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DAVID STOTT,  
 Superintendent  
 G. W. LeMESSURIER  
 Deputy Min. Posts & Telegraph

April 19, 26



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## House of Assembly Proceedings.

OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS  
 (Continued.)

April 17th.  
 The House assembled at the usual hour and prior to taking up the business in hand, THE PRIME MINISTER in tabling certain information, as to the employment of Messrs. G. N. Read, Son & Watson in investigating certain Departments, read a letter from that firm. This letter made reference to the instructions received from Mr. Warren as to inquire into the Post Office, Public Works Department, the Crown Lands Department and the Auditor-General's Department. They had been ordered to withhold these enquires pending further instructions, which they now asked for. The Prime Minister stated that the Government had proceeded with these various investigations. Referring to the Auditor's Department, he claimed that the weakspot there was the lack of real trained auditors. A chartered accountant, he regarded as being on a par with all professional men and this was not the case with the Audit Department and this finding would be the result of any investigation there. The other departments had been gone into and he did not see the need of further enquiry by auditor. The pre-audit established was working very well. He placed the matter before the House for its views.

MR. WARREN quite agreed with the Government's attitude as to these further inquiries. When he was Prime Minister, he and his colleagues felt at that time, that in order to restore public confidence, inquiries were necessary. Since then an inquiry had been made at the Post Office and other departments, although the Departments of Works and Crown Lands had not been investigated as far as he knew. Touching on the Audit Department, he fully recognised that there had not been any wrong-doing there but also felt that perhaps the system was faulty and Read Son and Watson were invited to report on the system and recommend a good sound one. He understood that further investigations would be undertaken but not by auditors in the Department of the Liquor Controller.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION said he had made several references during the session to the Audit Department but he desired to make it perfectly clear that he made no charge of wrong-doing nor personal references to the Auditor but in his official capacity. He merely pointed out, that in view of his very wide powers, the Auditor-General should have been able to check up on all the many irregularities occurring in the Departments. He should be encouraged by all Ministers and he ought to be able to evolve a perfectly good system which would make it impossible for any servant to rob the public funds. The Auditor General had a very grave responsibility to the country.

**HOTEL RESOLUTIONS.**  
 The House went into Committee on the contract between the Government and the Hotel Facilities, Ltd.

THE PRIME MINISTER said haste was essential in order that the contractors might commence work as soon as possible. He pointed out that they had made a deposit in the Royal Bank of Canada of \$25,000 as required by the contract as a guarantee of good faith. He briefly explained the various concessions in the contract and stated that this proposal was quite the best that the Government had before them to consider. The promoters were two Quebec engineers and the manager, a Mr. Fortier of Quebec, had built the Victoria Hotel there and operated that and the Arena in that city and had subscribed \$50,000 himself to the ordinary capital of the corporation. He submitted the proposition in the confidence that this was the best one that could be taken up in the interests of the Island.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION without desiring to

be classed as a 'knocker' wanted to get a little fuller information on the Government's liability as any guarantee. The mortgage bonds which the Government would get in return for any payment that the Government might have to make, would be of little value to the Government. He felt that some difficulty was going to be found in raising the necessary capital. A difficulty was experienced in floating the Mount Royal Hotel bonds. He had to admit that he was not so sanguine as the Prime Minister was. He was going to oppose the measure, but he felt that there were some salient points that should be trashed out.

MR. WARREN regarded this hotel as being the real nucleus of the Government's Tourist Policy. The reluctance shown by hotel proprietors of reputation in not coming to Newfoundland and establishing a hotel, spoke very poorly for that policy. He regarded this contract as being a step in the proper direction by the Government encouraging a hotel proposition. He felt that this should have been attempted previous to 'motor roads' or any thing else in connection with the Tourist Policy. He dealt at some length with the financial aspects of the contract, which were apparently sound.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL felt that if we got a \$700,000 hotel building upon which the Government would at the most, and then in the event of not coming to Newfoundland and establishing a hotel, spoke very poorly for that policy. He regarded this contract as being a step in the proper direction by the Government encouraging a hotel proposition. He felt that this should have been attempted previous to 'motor roads' or any thing else in connection with the Tourist Policy. He dealt at some length with the financial aspects of the contract, which were apparently sound.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY felt that a good sign to see that outside of the Island there existed men with even more confidence in this proposal than people in the Island had. He had no doubts as to the practicality of this proposition, which was undoubtedly the best which had been placed before the Government. These contractors met the executive, and within a short time evolved this contract. They have now intimated that if they can fill this hotel for four months of the year they would make good profits. That they could do this was undoubted. From a revenue-producing point of view, the Finance Minister had opined that from forty to fifty thousands dollars would be due to the public funds, due to this hotel. As a social factor its utility was also undoubted. He hoped that the promoters would have every luck and receive the

co-operation of the citizens of the country, as well as the Government.

CAPTAIN RANDELL was favourable to the proposal, and only drew attention of the Government to one or two points in the contract and was apparently satisfied with the information and explanations given him by the Prime Minister.

MR. GODDEN was also strongly in favour of the erection of a good hotel in St. John's and felt that Government assistance to the promoters was perfectly proper. His quest for some information was promptly met.

MR. SCAMMELL deprecated the serio-comic attitude that had been adopted by the members during the course of the debate, hearing and answering questions. He felt it a significant fact, that promoters were unable to act without Government assistance. While wishing the project every success, he was dubious as to its ultimate outcome. He was brought to his feet, he declaimed, to record his utter lack of faith in the Tourist policy of the Government. He did not propose the

MR. HALFYARD felt it regrettable that the hotel could not be erected without any further burden upon the Government. He did not desire to fer any opposition to the venture and wished it every success and the more success they get the better for the country.

MR. HIBBS was glad to see that steps were at last being taken for the erection of a hotel in St. John's, but failed to fully understand the contract in some of its sections. His quest for information was also promptly complied with.

MR. W. J. WALSH said the Government had already embarked upon a tourist policy and this was part and parcel of it. He had received enquiries only yesterday from some wealthy people in New York asking for bookings for a family for three months of the summer at some tourist hotel in the country. When he learnt of the present proposals he was agreeably surprised. He saw in this the nucleus of a whole chain of hotels throughout the Island. For our surer existence we had to look around for fresh means of creating revenue. He desired to record his absolute accordance with the Government's attitude on the subject.

MR. GRIMES agreed that proper provision should be made for the accommodation of tourists. We hadn't in the past advertised our numerous attractions. The fact of a request for Government assistance suggested an existence of some doubts as to its profitable operation. This should warn the Government to proceed with due caution in its expenditure on roads until after the erection of the hotel.

The Committee rose, and reported having passed the Resolutions with some amendments. The Bill was accordingly read a second time on Monday. Remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

first time and ordered to be read

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MR. SPEAKER advise the House of the receipt of a message from the Council advising him that that body had passed the Terra Nova Sulphite Co. Act.

The House then adjourned until Monday.

April 20th.  
 The House met at the usual hour.

### PETITIONS.

MR. H.B.C. LAKE presented two two petitions, from Lamaline, and Grand Bank on the subject of a bridge, and municipal improvements, respectively. Hon. J.J. Long supported the petitions.

MR. GRIMES presented a petition from Norris Arm on

the subject of a road. Mr. Ashbourne supported the petition.

MR. GODDEN presented a petition from New Melbourn on the subject of a road.

HON. W. S. MONROE presented a petition from the Avalon Telephone Co. Ltd. on the subject of certain legislation which was referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. C. Puddister, Mr. A.E. Hickman and Mr. Duff

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS.

MR. DUFF asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the names of Fishery Wardens and Game Wardens for the District of Bay de Verde for 1924 and the salaries paid each.

(Continued on page 3.)

## St. John's General Hospital

OCTOBER 1st, 1925.

### NOTICE.

The position of two Resident Housemen will become vacant early in December next.

Applications for these positions from qualified Practitioners will be received by the Board of Governors up to the 30th November.

Address all communications to the Secretary.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS.**

St. John's General Hospital, St. John's, Nfld.

oct2,31

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## Department of Agriculture and Mines.

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Outport applicants requiring this material are requested to communicate directly with this Department.

**W. J. WALSH,**

Minister Agriculture & Mines.

oct2,61

### NOTICE

## To Owners and Masters of British Ships

The attention of Owners and Masters of British Ships is called to the 74th Section of the "Merchant Shipping Act, 1904."

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.

**H. W. LEBLANC,**  
 Registrar of Shipping