

Mr. Coaker's Speech on Pit Prop Industry

Explains Fully the Stand Taken by the F.P.U. on the Matter—Is Strongly Opposed to the Exportation of Pit Props From Newfoundland—But in View of Information Given the Opposition by the Government all Opposition Will be Raised to the Exporting of Pit Props Till the End of 1917

MR. COAKER—The explanations of the Leader of the Opposition fully suffice to inform the House as to why we are going to permit that clause to pass. It is very much to be regretted that this information was not supplied to the Leader of the Opposition before the introduction of the Bill, and I trust that in future, in such matters, the Government will take the Leader of this side of the House into its confidence. The Leader of the Opposition has pointed out that the Members of this side of the House resolved to oppose any measure having for its object the establishment of the pit prop industry in Newfoundland. The reason that we have come to this conclusion and have resolved on this policy is, because, we believe that the timber remaining in Newfoundland should be manufactured in the Colony. I mean by this that the wood that would be used for pit props would be in greater profits if utilized as pulp wood. I have every confidence that in eight or ten years we will see in the interior three established industries such as Grand Falls, if we can possibly conserve the timber resource to give these industries a sufficient supply of wood. If, as I say, we can hold on to this timber, in eight or ten years we ought to have two more establishments one of which would be at Glenwood, and another at Bishop Falls. It is madness on the part of the Government to allow the export of timber as pit props. Grand Falls is worth half a million dollars to the Colony as a revenue producer. Two more industries of similar magnitude would mean one and a half million for the Government's coffers from the paper industry.

If Present Policy is Continued Our Timber Will Be Destroyed.
If the Government make up their minds to allow pit props to be exported as the promoters of the industry from the other side of the water would like, then in eight or ten years from now we are going to have a barren country. It is useless for anyone to say that there is no harm done, and that by cutting the pit props you allow the remaining timber a better opportunity to grow because only small timber is cut for pit props. When cutting pit props they take everything in the shape of timber out of the land. They take trees up to seven and eight inches in the top and down as low as two and a half

Asks For An Assurance From The Premier Regarding The Three Miles Limit.

I trust now that the Premier will be able to give us a promise that the law we propose passing here now with regard to the cutting of timber on the three-mile limit will not be altered during the year, and that he will not listen to any coming forward and coaxing the Government to allow them to cut green timber on the three-mile limit. I feel sure that what has been done formerly in connection with this matter has not been done with full knowledge of the consequence, and that the Government has not given the matter of cutting green timber on the three-mile limit that full consideration they should have given the matter. We know the facts in connection with those matters; and as has been advanced by the Minister some representations were made last fall with regard to the shortage of the fisheries and the necessity of providing labour for the people; but I defy him to show that we suggested cutting green timber on the three-mile limit. I feel sure that the Premier will give us his promise that this permission to cut on the three-mile limit will not be given again. If he gives us that assurance we will not oppose the Bill for cutting another year.

A Case Of Locking The Stable Door When The Horse Is Stolen.

Now, there is another matter, the matter of providing a Board. The great pity about that is that the Government did not wake up before the horse was stolen. We have had cut in two years about three hundred thousand cords of wood and we have lost on that three dollars a cord, or \$900,000. When the companies were buying this wood first they were willing to pay \$8 or \$8.50 a cord for it on board the steamers; and the first steamer load that went from Newfoundland was paid at the rate of \$8.25 or \$8.50. Then the small men in this country, middlemen, came forward and said to these companies if you give us contracts we will supply this wood for you for \$5.50. Of course the companies would be foolish not to accept such a proposal. It was our own people, these middlemen that brought down the price and allowed those men to reduce the value of pit props one hundred per cent.

Now, this Board has come and we are not going to oppose its formation. If we can do anything to benefit the fishermen by increasing the value of pit props we shall give it our hearty support. We cannot accept that clause as you have it, but in all probability when we come to it later, we shall be able to show you how to make it more effective. I feel sure that the promise I suggested we might get from the Prime Minister will be very gladly given, and if that is done, any objections we had to offer to the Bill will be overcome.

Supports Amendment Fixing Minimum Price Per Cord And Rate Of Wages Per Month.

MR. COAKER—I rise to support the proposed amendment of Dr. Lloyd regarding a minimum price for pit props and wages cutting pit props, and in doing so I do not point out that

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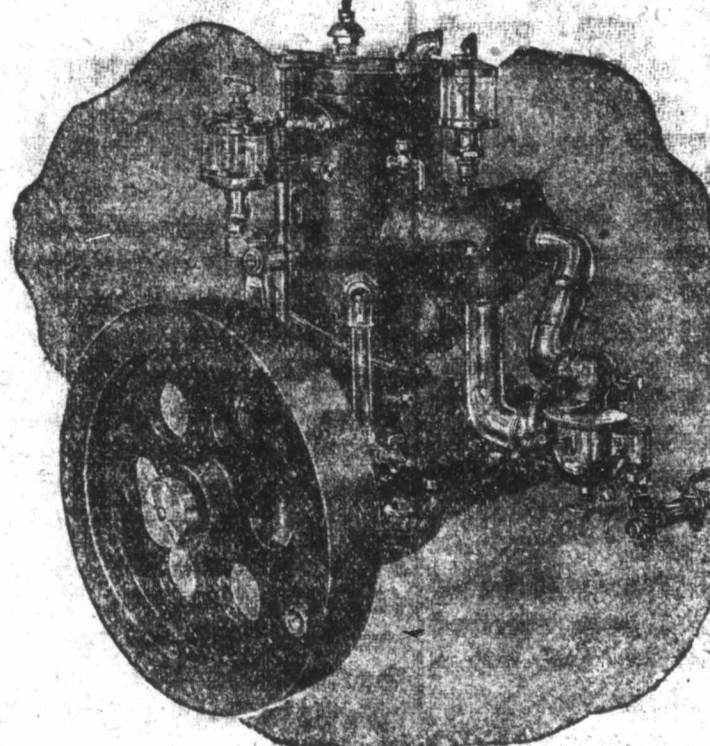
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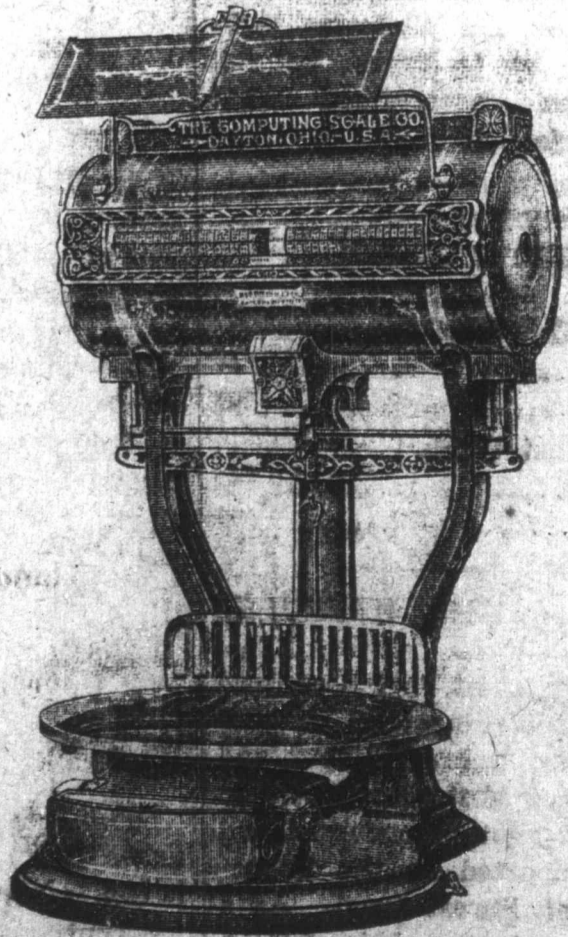
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In all probability you will find next year that a great proportion of the men will be engaged by the month, because the green timber being exhausted, and no wood being allowed to be cut along the water-front, it will mean that the timber area holders who have inside areas will ship the men by the month and will not pay them by the cord. Quite a number of men were engaged that way this year. For that reason we think that if you place a clause in the bill fixing the minimum price per cord at \$5 and do not provide a rate per month, that the employers of these men will take advantage of the fact that you are fixing \$5 as the minimum rate per cord and they will hire the men at their own prices, from \$20 to \$25 per month. There have been some men hired at these prices this year. Another thing is that the prices paid will largely depend on the result of the fishery. If the fishery is a good one there will, in a great many cases, be no urgent reason for the men to flock to the lumber camps seeking employment, in fact there may be a scarcity of laborers for that purpose, and consequently the rate of wages will be increased; but if we have a bad fishery next year, it will mean that men will be abundant and the prices as wages per month that will be quoted them, will be in proportion to the number of men who present themselves. In view of the fact that you are fixing minimum prices per cord, if you do not fix a minimum rate per month, employers will avail of the opportunity of hiring men and paying them any rates they wish. If you adopt the suggestion fixing wages at \$20 per month then any man engaged in cutting pit props will receive a value for his labor which we consider only a fair remuneration.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

THE GOODISON WHITEWASHING.

Another Writer From Victoria Village Takes Exception to Mr. Goodison's Plea of "Following the Custom"

Editor Mail and Advocate)
Dear Sir:—The general topic around here now is, the Goodison affair, even the school children can be heard day after day, since the exposure of Mr. Goodison's wrong doing, expressing their little opinions as to what they think of the Crabbell Government for upholding the Speaker of the House. However, this is nothing unusual for children to talk like this, as they are only "following the custom" of their parents in this respect. In fact, even the Government's own strong supporters are deadly opposed to the "whitewashing" of a man, especially in Mr. Goodison's position, who has used the public moneys in order to get elected.

It is too ridiculous altogether, and, although I have always been a staunch Morris man, I must surely confess that the sooner some of this clique of Government members are sent into oblivion the better. The idea of the Acting Judge of the District Court having the audacity to stand up in the honorable House of Assembly and uphold Goodison in what he had done. Well I should smile after hearing the Judge excuse me, I mean to say the learned Judge, who, of course, "followed the custom," in explaining to the House how innocent Mr. Speaker was, while in some of the evidence Mr. Goodison remarked, "Why, boys, if the public knew this, what would become of me?" Isn't this then, Mr. Editor, enough to con-

vince any sane person that Mr. Goodison knew he was doing wrong and not "following the custom."
But last, but not by any means least, the member for Fortune Bay, Mr. Emerson, admits that he did the same thing 500 times, and apparently the learned judge will also content himself that Mr. Emerson, as well as Mr. Goodison, was only "following the custom." What's the use in making laws, anyway, they are never carried out, only on poor people.

Yours truly,
Z Y Z.
Victoria Village,
April 29th, 1916.

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Contractor Kelly Must Face Trial

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Thomas Kelly, a contractor, wanted in Winnipeg, in connection with alleged frauds in construction of the Parliament Buildings there, today lost his fight against extradition in the Supreme Court. The High Court affirmed the decision of the Federal Court in Chicago which refused to release Kelly on Habeas Corpus.

Canada asked for Kelly's extradition that he might be tried on a charge of obtaining \$1,250,000 by false pretences on the Parliament Building contract. His case was argued only a few days ago, and the court at special request gave speedy consideration. Apparently no legal process now is available to prevent his extradition to Manitoba.