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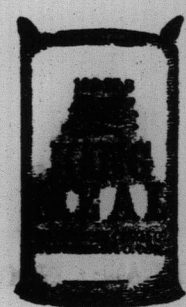
DAVID STOTT,

Superintendent

G. W. LEMESURIER

Deputy Min. Posts & Telegraph

April 19, 25



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House of Assembly Proceedings.

OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS

(Continued.)

In concluding he paid great tribute to the work of the worth of the present Minister of Agriculture and Mines who was enthusiastically taking hold of the Department and being a practical miner he looked for great things in that regard from him during his regime.

MR. GODDEN was deeply interested in the matter of agricultural development. The production of root crops in P. E. I. and Nova Scotia was so great that they could sell vastly under local producers, and he suggested a protective tariff to give the local man a chance. Competition from our neighbours struck a grave blow at our poultry farmers, and the same idea might be utilized for their benefit.

MR. WARREN felt all would be in agreement with the employment of a good geological surveyor. When in the Squires' Administration, he had investigated the matter and it was found one could be obtained through the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau for some \$5,000 or \$7,500 a year. Touching upon the agricultural side of things he was very interested in the increase in the agricultural vote by \$15,000. He would like to hear fuller details of the policy the Minister had in view as regards a scientific agriculturist. In view of the farm production on the West coast, he urged that a chance be given these farmers by having an adjustment of freight rates. He wished the Minister all success in his enterprise.

MR. RUSSELL congratulated the Minister of Agriculture on his interesting address on the matter of agriculture and mines. He endorsed the remarks of Mr. Duff relative to the jumping of claims and with him trusted that something might be done to obviate such occurrences in the future. Referring to the Minister's agricultural policy, he dealt with the policy of 1910, and the Agricultural Societies. He could assure the House that in his District they proved eminently successful and they suffered there to-day from the lack of them. In the United States and Canada, co-operative marketing was a recognized stimulant of agriculture, and he advocated the establishment of markets in the large centres in this country where the farmers might sell their produce on a co-operative basis. In concluding he trusted that with the establishment of the flour mills, cattle feeds would be lower and sheep raising would be rendered possible.

On the vote for the Department of Public Works some desultory discussion took place. MR. WARREN referred to the practice of having to pay the doctor at the hospital a private fee in addition to having to pay the customary hospital charges. He made particular reference to a constituent of his own. Owing to the lateness of the hour he deferred any further remarks until later.

The Committee, having passed the vote, rose, reported progress and were given leave to sit again to-day.

In moving the adjournment the Prime Minister tabled certain resolutions of thanks from the Women's Franchise League. MR. SPEAKER informed the House of the receipt of a message from the Council advising the House of the concurrence of that body in the Re-distribution Bill.

Remaining orders being deferred the House adjourned at 6.30.

April 3rd.
The House met at the usual hour.

REPORTS.
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL tabled the Fire Insurance Returns for the year.

THE PRIME MINISTER tabled the Report of the Council of Higher Education.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY tabled the report of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measure.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.
In reply to Mr. Scammell the Minister of Education stated that the increase in the augmentation grant to Teachers was caused by the demands on

the grant by Teachers receiving higher grades. The increase in inspection grant is made necessary owing to the Harvey Bequest, which was used for the purpose being no longer available.

Increase in grant for special purposes is on account of vote for pensions to Teachers. The Teachers employed at the Normal School together with their salaries are as follows:—

Mr. S. P. Whiteway, B. S. C., \$3600.00 per annum; Miss Betty McGrath, B.A., \$1200.00 per annum; Mr. Hogg, B. Sc., (Science), \$400.00 per annum; Mr. Hutton, vocal music and elocution, \$5.00 per lesson; Mrs. Fraser, English Literature, \$2.00 per lesson; Captain O'Grady, Physical Culture, \$2.00 per lesson; Mr. Murdoch, drawing, \$2.00 per lesson.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.
Resolutions on supply respecting the Department of Agriculture and Mines were read a first and second time and agreed upon.

MR. SPEAKER advised the House on the receipt of a message from the Council advising the House that that body had passed the St. John's Dry Dock Bill, without amendment.

On the second reading of the Council's Amendments on the Excess from Churches Bill, the Attorney General explained the Amendments as being merely a recasting of Cap. 52 of the Consolidated Statutes. On the suggestion of Mr. Browne the order was deferred until next sitting.

SUPPLY.
The House then went into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

MR. WARREN referring to the question raised by him at the previous session as to the practice of the doctors at the Hospital levying fees, gave an example of a case that had occurred to a constituent of his, Mrs. John Bullen, of Harbour Breton.

For the information of the House he read certain correspondence in this particular case, which the honourable member characterized as being "extraordinary." He claimed he was very anxious to know the way in which patients stood as regards payments at the Hospital.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS pointed out that his Department was not responsible for the internal administration of the General Hospital. All the matters referred to by Mr. Warren were under the charge of the Board of Governors, hence no information could be given by him. Mr. Long was the representative of the Government on this Board and no doubt he would give all the information.

HON. J. J. LONG, as the Executive member on the Board of Governors, regretted many aspects of the case of Mrs. Bullen. The Board has strongly disapproved all levying of fees by medical practitioners of the

Hospital on ward patients. When a ward patient pays the Secretary of the Board any amount, this covers all charges due the Hospital. He read certain correspondence that passed between the Board and Dr. N. S. Fraser, demanding a refund of fees levied by him against Mrs. Bullen.

At this juncture the traditional three knocks announced the advent of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod who required the presence of the House in the Council Chamber, to receive the assent of His Excellency the Governor to several Bills.

Returning to their own Chamber the House resumed business.

MR. LONG continuing repeated that it was regrettable that the doctor should adopt such an attitude and added that the Board would regretfully have to take further steps to compel the refund of such fees as were paid by Mrs. Bullen through the ward sister.

MR. W. J. WALSH characterized the principle in vogue of collecting fees for Doctors' services at the Hospital as particularly vicious and referred to the case of a Mr. Denis Bruce, of Long Harbour, Placentia Bay, where this patient had been charged unauthorized fees by Dr. Keegan. The honourable member declared he had stated this case some three years ago in the House and desired to support the stand taken by Mr. Warren. He objected to the vicious principle of allowing persons being fleeced of such large amounts. It was no more intended then as an attack upon any doctor than Mr. Warren's was. He hoped that this vicious principle would be stopped.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY briefly reviewed the matter of the appointment of a Board of Governors. He regarded the matter under discussion as being very grave and was glad the issue had been brought to a head. The stand taken by Dr. Fraser, that he was a consultant, was untenable under the Act. All fees allowed by the Act were such as would be charged by the Board. He did not think that any medical doctor had the right to charge any fees for any such work in the hospital, and such conduct was highly improper. Concluding he trusted the Board would be able to clean this whole matter up, in justice to the public, and that it be defined as an established fact, that all and any fees be paid only to the Board.

MR. SCAMMELL echoed the statements expressed by the members on this matter and felt the discussion had served a very good purpose. He characterized the letter of Mr. Rennie to Mr. Warren as being grossly impertinent.

The vote for the Public Works was then dealt with.

MR. ASHBURNER suggested that if an increased grant were given the Twillingate Hospital, a larger number of patients would be able to be accommodated there and thus whilst lessening the pressure on the General Hospital at St. John's, would relieve much inconvenience caused patients having to come here for treatment.

MR. GRIMES was in full accord with the suggestion put forward by his colleague, and made a strong plea for a supplementary grant of from ten to fifteen thousand dollars for this worthy institution.

MR. DUFF and MR. GRIMES dealt with the matter of elective Road Boards, and made some valuable suggestions, which the Minister promised would receive his earnest consideration and also asserted that there would be an enforcement of the Local Affairs Act.

MR. SCAMMELL supported the recommendation put forward by his colleagues and dealt in full, with the many aspects of the Local Affairs Act.

The Committee next dealt with the Vote for the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and MR. WARREN regretted the fact that there had not been a speech on the Vote from the Minister. He felt that the vote should not be closed before the House should have an opportunity to see the report of the investigation into that Department by Colonel Ross, who had, so he understood, presented a report to the Prime Minister. He drew attention to certain anomalies in the vote for operators. For instance, the operator at Hermitage in his District was the repeater for six other offices which entailed six times as much work as each operator for whom he repeated, yet he was receiving much less wages than some of these. He had asked that this operator be given some consideration as he was a disabled returned soldier who had lost a leg at the front. He had been given some recognition but the amount was very disappointing.

THE MINISTER OF POSTS and TELEGRAPHS said he accepted this particular portfolio with reluctance, as he dreaded the state of affairs that existed in that Department. When he took it over things were in a state of chaos and no discipline existed. Such was the immensity of work in front of him that he had to start in by appointing a Secretary. Afterwards he asked the Government to allow Sir J. C. Crosbie and the Auditor General to assist him in conducting an investigation. This report was now before the Government. Later on Colonel Ross came here and was authorised to take charge and investigate the Department. This latter gentleman's interim report was also in the hands of the Govern-

ment and would shortly be placed before the House. The next step that he had to undertake was the general cleaning up and renovating of the building, a work which had not been undertaken for some twenty years. Many structural improvements were also made so that now it is possible to conduct the business of the Department efficiently. He referred to the fact that at this time there was outstanding liabilities against the Department amounting to several thousand dollars, to liquidate which, they would now have to seek a supplementary supply. These were bills outstanding from the year before he took charge. Dealing with Mr. Warren's representation regarding the operator at Hermitage the Minister agreed that this man should be getting more than the operators for whom he repeated but when Mr. Stott was asked to recommend if his answer was that the man was already getting a war pension so the small amount was granted. He had been trying to get due recognition for the services of operators at repeating stations, but he had not been successful yet in having them all graded as he would wish. For instance, in his own district the services of the operator at Holyrood were similar to those mentioned by Mr. Warren, and he had not succeeded in getting him the recognition he deserved. He agreed with the principle of grading these offices according to the work they were doing. Later, in reply to Mr. Ashbourne the Minister stated that where government offices and railway offices existed at the same place, the government was considering the policy of eliminating the former office, giving the whole work to the railway office. He had no doubt whatever but that this would be done if the government were going to operate the railway.

MR. DUFF was glad to hear from the Minister that his Department was in such a state of efficiency to-day. When he visited the place last year he was aghast at the state of affairs existing there and he hoped now to see improvement after all the investigations that have taken place.

MR. HALFYARD claimed that in the course of the Minister's remarks he had made statements that had been uncomplimentary.

(Continued on page 3.)

NOTICE

To Owners and Masters of British Ships

The attention of Owners and Masters of British Ships is called to the 75th Section of the "Merchant Shipping Act, 1894."

75.—(1) A Ship belonging to a British Subject shall hoist the proper national colors—

- (a) on a signal made to her by one of His Majesty's ships, including any vessel under the command of an officer of His Majesty's navy or full pay, and
- (b) on entering or leaving any foreign port and
- (c) if of fifty tons gross tonnage or upwards, on entering or leaving any British Port.

(2) If default is made on board any ship in complying with this section the master of the ship shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

At time of war it is necessary for every British Ship to hoist the colours and heave to if signalled by a British Warship; if a vessel hoists no colours and runs away, it is liable to be fired upon.

M. W. LAMBERT, Registrar of Shipping

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