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## HOUSE of ASSEMBLY

### A Long Sifting--Opposition Continue Their Searching Enquiry Into and Criticism of Government's Actions.

Several petitions were presented at the sitting yesterday which did not terminate until last night. These included one from the Col. Secretary and Mr. Downey for various utilities for their districts, and from Mr. Earle from Fogo District for repairs to yards and bridges, and from Carnarville for an increase in the salary of the ferryman who was the most poorly paid in the service.

The House passed the vote of 326-209 in the Estimates for the Department of Agriculture and Mines.

The House went into Committee on Resolutions re the proposed interest upon the Capital Stock of Companies operating Marine Docks.

The Premier in introducing the Resolutions, explained them at length, showing that they empowered the Government to give a guarantee for 15 years on the paid up capital of \$50,000 to any company which will contract and operate marine docks in the Colony. He referred to the dock in operation at Harbour Grace which had not made a demand to date for any portion of that guaranteed interest. That had relation to a special company in a special place, but the Resolutions introduced this evening had a more general character and applied to docks operated anywhere in the country. He dwelt on the need that existed for these docks, especially around Fogo, Grand Harbour, Burgeo, and such places; the number of vessels from the S. W. Coast and other places availing of the two docks at St. Pierre for repairs, and the sums which could be conserved to the country in pilotage, harbour light dues, dockage fees, etc., if we had docks of our own, and felt certain that this legislation would be a stimulus to the building of such in this country.

Mr. Downey supported the Resolutions in a short speech.

Mr. Kent thought the principle of these Resolutions was a good one and agreed with the Premier in the opinion that the Government should be empowered to give their labour giving and other beneficial features, though they would have a better opportunity to discuss their merits when the matter came up in committee. He had not read the Resolutions but presumed the guarantee of 5 per cent upon the capital stock was one which was limited in the amount upon which the guarantee was paid, \$50,000. He could not then say whether the guarantee which related to this or the guarantee which would attach, for insurance in cases where the Company incorporated for this purpose and receiving the certificate of the Col. Secretary got the benefit from this Act. Its business prospects might be such that any future developments of it would warrant the Colony in making up the difference between the debts and credits of the Company during any one year, or that a guarantee on a dividend alone would be only payable when the Company made a profit. A guarantee of 5 per cent on a limited amount of capital would attach if there were prospects of the

Company proceeding with its business in future, though no dividend had been earned. Very often, he held, a guarantee of that kind would be possibly more useful than one of abatement in a dividend.

The Resolutions passed with a slight amendment by the Premier, and the Bill giving effect to them was read a first time.

The Minister of Finance and Customs explained the details of Supplemental Supply tabled Wednesday, and calling for an increased expenditure of \$227,815.37.

This showed:—For Civil Government, \$25,843.21; Administration of Justice, 7,355.59; Legislation, 1,055.07; Public Charities, \$45,276; Light-houses, \$7,500; Marine and Fisheries, \$27,000; (including Fogo, \$8,000 and Dredging, \$19,000); Roads and Bridges, \$1,248.50; Postal Telegraphs, \$45,557; Customs for refunds and contingencies, \$32,000; and General Contingencies, \$5,000.

Mr. Kent held that the Minister should have given a further explanation of this large amount of Supplementary Supply, under the heading "Civil Government" alone for the year now passing there was an increased draft of \$25,843.21. The Prime Minister's office called for further vote of \$1,500 on account of contingencies. Last year the estimate for this office was \$600. The Colonial Secretary's Office, exclusive of Naval Reserve was last year, \$5,800. They were now asked in Supplementary Supply for more than the original supply of \$5,800 or \$9,650. Mr. Kent exhaustively and severely criticized the expenditure. The whole was \$37,000 including the expenses of the census. In the Finance Department last year exclusive of Old Age Pensions the total supply was \$8,490. Now they asked for more than half the original vote.

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## When Run Down

in physical condition it is usually because the action of the organs of digestion has become irregular or defective. Then there is need for a safe and speedy medicine to relieve the ills which occasionally depress even the brightest and strongest. The one remedy you may take and feel safe with is

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The first dose gives speedy relief in sick-headache, biliousness, constipation, lack of appetite, heartburn, dyspepsia, and lasting improvement follows the timely use of this favorite and reliable home remedy. You will become healthier and stronger, and more cheerful if you let Beecham's Pills

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Directions with every box point the way to health and are especially valuable to women. Prepared only by Thomas Beecham, St. Helens, Lancashire, England. Sold everywhere in Canada and U. S. America. In boxes, 25 cents.

contained in them. He thought they should have in the House a standing committee on public accounts, to which the public accounts of every department would be referred during the session, with full authority to go into every account. That was the style in England, where the committee had the power to have any official up before it when particular information was required. Votes were passed here with no enquiry into them, that was the practice since Responsible Government was ushered in, but it was wrong, and the day was coming when the public would demand the creation of some such committee composed of members of both sides of the House.

(To be continued.)

## A Serious Condition.

LABRADOR FISHERY BEING DEPLETED BY OUR YOUNG MEN.

In the House of Assembly, Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Kent, acting Leader of the Opposition, drew the attention of the House to a very serious side of our present economic conditions, namely, the desertion of the fisheries and especially the Labrador fisheries, by our young men. The report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for the year 1912, discloses the astounding fact that the number of men prosecuting the Labrador fishery last year was less by seven thousand (7,000) than it was five years ago, while the number of schooners engaged in the same fishery was 590 less than in the year 1907. Irrespective of the catch altogether, Mr. Kent opens up a most serious economic problem in connection with the prosecution of the Colony's staple industry, which demands our best attention and calls for a thorough examination.

The Prime Minister, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and of Customs, of course, entertain very different views. There are various causes to be sure both direct and indirect, bearing on this acute question; but to our mind the chief cause lies in the system which has been followed from time immemorial by the supplying merchants. Forming a huge combine that squeezes into poverty hundreds of small planters and thousands of fishermen, by fixing the price of fish and compelling the fisherman to part with his catch in a market completely under the sole control of the mercantile body, while at the same time exorbitant prices are charged by the outfitter to provide himself against actual loss, is only another name for industrial slavery. Can the Morris Government seriously contend that during its term of office it has performed any act resulting in a betterment of conditions under which the Labrador fisherman carries on his business? On the other hand, there are some men engaged in the supply business, who strive to do the right thing by the fisherman. But in this class we cannot include the merchant, who refuses to ship a man in the spring of the year, or having shipped him refuses to pay the wages agreed upon. In other words every man is a shareman to be paid according to the voyage. There would be hundreds of young men go to the Labrador, if they were guaranteed that their wages would be forthcoming at the termination of the voyage, and this is a fact well known to some of the people of the Legislature. We believe that no greater ill could befall this Newfoundland of ours than the gradual withdrawal of her sons from the pursuit of the fisheries, and that the root cause of present conditions should form the subject for a thorough investigation by the Marine and Fisheries Department. Our country is suffering at this moment from a hap-hazard prosperity and calls for prudent and wise counsel on the part of our public men. Petty jealousies must be laid aside, personal views and even personal advantage must be abandoned and every honest man must bring his experience and talent to bear on the questions which will call for a solution within the next few months.—Com.

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1 inch to 12 inches wide.  
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## BOWRING BROTHERS, Limited.

### How the Old Viking Won His Wages.

(By H. F. Shortis.)

When the scaling time comes round, it does take up old stories that we have forgotten long since, and now is the time to tell them when we are all thinking of the sealers.

It is different now going round in these big iron-clads with a comfortable little iron bedstead for every man instead of the bunks in the fore-castle of the old brig. It was then often four men packed together, two at each end of the bunk, with the feet of your neighbor under your chin. No person could call the bunk his own, as every comfortable spot was appropriated as soon as vacated. When the vessel was loaded there was no sleeping under deck, and you had to get a nap where you could. But my story to-day is about the months and weeks spent during the winter fitting out these old brigs in the outposts.

There is not a finer class of men to be found anywhere than in Brigus. It is here that Peary and other Arctic explorers go time and again to get their captains and crews to help in their explorations.

I have related many stories about Capt. Asariak Munden, at the seal-fishery, and how he gained his name in the sealing fleet, and made the greatest record to that date in the S.S. Commodore.

Here is one of his jokes on the other captains, and when we remember the hundreds of sealing masters then fitting out for the ice, we can imagine what a hearty guffaw would greet the five captains that Captain Munden had this joke on.

They were all fitting out for the seal fishery, and Capt. Munden wanted to try a new set of sails that he had for the old brig, Atlanta. He knew the reluctance that all crews have to bending and fitting new sails, but he always had a happy knack of getting his own way, and taking it out of his other old chums. One afternoon, in a snug little parlor up-town, five other sealing captains were with him spinning yarns of what they could do. He took up a wager of £5 to £1, with each of these other captains that he would get his men to do what none of the others there could do with their

men. Each captain accepted the wager and put up £1 each. Our old friend sent word to his crew that he wanted them all for a special work, and would give them a big spree afterwards. He let them privately into a secret that he had a bet on, that it was possible for his men to put the canvas on the Atlanta, and take it off again three times during one day.

The men all thought it was a pretty risky thing to be betting on, but they were determined to see their captain through, as all the other captains in Brigus were betting against him.

The day was arranged, and being in the month of February it turned out a stiff breeze of cold westerly wind, almost too heavy to put up a sail, but nothing daunted they set to work, and in spite of wind and weather they put the canvas on and took it off three times during the day. You may be sure Captain Munden was there supervising operations, and helping along the work, and he took special care to notice exactly how every sail

fitted, so that he had no more reason to worry himself on that score. As soon as it was over, he sent down the value of the £5 of rum, and made them all happy.

During the evening Captain Munden met his five old friends again, and informed them his part of the wager was done, and if they could get their crews to set their sails twice, not alone three times, during one day while they were lying at the wharf, he was ready to hand over £5 to each one of them. They all admitted that the bet had been won, as it is the next thing to impossible to get the crews to do any such thing more especially what they consider unnecessary work. How the Brigus people laughed when they heard the story, and how they laugh still when they think of it.

RED CROSS LINE.—The S.S. City of Sydney leaves Halifax to-morrow night for this port, bringing a large freight.

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