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Telegram

### WESTERN FIRM PETITIONS FOR AID.

Harris & Co., Ltd., Grand Bank, Asks for \$500,000.

ir John Crosbie's Prophecy Fulfilled --- House Has Lively Afternoon and Night Sessions --- Budget Introduced.

WEDNESDAY, May 25th. day's session of the House unusual one in many ways. For time in the history of Res le Government in this country, known mercantile firm has had liate itself to the extent oney to carry on its bus r itself, but for the sake 00 people dependent on it d a sorry plight for one of est merchants in the country himself in and he places the on the iriquitous Fish Regula-Covernment guarantee for and the question is one reaching importance that reaching importance that ted fully by the Opposition he courtesy of the Speaker. 5 p.m. yesterday until after with but an hour and a half tea, the petition was dis-way that such an import-should have been treated izing thing was that with of Mr. Cheeseman the t ranks were silent.

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE F ASSEMBLY IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONVENED:

ing on business on the South West t of Newfoundland, and having branches in various othe arts of the Island. A part of the said business is th supplying of fishermen for the prosecution of the codfishery.

Owing to the present financial

ringency in this Colony, your

shermen to any degree whatever complete withdrawal of suplies will mean not only a con-derable amount of destitution ong the fishermen and thei lies, but also a great loss he country as a whole and to al who are in any way dependent upon the prosecution of the fish ery for their suppert and main

Your Petitioners have made ap ous banks carrying on business in this country, but they have been informed by the respective managers that, acting upon in-structions from their Head Offices, they refuse to give any ad-

The present unfortunate position in which your petitioners are placed is due entirely to the fact tained by them because of these egulation which otherwise would not have been incurred. Your Petitioners estimate that in the ase of the businesses conducted by them these losses would ag-gregate a sum of over One Milion Dollars. As concrete ex-

The above are given as typical cases losses sustained by your petitioners. 7. There is no avenue of industry within the colony in which fishermen usually supplied by your petitioners can be engaged, and the withdrawal of their supplies must lead to their leaving the colony in search of employment elsewhere, or their being compelled to live in destitution or on public or private charity.

3. A failure on the part of your peti-

ancially runned. Some indication of the wide-spread effect of such a situation may be gathered from the fact that Your Petitioners alone supply upwards of Four Thousand dealers.

they had done. All that he asked was that something be done to save 20,000 starving men, women and children.

Mr. Sullivan had great pleasure in supporting the petition. He thought it regrettable that Hon. Mr. Foote had one. Thousand dealers.
Your Petitioners feel that the on-

them such a guarantee. And, as in duty bound, will ever GEORGE C. HARRIS

For and on behalf of SAMUEL HARRIS LTD., SAMUEL HARRIS LTD., to Harris and Co. rather than having MARYSTOWN TRADING CO., LTD., to support 20,000 people next year. He HERMITAGE TRADING CO., LTD., did not think the Government would

A DEPLORABLE SITUATION.

Sir John Crosble said it was one of the saddest moments of his life when he had to listen to a petition of such a nature from the firm of Samuel Harris Ltd., of Grand Bank. He regretted that Hon. Mr. Foote did not see as clearly as he did twelve months ago. It was pitiable to hear him say he was not aware of the conditions referred to in the petition, and even more so, that such a great firm should have so, that such a great firm should have prefer to hold on and do their best to owing to the Fishery Regunders having been enforced since liquidation. What had the country suffice to concerned with the cause of the November 1919, the conduct of their business was taken out of their control and thereby seriously hampered and losses on both 1919 and 1920 voyages were sustained by them because of these had ever come to such a pass. No the conduct of the conduct of their control and thereby seriously hampered and losses on both 1919 and 1920 voyages were sustained by them because of these thoughts of what was to happen he never dreamed that things would ever come to such a pass. No these had ever found itself in the concerned with the cause of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the cause of the prevalent ruin but with the cause of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the cause of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the cause of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved them as representatives of the prevalent ruin but with the remedy. It behaved the ruin behaved the would ever come to such a pass. No House had ever found itself in such a position before. The members for Burin would go down in the history of our Legislature as the greatest cow-

ards in the country.

Mr. Foote here rose to a point of or-

der and said Sir John's language was unparliamentary. Sir John replied that it was a pity ness of your petitioners of the enforcement of these regulations twelve months ago and not talk about they would refer Your Honour-ble House to the following losses. on shipments made by them:

Loss on shipments per "General Currie"

on shipments made by them:

have been any need for the petition.

The hon, gentleman was the most incapable member who ever represented

Burin district. At this innerwork

men usually supplied by your petitioners can be engaged, and the withdrawal of their supplies must lead to their leaving the colony in search of employment elsewhere, or their being compelled to live in destitution or on public or private charity.

A failure on the part of your petitioners to give supplies will of necessity result in the various businesses conducted by them being closed down and liquidated. The general result of this latter course would mean that not only the fishermen who have been dealing mean that not only the fishermen who have been dealing directly with your petitioners would become idle, but that a very large number of other persons such as laborers, coopers, seamen, clerks and others would be placed in a like position, and many small dealers would be financially runned. Some indication the with a bit of orange. It was up to the dovernment to undo the mischief they had done. All that he asked was the such as the saked was a contraction of the cooper of t they had done. All that he asked was

nothing to say when he presented the Your Petitioners feel that the on-ly way by which such a catas-trophe may be avoided is by the Government guaranteeing a suf-ficient sum to enable them to give such supplies as are precessed. such supplies as are necessary and essential for the conduct of the fishery during the present season. This would require a guarantee by the Government of not less than half a million dollars.

all over the island. The Government must give its attention to the matter at once. 20,000 people were affected. The Government had pledged \$75,000 not less than half a million dollars. Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that your honourable House may introduce and pass legislation empowering the Government to grant let them do so at once and stop their dilly-dallying. Owing to these slip-shod methods fishermen of the country were tramping the streets of the town look ing for supplies. What was \$500,000 at this time? Was it not better to give this

> be running any risk in putting up the guarantee.
>
> Hon. Mr. Foote spoke to the petition but in such a low tone that it was imssible, without the aid of a microphone, to hear what he was saying, in

GOVERNMENT IN COMATOSE STATE.

He gave the petition his unqualified support. He endorsed Mr. Sullivan's statements with reference to the matter of supplies in the district of Placentia and St. Mary's. He feared he was being "codded" by the Gov-ernment, and he entered a strong protest against the way members and their constituents were being fooled. If the Government did not intend to them say so. Even if the Govern 30,000.00 Speaker interrupted Sir John and informed him that five minutes was the loft came back, it would be a good

Sir Michael Cashin expressed his sympathy with the petitioners in this case, although he could not say just then whether he could support their petition or not, owing to the unsatispetition or not, owing to the unsatisfactory state of our finances. This firm was in a plight similar to that of other firms which had gone to the wall recently. We had arrived at a position when it was time to be up and doing. Was the Government in a comatose state? They had surely received enough notice. The situation was growing worse rapidly as Sir John Crosbie had pointed out. Messrs. Harris had proclaimed that they could do no more, and thay had sent this petition for the purpose of getting help for the 20,000 people dependent on them for supplies. The Opposition could not do anything, but he hoped the Government was in a pendent on them for supplies. The Opposition could not do anything, but he hoped the Government was in a position to relieve the situation. It would need \$15,000,000 on the basis of the Harris petition to supply for all the fisheries. The fish were now striking in and it was impossible to get anything out of the Government. He would support any reasonable proposition they would put up. We were dependent, practically, solely, on the fishery. What was the Government going to do? He was prepared to do his best to help his fellowmen. If the Government could not get one and a quarter million quintals of fish in the next four months, what would they do next year? The time had arrived when the country should be told what the Government was going to do. He hoped the Prime Minister would hand out some programme hefore the House adjourned. The men who brought about the present situation seemed asleep. The Opposition would not obstruct if the Government would only do something. He promised they would retire from the House had been sitting for noarly eight weeks and nothing had been accomplished. Sir

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only 20c. yard.

only 17c. yard.

time limit for speaking to a petition.

Chard-considering the importance of the matical considering the importance of the importance of the importance of the importance of the matical considering the importance of the impo

He would dig stones on the road rather than go back on the neople that elected him. (At this juncture a man named Culleln interrupted a man named Culleln interrupted Mr. Bennett another man started an argument with Cullen and even wanted him to engage in a pugilistic encounter.) The Opposition supporter was removed by the police, and Cullen was afterwards asked to leave. Several Opposition members led by Sir M ichael, hurried out of the House and saw that their supporter, who had not started the trouble, should be dealt with fairly. After order had been restored, Mr. Bennett continued. He said this man

Bennett continued. He said this man Cullen had made himself particularly obnoxious, and he thought he should not be permitted again within the precincts of the House. The serious business of the House demanded that cincts of the House demanded that there be no interruption. The trouble with Newfoundland to-day was that she was rotten with politics. The people were being "codded." Men were coming up every day to find out what the Government was going to do. The country had need of its best men to-day. If the way the petition had been presented was an index of the policy of the Government, then he trembled for the future of the country. He thought Newfoundland could weather the storms if it were properly handled, but co-operation was necessary to save it. If things went on as they were going there would not be a young man left in the would not be a young man left in the country. The Opposition were help-less. They could not even tell how the country's finances were. All he could say was that it was their duty to waken the Government to the situation which faced it. The Gov-

ernment had gone to the limit in extravagance during its tenure of office. The country was being run on the rocks by a crowd of incapables. AN EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION Mr. Higgins said the only reason that prompted him to address the House was the extraordinary situation which arose at 6.30 p.m. The principle at stake was so serious that the member who did not give ft his fullest consideration was unwor-thy of a seat in the House. It was not a partizan measure. It was a asure which would decide wh our families would be brought up in this country at all. The petition summarized the condition of the country and was emblematic of the scenes occurring daily in the House. It raises, too, the question, what was the country going to do about it, and he was prompted to speak of this by the extraordinary situation already referred to. If this petition were to be acceded to the whole country must also benefit. For this, \$10,-000,000 or more would be required. What was the answer to this? Yet there was no suggestion of adjourning to consider the question. No! The Prime Minister merely announced he would introduce the Budget to-day. Was he going to introduce the Budget without considering the petition? If Hon. Mr. Foote knew nothing about the petition previous to to-day, then there could be no provision in the Budget to meet this serious matter. There would be much more earnestness displayed if this were a petition for 10 barrels of seed potatoes rather than one which affected the life of the country. Without the fishermen none of us could exist. The country could not be kept alive unless its main industry was kept going, and therefore, this petition should not be treated so lightly. It was absolutely surprising to him to see the petition being so treated by a so-called Fishermen's Government. He thought it extraordinary that the Government should take a Micawberian attitude on the matter. Surely a petition of such magnitude was sufficient to have the Budget held over until the matter could be considered. He recognized fully the unpleasant situation of the Government but they had been the Government, but they had brought it on themselves and in any case their own conduct to other districts should cause them to consider the Harris petition. Joy did he wish all the Government if that was the kind of concention of their responsibility. petition. Joy did he wish all the Government if that was the kind of conception of their responsibility. He would say deliberately that the Government dared not introduce the Budget without considering how they were to supply the fishermen. How dare they treat this serious matter so flippantly. It was not the way that a petition of this kind should be treated. The man who introduced the petition and who boldly announced he had never seen it before, sat there like a clam. In his own district the people were similarly affected. Would he deserve to be permitted to enter his district again if he did not do something to help them out. This was the one case where, the House could co-operate. The Leader of the Opposition had said he would take his party out of the House and let the Government settle the question. What ever the Government would do he (Mr. Higgins) said they had a big task ahead of them, for there must be no discrimination. If it be true that there were thousands of fishermen in (Continued on 8 page.)

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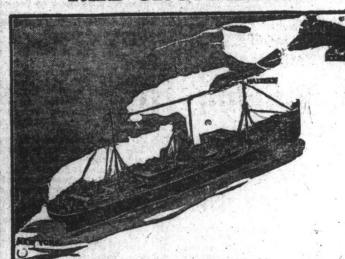
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