Hunt and Mr. Emerson were signa- the strongest objectors, and the other

As regards the questions of general

policy raised in your letter, His Ex-

cellency does not feel called upon to

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. W. W. McNelly.

Duckworth Street,

St. John's.

Governor.

(Sgd.) J. L. Shand,

Military Secretary & A.D.C.

St. John's, Sept. 16, 1925.

I have the honour to acknowledge

justify his retention in these offices.

the right to take action against the

1. (a) The Marine Agencies, Lim-

ited could not have ap-

proached the Government for

permission to build an ex-

tension at the eastern end of

King's Wharf or have ob-

tained permission from the

Department of Marine and

Fisheries to occupy the por-

tion of the Harbour they

have taken before the At-

torney General's firm had

any connection or knowledge

of the Company because

Higgins, Hunt & Emerson

themselves incorporated the

citors from its inception.

Company, and were its Soli-

Whilst the Department of

Marine and Fisheries has

certain control, management

regulation of the Harbour of

of the Consolidated Statutes,

this Chapter gives them no

power to give any portion of

the same (not to speak of a

property 125 feet x 60 feet

worth \$10,000 to \$15,000) to

I note from Your Excellency's let-

ter that Messrs. W. & G. Rendell get

a "a considerable annual rental" for

their portion of the property, but no

compensation is made to the public

for the taking of their valuable prop-

I would also point out that, ap-

parently, up to July 9th, sometime af-

er the formation of the Company, no

Whart. (See letter from Deputy Col-

onial Secretary to J. J. Mahoney, City

In fact from this letter of July 9th,

would be inferred that any further

(c) Your Excellency admits that

in St. John's (technically

authorization was disclaimed.

erty and rights.

St. John's under Chapter 11

With regard to your justification of

Munson Steamship Lines.

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onial Sec-

9th July.

bodiet in

ency now

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Correspondence

utility and convenience were con-

ses In view of the fact that the Gov-

rnment, through the Department of

farine & Fisheries, as regards the

extension to the waters of the har-

our of Rendell's premises, and, by

the Agreement referred to, as regards

the extension of the King's Wharf in

like direction, had granted permis-

sion for the erection which you have

alluded to as "an encroachment on public rights." His Excellency con-

rument of the day, to give the shelter

those selfsame erections. If the Com-

pany's erections had exceeded in ex-

tue of their agreement with the Gov

the Ministry of Marine & Fisheries,

there might have been cause for the

Attorney General to allow an action

such as you have sought: but it does

not appear that the Company has ex-

eeded these limits nor have you made

t is a point to be observed that in St.

John's, technically speaking, every

construction work.

that it would be neither rea-

tories to the Memorandum and Artie- the right to increase the fare from five les of Association of William I. Bish-op, Ltd., His Excellency is assured observed in the legislation which was (Continued from page 12.) that neighber the Hon. the Attorney put through the House of Assembly, General nor the two gentlemen above which only became effective when the premises, a matter of about eight feet, either in St. John's or in what may be tem have been carried out. The only termed its parent Company else other concession, hamely that of the was all that remained of what was formerly known as Gill's Cove. It is a where. The parent Company felt that free entry of materials was but putfact that the King's wharf itself is as a matter of convenience for their ting late effect an undertaking given built over the main portion of what was business it would be better to have a by the previous Administration, foloriginally Gill's Cove and for very locally incorporated Company. Up to lowing the "Railway Settlement Act." many years the only use made of the the end of last month at any rate and His Excellency is satisfied that there small space referred to has been a location for the discharge of a sewage to the present time, this local Comlocation for the discharge of a sewage pany has done no business, the agree-the House. It was introduced by the pipe. Although, so far as public pany has done no business, the agree-the House. It was introduced by the pipe. Although, so far as public pany has done no business, the agree-the House. It was introduced by the pipe. Although, so far as public pany has done no business, the agree-the House. It was introduced by the pipe. Although, so far as public pany has done no business, the agree-the House. It was introduced by the pipe. Although, so far as public pany has done no business, the agree-the House. It was introduced by the pipe. Although, so far as public pany has done no business, the agree-the House. It was introduced by the pipe.

having been made before it came into Select Committee of both sides of the cerned, it did not appear to the Government that there could be any ob- existence. ernment that there could be any on-jection whatever to the Company His Excellency has an assurance adopted unanimously by the House connecting up the extension of Ren- from the Attorney General himself It is further to be observed that there that his firm has no retainer from are no contractual relations between the King's Wharf; yet as already in- either company, and is free to take the Company in question and the dell's premises with the extension of for or against either of them. Government. timoted in the Deputy Colonial Sec-Government had no authority to grant the fact that it is his opinion that the gard to Hon. Mr. Hisgins' association permission for the closing of the re- Hon, the Attorney General was tech- with these nically correct in refusing your re- is satisfied that there is no reason for quest, no mention of personal interest him to take the steps which you sugto restrain them from closing up the would have prompted any decision gest which the Attorney General might have reached in this matter.

torney General and Minister of Just make any pronouncement. he vicinity and come to an undertice is not a proper person to decide tanding with the Company. The presor to pass upon questions where the nt position is that the space remains rights of the public are involved by reason of his own or members of his the eastern end of King's Wharf and law firm's connection with at the western end of Rendell's prem-

(a) The W. I. Bishop Co., Ltd., or its local subsidiary Company; (b) The Newfoundland Light and

Power Company. What I have been directed to say Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G., with relation to paragraph 2 in this May it please Your Excellency. letter, very largely rebuts the suggestion under the heading (a) of this receipt of your letter of September paragraph. Further it is to be observed in this connection that the con-Dry Dock was made between the Government and the present Company, that is to say the Company incorporated in Montreal under the name of that the Hon, the Attorney General W. I. Bishop Company, Limited. The be relieved of his office and his seat Contract followed the form always

of his office to an action which has as used by that Company, and was not spectfully submit that the reasons prepared in St. John's. It was submitted to the Deputy Minister of Justice and to the Government Engineer. before being considered by the ernment or of their permission from Executive Council. The preliminary the Attorney General in refusing me discussions in connection with the Dry the principal of the W. I. Bishop Co., Ltd., and the members of the Railway Commission of which the Hon, the Attorney General is not one Further ernment, before entering into any arextension of a water front might be rangements with respect to the Dry

Dock repairs, to have an obsolutely regarded as an "encroachment on impartial pronouncement on the subpublic rights" or in other words "a public nuisance," for there is no evi- jeet, and for this purpose the services dence that any Act of arliament has ever been passed granting express the employ of the Canadian Governpermission for the extensions of all ment at Ottawa were secured. the different waterfront premises that ! (b) Your complaint under this have been made during many years heading is that the firm of Higgins, Hunt & Emerson,

Newfoundland Light & Power Co., sion in St. John's and the practice has been to have any erection subject Ltd., that the sale members and shareto the acquiescence of the Department holders appearing in the Registry in of Marine & Fisheries, working in St. John's are the members of the conjunction with the Harbour Master, above mentioned firm: that the Hen., The facts of the case being as above the Attorney General appears as Predescribed it is His Excellency's opin- sident of the Company which (to quote ion that the Hon. the Attorney Gen- your words) "immediately proceeded aral pursued the only course open to to apply for wide rights and conceshim in refusing your request for per- sions." I am to point out to you that mission to take action in his name this Company was incorporated on the against the Marine Agencies, Ltd. , 17th February, 1924, at a time when 2. That the Attorney General's ac- both the Hon. the Attorney General, tion in refusing your requests was Mr. Higgins, and his partner, Mr. actuated by personal metives in that Hunt, were members of the Opposieither he himself or members of his tion in the House of Assembly. Such private Law firm are financially in- a method of incorporation, it appears terested in the Marine Agencies, Ltd., to His Excellency, was purely a mat-& or the Company carrying out the ter of convenience for registration

purposes; indeed Mr. Hunt had been retained to do this by those who were As regards the statement that the Marine Agencies, Ltd., was incor- finding the capital. His Excellency is porated by the firm of Higgins, Hunt assured that Hon, Mr. Higgins very E Emerson, and that Mr. Fred R. far from being President of the Com-Emerson was one of the signatories pany, is not so much as a shareholdto the Memorandum and Articles of er in it nor has any interest whatever Association, His Excellency is credibly in its operations. The Bill which you the eastern portion of the King's informed that this work came to the have referred to as being one proposparticular firm in question because ed to be submitted to the House of Ac-Mr. V. S. Ecunett, the principal in- sembly was, in fact, never put before Clerk). vestor, and one of the incorporators, the House. It was prepared by solicihad for many years previously been a tors in Montreal and was forwarded ellent of the firm and very naturally to St. John's for the consideration of went to them on that account and furthe Government. It was practically a ther that Mr. Emerson's signature modification of all the Acts concernwas appended merely in formal com- ing the St. John's Street Railway pliance with the Companies' Act which which it was thought desirable to have

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speaking) every extension o equires a third alguature to such a embraced in one Act after the trans-Memorandum. Neither Mr. Emersen. fer to the new Company. Two sections only were new—one as regards comhimself have any interest whatever in petition by Jitney traffic, which was garded as an encreachment words, a public nuisance. the operations of the Company., Simi- not agreed to and to which Hon. Mr. The practical effect, therefore, of four Excellency's decision is:-(A) That in such matters the Attorney General and not the Supreme Why stropping is necessary

(B) That he can exercise this office of a Judge, even where his client and a person from whom he is receiving remuneration is one of the parties. (C) That public rights can be appropriated by private parties and held not under the authority of an Act of the Legislature but by the grace of

the Attorney General. 2. Your Excellency has, apparently, misunderstood my letter when you infor that my second cause of complain

Correspondence

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a water front might be fe- by personal metives in that either he the personal motives of the Attorney my reply to your paragraph 2.

clear as I should have, but I now not this a financial interest?) from effect to any arrangement entered into state that it is immaterial to me what these organizations which are re-

QTIFFNESS of any kind can be quickly relieved by massaging



himself or members of his private General or his partners were, or With regard, however, to W. on public rights, or in other law firm are financially interested in whether they were financially inter- Bishop Co., Ltd., or its local subsidthe Marine Agencies, Ltd., and or the ested in the Marine Agencies, Ltd., lary Company, I would point out that Company carrying out the construct and or the Company carrying on the the Attorney General or Minister of construction work at Gill's Cove. It is Justice is the person responsible for I may not have made my position as a receipt of monies as Solicitors (is the giving of proper and formal legal

> cipients of Government favours, and Law Clerk is responsible for giving which from their inception and in- proper legal forms to any amendmen corporation by the Atterney General's effected in the Legislature. firm had, and now have, interests The draft contract was, apparently, which conflict with the interests of submitted to the Deputy Minister of the public, that disqualifies the At- Justice. torney General from acting, not mere-

3. What I have to say with relation office.

to your answer to my second cause of complaint is very largely covered in

Surely the fact that because of his ly in this matter, but in any way as position with W. I. Bishop, Led., the an Attorney General had to leave such It is the act of receiving the monies an important matter to his Deputy to from these firms, and not the state of a complete justification of my contennind of the persons receiving the tion that because of such relations he which is the gravemen of the cannot properly do justice to the public. and should be relieved of his af-