

Humber Deal--A Reid Deal!

Reids Get Two Million Dollars From Government for Railway Rights, Dry Dock and Steamers.

The Railway Contract and Humber Contract Joint Propositions.

Reids Retain all Their Lands and Water Powers in the Colony except 200,000 Acres, and Those on Humber Valley.

A large number of citizens attended the House of Assembly yesterday morning before 11.5 when the Speaker took the chair every seat in the gallery and downstairs was occupied, standing room being at a premium.

After questions had been asked by Messrs. Higgins, Walsh, P. Cashin, J. Moore and Sir M. P. Cashin the Prime Minister moved the House into committee of the whole to consider the Humber Resolutions, which together with a general agreement to be tabled, Mr. Hibbs occupied the position of chairman of committee.

Mr. Richard Squires for almost two hours occupied the attention of the House in reading a lengthy manuscript reviewing the career of the Sir G. W. Whitworth Company, Ltd., and other concerns directly interested in the Humber and Railway projects; the Imperial Trade Facilities and the many national propositions throughout the British Empire.

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whatever; they will be entirely clear of the Railway and Telegraph line, express service, Dry Dock, and steamers. The Reids will have nothing to do with transportation after June 30th.

Mr. Higgins: How much do you propose to pay the Reids for it?

The Prime Minister: Two million dollars in 5 1/2 per cent. Newfoundland Government bonds.

Mr. Higgins in reply said the review of the Prime Minister was interesting and appropriate. He thought it unfair to further discuss the matter at this stage; but would be in a better position to consider same and that of the absolute elimination of the Reids and the Railway when the resolutions are ready and tabled. We, (speaking for the Opposition) propose to discuss the propositions as business matters, a fact incumbent upon them as representatives of the people. We, on this side of the House expect, and should get from the Government, fullest possible information and a complete analogy of the present situation. So far as the Humber project is concerned it may have its advantages or it may have results that will be disastrous. The matter of a guarantee of interest on two million pounds was a big thing for a small country like Newfoundland and the Legislature should be quite sure in every detail before it committed itself. Every phase of the contracts and agreements had to be carefully gone into and studied. Some of the details had only been given the House this afternoon, and it was necessary to have all correspondence and reports of land and water surveys; also the legal opinions secured by the Government re the railway. Never was a time when industrial progress was more desired. It seemed extraordinary that a concern which holds such a large position in the world with its huge capital and enterprises, that we should have to give such big guarantees. If all their reports are true then we suffer no risk but if there is a weak link in the chain then it may be otherwise and the matter must bear the fullest possible disclosure. We ought to have furnished us all documents, arbitrations and other material. We must remember that we are dealing with the same people who are interested in both deals. The situation now is that the Government must run the Railway or pay someone else to run it; in either case it will cost the country a half million dollars a year. He thought the Blackstad-Greenwood proposition was better for Newfoundland than this one. At any rate, said Mr. Higgins, the country was told before and this was a great project of the Government. But such was not the case. It now transpires that this scheme promoted by the Newfoundland Products Corporation or in other words the Reids, together with the Armstrong-Whitworth Company. They negotiated with the British Government and the Newfoundland Government for certain concessions which were granted. The Newfoundland Government had nothing whatever to do with promoting the proposition. The thing has been before the country since 1915 and is not now at all. The only alteration in the contract is to place the burden of a guarantee on the country, as in the contract of 1915 no such guarantee was asked for, it was merely a proposition to spend money in erecting mills, etc. In return for Government concessions. It must be carefully noted also that in case of failure of the Company the British Government must be entirely satisfied as to its liability before the Newfoundland Government is entitled to anything. Newfoundland comes off second best. True the Government was committed to the project but the Opposition had a duty to perform and would do so in the best interests of the country. The Prime Minister had given his side and the Opposition would reply.

BEIDS RETAIN ALL LANDS EXCEPT THOSE IN DISPUTE SINCE 1904.

Sir Michael Cashin asked if the purchase from the Reids of the Railway for which they would be paid two million dollars, also meant the purchase of their lands and other waterpowers they were given under the different contracts, or do they still hold these lands and waterpowers.

The Prime Minister: They retain all their lands with the exception of the 200,000 acres given them in 1904.

Sir Michael Cashin: That means they retain all their lands other than those given to the Armstrong-Whitworth Company in the Humber Valley.

The Prime Minister: Yes, everything outside the Humber lands, which go to this new Company and the two hundred thousand acres granted to them in 1904, but which through some dispute, were never in their possession.

The Committee then rose and the Speaker left the chair.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

In answer to a question asked by Mr. Moore that the Minister of Public Works lay on the table of the House a statement of all monies voted to Ferryland District since February, 1923, the following amount was submitted, viz., \$6,980.00.

REVENUE FOR 11 MONTHS.

The following statement of the Revenue was tabled in answer to a question asked by Sir Michael Cashin last Thursday. The figures are for the 11 months from July 1st, 1922 to May 31st, 1923.

Customs	\$5,509,564.40
Light Dues	20,754.68
Harbor Dues	1,078.00
Miscellaneous Customs	40,405.45
Export Duties	125,886.66
Postal Receipts	188,833.51
Telegraph Receipts	125,094.00
Crown Dues	67,427.10
Stamps	34,907.61
Liquor	495,088.38
Fines and Forfeitures	4,777.72
Broom Dept.	4,835.38
Institution Fees	27,816.49
Miscellaneous	286,934.12
Income Tax	330,096.20
Total	\$7,272,031.70
Estimated Revenue for June	1,385,000.00
Total year	\$8,657,031.70

QUESTIONS ASKED.

Sir M. P. Cashin: I give notice that I will on to-morrow ask the Hon. the Prime Minister to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the amount expended in this Colony up to date on account of the Humber enterprise and a copy of the Order, or Orders-in-Council in connection with the same. A copy of the agreement with the Bank of Montreal for the loan of the said money, and a statement as to terms of repayment, etc., also a statement of the amount expended in England to date on account of the same enterprise; a copy of all correspondence with the British Government or any department thereof and with the Trade Facilities Board in relation to the same.

Mr. Walsh: I give notice that I will on to-morrow ask the Hon. the Prime Minister if the seat of Hon. Dr. Campbell, in the Legislative Council was vacated on his becoming a candidate for the House of Assembly, according to the terms of Section 8 of the Legislative Disabilities Act, Chapter 4, Consolidated Statutes, and if not, why not; also if it was so vacated that gentleman been re-appointed to be Honorable, and if so to lay on the Table a copy of the Commission re-appointing him; and if he has not been re-appointed, to state by what authority he took his seat in that House at the sitting last Thursday.

On motion the House adjourned till Monday.

LEAGUE FOOTBALL.—St. George's Field, this evening at 7.30. B.S. vs. Cadets. Admission 10c. Ladies free. Grandstand 10c. extra. Boys free.

June 14, 1923.

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MAJESTIC TO-DAY



The Majestic management begs to announce that the Theatre will close on Saturday night, 16th, for the summer months. Don't fail to see the closing picture, BEAU REVEL, an excellent production

The Commercial Conference in Venice.

The purpose of this Conference was to enquire into the performance and promise of Esperanto in world commerce. Only official representatives of commercial institutions took part. The following report speaks for itself.

"This time we were certainly surprised, and not only ourselves, but even the courageous issuers of the invitations; the Italian Chamber of Commerce for Switzerland, who did not expect such a result and anticipated, like ourselves, only a small gathering preparatory to a subsequent and larger conference. So we have ground for congratulation.

"208 organizations from 23 countries took part, noteworthy among which were 84 Chambers of Commerce in Europe, 2 in America, 1 in Africa, Asia, and even Oceania; the 21 great specimen Fairs of Europe, 20 touring associations, 7 ministries of commerce and finance, and 60 industrial federations, bank unions, export associations, commercial schools, etc.

"They were represented in Venice by 150 official delegates, and altogether more than 250 persons took part in the conference. Only official delegates spoke and voted. Esperantist societies were not received. So the conference maintained a purely technical character. The largest group of delegates was the Italian, then the French, the Swiss, the British, the Czechoslovakian, the German, the Danish, the Rumanian, and the Hungarian.

"We must this year specially congratulate our French friends for this encouraging success. They worked hard to bring it about and they took a front place in the conference. Because of complaints of important French industrialists and scientists, the Minister of Public Instruction had realized his mistake of last year (in prohibiting the instruction of Esperanto in the schools) and had put it right. With his consent and that of the Minister of Commerce, the Paris Chamber of Commerce at the last moment decided to send to Venice its eminent member, M. Andre Baudet, who immediately took five of six lessons in esperanto conversation and astonished the conference by his excellent speaking.

"A similar result was obtained by the delegate of the Milan Chamber of Commerce, Prof. Ravizza, Director of its Commercial School, who learned the grammar in the train and spoke Esperanto very clearly during the Conference, slowly, but quite cor-

rectly. Coming sceptical, he went away convinced and seriously enthusiastic. Like Prof. Boret after the Geneva Conference (of teachers, in regard to the instruction of Esperanto in elementary schools) he will be the most noteworthy recruit after the Venetian. We await with interest his report to the Milan Chamber of Commerce.

"From Great Britain the London Chamber of Commerce sent an official representative, and we have to thank Mr. Edmonds not only for his tireless work of correspondence during the past year, but also for his remarkable investigation among English business firms. His report merits being printed in extenso with its valuable testimonies from manufacturers and importers, who have declared their experience and satisfaction in the use of Esperanto. The Sheffield Chamber of Commerce sent its President, Mr. John Merchant, whose constant good humor and patience made everything run smoothly.

"Two German Ministries were represented, and the great Specimen Fairs of Frankfurt and Leipzig, play an important part. Under the presidency of Dr. Dietrich the Fairs of all countries strengthened their inter-organisation and were able to testify to the Conference of their profitable use of the international language.

"Twice as large as the Geneva, the Venetian Conference was also more important in that a larger proportion of official delegates had learned the language simply in order to participate. Without any special arrangement, Esperanto became immediately the only language used in the sessions.

"At the beginning the delegates told of actual experiences, especially in the Specimen Fairs. Afterwards the discussion centered around the resolution proposed by the Paris Chamber of Commerce (recommending that the Chambers of Commerce of the world should co-operate in making Esperanto generally used commercially.)

"There was an atmosphere of perfect liberty, and one after another, the Commercial Chambers of the different countries announced their approval. For the larger countries, the reporters mentioned some unfavorable votes on the part of some Chambers, but the proportion of favorable votes was remarkably, e.g., in France 30 Yes against 5 No. After a long discussion the Conference unanimously accepted the Paris resolution and recommended Esperanto to the business men of the world as a tried and proved auxiliary language.

Then there was a very useful session in regard to experiences in tour-

ing, an interesting discussion on telegraphy and wireless telephony, and a fine closing session summing up results. The whole Conference worked seriously and earnestly. Practical business methods obtained throughout. The report, now available in French, English, German, Italian, and Esperanto is a most informing document full of facts, testimony, and support.

"A new means has been created to spread the auxiliary language in a new circle, perhaps the most important of all reached up to the present. Translated by Rev. R. E. Fairbairn, Delegate Universal Esperanto Association.

The Nfld. British Society will hold their Annual Garden Party Wednesday July 11th. Full particulars later.—June 14, 21, 28, 29.

The Lighter Side.

Men's clothes are modest enough, but a man can't conceal himself decently in a law suit.

Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the liquid that is offered you as tea.

Why doesn't a hen lay a loaf of bread? Because she hasn't the crust.

Clothes may not make the man, but they certainly show off many women.

Advertising gives wings to ideas and carries them throughout the country.

Westinghouse Electric Bulbs, 15, 20, 25 and 40 watt, to be had at BOWLING BROTHERS, Ltd., Electrical Department.—June 4, 11.

Floral Tributes to the Departed.

Nothing so nice as Flowers in time of sorrow. We can supply wreaths and crosses on short notice, and guarantee satisfaction. We will endeavour to meet the humblest purse. "Say it with Flowers." VALLEY NURSERY LTD., Taster Brothers.

HELLO!

TO OUR CUSTOMERS:

If you want to order any of our

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June 14, 21, 28, 29.

NEW TASMANIAN APPLES—In Boxes.

NEW GRASS IRISH BUTTER & VALENCIA ORANGES to arrive by s.s. Sachem Wednesday next.

NOW IN STOCK:

LIBBY'S SAUER KRAUT—Large Cans, 18c. LIBBY'S WHITE ONIONS. FINEST CANADIAN BUTTER—50c. lb. ARMOUR'S OX TONGUE—1 1/2 lb. & 2-lb. Cans. BAKER'S FANCY OX TONGUES—2's Glass. CAMPBELL'S PORK & BEANS, Tomato Sauce 16c. Can. CAMPBELL'S SOUPS, 10 varieties—16c. Can. "PET" EVAPORATED MILK, Baby Size—Just the thing for picnics & trouters—10c. BROWN & POLSON'S CORN FLOUR—28c. lb. MORTON'S CORN FLOUR, 1-lb. Pkts.—20c. AMERICAN CORN FLOUR, 1-lb. Pkts.—15c. MORTON'S POTATO FLOUR, 1-lb. Pkts.—22c. NESTLE'S EVAP. MILK, full pound cans—14c. PINEAPPLE CHUNKS, full 1 1/2 lb. Cans—24c.

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