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April 19, 26



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House of Assembly Proceedings.

OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS

(Continued.)

Monday, March 2nd, 1925.

The House met at 3 p.m.

HON. J. J. LONG presented a

petition from the District of

Burin asking for a grant for

road and bridge repairs. He

was supported by Mr. H.B.C.

Lake.

HON. W. J. HIGGINS presented

a petition from Lance Cove

for a grant for wharf repairs.

MR. W. J. WALSH presented

two petitions from Placentia

respecting coastal service. Hon.

M.S. Sullivan and Mr. Simott

supported the petitions.

THE HON. THE COLONIAL

SECRETARY tabled certain

financial reports of the St.

John's Municipal Council.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

In answer to an Opposition

question the Colonial Secretary

tabled a statement showing the

total number of patients by

Districts requiring Government

assistance admitted to the Hos-

pitals between January 1st,

1924 and December 31st 1924

as follows:—

St. Barbe 5

Twillingate 53

Fogo 12

Bonavista 90

Trinity 126

Bay-de-Verde 45

Carbonar 30

Harbor Grace 46

Port de Grave 35

Harbour Main 52

St. John's East 266

St. John's West 240

Ferryland 78

Placentia and St. Mary's 167

Burin 41

Fortune Bay 28

Burgeo & La Poile 6

St. George's 16

Total 1341

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Debate on the Address

in Reply was then resumed by

the Prime Minister.

HON. THE PRIME MINIS-

TER:— Mr. Speaker the

motion in connection with the

Address in Reply has now been

debated for a week and I do not

propose to keep the House any

longer in getting it off the order

paper so that progress can be

made in the way of further

business. It is a matter of

great gratification to the Gov-

ernment that the Speech has

been dealt with at such length

and so fully by the Honourable

Members of the Opposition with

such little criticism. Whether

it is that. I am not so sensi-

tive as I was last session, it ap-

pears to me that a much better

feeling exists in the House to-

day than there was last Session

and I thank the Honourable

Leader of the Opposition for his

statement, that if we propose to

pass measures which are right

and beneficial to the people of

the country, he will be the very

first to laud us, and to show ap-

preciation of our work. A

gentleman came to me and said

I was a fool to be in politics be-

cause, said he, the country will

give you no credit for what you

do right, and blame you for

what you do wrong. He did

not know what he was talking

about, because according to his

own expression, the Honourable

Leader of the Opposition

himself proposes to be the trum-

pheter of the Government during

the next three and a half years.

The gentlemen of the Opposi-

tion in discussing the Address

in Reply have stated that there

is considerable Legislation yet

to be introduced in this House

and it is of great interest to

note how well posted they are

in the details of a Bill that has

not yet been presented—how

many Districts the country is

to be divided into, how many

members there are to be, and

where they are to stand for.

They almost know all about the

reduction on the Banks Tax,

and the Honourable the Leader

of the Opposition even knows

more than myself, as to the in-

roduction of a Bill dealing with

the Cull of Fish. Now that is

one subject I will never intro-

duce a Bill to deal with. For

the last thirty years I have been

sitting at round table confer-

ences, attending Board of Trade

Sessions and Fishery meeting

to discuss as to whether the

merchants could come together

in some way on this question of

cull of fish, whether in St.

John's or elsewhere, but I think

it will be generally conceded

that after all the hours of dis-

cussion we were never any fur-

ther ahead than before. I think

Mr. Hickman will recognize

with me how impossible it is to

do anything in that connection

and I think that Mr. Hickman

has been evidently misinformed

and that some exporter has

been "passing the buck" to him,

but I can tell Mr. Hickman and

the exporters that they have

another guess coming to them

and that they have to work out

their own difficulties for them-

selves, and, if they want any-

thing done, let them work out

a scheme, report to us and then

will see what can be done after-

wards. The Honourable mem-

ber for Trinity, Mr. Halfyard,

spoke for three hours a few

days ago and during his address

he also touched on the subject

of codfish, and I really do not

know of one constructive sug-

gestion that he made in all his

remarks. He thought that

there should be Fishery Com-

missioners appointed for the

foreign markets. The Honour-

able member for Fogo, Mr.

Hibbs, also thought that we

ought to have Commissioners

to sell our fish. Now if we

have any Commissioners at all

we should not have them to sell

our fish. I have been in all

codfish business pretty well all

my life and I have never requir-

ed anybody to sell my fish for

me. I have an agent in every

place where our fish is sold and

I am quite satisfied with the

work they are doing. We do

not want men in the foreign

markets to sell our fish, al-

though it may be alright to

have men who are interested in

the fishery to try and get us in

communication with any new

markets. We have had our ex-

perience of Fishery Commis-

sioners under the Fish Regula-

tions which were thrown down

because they did not have the

endorsement of the Trade and

because the Trade was not be-

hind them. Mr. Goodridge,

was sent by Sir William Coaker

a few years ago to Peru to in-

vestigate conditions there and

find out what the possibilities

were for opening up a new mar-

ket there for Newfoundland cod

fish. He made that investiga-

tion, presented an elaborate re-

port, but I do not know if any-

body read it or not. The re-

port was sent out by the De-

partment of Marine and Fisher-

ies and the result is that there

has not been a single quintal of

fish sent to Peru since Mr. Good-

ridge came home. So I say

that the appointment of Fishery

Commissioners is not a thing

that appeals to me. Mr. Tay-

lor, who was here last Summer

as referred to by Captain Win-

sor, Minister of Marine and Fis-

eries, recommended that four

Commissioners be appointed

The Fishery Board sat on it

and they decided that such a

meeting as I did not know

anything about agriculture. I

told him to get in touch with a

few expert local farmers and

see if they had a few good sug-

gestions to offer. He did so

and some of the suggestions ad-

vanced appealed to us and some

others did not. There was one

good point brought in by Mr.

Hickman in his speech and that

was that we should have better

facilities for storage of our

vegetables. There was an-

other by Captain Courtney who

thought we should have some

protection for our vegetables,

and another was that we should

have cheaper transport along

our own railway line. Now

when we get people growing

three or four hundred barrels

of turnips and potatoes in Sal-

vage, they should not be charg-

ed an exorbitant rate to get to

Corner Brook. We should

carry such vegetables over the

railway line as cheaply as pos-

sible. The same applies to

hay. As we cut the railway.