

Legislative Council.

March 20th.

The Council met at 4 p.m. Hon. M. P. Gibbs on behalf of the Committee submitted a draft of the address in reply. Upon the second reading Hon. Frank McNamara took occasion to make a reference to the Throne. His address is published in full in the address column of this issue. He was followed by Sir Patrick McGrath, who in his well known versatile manner made some very interesting observations on the controversial parts of His Excellency's speech. In this connection he went into the many causes leading up to it. Sir Patrick said that one of the substantial contributory causes from which the Government can't claim total responsibility was the Fishery Regulations. These, he said, had virtually destroyed the water street. Another cause, he said, was the fact that when everything was going well to induce business men to accept accommodation, but when a change came the prosperous times seemed to have put the screws on tightly. Sir Patrick mentioned instances where men who up to last year were known in the trade of the country as being even accommodation up to as much as \$200,000. The situation now was serious forebodings for the future, said the speaker, and its seriousness has been made greater by the fact of the banks in taking over the credit debts of their customers without negotiation, with the consequent result that merchants, who are in a position to do so, will not give supplies to any man. Sir Patrick said he had been informed that the Council of the Chamber of Trade intended taking this matter up at a meeting, but apparently when the meeting was called—and most of the bank managers were present—had the courage to stand up and ask for an official declaration of the facts. Other contributory causes for the present conditions, said Sir Patrick, were the people, who spent their money on entertainments. A general disinclination on the part of all to give honest work and lavish expenditure on luxuries, an example of which was the spending of a quarter of a million dollars on high class cars. Referring to the surplus mentioned in the speech, Sir Patrick said there "ain't no" such surplus. It was acquired by "transfer" from the Surplus Trust Fund. It is serious, said the speaker, that the Government cannot make both ends meet from current revenue, and all such similar examples abroad. The Public Treasury, as an instance, will have a deficit of 50 million pounds, the Government like that of Canada and Australia are coping with it by the reduction of expenditure. Sir Patrick agreed with the previous speaker that the country cannot keep borrowing, and we should endeavor to meet the conditions by tariff reduction, which though showing a deficit, will start the wheels of industry turning. The most serious difficulty which we are faced, said Sir Patrick, is the railroad. He submitted that the Government should not have made shift policy for the third time in this connection, and he hoped that the promised action would not be left until the dying hours of the session, had been the case on the two previous occasions that this matter was dealt with. Referring to the outlook of the fisheries, Sir Patrick was optimistic. He had been informed by one of the merchants that the trade was in a position to give out more than a fraction of the supplies necessary to carry on the industry. He suggested to the members of the Government that better returns would be had by supplying for the fishery than by doing relief works such as the Bad-

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gor and Hall's Bay roads. Hon. Dr. Campbell interposing said he hoped that the Government would not have to issue supplies. Sir Patrick in conclusion said that increasing taxation was not likely to get returns from an impoverished people, and he suggested that the Government try Mr. Gosling's suggestion of abolishing the Sur Tax, Super Tax and Sales Tax. Hon. Dr. Campbell followed and in a vigorous speech reviewed the whole situation as it appertained to unemployment. He found that only two countries, France and Germany were not beset with its troubles. He said that the mental attitude of the people towards work had changed since the war, but it was only now that they were getting back to the normal attitude regarding the means of earning a living. The charge that the Fisheries Regulations were partly responsible for the conditions in Newfoundland he was not prepared to support. He had come to the conclusion that nobody knows much about the fish business, and the Government was not to blame for the regulations. They were recommended by the Council on the recommendation of the most experienced of the fish exporters. Dr. Campbell giving a review of his efforts to cope with unemployment, spoke of the arrangements made with Grand Falls and the financing there of some \$200,000 worth of pulpwood. The efforts of the Prime Minister to induce the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. to operate on Bell Island by exempting them from the tax of twenty-five cents on the ore mined and 10 cents a ton on the ore in the stock pile. In the city representative gentlemen had been called in consultation and the result was the present snow shovelling. An honorable member suggesting that it was unprofitable, Dr. Campbell replied that he defied anyone to find

profitable employment for the city during winter months. He did not believe in giving dole and the moral effect of snow shovelling was good. The speaker ventured the opinion that all was not right with the mercantile firms, as they had passed the matter of finding employment over to the Government. In support of this he said that during the months of September, October, November and December, over \$11,000 was the weekly pay roll of the several firms from the east end up to Harvey's. Now it was practically nil. Everyone now seems to want a Government guarantee he added. Dr. Campbell stated that road work to provide for the unemployed of St. John's would have to be undertaken early this spring. Following up his subject the speaker said he had found that the farther away one went from the capital (St. John's) the more independent the people were, and in verification he cited the relief works given by the Government all over the island, as follows: In Ferryland District the conditions are exceptionally good, and the Government is being put to no expense there, the same applies to Placentia and St. Mary's, where the pulp wood cutting will not involve the Government in any expense. Burin is in excellent shape; Fortune, he found fairly good; Burgeo and LaPolla had some destitution, but the winter fishery was helping out the situation. St. George's was receiving no Government dole and the people were engaged in cutting pulp wood which would bring in returns for the expenditure. The same applies to St. Barbe, Green Bay and Bonaville Bay. In Trinity Bay the conditions were not so good. Coming to Conception Bay the conditions were bad. It was a puzzle. The Government had been expending \$25,000 a month there in doles, but this has been cut out and work is being provided. Harbor Grace, Bay de Verde and Harbor Main said Dr. Campbell, were fairly well off. At Brigus most of the men had been given work out at Maher's Station cutting timber. Speaking of the conditions that prevailed last spring, and the opening up of the Deer Lake and Hall's Bay Roads, Dr. Campbell said the idea was to provide work where only the needy would accept it, and being so situated that the fishermen would prefer their ordinary avocation. He advised the completion of the Hall's Bay road this year. The whole situation is horrible, but it had to be faced and he blamed the trouble on the fact that our purchasing power was lost. At the conclusion of the Minister's speech, Hon. Mr. McNamara reiterated his statements about the Fisheries Regulations. Sir P. T. McGrath also took exception to Hon. Dr. Campbell in blaming the merchants for introducing the Regulations. The regulations, said Sir Patrick, were carried out by the Government, under the War Measures Act, and whilst some of the merchants might have been identified with them in their practical application, it was run by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Replying to the Minister's statements about the value received from the road construction work last year, Sir Patrick said the men did not do 12 inches of road per day.

Dr. Campbell, replying, said he estimated the returns from the Deer Lake and Badger Roads at 30 cents to the dollar which he thought was exceptionally good. Hon. Mr. Gibbs moved that the Address in Reply do pass and be engrossed. After passing the motion and tabling the report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries by Hon. M. G. Winter the Council adjourned until Monday evening next, 27th inst.

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Lectured on Labrador.

Last night at Canon Wood Hall Rev. C. A. Mouton delivered an exceptionally interesting illustrated lecture in aid of the Public School at Labrador. The lecture was descriptive of Labrador during the summer period, close after a brief address from Rector, Rev. E. C. Earp, B.A., a cordial vote of thanks on motion of Dr. Robinson, seconded by the Hon. R. Watson, was accorded the lecturer who briefly responded.

FROSTILLA

CHAPPED HANDS ROUGH SKIN

NICKEL

RUTH CHASE,

Soprano

(A) "GLIANINA MIA" (from Firefly); (B) GOOD-BYE (Tosti).

FAREWELL SONGS.

"EDDIE POLO"—Serial Story.

"OUTING-CHESTER"—Travel Reel.

Hon. F. McNamara in Legislative Council.

ON SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. President:—I wish to say a few words on the gracious speech of His Excellency the Governor, and note with loyal appreciation the happy event of the marriage of Princess Mary, only daughter of His Gracious Majesty the King to Viscount Lascelles. It is very pleasing to observe that Newfoundland was represented by Lord Morris and Sir E. Bowring, and this Chamber was also represented at the wedding by Hon. Geo. Shea and Hon. S. Milley in the historic Westminster Abbey, and the thoughtfulness of His Excellency the Governor in telegraphing Newfoundland's congratulations on this happy occasion is highly appropriate. In common with previous speakers I would like to express my regret at the passing of the late Capt. John Lewis, who died in Italy in January last. It is hardly necessary to say that Capt. Lewis was one of our most successful fishing masters and occupied perhaps the foremost position in the leading industry of this Dominion, and for this reason his death at present is a distinct loss to his constituency and to the country in general. His wide experience and fearless expression of opinion in the House of Assembly not only on fishery matters, but other important legislation will be remembered as valuable contributions to the laws of our Dominion. It is a great pity to learn that through the Disarmament Conference we are to lose H.M.S. "Briton", and our Naval Reserve men. Considering that Newfoundland has been referred to from time immemorial as the "nursery of the British Navy," it would seem to be an oversight that our splendid seamen are to be deprived of the privilege of serving in His Majesty's forces in the future. When we turn to the rest of the speech, we find most of it taken up with paragraphs treating of the League of Nations, Rates of Exchange and a general hopefulness for the better, all of which serves but one purpose, the padding of a meaningless effusion. How is it that there is no reference made to the intentions of the Government regarding the vitally important subject of the fisheries? It is a well known fact that the fisheries of this country represent 75 per cent. of our resources, and it may be reasonably asked why it is that there is no reference to our staple industry in His Excellency's speech. It is further well known and admitted that nearly all of our present troubles were brought about by unwarranted Governmental interference in the disposal of our fishery products, and for this reason there should have been some definite reference made to the future intentions of the Government in this vitally important matter so as to establish confidence in our business community and start the wheels of commerce again revolving with some at least of its old time prosperity. It is gratifying to learn that the Government intend erecting a Normal School as a memorial to our fallen soldiers as soon as possible, and while it is essential to impart education to our rising generation it is only by having well trained and well paid tutors from a Normal School that this happy result will be obtained. Turning to the paragraph referring to the Revenue it would be refreshing indeed to learn that the expenditure was within the amount estimated and that the revenue slightly exceeded the estimate and that it was possible to leave a balance at the credit of Surplus Trust account larger than the amount set forth in the Budget Speech last year. I repeat that it would be refreshing to learn these facts—but look at the price the public have to pay for them. How can the revenue be otherwise when we consider the colossal duties exacted from all classes of the community. At present we are called upon to pay a 60 to 70 per cent. tariff or in other words every dollar we spend to five the Government collars 90 to 70 cents off it for revenue purposes. Add to this the outrageous duty of six cents per pound or over 200 per cent. demanded on our sugar and it will be quite understandable why the revenue is slightly in excess of the expenditure. I submit, therefore, Mr. President that this is not a matter to boast or blow about but rather something to be ashamed of. As far as the estimate for public service is concerned I wish to say that while it was necessary before in our history more essential to practice economy in the public expenditure it is to be hoped that the

Vital Revenue producing services will not be interfered with as they were last year. When I mention the Vital Revenue producing services I refer to such services as the Inland Game and Fishery Board are giving to the country. I happen to be a member of this Board since its inception in 1910 and with your permission Mr. President would like to refer briefly to the work of this body. To begin with outside of the capable Secretary and his typewriter the experience, judgement and ideas of the 10 or 12 sportsmen constituting this Board are given free of charge. They take no credit to themselves for working for nothing as they look upon their efforts to preserve our Inland Game and Fisheries as a labor of love and patriotism. They lose valuable time in their desire to improve our natural resources and how are they rewarded for all their trouble. I will tell you—last year the grant for \$20,000.00 to protect the Deer country and warden our Salmon Pools was wiped out with a stroke of the pen and a paltry \$3,000.00 was voted barely enough to pay the Game Board office expenses. It is very easy to conjecture what happened through this step of false economy. The Deer Country could not be protected. The Rivers could not be warded for want of funds with the result that the streams were poached and serious damage was done to some of our finest Salmon Pools in the country. To give an idea of the importance of our Fresh Salmon industry I would like to state that the two Cold Storage plants operating here handled upwards of 1,000,000 lbs. of this fish last Spring. This Salmon on was sold by the Fishermen at an average price of 8c to 10c per lb. representing the large sum of \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 in cash distributed amongst our people at a time in the year—in the Spring when it was most urgently needed. In addition to this I estimate that at least there would be another \$20,000.00 spent on Salmon by Householders, Hotels and Boarding Houses in the city. This big industry representing at least \$120,000.00 per season is threatened with destruction by the unwise act of the Government in cutting down the grant given the Inland Game and Fishery Board—the Board justly claiming that most of the valuable results realized in connection with this Fishery are directly attributable to the very efficient way in which our Salmon Rivers were protected since their appointment. It is to be hoped therefore that although it is important to practice economy the Government will, see its way clear to allocate the usual grant to this service otherwise the Game Board will have to cease functioning and all the good already accomplished will be fruitless and this great asset will after a while become a thing of the past. I understand that a new loan of \$5,000,000.00 has been negotiated and as the interest on this

loan will add something over \$300,000.00 a year to the heavy burden already carried the news will not be cheerful to the taxpayers who will be called upon to meet this amount annually. It is disappointing to learn that charges on our Railway problem are again serious and that a very large amount will have to be found to cover our Railroad difficulties. If the negotiations that are going on now with the object of establishing a definite and permanent basis of operation of our Railway system are carried out in a business like manner I have no doubt but a great saving can be made on this service and when the proposals covering this system are before us we can without doubt discuss them more intelligently than we can to-day. When the bill covering readjustments in the matter of War Pensions is laid on the table it is to be hoped that those deserving classes who fought and bled for us and in some instances returned home physically impaired for life will be given ample justice for the great services and sacrifices which they so heroically laid upon the altar of our common country.

Organ Recital at College Hall.

A splendid Musical Recital was given at the Methodist College Hall last night on the pipe organ which has recently undergone extensive repairs at the hands of Mr. Walter Ver. Mr. Gordon Christian presided and the program consisted of the following numbers:—

1. Organ Solo—"Suite Gothique", Boelman, (a) Choral, (b) Menuet, (c) Prayer a Notre Dame, (d) Toccata.
2. Piano Solo—"Valse Serenade", Poldini, Margaret Butt (Junior).
3. Piano Solo—"Valse C Sharp Minor", Chopin, Helen Earle (Senior).
4. Organ Solo—"Toccata and Fugue", Bach.
5. Piano Solo—"Pirrette", Champlain, Edith Stuart (Senior).
6. Vocal Solo—"Vale", Jean Taylor, (Senior), encore—Reynard Song.
7. Organ Solo—"Minuet", Beethoven, "Gavotte from Mignon" Thomas.
8. Piano Solo—"Ballade in A Flat", Chopin, Miss Oates, L.T.C.L.
9. Vocal Solo—"Will He Come?", Sullivan, Miss Barnes.
10. Piano Solo—"Tarantelle", Heller, Alice Butt (Intermediate).
11. Piano Solo—"Spring", Grieg, Mabel Lawrence, (Senior).
12. Organ Solo—"Finlandia", Sibelius.

It is the intention to give monthly recitals and an announcement to this effect will appear shortly.

Transportation Rates

TOO HIGH FOR CHEAP FISH.

The syndicate of wholesale fish dealers of France have asked the Minister of Public Works to prevail upon the railways to grant special reduced transport rates on various varieties of fish when they are being taken in abundance, comparable with the special rates granted by the French railways on vegetables when they are in season. The syndicate points out that the freight tariff on herrings or sardines during the special season for these fish would, it is claimed, enable the dealers to market surplus catches, which now quite often go to waste, in the interior cities, thus assuring the distribution of more money among the fishermen and assisting in the solution of the high cost of living.

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Popular Soprano Concludes Engagement

BIG OVATION TENDERED RUTH CHASE LAST NIGHT.

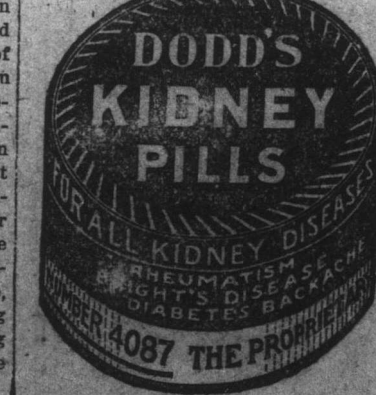
Miss Ruth Chase, the charming Soprano soloist who has been for the past two months delighting the St. John's music-loving public with her marvelous singing closed her engagement at the Nickel last night. The season has been one of great pleasure for patrons of the theatre and associate arts, for it is seldom that we hear a singer possessing a voice of such rare quality, and Miss Chase carries with her the wholehearted good wishes of her many friends in St. John's who bespeak for her a future career of phenomenal success. Miss Chase is without doubt an artist in a class to herself, and many entertain the hope of hearing her again on some future occasion. Her final number last night were appropriately selected, being "Glanina Mia" and Tosti's "Good-bye". Miss Chase was presented with a beautiful bouquet as a token of appreciation from an admirer.



WALT MASON

THE AGE OF CRIME.

"I think I will embark in crime, make lawlessness my goal; why sweat and labor for a dime, when one can swipe a roll?" Thus spake young James, a growing lad, a youth of grace and charm; "I would not do it," said his dad; "crime is a false alarm. The spring is coming when the brooks through ferny dells will glide; and in their cells the weary crooks will wish they were outside. There are a million crooks in jail, who can't enjoy the spring; they figured out that swiping kale would be the easy thing. They looked with scorn on those who brought with scythe or ax or saw; they went their way and soon were caught by minions of the law. I'd hate to languish in a cell, my face against the bars, when free men raise their college yell beneath the shining stars. I'd hate to have a wall of stone around my dragging frame, when cheerful auto horns are blown by lads who play the game. Outside the men who walk aright, in virtue's narrow way, are sampling every known delight, enjoying every day. The spring is coming on eftsoons! I'd hate to be in jail, when birds are warbling ragtime tunes in every verdant vale! But go your way, my sunny son, his wiled each man must deem." Replied the lad, "The honest man is good enough for me."



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Trade Matters Discussed.

MERCHANTS WILL NOT ISSUE SUPPLIES.

A meeting of the leading Water Street merchants was held yesterday afternoon in the office of Mr. W. G. Gosling when matters of trade were discussed. The question of supplies for the forthcoming codfishery was the chief topic under consideration and the meeting was unanimous that under present conditions and in view of the big losses suffered last year, supplies would be considerably curtailed this spring; in fact many of the firms who were formerly big suppliers will not be giving any, while others will be issuing only to their customers of long standing and in reduced quantities. The merchants were of opinion that they were certain of meeting with a loss under the existing tariff and the greatest caution was necessary. Several speakers suggested that the Government be approached on the matter, but this view was not upheld by the meeting, and it was decided that the wisest course was to let matters adjust themselves.

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