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April 19, 28



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House of Assembly Proceedings.

OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS

(Continued.)

Mr. Speaker, I don't propose to take up any more of the time of this House this afternoon. I simply wish to make these few responses to the criticisms from the other side of the House, and to say that we believe that in the few years we have still to go we will be able to make a fairly decent showing in the policy of cleaning up.

At the close of the Prime Minister's Speech the Address in Reply passed the House without division.

BILLS

The second reading of the Lobster Act was then taken up. MR. SCAMMELL said that the Government should reconsider their decision of introducing legislation to have a three years close for lobsters. He challenged the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to produce any definite requests for this proposed close season from the West Side of St. Barbe District. He failed to see the necessity of pressing for a close season without notice. The statistics of any one year's catch cannot be taken as any criterion of the decrease in lobsters around the coast. A simpler method to conserve lobsters would be a system of having the spawning fish returned to the sea as was formerly done. He therefore urged upon the Government to reconsider this legislation for at least another year.

CAPTAIN WINSOR, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in reply said that as far as the Government was concerned, the Fisheries Board had come to the conclusion that this was in the best interests of the country. He had, it was true, very few communications from the district of St. Barbe, either for or against the legislation, but from all other areas there had been numerous suggestions for a close season. This was regarded as been the most opportune time to institute a close season, owing to the comparatively few men engaged in the industry. He failed to see how any member could oppose such a measure, because his own district wanted to engage in the fishery. He sincerely believed that this close season was going to be of incalculable benefit to the country as a whole. It was hoped to shortly have something done whereby those effects would not suffer under hardship.

MR. HALFYARD said that the problem of men who were wont to earn their livelihood from the industry being left without any means of earning, was a grave one. If the Government had a substitute that was well. The lobster fishery must be protected, and as the Government would provide something to assist some of the old men and boys who engaged in the fishery at St. Barbe there could be no serious objection to the bill.

CAPTAIN RANDELL said that the feeling was towards a restriction of the time when the fish might be caught.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to committee. The Women's Patriotic Trust Fund Amendment Act was then taken up.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the Bill practically spoke for itself, and was the outcome of a request from the Trust Fund Committee. The Amendment was to facilitate the relief of destitute ex-service men.

The Bill was read a second time. On the Supreme Court Amendment Act the Attorney General stated that the Bill was to give legal effect to the present salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court which salaries had been paid without same since 1921.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Committee.

As to the Companies Act the Attorney General explained that this rather formidable Bill of some three hundred pages, was the mere bringing of our Companies laws up to date, and to conform with the English

Act. The Bill was the outcome of a Commission appointed by the late Attorney General, consisting of the Hon. Mr. Justice Johnson, the Hon. Mr. Justice Kent and Mr. Warren.

At the request of the Leader of the Opposition the Bill was deferred.

Three Bills were moved for second reading by the Minister of Agriculture and Mines. All three have the same object in view, the substituting of fees and charges paid in stamps to be paid future in cash. This was done to simplify book-keeping in his department.

The second readings were deferred at the request of the Opposition.

The Bill relating to Firearms was introduced by the Attorney General who explained that the effect was merely to license persons having firearms, and to control their use.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to Committee.

The Redistribution Bill, the Highroads Bill and the Motor Vehicles Bill were deferred until next sitting.

THE HON. M. S. SULLIVAN on motion to adjourn, desired to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on his solicitude for the British workmen in the matter of the steamer being built in Holland, and trusted that all would display this same solicitude on behalf of the Newfoundland workmen and fishermen.

He congratulated the members opposite on the manner in which they had discussed the Speech from the Throne. In reply to criticisms about the deferred relief in taxation, he said that this was now being done legally, and as soon as possible.

Referring to the exportation of raw wood products, he said that this would have to cease. Our pulp industry was going to be a great one for the Corner Brook and Grand Falls mills were going to produce an equal to one and a half million quintals of fish at eight dollars a quintal. Relative to the new steamer, he said the Trade Facilities Board would not give any assistance, which was evidenced by the fact that twenty British ships were now being built in Holland. The approximate amount saved was \$14,000.

Swan & Hunter or John Brown & Company would have got the tenders in England their price being \$100,000. Furthermore there were many items of electrical equipment and other expenditure that the Dutch firm were willing to put into the contract, making in all another \$3,000, which together with the difference between \$100,000 and \$89,000, made saving to the taxpayers of \$14,000. Then the loading and unloading for trial trip was offered for by the Holland firm for which the British firm was to be paid.

MR. SINNOTT supported by

Messrs. Walsh and Sullivan, presented a petition from Fox Harbour, P.B., on the subject of a timber reservation.

MR. WALSH presented a petition from Placentia relative to a fog alarm. The petition was signed by the people who had been asked for the measure, they would bring in a five year close season. He regretted the fact that there were many breaches of the fishing laws, but pointed out that breaches of other laws by those in high positions, set a very bad example. Statistics showed that out of every 1500 people engaged in the industry, only 250 were able to support themselves out of it, and this was surely an indication of the grave necessity of the measure.

MR. SCAMMELL said he was not committing himself to any opinions as to the wisdom or otherwise of this measure, but that he urged the delaying of the measure for this season. He still doubted whether the result of the close season were going to be productive of such good as the Minister and the Government expected. He claimed that the law was not likely to be carried out, unless the Government was prepared to take special means to enforce it.

The Committee then rose and reported progress and will sit again to-day.

The House went into Committee on the Women's Patriotic Trust Fund Amendment Bill. The Bill having passed Committee without Amendment, was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

The House went into Committee on the Supreme Court Amendment Bill and the Bill having passed Committee without Amendment was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

MR. WARREN asked if the Fisheries Board had sought expert advice.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES in reply said that the expert opinion obtained on this measure was simply that of the expert fisherman and expert merchant interested in the lobster fishery.

MR. WARREN suggested that the Government might utilize the close season as a period during which close attention might be paid to propagation of lobsters by artificial means.

MR. HICKMAN said that it was abuses of the law that had caused this present necessity for a close season and trusted that the proposed measure would be strictly carried out.

MR. WALSH was in full accord with the suggestions put forward by the member for Fortune, that propagation be carried out. Similarly he felt that the Leader of the Opposition had touched the crux of the present situation in saying that illegality caused a lot of the trouble. He urged the strict conduct of all our fishery laws. The time had arrived for some definite action to be taken to prevent the annihilation of the industry, for our catch had decreased in the last three years from 20,000 cases to some 3,900 cases.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES assured the Member for Fortune that the Fisheries Board had already given the matter of propagation attention and a plan had been formulated for presentation to the

Executive Government. He could also ask the Leader of the Opposition that the Board were unanimous in recommending the measure, and indeed had he followed the request of the majority of the people who had been asked for the measure, they would bring in a five year close season. He regretted the fact that there were many breaches of the fishing laws, but pointed out that breaches of other laws by those in high positions, set a very bad example. Statistics showed that out of every 1500 people engaged in the industry, only 250 were able to support themselves out of it, and this was surely an indication of the grave necessity of the measure.

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the indiscriminate use of small arms was a growing menace to the community and the police desired some legislation to control the evil. The present object of the Bill being in Committee was to obtain suggestions as to amendments.

The Committee rose and reported progress.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES moved the second reading of the Light Dues Amendment Bill. The Bill was read a second time and referred to Committee.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Companies Act, and asked that it be referred to a Select Committee.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to a Select Committee.

The Stamp Charges Amendment Bill was read a second time.

The Saw Mills Amendment Bill was read a second time. The Crown Lands Amendment Bill was read a second time.

(Continued on page 3.)

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75.—(1) A Ship belonging to a British Subject shall hoist the proper national colors—

(a) on a signal made to her by one of His Majesty's ships, including any vessel under the command of an officer of His Majesty's navy or full pay, and

(b) on entering or leaving any foreign port and

(c) if of fifty tons gross tonnage or upwards, on entering or leaving any British Port.

(2) If default is made on board any ship in complying with this section the master of the ship shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

At time of war it is necessary for every British Ship to hoist the colours and heave to if signalled by a British Warship; if a vessel hoists no colours and runs away, it is liable to be fired upon.

H. W. LeMESSURIER,

Registrar of Shipping

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