

# SNAG BOOT. MR. COAKER'S SPEECH ON THE ESTIMATES DELIVERED ON MONDAY.



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**Takes the Minister of Finance to Task for Introducing Irrelevant matter into the Discussion--Asks for Deep Water Terminal at Catalina ---Exposes Expenditure for New Salaries and Pensions Amounting to \$12,000--Protests Against the Manner in which Officials Held Up Telegraph Dept. for 14 Days and Rewarded with \$120 Increase in Salary.**

**Also Praises the Naval Reservists and Volunteers as the Noblest of Men--Congratulates the Outports on the Result of the Road Board Elections--Shows the Government Where Brass Button Officials Would be Dispensed With.**

**MR. COAKER**—I am sure the Government cannot congratulate themselves over the defence put up by the Minister of Finance this afternoon in defence of the Estimates and the other matters he spoke of. If he devoted his remarks to the Estimates alone, I do not know but they might have passed unchallenged; but he gets up to make a speech in reply to the leader of the Opposition in reference to the Estimates and gets off a half hour's speech regarding coal and tonnage, and the Grand Falls business, and all the rest of those matters that are not controversial at the present time, and are not before the House. They are not before the House and were not brought up on this side of the House. The only reference to coal made by Dr. Lloyd was in connection with a question he asked. He pointed out that when you made up the Estimates last year, the price of coal was \$6.80 and now it is \$10.40. He asked what you were going to do about the difference. Now that was a fair question and one that he was justified in asking. But there was no need or no justification for all the talk you had about the coal question. If you want to talk on the matter we are quite prepared to talk through the session. I thought you wanted to get through in a month. But you will not if you go on on those lines.

The Heart's Content Wharf. Then the Minister of Finance told us about all the wonderful things the Premier accomplished. He did great things, he almost worked miracles, because we have coal to burn at St. John's to-day, because we can get coal for the fisheries, and because Grand Falls is not closed down. But what would the Premier be doing if he was not attending to these things. What is he there for? He would not expect Dr. Lloyd or anyone on this side to do these things. It was his duty, and if he did not do it, he would have no right to the position. To my mind he was only too glad to attend to those matters once they were brought to his notice, but I wonder if he went very far out of his way to find out what was going on before they were brought to his attention. If he did we are prepared to give him credit; but I do not thank him for merely doing his duty. I do not thank anyone for doing his duty; and I do not want to be thanked for doing mine. If, however, he had done more than that, and has done anything extra, he will find that he will get due credit on this side of the House.

He did not tell us all about the Heart's Content wharf. He did not tell us that the Government had spent \$20,000 to build a pier for the Grand Falls Co. at Heart's Content. I wonder why he was silent about that? Is it true that the shipping pier, which has been erected at Heart's Content, was built with funds provided by the Government, or to be provided by the Government, or to be attached to the railway policy of the country? Is that true? The Premier might say whether it is or not.

**DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—No, Mr. Coaker. Absolutely untrue.

**MR. COAKER**—Absolutely untrue? **DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—It is partly true. I will tell the hon. member and the House exactly what has been done, so that there will not be any misunderstanding. Under the contract we had to build a wharf at Heart's Content. It was part of the railway extension policy to build a wharf at Heart's Content.

**DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—Under the Construction contract.

**DR. LLOYD**—Where was that special provision?

**DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—We have done it everywhere in the case of deep-water terminal.

**DR. LLOYD**—When did you decide on that?

**DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—It was part of the survey, and not alone in the case of the branches but in the trunk line wherever we have touched a deep-water terminal we have put a wharf there. We have done that in every case where the railway has touched deep water. In the case of Heart's Content we went right down to the sea for that purpose. It was part of our policy to build a wharf there. Now, the A.N.D. Co., finding that they could not prosecute their work from Botwood for three or four months, approached the Government to know if we would be prepared to add a little to the wharf that we had already determined to put there. Mr. Hall, the Government Engineer, was asked to make an estimate of the difference between the cost of the wharf that we were going to put there and the wharf which the Company wanted, and we found that it was so small that we agreed to the Company's proposal. The Company, on the other hand, put up all their buildings, and decided, for the present, to make Heart's Content a winter terminal. That is all.

**MR. COAKER**—How much did it cost?

**DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—I will let you know to-morrow.

**MR. COAKER**—\$20,000?

**DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—No, the whole cost would be \$10,000, and the additional amount you, I think, be more than \$3,000 or \$4,000. However, I will let you have the exact figures to-morrow.

**MR. COAKER**—I am very sorry to put the Premier to any trouble. The Minister of Finance did not, of course, anticipate that we were going to talk about these things, or he would have been a little more discreet this afternoon.

**DR. HON. PRIME MINISTER**—I was only replying to Dr. Lloyd's remarks about coal.

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north side of the Bay is concerned, new appointments and pensions, that And now that we find the Premier so anxious to do his best to facilitate the business of the A.N.D. Co., I don't see why the A.N.D. Co. should not reciprocate and let the Colony have the use of their steamer, when she is coming across without any cargo. They might certainly let her take a load of salt, or put into Sydney or Louisburg and take coal, and help us out in the emergency. That was no special John McPherson, letter courier, \$50; Elizabeth Trainor, post-mistress, \$24.00; Bridget Duke, post-mistress, \$30; and Mrs. McDonnell, post-mistress, \$40. Well, I wonder where you are going to end now, if you start out to pension post-masters and post-mistresses. There are about 1400 of them in the country, and they were never looked upon as being entitled to pensions before. You are going to have at least fifty applications every year now from persons who will be expecting pensions because you have given them to these six. In the Customs Department you have increased the staff without Legislative authority. There is Aubrey Crocker, Clerk to the Registrar, \$600; James Wheeler, right-boatman, \$420; M. Brien, \$390; John Cook, \$420; M. B. Garland, \$300; James Murray, \$400; Wm. Hilliard, late courier, \$94; John Gillis, late postmaster, \$35; J. W. McPherson, late courier, \$50; Eliz. Trainor, late postmistress, \$24; Bridget Duke, late postmistress, \$30; Mrs. H. McDonald, late postmistress, \$40; R. Taylor, \$120; F. J. Cahill, \$600; E. J. Domicy, \$1000; Charles Barrett, Sub-Collector, Old Perlican, \$120; F. Davis, Sub-Collector, Freshwater, \$120; Eli Anderson, \$100; Jno. Grills, \$600; Jno. LeGrow, Attendance Poor Asylum, \$70; Andrew Ryan, \$400; Francis Fanning, \$300; Miss Southcott, late Matron General Hospital, \$620; J. W. Mercer, Special Service, \$1000; E. Peniston, \$200; J. W. Hayes, Clerk Parcel Post, \$50; Wm. Gladney, Letter Carrier, \$50; Joseph Curtis, \$400; Mrs. Andrews, \$10; Geo. Miller, \$10; Wm. Newman, \$10; Denis Ryan, \$50; Joseph Bryne, \$10; Bride Sittman, \$60; H. Willar, \$120; T. J. Murphy, \$120; Miss Johnson, \$240; Miss Thorne, \$250; J. Hefferman, \$80; Wm. Campbell, \$60; 14 Messengers (at \$120 each), \$1,680; John Penwell, \$24; S. Gaulton, \$120; B. March, \$50; M. Wash, \$260; S. O'Quinn, \$75; F. Stone, \$30; E. S. Hennebury, \$120; H. White-narsh, \$90.

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MAY 2nd.	MAY 10th.
MAY 20th.	MAY 27th.

The S.S. FLORIZEL will also leave St. John's after the Sealfishery, and will probably leave New York between May 2nd and 20th.

**Harvey & Co., Agents**

(Continued on page 5)