

Mr. Jennings' Practical and Convincing Speech

In Reply to Speech from the Throne Delivered in House of Assembly March, 1916.

MR. JENNINGS.—Mr. Speaker, I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to make a few remarks in relation to the subject matter now before the House. It seems to me that the Speech from the Throne this session makes the task of the Opposition rather easy, because to a superficial observer like myself it seems that there is not a great deal in it to criticize, even if I were inclined for that kind of work. I wish in some measure to endorse the sentiments expressed by other honourable members as regards those public men who have passed to the Great Beyond since last session. They have gone the road we have all to travel, and it should be a lesson to each of us that in the days to come we have to give an account of ourselves, and we should endeavour to put in our time so that we will not be ashamed when that time comes. You will excuse me for introducing that little sermon.

Our Duty to the Empire Now, with regard to the part of the Speech dealing with the great conflict that is going on over across the waters. To my mind there should be only one opinion as regards our duty to the Empire of which we form so small a part. I say here to-day, and I say it deliberately, that it is a matter of regret that the District I represent has not responded to a greater extent than it has. I believe we stand fairly well with regard to the land forces, but I am perfectly well aware that the figures are made up to the extent they are because of the response made by Grand Falls; but we all know that the men who are coming from Grand Falls are not all natives of the District of Twillingate. However, as regards Twillingate, there are reasons that it would not serve any purpose for me to mention in the House. Living in the District I have had occasion to find out the reasons why the response has not been greater, especially in Twillingate proper. As far as I am concerned I have used every means that I considered proper on my part to show the position as it appeared to me. Personally I say this to the country that if I were a young man, medically fit to go to the front, and with no higher duty claiming my services and I did not enlist, after this conflict was over I should be ashamed to lift my head and look into the faces of those who had been out at the front.

Suggests a Recruiting Station at Twillingate. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that a greater response will be made to the needs of our Empire. I would like to suggest here in this House a measure which I think would bring about a greater degree of success in the District of Twillingate, and that is, if it could possibly be managed, to have a small recruiting station at Twillingate proper. I believe that would have the effect of bringing our young men there face to face with their duty to the British Empire.

I am very pleased to see from the address that this session will probably close without any additional taxation being placed upon our people. I hope that this pleasing impression will not be dissipated before the session closes. I am not so foolish as to think that our responsibilities are not growing. I know that the greater the duties which we undertake on behalf of our Empire the greater our financial responsibilities will be, and I don't believe that any right-thinking man in the country will grumble if his individual financial responsibility is increased on that account. At the same time I heartily endorse the sentiments expressed by Mr. Cliff, when he says that it is the duty of the Government to see whether it is not possible to bring about some retrenchment, and by saving money in that way exclude the necessity of increasing taxation if the need arose.

The Question of Prohibition. I will pass on now to the last paragraph of the address, that referring to prohibition. It was very pleasing to those who supported prohibition in the recent election, to see that proposition from the Government. It was generally understood, I think, outside, that all the litigation in connection with this matter had been withdrawn, and it was an unpleasant surprise to me yesterday to hear the statement by Dr. Lloyd that litigation

gone through it carefully, and I can only find eight persons, contractors in every case, who asked directly or indirectly for this permission, with the exception of a few persons at Point Leamington who signed Mr. Yates' petition, probably the Government believed that those were representative people, and were in need; but I want to tell the House here to-day that 80 per cent. of those engaged in this work in the district of Twillingate this winter did not go there because they were in need. They went there because they saw a chance to earn a dollar. Hundreds went there because they looked at the matter in this light: Well, if it is going to be destroyed it is just as well for me to go there and earn a dollar as anybody else. Over half the men who went there were young men, who had done well at the fishery and had money in their boxes or in the banks—to their credit he said. I merely state this to show that there was no necessity for this cutting.

Hardly Any Timber Left in District Now. The Honourable Premier expressed the opinion that perhaps the destruction was not as great as it seemed. Well, the first winter that I attended the session of this House, in order to get to Lewisporte I had to walk over a neck of timber (reserved since under the New Saw Mills Act) about six miles long and three wide, and I was surprised to see the splendid timber that was on that neck of land. There were possibilities of building probably a dozen vessels there, from fifty tons down. I came through that neck just a few days ago, and you could hardly get enough timber there to build a trap boat. Men who were on that neck this winter told me that they cut sticks there and saved them up for pit-props as large as a barrel in the butt, and long enough to make a mast for a 30-ton vessel. Now, that is the condition of affairs on the south side of the Bay, at any rate. Now, what makes it all the more important that this timber should be reserved is that two-thirds or more of our timber limits have been destroyed by fire, and it will be generations before we get a growth there of any commercial value.

Who Told The Barreled Lie? I have here before me to-day letters from two different individuals, in reply to some correspondence, I gather either from the Prime Minister or the Minister of Agriculture and Mines. The first one that I shall read is dated October 9th, and is signed M. E. Martin. It is as follows:

Dear Sir:— I have your letter of the 22nd ult. with reference to cutting green timber for pit-props on what is known as the Three Mile Limit. Representations were made to the Government from various parts of the country as to the necessity of providing employment for the people during the coming winter owing to the failure of the fishery at the Labrador and in other parts of the Island. After due consideration it was decided that permission to cut pit-props on the Three Mile Limit should be given, and an order to this effect has been made. In doing this it was not thought practicable to restrict this permission to any particular section of the country, so that it applied generally to all places in the Colony. I cannot see, therefore, how I can advise the prohibition of such cutting in the particular place you mention.

Your obedient servant, (Sgd.) SYDNEY D. BLANDFORD, Minister of Agriculture and Mines.

When I received that I said, well, I suppose what is done cannot be helped, but I made up my mind that if I was spared to attend this session of the House I would ask for the correspondence relating to this matter. Who were those people who made those representations, particularly from the District of Twillingate? Mr. Coaker surprised me yesterday to hear the statement by Dr. Lloyd that litigation

52 Freshwater Road, St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 9th, 1915. Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, St. John's.

Dear Sir:— I am in receipt of your letter of Oct. 5th and in reply would say as far as I know there are no pit props being cut anywhere North this autumn nor are there any contracts made for cutting this winter. The reason for this, at least as far as I am concerned, is because of the new law prohibiting the cutting of green wood on the three-mile limit. I will have shipped by the end of this season about 30,000 cords about 70 per cent. of which is green wood. Every lot of dry wood shipped has been a cause for complaint and this Company have advised me that unless I can supply green wood they will have to go to Canada and look for next year's supply.

Respectfully Yours, (Sgd.) M. E. MARTIN. The first one that I have read is dated October 9th (letter read). That letter is dated Oct. 9th, and hon. members will notice that he (Martin) says there were no contracts made at that time. This letter is dated October 8th, one day before.

Lewisporte, October 8th, 1915. Dear Sir Edward:— In reply to yours of Oct. 5th, I beg to say as follows:— M. E. Martin of St. John's or J. O. Williams, representing Evans & Reid of Cardiff is, I am informed, arranging to cut pit props at Lewisporte, Looe Bay, Birch Bay, Boyd's Cove, Lord's Arm, Scissors' Cove and Norris Arm. P. LeGrow, of Springdale, and Richard Quirk of Fortune Hr. are also contracting for this wood, and it looks as though operations this year will be more extensive than last year. J. Manuel, of Exploits, has also arranged with T. Manuel & Co., of Looe Bay, to put numbers of men in the woods soon at this work.

The Horwood Lumber Co. will operate again at Lord's Arm, Scissors' Cove, Looe Bay, Dog and Gander Bays. The Birch Bay Lumber Co. I am also told are getting ready for this work too.

There has been no pit props cut in this neighbourhood since August 31st, but I am told Richard Quirk of Fortune Hr. has men now cutting, others are about starting and in all probability by Nov. 1st pit prop cutting will be in full swing on a very large scale.

I don't know that I can inform you

further just now, but as operations develop, I will be in a position to give you more definite information.

I have the honour to be, Your obedient servant, (Sgd.) W. W. BRADLEY.

To Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, K.C., St. John's.

Somebody Fooled The Government

Now, the puzzle to me is—but perhaps I am going too far, I do not know whether I am very puzzled over it at all—which of these men is speaking the truth. There it is in black and white; it is not my proposition, there is something astray. One denial is dated Oct. 9th, and the other dated Oct. 8th. I am very sorry that condition of affairs is as it is, but it appears to me that there has been some—(I do not wish to use un-Parliamentary language)—un-straightforward work in connection with this business. I am safe in saying that in the District of Twillingate nine-tenths of the people residing there are against this business. The district of Twillingate has no timber to spare, and in any action that the Government will take with regard to this matter (viz. the preservation of timber), they can be confident that the people of Twillingate are behind them. I do not speak for other districts; I do not know so much about the affairs in other districts; I have not had the opportunity to know what condition of affairs obtains there; but when I speak for the district of Twillingate I speak of what I know, of what I have seen; and I trust that the Government will see that this matter is stopped now and for ever. I am sorry to say that it is, too late to save most of our timber; a lot of the timber is gone, never to return; the shipbuilding industry down there is in large measure ruined—for instance, it is impossible to build vessels like the "Nellie M." "Checkers" and other vessels that were built down there some years ago.

Locking The Stable Door When The Horse Is Stolen

It is an utter impossibility to build these vessels down there now because the timber is not there, I am very much afraid that we have arrived at the end of our resources now, and it is too late (as somebody has before remarked), to lock the stable door after the horse has been stolen. I am not talking about this matter just to fill in time, or to put up a bluff or anything of that nature; but I speak because the reforms and remedies asked for are vitally necessary; and I have expressed the opin-

\$61,322.73 SPENT ON HOME DEFENSE IN THREE MONTHS.

A HUGE GRAB FOR REID COMPANY & CROSBIE

An Awful Waste of Public Money--The Whole Affair a Pure Junketing Trip--Reid Co. Gets Over \$25,000.00 and Crosbie Over \$22,000.00--Other Rakes Amount to \$14,000.00.

What Was it for?

Table with columns for date, name, amount, and other details. Total amount: \$61,322.73.

ion time and again that the men who missed the Government in this matter were contractors and not bona fide fishermen; and that opinion has been proved to me since I looked over this correspondence.

How Many Feet Go To A Cord? More Harm Than Good

There is one more matter in connection with this that I would like to refer to, and that is conditions connected with the measurement of this wood. There are two conditions existing down there with regard to the large contractors who employed men paid them by the month (or according to the nature of their contracts), and these employees are not concerned at all with the measurement of the wood. They go and do their day's work and are paid for their labour. The other condition is that there are some independent men (one or two or half a dozen) who cut this timber, and they have perhaps a kind of agreement with some contractor to buy the lot when it is cut. A number of complaints were made to me about the conditions surrounding the measurement. The men have had to give 135 to 145 feet per cord, and they have had also to be subject to measurement by contractor, which means that the contractor who bought the timber made his own measurement. One particular crowd of men, five or six men who were engaged for a month or two, told me they cut 15,000 sticks; the contractor who was to buy this timber measured it he gave them 90 cords. It is easy for anyone acquainted with this matter to see that there is something astray. I trust the Government will take immediate steps to remedy this state of affairs.

Special Values in Stylish Tweed --Suits for Men-- WE have just opened a splendid lot of MEN'S READYMADE SUITS, that were especially selected for Spring Wear, in a handsome array of Neat, Dark Patterns. It will pay you to examine them before you buy your next Suit--you'll be able to get the particular Weave, Design, Quality, Style and Fit, in the English, Canadian, or American cut, that will thoroughly please you, from our representative stock. Here are a few prices:-- MEN'S TWEED SUITS. A good weighty quality, correctly cut, in neat, dark patterns, splendid value, latest style. Sizes: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Price a Suit \$8.00. MEN'S TWEED SUITS. A serviceable quality in dark, neat patterns, that for style, fit, finish and wear, is hard to equal at the price. Sizes: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Price a Suit \$9.00. MEN'S TWEED SUITS. Splendid English, Brown and Grey mixed tweed--the qualities that most Men like. Correct style, perfect-fitting, finished with a good quality of lining and inter-lining. Sizes: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Price a Suit \$10.00. MEN'S TWEED SUITS. Excellent assortment in this bunch to select from. Here you'll find different weaves, in the finer grades of English and Scotch tweeds--in Browns, Greys, etc., in neat and dressy pin-stripes and the striped and checked shadow effects. Special care taken by the makers to give a correct fit or lay to the collar and extra pains devoted to give a shoulder supremacy not usually found in readymade clothing. You'll get splendid wear from these high-class suits and above all you are assured a perfect fit, correct style, best linings and inter-linings. Sizes: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Prices a Suit \$12.00, \$13.00, \$14.00. MEN'S FINE TWILL SERGE SUITS in Dark Navy Blue--good quality, correct style--perfect-fitting and excellent finish. Sizes: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Prices a Suit \$10.50, \$12.00, \$13.00, \$14.00, \$16.00, \$18.00. Every item that goes to make a suit perfect is put into these Special Suits. Come in and examine them? On and after SATURDAY our Stores will remain OPEN during Meal Hours. Anderson's, Water Street, St. John's.