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**House of Assembly.**

Friday, June 25th.

When the House resumed its session Friday afternoon, Mr. Higgins (Opposition), resumed his criticism of the estimates pointing out that the giving of \$250 each to the members of the Upper House is one of the things which is responsible for the unrest so general amongst the people. Regarding the matter of the modification of the Prohibition Act, he thought that it would do no discredit to the Government if they would deal with the matter at once.

Mr. Warren, for the Government, in replying to Mr. Higgins, stated that by adjourning the House from Tuesday to Friday last he did not accept the arguments of the Opposition against the estimates. Here the service is small, the Minister can keep track of civil servants, and it has been the practice to answer questions. In Canada, for instance, the Minister cannot keep track of all the civil servants nor give consideration to all the details of the departments.

Mr. Higgins—Is the Government practicing for next year?

Mr. Warren—In other countries supply is brought in without explanation.

Mr. Higgins—We are not dealing with other countries. The suggestion of comparing the presentation of the estimates here with the same in Canada is ridiculous. The estimates are always criticized by us, as we are really the auditors on behalf of the people. Who can say whether the votes are right or wrong. It has been claimed they are based on the commission's report, but I will prove differently.

Mr. Brownrigg—Some votes are based on the report.

Mr. Higgins—That makes the position far worse and indicates the report is only followed in some instances. Why not in others? As to the Minister of Justice not admitting our stand, I am disappointed. The Government takes the position that all precedent be departed from, but good Finance Ministers in the past gave their reasons for the increases in the votes.

Mr. Warren—I can answer all questions as to my department.

Mr. Vinicombe—The estimates were

always presented with explanations. After all the pre-election charges we have not been proven robbers, but the estimates show you are making a bold stroke for the money yourselves. Why was one man in the Board of Works Dept. reduced from \$1,200 to \$720?

Mr. Jennings—I will reply when we come to it.

Mr. Vinicombe—The Inspector General gets increased to \$3,500 and Supt. Grimes, after 40 years' service gets \$1,500. The former is only a novice compared to him. That's reform all right. There are also ten constables at \$8,312.50, but this year they get \$7,600. Is that a mistake?

Mr. Warren—That will be explained.

Mr. Vinicombe—It will want some explaining like a good many things. I hope the Finance Minister will explain the huge taxes, as he refused to do before.

Mr. Brownrigg—It's unwise of the Opposition to be criticizing our work.

Mr. Higgins—Our main criticism is against how the increases are made up. The Minister admits grave mistakes in some figures. We are trying to get particulars. The Justice and Education votes are new and we had nothing to do with them.

Mr. J. R. Bennett reviewing the history of the Civil Service commission which was really intended to regulate and improve the salary of the small man, said conditions today are not rosy for the future and with the price of our staple product decreasing while the cost of living is steadily going up, bankruptcy is not far off. This is no time to ask the people for two millions extra in taxes, and the reform government should live up to their name and reduce taxation as promised.

In answer to Sir M. P. Cashin, Mr. Coaker stated the price of salt is \$5.00 per hoghead and the Government is to pay the difference over that. The salt is costing about \$6.00.

At 5:45 the House adjourned till 10:30 Saturday morning.

Saturday, June 26th.

The House met at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Sinnott (Opposition) opened the debate on the estimates. He criticized the Government for levying an extra two million dollars' taxation on an already overburdened country, who,

mainly fishermen, were now receiving only \$3 for fish. He protested against this unnecessary taxation and hoped the Government would even yet reduce it by 50 p.c.

Mr. Walsh followed and in scathing terms denounced the manner in which the estimates were presented, and that they in effect were greasing the fat sow. The placing of two millions extra taxation on the people especially at such a trying time, is directly opposite to the pre-election promises of reduction in taxes and cost of living.

At 1 p.m. the House adjourned till 3 o'clock when Mr. Walsh continued and emphasised the need of developing subsidiary industries. Now is the time to do this when the young men are flocking from our shores to build up other countries. The sum necessary for this is being thrown away in unnecessary salaries and fancy increases. Then, too, the matter of improving the railroad has been totally neglected, and according to Mr. Squires, no legislation in that direction is to be brought down this session. The petitions of 15,000 people for modification of the Prohibition law are also unheeded, though a plebiscite should be granted. Moon-shining and smuggling are rampant. There is widespread complaint, the present law being looked on as class legislation, and if we are to have Prohibition, let us have it, but let the Government stop their running with the hare and holding with the hounds policy. Every credit is due to sincere prohibitionists but no condemnation is strong enough for those who make use of the movement for political purposes. Labor matters, employment of children and the prevention of accidents in mines were ably dealt with.

Mr. Fox referred to the bye-election and paid a high tribute to Mr. Pudester as a worker and debater. At Freshwater, Bay-de-Verde, Mr. Scammel stated that the fish regulations were not at issue but all he (Mr. Fox) had heard everywhere was talk of the regulations, and he drew the attention of Mr. Coaker to the lower end of the district where they are strongly opposed and everything is upset. The Government press lied in stating the Opposition had endorsed the regulations, as when they were brought down they had made every effort to alter and modify them, but Mr. Coaker said he was going to pass them in spite of everything. Dealing with the estimates he felt it unjust to saddle the people with such extra taxation when the outlook at present is anything but good. He strongly condemned the raising of members' salaries while some people are without a crust and the voting of money to those in the Upper House while the soldiers and widows are neglected. In the civil service rewards were given on the basis of political usefulness, and those who were even suspected of using their opinions against the Government were thrown out or otherwise penalized. Dealing with taxation he said, it takes 4 quintals of fish to buy a barrel of flour and half a quintal to buy a gallon of molasses and yet two millions extra taxation is put on. The Government press came out with scare headlines about saving \$50,000 on salt, but that must be paid with the taxes wrung from the fishermen themselves, who use the salt. A deliberate attempt to bluff them. Soldiers are told there is no money to meet their demands. What of all the glowing promises to them? Members get \$1,000 for visiting the House and voting as directed and Old Age Pensioners get \$50. Auditors who could get no proofs of all of the charges of graft against the late Government, will cost us about \$20,000, but there is not a cent for a reformatory while children guilty of trivial offences are being turned into criminals every day. Nothing is out out for coast protection and as to hospitals, the vote for the one at Hr. Grace is reduced.

Mr. Fox also dealt with the railway and other matters.

Mr. MacDonnell who followed, pointed out that though Mr. Squires had promised, there was nothing in the estimates to show that anything would be done for the roads in St. George's district. Questioning if there was any chance of additional consideration being given the matter the Premier replied, "Not this year."

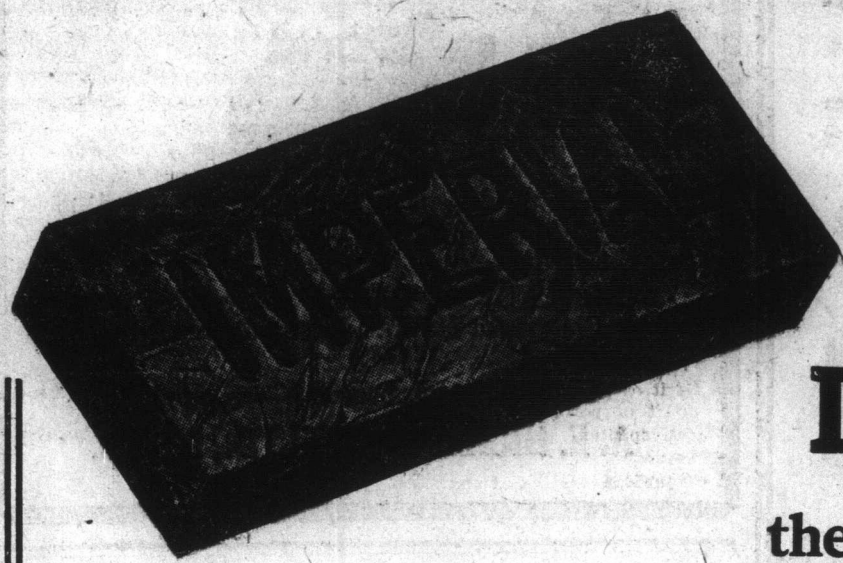
Mr. MacDonnell stated he would again bring up the question of a motor service between Summerside and Curling, for which a petition had been presented a month ago, but had not been considered. He also pointed out the injustice shown outport magistrates in getting no increase, though their duties are often arduous and call for the highest integrity.

At 6:30 p.m. the House adjourned till this afternoon.

Third in Hospital Exams.

It is pleasing to learn that Miss Ada Leslie, daughter of Mr. H. Leslie, Whitbourne, has finished her second year's examinations with great success, coming third in a class of fifty nurses. Miss Leslie is studying nursing at the Roosevelt Hospital, New York. Before going to America she spent some time at Jensen Camp looking after the sick soldiers there. We congratulate her and also her parents on her brilliant work.

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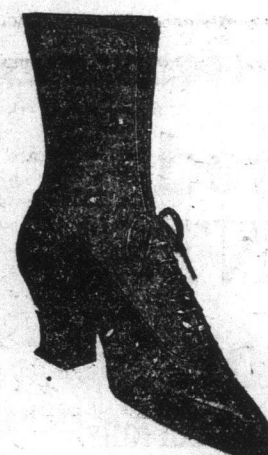
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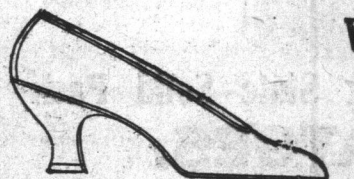
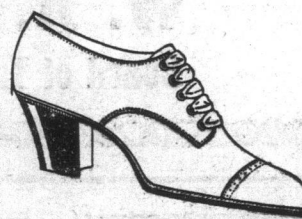
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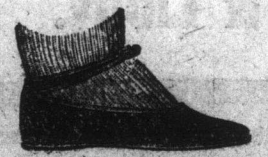
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