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WAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

At 3.30 the members went to Government House and conveyed the Address in Reply to His Excellency who expressed gratification at the unanimity existing among our people at this grave crisis.

On returning to the House the Bill respecting a Volunteer Force in this Colony and the War Measures Bill, conferring certain powers upon the Governor in Council, passed all stages.

The Bill relating to the exportation of mine sticks and pulpwood was introduced by the Prime Minister. Considerable enquiries from the United Kingdom for colliery pitwood which was very much in demand as the supply from Norway is being curtailed owing to the war, gave rise to this bill. The Prime Minister then read a message received by Hon. E. R. Bowring from Mr. Lorrimer, an Imperial Commissioner who was here a short time ago.

GLASGOW, Sept. 3rd, 1914.
To Honourable Edgar Bowring,
St. John's.

Colliery pitwood most urgently wanted, 2½ inch diameter thin end upwards, Great Britain must have supplies from December onwards. What can you do. Wire me and President of Board of Trade.

LORIMER,
c Dubs, Glasgow.

The Premier stated that similar messages had been received by other gentlemen. As to the exportation of pulpwood the Premier said the policy of all Governments had been to forbid its exportation, but in view of circumstances existing at present the Government proposed to ask for power to grant a license for a period ending Dec. 31st, 1915, the export duty on the wood per cord to be \$1.00 and the Governor in Council reserving the right to prescribe the rate of pay to men engaged.

Mr. Kent, on behalf of the Opposition agreed to the temporary license to cut pit sticks. He thought everything should be done to keep the col-

lieries at work, particularly those which supplied the navy with steam coal. Every patriotic motive justified it. As to the cutting of pulpwood on the Labrador, he raised no objection if the cut was limited to this winter and the export limited to the close of navigation on the Labrador next year. He thought the course was justified by the need of providing all the work we could for the coming winter. Messrs. Coaker and Lloyd concurred in this view. The bill was not proceeded with further, the Premier undertaking to amend the bill to meet these views.

The Bill for the raising of \$250,000 to provide for the Volunteer Force was introduced by the Finance Minister. He said it was the first loan the Colony was ever called upon to raise and the reason it was asked for was to pay the expenses incurred for the sustenance of 500 men. He emphasized that this amount of a quarter of a million dollars was not a significant contribution compared with the returns in the way of protection we have and are getting at present from the British Empire. The Minister paid a tribute to the young men who were enlisting for active service and concluded by saying that the Loan asked for was only intended to be temporary and to be obtained from the local banks.

Mr. Coaker who was the next speaker said he would do his utmost to expedite the work of the Government concerning war measures. He refused to act on the Committee because he believed that Government were holding meetings for political ends. He

eulogized the St. John's boys for coming to the front so nobly as volunteers and endorsed the Finance Minister's remarks that the outports would do their duty.

The Prime Minister replied that there was a misapprehension as to the meetings in relation to the volunteer movement. He said that the Government had nothing to do with them, they were public and that he had been appointed by the Nominating Committee.

Mr. F. J. Morris followed endorsing the remarks of previous speakers on the splendid response that the volunteer call is meeting with. As a member of a Committee he spoke enthusiastically of the outports who were putting forward their best endeavours to help the movement along. He said that the response from the outports would be more liberal when the young men go home from the fishery; besides the outports were better fitted for the Naval Reserve in which service a couple of hundred were now.

Mr. Lloyd offered a few observations on the obligations of the Dominions to the Mother Country. It was true our outports were better fitted to supply the fleet, but the great need at present was for men to fight on land. Without any loss of importance the Navy had won a silent victory, and the great ocean ways were almost as safe during these days of war as they were in days of peace. But for the British Navy not a cod's tail could leave Newfoundland for our markets overseas. That was one of the benefits we received from the Mother Land. The fact that we lived under the folds of the Union Jack was owing to the men and money spent in the past by the Mother Land. To-day our home brethren were bearing a burden of nearly \$3,500,000,000, largely incurred in the past in making and keeping the Empire. This entailed an annual interest charge of about \$120,000,000 a year. Of this, the Colonies bore nothing and paid nothing. The upkeep of the Army and Navy cost this year in the neighborhood of \$400,000,000, over \$8 a head.

The Colonies paid but a trifle. In Newfoundland we paid a few cents a head. When war broke out the British Parliament passed a war vote of nearly \$600,000,000, or about eleven dollars a head. The people at home are furnishing over a million men for the Army and Navy. If we were furnishing men in the same proportion, we should be training 5,000 men. These figures help us to realize what our brethren at home are giving in the way of men and money; and in endurance, fortitude and bravery, they are showing themselves worthy sons of sires who won immortal renown on both field and flood. We share the fruits of these bounteous gifts in manhood and money. They contribute to the obligations which lie upon us, and to do what we can, though our population is small and our resources scanty. This bill asks us to assume an obligation for \$250,000 for the 500 volunteers who are to go to the front. For this we cheerfully vote. It is but to assume the obligations to pay interest on a debt of a dollar a head. If more is required, we will give it as cheerfully.

The Loan Bill then went through all stages. The House then adjourned till 8 o'clock.

On resumption the opening business was the "War or Emergency Budget" brought down by the Finance Minister. It was as follows:—

War Budget.
Mr. Chairman.

It is unnecessary for me to multiply words in dealing with the finan-

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The duties on the necessities of life mentioned above will, we estimate, yield us in the vicinity of \$400,000. The other duties will yield us a hundred thousand more. This will be sufficient, we calculate, to meet any shortage in the Revenue and also the interest on a loan of \$250,000 which we propose to raise for the purpose of equipping, despatching and paying the Newfoundland regiment to serve at the front. Even, however, if our expectations of receiving this amount of Revenue from these sources are not realized, and it is always well to have such a consideration in one's mind, we expect to be able to cope

with any shortage that may arise through the balance of the cash reserve which now lies to the Colony's credit in the Bank of Montreal. This amount, as honourable members well know, is \$500,000. We propose to take from that the sum of \$257,000 or whatever sum is found to be the exact deficit on the account of the past fiscal year, when that amount is ascertained in October and to liquidate the deficit balance with this sum. That will leave us about \$243,000 still available, and with the duties which we now propose to impose and that \$257,000, we should be able to meet all claims against the Colony on account of the fiscal year now ensuing, and after that we believe that the restoration of the trade and commerce in the Colony will enable us to regain our former fortunate position of having a surplus every year.

MR. KENT considered the statement presented to be of an unprecedented and extraordinary character. He explained the position of the Opposition who were vigorously opposed to the financial policy of the Government. This opinion he believed had been amply justified. All the expenditure referred to in the Budget of the Finance Minister were not caused by war. However, at the present juncture the Opposition would do all in their power to assist the Government, reserving all criticism until the next session of the House. He expressed the belief that the Colony had been spending money recklessly and drawing on reserves, and in consequence the Colony is now without normal reserves. Continuing he said that the trade depression was brought about entirely by the war and it was common knowledge that as long as the war continues the trade will remain unimpaired. For instance the Bell Island tax was a source of income to the Colony which has been seriously affected by war in as much as the mines there are practically shut down altogether. Yet there was another phase to the Minister's statement to be considered. He hoped that the business of the Government would be conducted economically during the war crisis and that the extra taxation would not remain for long.

THE PRIME MINISTER in his reply endorsed nearly all that was said by the leader of the Opposition. He said that the Opposition had lived up to their contract in dealing generously with the Government at this time of emergency. The financial stringency that was felt here, he continued, prevailed everywhere and the large expenditure which the Colony was justifiable. The revenue was large and the country wanted it spent in giving new and better services. He believed that things are painted worse than they really are by some people. He saw no reason to despair as he thought that when conditions would again get normal a great development in the country will take place.

MR. COAKER associated himself

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with the statement of Mr. Kent as to the attitude of the Opposition and asked for economy and retrenchment in the public service. He read some letters which showed that the writers were bent on retrenchment in the Civil Service.

MR. JENNINGS speaking of conditions north he was of opinion that the people there would need assistance from the Government during the coming winter.

The Tariff, Resolutions and Revenue Bill were then passed, after which the House adjourned till this afternoon.