient made a suitable reply.

THE PRESIDENT announced that His Excellency had granted leave of absence to Hon. J. D. Ryan for six weeks, and also that he (President) had received a letter from Hon. James Angel, stating that owing to ill health he feared that he would be unable to attend this session. The President added that he had taken the liberty, on behalf of the House of extending its regrets to Mr. Angel on the fact of his being ill, and also the hope of the members that he would soon be restored to good health.

The President also announced the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor to the effect

that he had appointed Hon. Sir P. T. McGrath, K.B.E., Hon. R. K. Bishop, Hon. W. J. Ellis, Hon. R. K. Bishop, Hon. W. F. Lloyd, D.C.L., Hon. J. C. Crosbie, and Hon. W. F. Coaker, to be a commission of Internal Economy for the Legislature.

The President further announced that he had received messages from the House of Assembly announcing the passage by that Chamber of the Military Service and Parliament Extension Bills, in which they requested the concurrence of the Council, and also of the Daylight Saving Bill as sent down from the Council.

HON. MR. MEWS then moved the Address in Reply, which motion was adopted unanimously, and the President announced that His Excellency the Governor would receive the House with the Address at four o'clock to-morrow.

HON. MR. ELLIS next moved the first reading of the Conscription Bill, and explained that the Government would introduce an amendment on the committee stage, providing that ecclesiastical students and ministerial probationers would be exempt from the operation of the Act, and also that an amendment would be produced providing that on Empire Day, May 24th, prior to which all eligible young men would have the opportunity of offering themselves as volunteers. The motion was adopted without debate, and the Bill ordered for second reading to-morrow.

HON. MR. ELLIS also moved the first reading of the Parliament Extension Bill and it was ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

HON. MR. GIBBS gave notice of question about the proposed Reid cold storage enterprise, after which the House adjourned until to-morrow at 3.45 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30.

HON. MR. ELLIS moved resolutions of sympathy to Hon. Tasker Cook on the death of his son, Pte. William Cook, at Wandsworth. The resolution was seconded by Hon. Mr. Squires, and tendered by the Hon. the President on behalf of the House.

HON. MR. COOK thanked the House for its kind expressions of sympathy.

HON. MR. ELLIS in moving the second reading of the Military Service Bill hoped that it would be accepted by the House in the spirit in which it was introduced. Hereafter, he said, we have kept the regiment in the field by voluntary enlistment, but now the call for men for our regiment has become so urgent that more drastic means must be taken. In the light of Lloyd George's appeal to the Empire for men, and the urgent message from the Secretary of State addressed directly to us, asking for men to fill the depleted ranks of our Regiment, followed by a still more urgent call to the Commander of our reserves at the depot at Winchester for men to fill the gaps—a request which he could not accede to—it must be seen that the time has come for Reid Cold Storage enterprise, a more serious step to be taken by us, and Selective Conscription is the only alternative. Hon. Mr. Ellis gave great praise to the returned soldiers for the work they had done for recruiting during the past month, and fully outlined the provisions of the Bill, stating that a slight amendment would be made, providing exemption for all ecclesiastical students. It was hoped that the proclamation putting the Act into force would be issued all over the island on Empire Day.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE, who, up to a short time ago, had not been a conscriptionist, said he would give the bill his support, though he felt that if all had done their best in the past, there would be no necessity for the introduction of the measure. The Government of the day, he said, were not the only ones responsible for the falling off of recruiting. There were many outside who had neglected to do their part. All honor was due to the returned soldiers who had stirred up so many young men to a sense of their duty, but there were other ways in which people were failing in their duty besides neglecting to enlist, as evidence, the other day by the importation into the country of ten motor cars. Are the owners of these cars doing their duty? asked the Hon. speaker. He supported the bill because it was the duty of all to support it, as a step towards our part in winning the war.

HON. MR. SQUIRES deeply regretted that conscription had become necessary in Newfoundland. He had hoped that the gaps in our regiment would have continued to be filled by voluntary enlistment, and he felt that had the Patriotic

movement received the proper support, the measure would not now be necessary. Composed, as Newfoundland is, of the blood of the English, Irish and Scotch unmixed with that of any foreign race, there could be no doubt of her loyalty or courage, but all that could have been done had not been done. He felt that there would be no objection to the passing of the measure and he, himself gave it the fullest support.

HON. MR. BISHOP though not in accord with the principles of conscription, gave the Bill his support because it is due the honor of the Dominion, to those who have fallen on the field of battle, to those who are now in the trenches, to the parents of all our brave soldiers and lastly to the Empire from her oldest possession that our Regiment should be kept up. The law, however, should be applied immediately, and if the first class named in the bill did not meet the needs of the regiment, the second draft should be called up not later than the first of September. He recognized the desirability of not disturbing the fishing industry unduly, but after all what would be the fishery to us if this war were lost? The men would require six months' training here as elsewhere and if necessary, all ranks should be called up so that we would know where we stand. Before the Bill leaves this House, its provisions should be such as to make it ready to go into immediate effect.

HON. MR. McNAMARA showed that this Dominion had not kept up with her neighbor, Canada, nor in fact with any of the British possessions in the matter of sending men overseas. He referred to the great crisis through which the Empire is now passing, and the hardships entered upon by the soldiers of "Ours" now in the trenches, as a result of their having no support from those at home. He had voted for conscription of wealth last year and would do so again, if necessary, and, in the meantime, he gave the measure his fullest support.

HON. MR. MEWS was of opinion that if selective conscription had been introduced in this country long ago, the good results would be apparent to-day, and there would be no such difficulty as confronts us to-day. It should have been done to even the burden, because as things have gone along up to the present. The results show that while whole families have been wiped out, others with as many illegible members have got off without contributing a man. He gave the Bill his hearty support.

HON. MR. GIBBS contended that the result of the returned soldiers' efforts the past month was conclusive proof that voluntary recruiting had not failed. St. John's, he said, had done as well as any city its size, and if the outports had not responded as generously as they should have, it was because they were not brought in to touch with affairs like we are here in the city. He also gave the Bill his support.

On the question being put the second reading passed without a dissenting vote.

HON. MR. ELLIS next introduced the Bill for the Extension of the Term of the present Legislature, explaining the desirability of avoiding the disturbance of a general election at this juncture. He showed that during the next six months the Government would have all its time occupied in carrying out the Conscription Act.

HON. MR. MILLEY asked that the second reading of this Bill be deferred until the Military Service Bill had gone through the Committee Stage.

HON. MR. ELLIS did not see any strong reason why this delay should be occasioned.

HONS. HARVEY and KNOWLING expressed the opinion that it would be as well to accede to the motion in the interests of unity, and as the President pointed out that whereas the Military Service Bill would have to go back to the Lower House to have the proposed amendment endorsed, and then be sent back again to the Upper House, the interests of none of the parties would be in any way affected. It was agreed to defer the second reading of the Extension Bill until the Conscription Bill has passed the Committee Stage.

The House then adjourned till 4 o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1.

The House met pursuant to adjournment and went into committee on the Military Service Bill, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the chair.

HON. THE PRESIDENT congratulated the House on the fact that the second reading had passed without a dissenting vote, and said that its unanimous passing in both

Houses of the Legislature would have a great moral effect on the Dominion. When Conscription was introduced in the Canadian Parliament there was pronounced hostilities in both Chambers, which almost proved the undoing of the Act. With its passing it was conceded by the Government that 100,000 men would be ready about the end of last year or thereabouts, but actual figures showed that only 25,000 had passed fit for overseas. The trouble was getting the Act enforced. Different tribunals were established to consider exemptions but the machinery lacked perfection in the running. Here, Conscription would have been impossible two months ago. In England it would have been impossible in the earlier stages of the war. Even up to a few months ago the miners and engineers refused to be combed out, but when the crisis came after March 21st, last, no objection was raised. When recruiting agents were visiting outports they were refused sleeping quarters, and in other places people claimed it was just as well to live under the Kaiser as King George. Conditions, he believed, were altered at this moment. The President went on to quote from the Canadian and American systems of Conscription and the results obtained. In Canada, 95 men out of every 100 claimed exemption, and in the United States only 50 men out of every 100. The disparity was due to the system. Referring to Quebec he quoted from the Montreal Witness, to prove that the claims for exemption in the Province of Quebec was about the same as in the Province of Ontario.

As regards the tribunal of exemptions, there was only one court here, while in Canada there were several. Whether the single court would be successful or not, was worth consideration. He also referred to the pension scheme. Changes had been made all round, and in Canada it changed four times. The last total disability allowance was about \$60 a month, and this would probably have to be applied in this country. He complained of the medical board in passing men here. Certain cases had come under his notice which proved their laxity in this connection. In one instance a patient from the Signal Hill tuberculosis camp had been passed, and since then there had been so much trouble with him that a boarding housekeeper had called on him to have him removed. Referring to the Foresters, the President said, that 15 per cent. of those sent over failed to qualify on the other side. If the Military Service Act becomes law, a board of doctors should be appointed that would do justice to the men and to the Dominion. When the proclamation of the Act is issued, probably it would be incumbent on employers in stores and factories to move out those of 1st class, and the same would apply to those employing fishermen. It might be well to call up the first and second class together, in order to prevent the slacker who was at age when the war began, and might now escape. On the other hand, however, it would be difficult to maintain more than 500 or 600 men in the city, conditions being different from other camps, but in the meantime he thought that the older fellows should fill the places of the very young boys who are now offering. He also thought that there would not be sufficient officers to train more than the number mentioned. Dealing with this matter, the President criticised strongly the conduct of the officers in the past who were strutting about the street most of the time instead of training the recruits. He however, qualified his remarks by saying that they were acting within their rights. He felt, however, that no business man would pay high salaries to clerks who only devoted a couple hours daily to business, and he hoped for greater effort later. With regard to the influx of volunteers, he considered a great number were coming in because of the conscription measure, but the work of the soldiers' recruiting deserved the highest praise from all.

HON. MR. ANDERSON supported the Bill heart and soul. He thought it was the only important measure that the Government had brought in since the war, and he would not question their sincerity. The past Government had supplied the sinews of war, but the present Government intended to supply the men. He did not approve of any political shuffling. Man power was what was needed, and he was going to support the measure. He regretted that the parties in 1914-15, when the country was fully represented, did not come in as a National Government and bring in some proper legislation such as now before the House. All the work in the past was left in the hands of the Patriotic Committee, and they had done the work well.

(To be Continued.)