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House of Assembly.

Thursday, May 20, 1920.
 The House met at 3 p.m.
 On behalf of the ladies of St. John's, the Hon. Mrs. Legrow (Bay de Verde), presented a petition asking that the right to vote be granted the women of the country. The petition, which had been circulated in St. John's only, was signed by 1,700 women. Messrs. Small, Fox, Higgins, Vinnicombe and Sir John Crosbie supported the petition, which was then referred to the proper department.

Hon. W. R. Warren presented a petition on behalf of the Montreal Trust Co., asking that a charter to do business here, like the Eastern and the Royal Trusts do, be granted. The petition was referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Minister of Justice, Mr. J. H. Scammell and the Prime Minister.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Sullivan asked the Honorable Minister of Marine and Fisheries, if it is the intention of the Government to make provision in the Estimates for the erection of a Fog Alarm at Point La Haye, St. Mary's Bay, and for one other Alarm on the Western Shore, Placentia Bay.

Mr. Macdonnell asked the Minister of Public Works to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing: (a) What sums of money have been expended by his Department in the District of St. George's since November, 1919; (b) To whom such sums were sent, and on whose advice such allocations, if any, were made.

Mr. Macdonnell asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing: (1) What sums of money from his Department have been expended in the District of St. George's since November, 1919; (2) To whom such sums of money were sent, and upon whose advice the allocations, if any, were made.

Mr. Macdonnell asked the Minister of Justice to lay on the Table of the House copies of all correspondence relative to the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the circumstances and alleged malpractices as disclosed by the Woodford Affidavit. Correspondence as follows: (1) Between the Dept. of Justice and the Governor; (2) between the Dept. of Justice and those appointed to that Commission now abortive; (3) between the said Commissioners and His Excellency the Governor; also a copy of the said Commission; and further, any other correspondence between his Department and any other parties whatsoever on this matter.

In reply to the last question; the Minister of Justice said there had been no correspondence whatever conducted in the matter. There had been three or four Commissions drafted. In the final draft instructions had been given to the Commissioners to reach a finding on the evidence given. To this the judges, before the Commission was signed, objected, hence no Commission was signed and therefore not issued. Mr. Macdonnell then asked that the Minister table copies of all drafts referred to, and the Minister replied not one was now in existence.

A few days ago Sir Michael Cashin asked the Minister of Public Works, Mr. W. B. Jennings, the following question:—

On whose recommendations did he allocate \$1200 to Ferryland on account of the so-called "wash out" grant, giving the particulars of the work to be done, and to whom the

money was allocated to Capt. Bonia and if it is now in his possession.
 Reply to question asked by Sir M. P. Cashin—No allocation was made for this work till after Capt. Bonia had inspected and reported thereon. See his report for description of work to be done. The money was allocated to Capt. Bonia and is still in his possession as far as I am aware.

Dept. of Public Works,
 St. John's, Nfld.,
 April 8th, 1920.

Sir—Under instructions I visited Aquaforte and Ferryland. At the former mentioned place I arranged with W. J. Maher to give the three bridges reported on the necessary repairs, namely: South West, North East, and Spout Bridges.

The work at Ferryland re the concrete wall asked is on the right of the road going West.

Dimensions about 400 feet long, 6 feet high and 2½ feet thick. The road also requires to be widened and will take an average of five feet off its entire length owing to its present condition, which varies from twenty feet to ten feet only. Rev. A. J. Maher offers to construct the wall and give the two thousand feet of land with the promise that the Government allocate to him \$1200.00 recompense for the land and to offset the purchasing of material, etc. The total cost will be in the vicinity of \$3,500,000.

Yours truly,
 (Sgd.) THOMAS BONIA,
 Outport Road Inspector.
 W. B. Jennings, M.H.A.,
 Minister of Public Works.

The following bills were given third reading and sent to Legislative Council:—"An Act to amend Chapter 4 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Third Series) entitled, "Of Legislative Disabilities and the vacation of Seats in the House of Assembly; "An Act to provide for the Lighting of Streets in the Outports; "An Act for the confirmation of a contract

with the Sisu Shipping Company, Limited."

The following bills passed the Committee Stage and were ordered to be read a third time to-morrow: "An Act to amend Chapter 86 of the Consolidated Statutes of Nfld. (Third Series) entitled, "Of Stipendiary Magistrates and Justices of the Peace"; "An Act to amend Chapter 27 of the Consolidated Statutes of Nfld. (Third Series) entitled, "Of Death Duties"; "An Act concerning the Registry of Midwives"; "An Act to amend Chapter 157 of the Consolidated Statutes of Nfld. (Third Series) entitled, "Of the Fire Patrol."

The House then went into Committee on "The Encouragement of Agricultural Bill."

The Premier said that the Bill introduced a new era so far as an agricultural policy was concerned. In the past the policy consisted of distributing thousands of dollars worth of bulls, rams, etc., to party heaters for Christmas presents, a large number of which very soon found their way to the butcher shops.

Mr. Macdonnell (St. George's), asked for a bonus for land clearing and thought it would be a great boon for people as an encouragement to make farms for themselves. He thought that this bill was the 2nd chapter with the 1st chapter omitted. The first thing wanted was oats, hay and other things to feed cattle before the cattle was imported. Before we get the pedigree stock we want the wherewithal to feed them.

Mr. Bennett (St. John's West) supported Mr. Macdonnell in his request and thought that it would be a step in the right direction. Where we spent \$20,000 every year since 1916 this bill now asked us to vote \$55,000, an increase over last year of \$35,000. He asked where the Minister of Agriculture was located? Why should he be in the Upper House and the Prime Minister acting as his understudy? He could remember in 1914 when the pro-

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sent Prime Minister and Mr. Blandford were ministers in the Upper House, the members now on the other side, Messrs. Coaker, Halford, Jennings, et al., were bombarding the then Premier, Sir Edward Morris, because of the state of affairs. Where were the voices of these gentlemen now? They were quite dumb. This is no time to be fooling the people and he considered this bill nothing more than a fooling bill. He thought that the man in charge of the Department, Dr. Campbell, was not capable of teaching others as he posed to do, and had yet a lot to learn.

Mr. W. J. Walsh (Placentia and St. Mary's) pointed out the ridiculousness of the Prime Minister's reference to the policy of past Governments of which he was a member in their agricultural policies. He did not consider it wise to spend \$55,000 in experimenting. There were other things which were of more importance. What about seed potatoes?

Mr. M. S. Sullivan (Placentia and St. Mary's) advocated getting good stock or none at all. He was also in favor of the granting of bounties for growing root crops. He backed Mr. Macdonnell in his request for clearing land bonus.

Sir M. P. Cashin (Leader of the Opposition) was amused when he compared the Government's agricultural policy with the one outlined in the Government's manifesto. Following out the glowing promises of that luminous document, the Prime Minister was actually allocating \$15,000 more than Sir Edward Morris did in '16, (and \$7,000 which did not belong to them was paid two or three big ship-owners a couple of weeks ago!) The "agricultural policy" of the Government was a delusion and a snare.

Dr. W. E. Jones (Hr. Main) wanted to inform the House of an incident which happened in Hr. Main District in March last. On the eve of the resignation of Mr. Woodford, Dr. Campbell, the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, started what proved to be an "abortive" campaign and went through the District like wildfire. He found some horses sick and thought he could find in this a chance to place a friend of the Government who was disappointed and also in turn the friends of the disgruntled party. He accordingly appointed the man "Horse Doctor" for the District. And so, day after day, on horse back at the pay of \$5.00 per day and "medicine" extra, he travelled up and down looking for horses to cure, an art about which he knew nothing whatever. He had absolutely no qualification whatever for the job. One day he tried his "skill"

on a cow, with the result that the owner lost both his cow and calf. The man has since put in a claim for \$200 or so to the Department of Agriculture and Mines to meet his loss. The claim has not yet been paid, but he ventured to say that on the eve of the bye-election the man's claim would be met in full. This action, his first as Minister on the part of Dr. Campbell, he characterized as a corrupt act in the worst sense of the term.

Mr. R. Hibbs (Fogo) was glad that something was being done to encourage agriculture. He did not wish to accuse the late Government of improper dealings with bulls. They had done their best, he believed. They had done their best for the farmers. He considered that the vote should be for at least \$100,000.

Adjournment was then taken until 8.30.

Night Session.

Mr. Hibbs, continuing, supported the plea for land-clearing bonus. He believed that, while this was not a great farming country, it could become self-supporting.

Sir John Crosbie (Port de Grave) said that the House was lost for a Minister of Agriculture, and for a farmer. He noted the new model farm policy, the increase of \$35,000 in the vote, and the purpose to introduce thoroughbred stock. If his experience counted for anything, when the Minister finished buying the stock he wouldn't have money enough left to build a hen house, and would be handicapped immediately for funds. The difficulty with Agriculture policies in this country was to get the people to take them seriously. He remembered when he represented the District of Bay de Verde, Boards were formed and animals sent to men in different sections to care for. He remembered one individual who got one of the finest looking animals, but who, because he was opposed to the Government, let the animal starve—to make political capital out of it. Where the Morris Government made the mistake in its policy was by making it non-political. The policy of distributing animals and seeds was all right, and did a great deal of good, but it would have been more effective if proper interest had been taken by the people. He advised the government if they intended distributing cattle, to give them to those who would take care of them. Sir John referred to the shortage of seed potatoes, and suggested that where the people were not in a position to buy them, the Department should provide them with seed on a guarantee that an equivalent amount should be returned in the fall. He supported the bonus proposition believing that a good method of distributing it would be half when the land was cleared and half when the crop was up.

The Prime Minister extolled Dr.

Campbell, after which the Bill passed. The House went into Committee on the Fish Export Regulations, when Sir John Crosbie announced he was going to oppose same and he did so because he was a Britisher and believed in British fair play, and no act passed, restraining trade was an act of British fair play. He defied any man to prove to his satisfaction that the regulations benefitted the trade of the country. He was sure that they were a detriment. The situation would have been much better to-day but for these regulations. The exporters had held a meeting a day or two ago, when 26 out of 27 present voted against these regulations. Would not this be a consideration in influencing the Government? It was apparently not. It seems the Government would put them through in defiance of the trade. Well, so be it. He wanted supply and demand to govern, as it had always governed. As regards the point of payment in the regulations, he was right up against it. Why should he not be allowed to sell to the man who would give him some cash and a 60 days' note for the balance? These regulations prevented him from doing that, but if we sell to Mr. Hawes, he is allowed to purchase that way. Well, why not every other buyer be also allowed to do the same? Why discriminate? "The rumor is around the street," said Sir John, "and I think well founded, that Mr. Hawes has refused to go to Italy to consult with the Consorsio unless the arrangement of last year with the 'big six' is signed up again for next year. I want to sell my fish without any Government interference whatever. Why should I be interfered with? It is my own business." He had sold his fish locally when the regulations were put in force and had done better than if he had sent it across. "You are proposing here to have a Board of five people who will make the rules and regulations. These men who are named for that Board wouldn't know a cod's head from a cod's tail nor a sculpin from a tomcod, and these are the men who will dictate to me as to where I shall sell my fish. Mr. Coaker said yesterday the day of reckoning is coming. He and I differ only on one point. The day of reckoning is here." He hoped that Mr. Coaker, for his own sake, would not put the Bill in force, but if it is on the Statute Book people will be suspicious and want to know the minute it will be sprung on them. If this Bill goes as law then he predicted the days of selling fish along Water Street in yaffles were again upon us. He pitied Mr. Coaker because with the possible exception of Mr. Halfyard he was associated with men in the Executive Council who did not know a sculpin from a squid.

Prime Minister—We are unable to identify you Sir John.

Sir John Crosbie—"You are right. Not only now, but there has been many a time that I saw you when you were unable to identify me or any body else. If you wish me to tell you what you know about fish I will say that what you know about it would fill one leaf of a very small book. But it is a good man who minds his own business and we have them to-day walking in high places who don't know their own business, not to say anything of other peoples."

A Member—"What about Mr. Foot's knowledge of fish?"

Sir John Crosbie—Oh well, Mr. Foot does not pretend to know anything, anyway. Talking about keeping

up the price of fish, I have often heard it said that Mr. Coaker did the trick, but he has as much chance of keeping up the price of fish as I have of keeping a pit prop under the heavens. The banks will do the trick for us this year. If the banks say fish will be a good price, it will be a good price; if they "tighten up," down she goes." He asked that in view of the trade meeting this forenoon to discuss this question, further action be stayed until they had discussed what action they would take in the matter.

Sir Michael Cashin backed Sir John in this request and the Minister agreed.

After some further explanations by Mr. Coaker the Committee rose.

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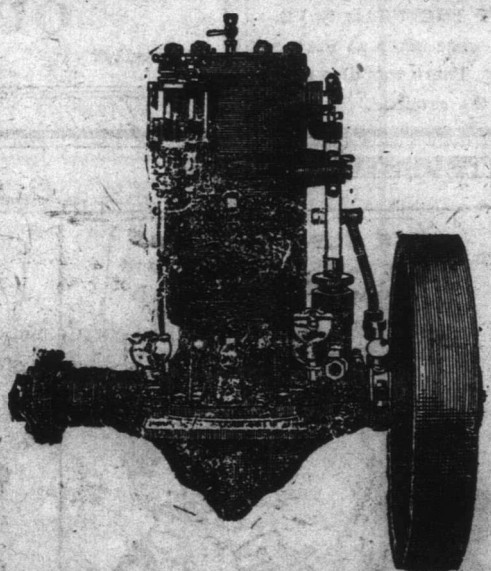
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