

Grand Charity Concert.

**Methodist College Hall,
TO-NIGHT at 8.15.
Prices--50, 30 and 20 cents.**

Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - Proprietor
W. F. LLOYD, - - - - Editor

THURSDAY, April 8th, 1915.

Nest Egg Gone!

There was an air of general depression about the Government and its supporters yesterday in the Legislature. In spite of the brave attempt to give an air of optimism to the Assembly Chamber by the display of flags, which in itself was proper and patriotic, in view of the Great War, in which we as well as the rest of the Empire are engaged, the parts of the Governor's Speech relating to finance before the War and the grave admission by the Premier that \$200,000 of the Cash Reserve had already been taken to clear off the shortage of the revenue to meet the expenditure up to June 30th last came as a shock, if not as a surprise, to many present. They naturally thought that the financial condition of the Government before there was any thought of War, what must be now after eight months of war and what will it be at the end of next June. The attempt of the Prime Minister to carry off the depressing news by words of optimism failed to galvanize buoyancy into his party or those present, and the occasional cheers by a few of his supporters in the gallery served only to accentuate the general depression. It was idle to expect confidence from those who had voted for the extraordinary increases in taxation at the last regular session of the Assembly. The additions to the tariff had been so great that with normal imports of dutiable goods, the new taxation was calculated to bring in an extra \$720,000 a year, and should have given an extra \$240,000 for the four months of the year preceding June 30th. Above and above the provision made regularly and at the usual time for the revenue of that year. Yet in spite of the attempt after the General Elections to bolster up the pre-election budget by an extra call of \$240,000 for that year, the Prime Minister admitted yesterday that his financial calculations were so much astray that there was a deficit of \$200,000 on June 30th last, and that \$200,000 had been taken from the nest egg of \$500,000 to clear up the deficiency. Last year, before this, the statement is put in the mouth of the Governor that the balance of \$200,000 will have to be used to reduce the present year's deficit, and that extra taxation must be put on to clear away the balance. Where and whither are we tending? Can there be a doubt?

Important Judgment.

Parker Webb & Co. vs. A. A. Telegraph Co.
The other day an important judgment was given in this case for the plaintiffs, represented by Winter & Winter, and against the defendants, represented by Mr. Furlong, K.C. This case was brought for damage resulting to plaintiffs from an error in the transmission of a telegram. Defendant Co. pleaded that the plaintiffs' agents, R. G. Ash & Co., had signed a form by which they agreed to the conditions endorsed on the telegram. These conditions absolved the Telegraph Co. from liability for such errors, however arising. Plaintiffs contended that the conditions were unreasonable and therefore void, amounting in effect to a refusal to send telegrams except on conditions unjust and onerous to the senders. Judgment of Horwood, J., and Johnson J., for the Plaintiffs; Emerson J., dissenting.

NEWFOUNDLAND QUARTERLY.—We are in receipt of a copy of the Spring number of the Newfoundland Quarterly which contains much interesting reading matter. The magazine is profusely illustrated and contains amongst other subjects some fine views of the Cathedral at Antwerp, and should meet with a ready sale.

When Will You Have Your COSTUMES in?

Interesting question. We have them in. Splendid line in latest effects. Shades: Grey, Navy Blue, Black, Shepherd's Plaid, Fawn, Grey and Black. Prices from

\$5.35 up.

Our Ladies' Spring Coats and Dresses are also here. Stylish showing indeed. Our American Dressmaker is not taking orders to day or to-morrow. Shall have all Easter orders completed by Thursday, 11.30, when measurements and orders for Dresses and Costumes will again be taken.

J. M. DEVINE, The Right House

COR. WATER & ADELAIDE STREETS.

Parliament Opened Yesterday Afternoon.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon the third session of the twenty-third General Assembly was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Walter E. Davidson. A large concourse of people assembled in the grounds while both Chambers of the Legislature were well filled by prominent ladies and gentlemen. Lining the grounds were the usual detachments from the Constabulary and Naval Reserve, but a feature of yesterday's occasion was the presence of a squad from the Mtd. Regiment, forming a guard of honor. The City Band was also in attendance and on arrival of His Excellency rendered the National Anthem while the guard presented arms. After the reading of the Speech from the Throne by His Excellency, Messrs. Coaker and Morine, the new members for Twillingate and Bonaville, respectively, who had been previously sworn in, were introduced to the Speaker by Messrs. Kent and Stone. The mover and seconder of the Address in Reply were Messrs. J. F. Downey and E. Parsons and in the Upper Chamber, Hons. J. Harvey and P. T. McGrath.

IN THE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. Downey in moving for the appointment of a committee to draft the Address in Reply, dwelt for upwards of an hour on the horrors of the great war and deplored the calamity which was wantonly precipitated by Germany; congratulated the fathers and mothers of families in Newfoundland whose sons have volunteered; sympathized with the families of those who lost their lives while doing duty for the Empire, and predicted generous support for the dependents of them. In connection with the seal-fishery he thought a close season for a year or so was necessary so that a poor catch this year would be a good way to preserve the seals. He dilated a great deal on our food-stuffs and said there was room for great improvement. He referred to the negotiations going on between the Government and a Mr. Wilson, of Montreal, with a view to establishing a large industry in Newfoundland. Mr. Downey said this industry would give an exceptionally large amount of labor and he predicted wonderful possibilities for it, and that it would cost over ten millions of dollars. Another industry he was much interested in was the Cold Storage plant proposed to be established for the marketing to America of our annual fish catch.

Mr. Edward Parsons followed in a stirring and patriotic speech. Owing to the various paragraphs in His Excellency's speech, being covered by the previous speaker, he only dealt with two matters—the fishing industry and the war. He submitted statistics showing what progress Canada was making in the development of this industry. As time wore on, the great sacrifices our people were making by sending their sons to the front and paid a tribute to the mothers and grand-mothers who were doing noble work with their knitting needles.

Mr. Kent—After complimenting the proposer of the Address in Reply for the carefully prepared composition he had read to the House, the Leader of the Opposition made a pleasing reference to the element of humor in the second, and then dealt in part with the Speech from the Throne. He said when the House met in September last to provide emergency measures to enable the Government to obtain Legislative sanction for their actions both past and future, more or less in a state of uncertain anxiety, as at that time the rush of the German forces had not been turned back and we were wondering what the extent of that rush would be. Since then events have developed and have rendered the whole British people, the Empire and her allies more determined and more full of confidence and hope for a triumphant end of the gigantic struggle at present raging throughout Europe. He referred to considerable length to the war, of which he gave an able and comprehensive review, pointing out what led up to it. It was not a mere conflict of material interests, but of two great issues between Great Britain and her Allies on the one hand, and aggressive fighting for the Rule of Might. These issues are of so vital and far-reaching a character that Civilization itself demands that Britain and her Allies must fight until victory is won and German aggression is decisively crushed. It will be a long and arduous struggle, but we must win. Continuing, the speaker commented on the character of the German military campaign, pointing out that the Germans had gone from step to step in violating the canons of international law which should govern warfare. Undeclared towns had been bombarded and resulted in the slaughter of innocent women and children. The destruction of mercantile shipping by submarines was a violation of the rules of the Prize Court, which did not countenance the destruction of their ships, but only their capture, and the right of which had to be passed on by the Prize Court before even a captured ship could be condemned. The struggle has brought out in strong relief the unity of the Empire. Newfoundland had already sent forth 1,000 soldiers and 1,000 sailors, and quite a number of the latter had lost their lives in doing their duty. These would be long remembered as Newfoundland heroes who gave their all for their country. As he had stated last September, the Opposition would

offer no obstruction to measures brought in by responsible Ministers for the purposes of the war. In regard to other matters, the Opposition would attempt to be fair and reasonable in criticism, but the Opposition could not vacate their functions. They had a duty to perform to the country and to the districts which they represented, quite as much as those sitting on the Government side. He did not intend to deal with the paragraphs of the Speech of the Governor, which they all knew voiced the policy of the Government, but he could not refrain from referring to the financial situation, so far as it was disclosed in the Speech. The Government admitted a deficit on June 30th last and intimated that they expected a bigger deficit next June. Last September, according to his recollection, the Government had given the deficit of June last as \$235,000. It is clear then that if the shortage is greater this year, the situation is serious, in view of the conditions brought about by the War, and it moves the country to action. The Government must set their house in order to meet the emergency. This deficit had come about in spite of the great increase in taxation a year ago, and in spite of the increases in September another and a larger deficit is expected. The grave condition of the country was disclosed when it was admitted that the half million cash reserve, so carefully looked after by Sir Robert, had been used up by the war, and that other means would have to be resorted to as well in the attempt to meet the deficit. The outlook was none too promising, the seeling voyage looked like a failure and if this should be the fact it would have a marked influence in lessening imports and in keeping down the revenue. The Colony was fortunate in being able to carry on its overseas trade owing to the British fleet's success on the sea, and he hoped that the products of our other industries would continue to fetch remunerative prices. The War would cast upon us special obligations which we were bound to meet such as providing for those who are disabled by the war and for dependents of breadwinners who may fall in the war. We must prepare to fit ourselves to meet these obligations. In conclusion he hoped that on the opening day of the session next year, they would be able to congratulate themselves and the country on the successful close of the tremendous struggle in which they were so many other nations were engaged.

The Prime Minister congratulated Mr. Downey and Parsons and endorsed in every particular, he said, the learned speech made by the talented Leader of the Opposition and welcomed Mr. Morine. He was optimistic about the situation of the country, though there was a deficit last year and another this year. These, he said, were unforeseen and the Government was fortunate in having the liquid asset of a half million dollars to fall back on to meet last year's shortage \$300,000, and to help to meet the deficit of the present year. What the shortage this year will be, depends largely on trade importations, the consumption and the purchasing power of the people. From 1909 to 1912, he said, the Government had a surplus of nearly \$800,000 over expenditure and that this surplus was given back to the people in the shape of branch railways, etc. He believed there was a saving in the cost of the war, by overhauling the Empire and that conditions brought about by the war would be of great benefit to the country. Mr. Morine thanked Mr. Coaker for making a victory and the people of Bonaville for his seat and the Premier for his kindly remarks and the war was glad to see the Prime Minister getting conservative as he grew older and was leading the old Tory Party. He said the House and the Premier were the oldest politicians and that, judged by his speech, Sir Edward was continuing to sing the same old song that he sang 30 years ago when first he knew him. He congratulated him on the success of his speech, which had been profitable to himself if not to the country.

The Premier, Leader of the Opposition and several other gentlemen gave notice of emergency questions. The House adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Legislative Council.

Hon. John Harvey in moving the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne yesterday made one of the best speeches since the days of Representative Government. His remarks were conspicuous for their fairness, reason for the intelligent manner with which the various subjects were discussed. The Speech from the Throne was, to his mind, admirably expressed and sang the same old song that he sang 30 years ago when first he knew him. He congratulated him on the success of his speech, which had been profitable to himself if not to the country.

Reference was made to the Dominions Royal Commission and the Hon. Mr. Bowring's connection therewith. The liquor question was also dealt with, and in this respect he showed the lesson Britain had learned from Russia's experience regarding the stopping of the sale of vodka. He urged the stopping of the retailing of liquor, and following it up with compulsory education, beginning with St. John's. With reference to the fish market's he felt that the value of our fish must come down and that it was better to recognize the fact as soon as possible. The Mediterranean conditions are bad, and are likely to become worse, and the rate of exchange is steadily dropping. Mr. Harvey emphasized the absolute necessity of rigid economy on the part of the Government, and also urged the necessity of individual industry and economy for the people of Newfoundland. Such expenditures as are absolutely necessary for the operation of the House, and others that he felt were not giving sufficient value, should be either wiped out or materially reduced. Agricultural exhibitions, new roads, extra trips of coastal steamers should also be done away with. He also spoke of the increasing sense of the importance of Confederation. As a Newfoundlander he was most emphatic in saying that he felt that Confederation would be most unfavourable to our interests. Speaking of the great war, Mr. Harvey referred to the noble part played

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War

Messages

The Government Union troops German South opposition, the Russian the Russian the 4th, with front, from the direction of inclusive. The French appreciable

HEAVY

The largest corded in shown in a night dated believed to ed in part of which result Neuve Chapelle includes the commission regiments were killed

BOTH

It was announced day that from Africa have been tion, the Russian and K. West Africa ture of Orange day.

AWARD

Shortly before Prinz Bittel signal flags One half pouring (As dusk to cock' and in the situation

PRINZ

The command cruiser Prinz the Collect port News tern his ship war.

ADMITTS

The German out an official loss of 200,000 The text of the lows: Semm turned from ing to a responsibility on March 1915. She therefore, lost.

WILKIN

A London for a fight. Frank Morgan will be on travelling defeated by on points in year.

United

The following record script:—The Indian and from Germany has been on "The Ang the last counts of day to day fifty years

"In the accounts pursued by Government supplies of tion as use, in one Southern The enclosed successful one example "Starvation inflict on ably saved more influence themselves "The certainly policy on liberally with success

White favor for