

House of Assembly.

May 19.

The House met at 3 p.m. Hon. W. F. Coaker (Bonavista), presented petitions from Open Hall and Keels, asking for Modification of the Prohibition Act. He took occasion to state his position on the subject. He would not be prepared to consider modification unless those who voted and worked against liquor asked for it. Personally, he thought that doctors' scripts should be cut out and a sort of license for small quantities of alcohol granted. However, he would not agree to any modification of the Act unless asked for by those who drove liquor out of the country. (Has it been driven out?—Ed.)

The House then went into Committee on the Codfish Export Regulations Bill.

Hon. W. F. Coaker (Bonavista), the father of the Bill, explained that it was intended to provide machinery for regulating the export and marketing of fish. Ten cents on dry and five cents on green fish will be charged as an additional tax, the revenue accruing in this manner being used to pay Trade Commissioners to look after the markets. From the export duty of twenty cents now collected there is derived three hundred thousand dollars revenue and from the ten cents duty above noted, another one hundred and fifty thousand dollars will be collected, total \$450,000,000. This will be expended as follows: \$150,000 for salaries and expenses of Trade Commissioners, \$150,000 for scientific research, inspectors' salaries and expenses, etc., and the other \$150,000 will be devoted to the general revenue. A Superintendent of Fisheries would be appointed at a salary of \$5,000.00 per annum. The Trade had informed Mr. Coaker that they didn't want the Bill, or at least a part of it. They would be in favor of a nominal fee of \$50, as an export license fee, but told him that they did not want regulation of prices. Mr. Coaker welcomed the news that a number of young men were

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giving up fishing and going to work. That would mean that there would be less men at the fishery and better prices for them.

Sir M. P. Cashin (Leader of the Opposition), asked that further consideration of the Bill be deferred until to-day.

The next Bill for consideration was the Income Tax Act. This provides that the Act shall remain in force for another year with this amendment, a taxpayer shall be allowed two hundred dollars free of tax for every child he has under eighteen years of age. The Committee passed the Bill and it was reported. The House went into Committee on the "Business Profit's Tax, 1917." This Act is extended for another year. Only one amendment is made, that of compelling the Banks to pay their assessment on the

deposits in the Bank at the end of each year instead of on the profits. An alternative was in force enabling the Banks to choose between these two. Now it must be on deposits and the rate is 1/4 of one per cent. After some short comments, this amendment was agreed to and the Committee rose and reported the Bill passed.

QUESTIONS.

Sir J. C. Crosbie asked that all correspondence be tabled in connection with the dissatisfaction expressed by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs over the Post Office at Broad Cove, Bay de Verde.

Reply—Will be tabled to-morrow.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the Government to place a coastal boat on that isolated section of the coast between Trepassy and Placentia, taking in the following settlements: Trepassy, St. Shott's, Peter's River, St. Vincent, Gaskier, Point LaHaye, St. Mary's Riverhead, Mall Bay, Regina, Admiral's Beach, Mosquito, Salmonier North, St. Joseph's, Harcourt, Tickles, Colling, John's Pond, North Hr., Branch, Point Lance, St. Bride's, Cutlet, Angel's Cove, Patrick's Cove, Ship's Cove, Baracholx, Point Verde and Placentia Railway.

Reply—No service will be considered this year.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the Government to continue the motor mail and passenger service between Sound Island, Barron Island, Woody Island and the eastern end of Merasheen to Long Island and Arnold's Cove to connect with railway.

Reply—Service will be considered this year.

Sir M. P. Cashin asked the Minister of Justice to table a copy of the Commission issued to the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the "Woodford Affidavit."

Reply—The Commission issued was abortive, because, while the Judges were satisfied to take the evidence, and conduct the enquiry, they were not prepared to come to any findings on the matter. His Excellency the Governor was now considering what further steps he would take.

Sir M. P. Cashin asked the Hon. the Prime Minister to lay on the Table of the House copies of all communications between the Food Control Board and the Sugar Importers relative to the sugar situation or the control of the sugar supply.

Reply—Will be tabled to-morrow.

The House went into Committee on the Legislative Disabilities Bill.

Mr. W. J. Walsh (Placentia and St. Mary's) hoped that when naval and military men applied for positions in the coastal service they would not be blocked.

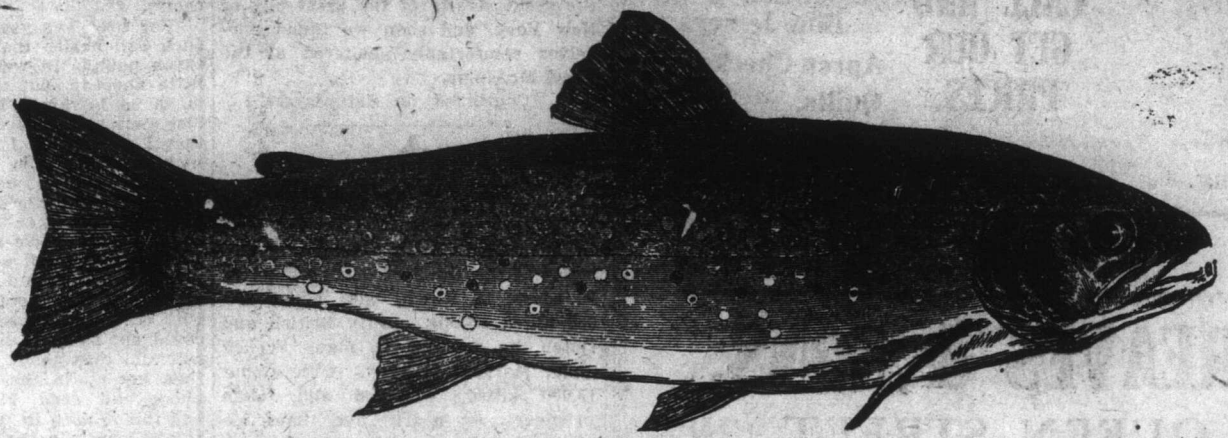
Dr. W. E. Jones (Hr. Main), considered that the state of affairs as revealed by recent statements in the House did not reflect much credit on the Ministry of Shipping. We have a coal famine and we have a salt famine. This session would go down in history as one of erratic and freak legislation.

Mr. C. J. Fox (St. John's East), wanted to register his protest against legislation in Section 3 of the Bill. By this Act, Mr. Cave is made Statutory Head of the Department until Dec. 31st next. Once this Act is passed he cannot be removed from office except by Act of Parliament. He suggested that this state of affairs was not good enough and asked the Minister in charge to alter it to meet his views. If this were done he had no other strong objection to offer. The Prime Minister thereupon inserted the words "subject to His Excellency the Governor's will and pleasure."

Sir M. P. Cashin (Leader of the Opposition) was against the Bill, which placed in the same category as the one which came up a couple of weeks ago—a Bill containing retroactive power. There was no precedent for the action. Sir Michael then took occasion to discuss the salt situation and deplored the state of affairs that exists. Somebody is to blame. Who is it? Is it either the trade or the Minister of Shipping? When Sir John Crosbie was Minister of Shipping he was on the job looking for salt from Jan. to May. We never had trouble like this, even when the war was on. If we run out of salt in June then it will be disastrous. It is the malnourishing of the fishery industry. But nobody is excited over it as far as the Government members are concerned and not one of them is troubling the least about it. Sir Michael then discussed the coal situation and the Railway situation and asked the Government what they were doing with regard to the latter. It must be tackled, if not this year then next. Something must be done by the Government. The truth was they were too weak to bring down the Legislation they knew was required. They said the late Government was bought by the Reids. Well, where is the present Government?

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Places Re-Named.

According to a Public Notice in the Royal Gazette of Tuesday, unless otherwise ordered, within three months from May 18th, a Proclamation will be issued changing the names of the following places:

Upper Small Point, Bay de Verde District, to be renamed "Kingston." Cutwell Arm and Harbor, Twillingate District, to be renamed "Beaumont," and the adjoining settlement of Ward's Harbor to be renamed "Beaumont North."

Mussey Harbor Arm, Placentia and St. Mary's, to be renamed "Kingwell."

Mud Cove, Burin District, to be renamed "Wandsworth." (The Gazette has it "renamed," and probably the people would like to have it so.)

Loo Cove, Bonavista District, to be renamed "Port Nelson."

RELATD ROAD BOARD ELECTIONS.—Monday, June 28th, has been set apart by Royal Proclamation for the holding of elections for Road Boards in the District of Burin.

Shipping Notes.

S.S. Ranger is loading coal at Sydney for St. John's.

Tern schooner General Plumer is taking on board a cargo of dry cod fish at Grand Bank for Oporto, shipped by S. Harris, Ltd.

S.S. Cabot reached Carmanville yesterday afternoon, and had orders to leave at once for the scene of the Dundee wreck.

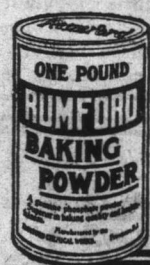
W. M. A. Entertainment.

The Women's Memorial Association of the Church Lads Brigade are giving an entertainment in Canon Wood Hall to-night. A programme in which leading musical artists will take part, including a farce by Mrs. H. Outerbridge and Miss Ruth Emerson, has been prepared. The proceeds are in aid of the Church of England Orphanage. This in itself will ensure goodly patronage.

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