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### House of Assembly.

April 14th.

The House met at 5 p.m.

Notices of question were given by Mr. J. R. Bennett, Sir M. P. Cashin, Sir J. C. Crosbie and Mr. MacDonnell.

After answers to questions had been tabled, Sir M. P. Cashin rose to continue his speech on the Address in Reply. He referred first to the Labrador Boundary. The answer to a question which he received yesterday would, when known, alarm the whole country. Seven or eight lawyers were engaged in that work, or rather not work, but excuse for a number of vultures to squeeze the life-blood out of the colony. Could the Minister of Justice justify the amounts tabled on the preceding day? He charged there, on that day, that the late M. W. Furlong, K. C., had done all the work necessary on that question. In giving the figures the Minister of Justice did not tell all. If one firm alone had received \$19,000 and there are something like eight firms included, what will the Colony expect of that Labrador Boundary? If each of these firms was entitled to a retainer of \$10,000 it looked as if it would cost \$250,000. He would like to know how much of this was still hidden. The signature of the Attorney General cost \$5,000. That was one of the principal points in the speech from the Throne. Sir Michael then criticized the paragraph referring to the Revenue. That paragraph was merely a conglomeration of words. We all knew that the Revenue was dropping for our purchasing power was gone. In 1914 our total imports were approximately \$15,193,000. In 1915 they were \$12,500,000; 1916—\$18,500,000; 1917—\$21,818,810; 1918—\$25,000,000; 1919—\$32,000,000; 1920—\$30,000,000 and there we stopped. Our exports of dried codfish in 1914 were valued at \$8,071,000; 1915—\$7,332,287; 1916—\$10,394,041; 1917—\$12,876,847; 1918—\$18,829,850; 1919—\$14,318,830; 1920—\$22,677,625. In 1921 the exports would be in the vicinity of 4 or 5 million dollars, according to his calculations. The average per qt. would not reach \$6. The whole country could guess what our exports were to-day. Yet the Minister of Finance looked for a Revenue of \$11,000,000. Where was he going to get it? In his manifesto the Premier promised a reduction of taxation, and said that the Ministry of the time was spending \$9,000,000, yet the present Ministry of Finance was going to spend nearly \$11,000,000. The present Government forgot their self-respect. They increased the Civil Service allocation by nearly \$3,000,000. Sir Michael hoped to hear from the Premier as regards his expenditure, shortly. He was going to stay on the job. There was not one member of the Government who had risen to assist any sort of a programme. Thousands of people were starving in the country and it was his duty to ask the Government what they were going to do about it? Why was the Minister of Marine away from the House to-day? What is the general superintendent of fish in the country? No one could sell fish without his permission. He could have sold a cargo of fish in Montreal last spring but he declined to tell the Minister of Marine and Fisheries all his business. Mr. Hue was sent to Montreal as a fish agent at the Colony's expense. He wired that he could sell 10,000 qts. of Labrador at 80 per lb. He got a reply—'Try for 9 cents. If you get 9 cents the F.P.U. will fill the order.' He couldn't get it. But the point was the Minister

of Marine kept that information to himself and not a fish man in town knew it. The whole fish business of this country to-day is dominated by one man. The largest firm on Water Street must make an open and sworn statement to the Fisheries Department before they could ship a qt. of fish. Mr. Coaker, an one of the largest exporters in the colony had held back merchant's fish, whilst he loaded his own fish and accepted the offer at a lower price than the merchant had agreed to. Take Mr. Penny of Rames who loaded a cargo in June and had it held over for three months and it was now ruined and yet Mr. Penny had received an offer whilst it was loading. He was going to serve notice on the Premier that the Regulations had to come off before the House closed. Mr. Coaker had sold cargoes of his own whilst he detained the cargoes of other merchants. The men on the other side of the House were all shipped men. The Minister of Posts was secretary of the F.P.U. and yet he had the check to come into the House in an Executive position. Then the Minister of Education was not the man to represent fishermen in the country. He should have had more pluck to sit there and rust, because he had a \$5000 a year job. Why didn't Burin send an independent man to represent it instead of Mr. Foote. Mr. Winsor was a paid servant of Mr. Coaker's. Mr. Samson, too, was a paid servant of W. F. Coaker. Was this an independent House. Some of the people of this country were boycotted. The Ministers of Marine and Posts take advantage of their positions to use confidential information. The Post Office was a disgrace to the country. Even Capt. Gosse was dependent on Mr. Coaker.

Sir Michael said that part of the \$500,000 allocation went to Barr and the Minister of Marine sent Mr. Gosse to Barr.

Sir Michael then started in to read the sliding scale of Government relief that was being doled out in Harbor Grace District, from one in family to fourteen. One in each family received 6 lbs. of flour and one pint of molasses per week and so on in proportion till the man with 14 in family receives 41 lbs. of flour and 3 1/4 gallons of molasses. Mr. Gosse told Sir Michael not to read it as he well knew what was going on over there. Some of the people receiving this had fish and couldn't sell it. Yet Mr. Gosse sold his fish to Barr. Didn't the Minister of Marine send him to Barr?

Mr. Gosse—'No, but I took Mr. Barr's cheque for it.'

Sir Michael replied that there were not half a dozen people in the town to-day who would take Mr. Barr's cheque. What was being done in Harbor Grace. How many were there to-day hungry? Yet their representative was prepared to vote for the Regulations which helped to put the country in its present position. What had Mr. Barnes done to keep his election promises? He was to-day the head of a department which was a disgrace to the colony. He was going to make him get up and talk!

advantageous conditions, and he received bonds for it. The cargo amounted to \$1,250,000 and the Government was asked to guarantee these Rumanian bonds. This the Government refused to do and the British Government did likewise. The fishermen again tackled our Government and he, as Finance Minister was present at the time, and was responsible, in the face of great opposition, turning the proposition down. Mr. Coaker was at this time, sulking in Port Union. Sir J. C. Crosbie who was present at the discussion would confirm his statement that he turned down the proposition of guaranteeing the Rumanian bonds. Water Street was still owed \$1,000,000 by Rumania and he was thankful he had foresight enough to see what the result of guaranteeing these bonds would have been. Last year he had sold Mr. Halford the Post Office for \$70,000. Was that collected, yet? He was the head of that department and he did not know what to do with it. Whilst the Minister was secretary of the F.P.U. how could he look after his department. Nothing was heard about the Rumanian bonds after the discussion because if anything had been said they would have been minus M. P. Cashin and they couldn't do without him at this time. Sir Michael then told another story. In October the English exchange was low and the Government could have sent the amount of interest due on a certain loan at a great saving, for when they did send it, the exchange had risen and \$60,000 was lost to the Colony. Not one man on the Government side of the House knew his business. They were absolutely deficient in intelligence. If they had managed things properly they would be \$500,000 better off to-day. Never since Responsible Government had Newfoundland been treated to such a rotten Administration. It wasn't etiquette to give the names of bond holders at the Customs, supporters of the present Government, but it was etiquette to table the names of bond holders in his (Sir Michael's) Administration. The Government was now run by the heads of one of the biggest corporations in the country. It was the greatest scandal known to have the Minister of Marine, head of the F.P.U., using confidential information for his own ends. The Regulations must come off before the House closed. The whole country was clamouring to lay against the Government. Sir Michael then dealt briefly and in an ironical vein with the aeroplane. Thousands of dollars had been spent on them, what use had they been. The whole story of the aeroplane would probably be told before the House closed. Dealing with the Trade Commissioners he said, they were costing \$100,000. There was no more money to pay them, so wasn't it time to recall them. The Government was insolvent. What hope would the Premier have now of raising a loan! The per capita tax was now \$46 but at the time of the general election the present Premier had said it would be \$28. Why hadn't the \$250,000 tax been collected from the Nova Scotia Iron and Steel Co? There was not a department in the Civil Service to-day that wasn't a disgrace. The Minister of Public Works was an old political hypocrite. He had handed out \$7000 for snow shovelling in Hr. Mala. What was there to show for it? The roads were not now fit for traffic! Wasn't all this proof that the Department of Public Works was rotten. As regards the German Indemnity Sir Michael said we deserved a part of it, but was that the only hope the Premier had to hold out to the country? If so, it was a poor one! Then, what about the National Bank? He had something to say to Mr. Scammell about that, but he was not present now. Sir Michael next referred to shipbuilding and queried as to how much would be lost in that direction. Sir Michael referred to the Premier's denial that he was a shareholder of the Star. The Star is registered at the Registry Office in the names of three men with shares of \$10

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### "BOVRIL"

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the Italians whilst we were placed out of the running by the Regulations. The Minister of Marine had hardly left the country before he was betrayed. What did the Premier do when he was in London? He talked a lot but he did nothing. Many an uneducated man has forgotten more than the Premier knows. He (Sir John) knew about the Government guarantee from the first, because one of the men who got it told him. Yet three F.P.U. men landed 400 qts. of fish in his store which was still there. He had given them \$4.00 a quintal for it to help them out. His patience was severely tried by what were called fish inspectors. A man sent down 400 cases of Labrador fish to him from the North. The fish was undoubtedly choice, but the inspectors refused to mark it so. He then sent for the chief inspector who, after examining the fish, said he was not an inspector. He was the head of that department and he did not know what to do with it. Whilst the Minister was secretary of the F.P.U. how could he look after his department. Nothing was heard about the Rumanian bonds after the discussion because if anything had been said they would have been minus M. P. Cashin and they couldn't do without him at this time. Sir Michael then told another story. In October the English exchange was low and the Government could have sent the amount of interest due on a certain loan at a great saving, for when they did send it, the exchange had risen and \$60,000 was lost to the Colony. Not one man on the Government side of the House knew his business. They were absolutely deficient in intelligence. If they had managed things properly they would be \$500,000 better off to-day. Never since Responsible Government had Newfoundland been treated to such a rotten Administration. It wasn't etiquette to give the names of bond holders at the Customs, supporters of the present Government, but it was etiquette to table the names of bond holders in his (Sir Michael's) Administration. The Government was now run by the heads of one of the biggest corporations in the country. It was the greatest scandal known to have the Minister of Marine, head of the F.P.U., using confidential information for his own ends. The Regulations must come off before the House closed. The whole country was clamouring to lay against the Government. Sir Michael then dealt briefly and in an ironical vein with the aeroplane. Thousands of dollars had been spent on them, what use had they been. The whole story of the aeroplane would probably be told before the House closed. Dealing with the Trade Commissioners he said, they were costing \$100,000. There was no more money to pay them, so wasn't it time to recall them. The Government was insolvent. What hope would the Premier have now of raising a loan! The per capita tax was now \$46 but at the time of the general election the present Premier had said it would be \$28. Why hadn't the \$250,000 tax been collected from the Nova Scotia Iron and Steel Co? There was not a department in the Civil Service to-day that wasn't a disgrace. The Minister of Public Works was an old political hypocrite. He had handed out \$7000 for snow shovelling in Hr. Mala. What was there to show for it? The roads were not now fit for traffic! Wasn't all this proof that the Department of Public Works was rotten. As regards the German Indemnity Sir Michael said we deserved a part of it, but was that the only hope the Premier had to hold out to the country? If so, it was a poor one! Then, what about the National Bank? He had something to say to Mr. Scammell about that, but he was not present now. Sir Michael next referred to shipbuilding and queried as to how much would be lost in that direction. Sir Michael referred to the Premier's denial that he was a shareholder of the Star. The Star is registered at the Registry Office in the names of three men with shares of \$10



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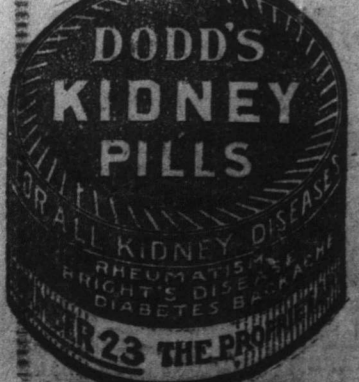
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cash. He was going to prove that the Premier was the man who was handling the Star. The Star, in fact, owes the Premier so much money that he owns it. He actually pays the staff of the Star. Was that not undeniable proof of the Premier owing the Star? Mr. Squires might not be the owner of the Star, however, because he might owe to someone else the money that paper owed him. Sir Michael then referred to the amendment which he had moved on Tuesday. He said it had been moved in all earnestness because the Fish Regulations had practically ruined the country. The enormous amount of harm they had done would be felt in the next twelve months. Sir Michael concluded with a strong appeal to the House to pass the amendment, for if they didn't he would take other means to have the Regulations removed. He asked the Government as men to forget their own interests and vote for the amendment. Let that obnoxious Act be cleared once and for all from the Statute Book. It was their duty to act on behalf of the poor fishermen of the island. (Sir Michael was loudly applauded on making his seat.)

Sir John Crosbie rose to second the amendment. He expressed his sympathy with the late Hon. W. B. Grieve. He also regretted the absence of the Finance Minister. He was in a unique position. He had tried to save the Government from themselves, but it was an impossible task. He had objected strongly to the Fish Regulations, and now they had brought disaster to the country. There were men in Conception Bay to-day starving because they could not sell a cod's tail. Mr. Gosse had sold his fish because he had a pull. The Fish Regulations were the most drastic curse ever put on a free country. Why should the Premier be captain of a ship and allow another man to direct her course; 265,000 quintals of foreign fish was sold to

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