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### MR. COAKER ON FOOD INSPECTION; MAKES TELLING REPLY TO ATTACKS MADE ON FISHERMEN'S ADVOCATE

(Continued)  
Mr. Winsor—Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to say more than a few words. I was evidently one of those referred to yesterday by Mr. Moulton, when he said that with the exception of Mr. Stone all the members of the back row had been insulting to the members on the other side.

If I have insulted any man in this House I would be glad to know what I said. If I have done so, it has been through my ignorance of the rules and regulations. I do not expect that I know them all yet, but I do not think that I have ever insulted any man on the floors of this House. We are new to this kind of thing, and are likely sometimes to say the wrong thing, but if I have insulted anyone I want to say I am sorry.

#### As Good as the Others

I thought when I was coming here I would have to turn my tongue over, but it appears now that I am pretty well as good as most men. We are here for the most part as fishermen, and not used to public speaking. But I could not think that we have any of us insulted any member of this House. Mr. Moulton's references to us were, I think, most insulting.

My hon. friend, Mr. Higgins, made reference to Old Age Pensions. Five or six cases of the working of this

scheme came under my own notice and this is what has happened. An old man and woman before this scheme came into operation were receiving pauper relief. They each got \$5.00 a quarter. That is to say \$10.00 then they got the pension. But when they went to get the poor relief they found that it was stopped. So now they are getting \$50.00 where before they got \$40.00. This is the only additional advantage. This is the position in four cases out of five.

#### The Suspicious Ones

Mr. Moulton said that we were a suspicious lot. Well, Sir, after looking over the accounts that we have before us, it is a wonder that we are a bit suspicious. If we are suspicious it is the Government that is to blame. It strikes me from what I have seen that for a great many years these fishermen have been like lambs led to the slaughter.

My hon. friend, Mr. Higgins, said that he was in hearty accord with the Union. "God speed the Union," he said. He was glad to see the Union and the good it was doing. He said it was all right for the fishermen to have a Union, but it had no right to go into politics.

That is all very well, but we found that we can do a great deal by going into politics, and we are going to stay in. And we are not going to sit down

here and be insulted. I have never taken an insult from any man. And I do not intend to sit here and be insulted by any man on any side of the House. If I see my duty before me, I will do it, and I will not be deterred by anything that may be said.

#### Not to Blame

With regard to what has been said in the newspapers, I may say that Mr. Coaker is not to blame for all that. At the Convention that the Union held Mr. Coaker asked us how we thought the paper was being run. If we thought that it was being run wrong we had only to say so and he would change it. But we all agreed that it was being run on the proper lines. The fishermen of the country want it run that way.

My chief object in rising was to say that I was sorry if I had insulted any one, and I repeat now that if I have done so, I take it back. I have never intended to insult any member of this House.

#### Was Guiltless

Mr. Targett—Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a few remarks. There is one thing that I can say and that is I never insulted any man in my life. I have never before known a man to accuse me of that. I was very sorry to-day when the hon. member said that we

were insulting and suspicious. When I am going to make a remark I always think well before I make it. I know what I am going to say before I say it.

Mr. Moulton thought it was unjust to say anything against the Government. I would like to point out to the hon. gentleman that he did not think it unjust to fling insults across the House.

#### Opposition Insulted

I don't know whether he was aware of it; but I know that I am aware that we have received several insults from the Government side. I thought the House of Assembly was something better than I have found it. I did not know what I was going to do! I was very nervous before I left home. I have met plenty of men of all classes, but I never got such insults until I came here.

Insults have been thrown across the House such as calling us cullage. I admit we are illiterate, but if we had been born with a silver spoon in our mouths, we would have been better educated and would have known how to conduct ourselves. The trouble has been, Mr. Chairman, that a great many of us had to earn the money before we could be educated. If we had had the chances and the opportunities probably we would not have been subjected to such remarks.

#### All Liable to Err

I don't want to be bad friends with any man; I don't want to say anything against any man; what I said to a man I was satisfied to have that man say the same about me. We are here assembled as the representatives of the people. I don't remember seeing one of the Government members before, except Mr. Devereux. It is my impression that all of us, from the Premier right down to the last man in the building, are liable to make mistakes. Though the Premier has been here for thirty years, he is just as liable to err as anyone. All the greatest men that ever lived have made mistakes.

Now, I wish to make a few remarks with regard to the spending of money. I believe that a great deal of money was misspent with regard to the Agricultural grants. When I was looking over the Estimates the other day, I saw the payments made to the Post Offices. I thought they were very low. One man got \$36. Was that not a grand salary? It is a shame to give a man with such a responsible situation as a postmaster such a low salary as \$36.

#### Can Afford More

I think, Mr. Chairman, that the Government can afford to give more than that. Often there is a money order filled and a telephone connected with the post office, and consequently the postmaster has a great deal of work to perform. He has to render an account for every cent to the Postmaster-General, and if there is a cent out in his account, that account is sent back to him. I think, Mr. Chairman, that such a position should be better paid.

After the elections of 1909 many men were thrown out of their positions. I know one man from Hant's Harbor who lost his job after the elections because he voted against the Government. Was not that most unjust? I must now return to the question of expenditure. In 1909 in Bay de Verde district, there was a magistrate, an honest and learned man who could well do his work, and we find that he was pensioned, and did not do a stroke of work for the last two years. The man who got his place is a personal friend of mine, and the man who lost his job is a personal friend of mine, and I have great respect for him. I think, however, that action of the Government was very unfair.

#### Return the Bouquet

Mr. Stone—Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a few remarks in answer to a kind of bouquet that was thrown to the Opposition members, as I believe it is up to us to throw it back. The subject of discussion before the House adjourned was the daily papers, such as The Herald, etc.

As we are about to pass a law dealing with the inspection of foods, I think it would be wise to pass a law for the inspection of papers, and the prevention of certain kinds of articles in them. I speak because the Union and the President, Mr. Coaker, have been attacked in these papers. As a member of the F.P.U., and as a representative of the District of Trinity, I may say that we are here by the people's consent and that we are determined to do our duties as their representatives.

#### Received More Votes

The Premier hinted that we had received less votes than the Government, but I venture to say that we received more votes, although less members were returned for the Opposition than for the Government. The Premier was also wrong when he stated that Bay de Verde was one of the strongest Union settlements; we say that it was one of our weakest districts.

We will not sit quietly in our seats and listen to the Government members attacking the F.P.U. It was also stated by the Prime Minister that

Sir Robert Bond was the means of giving us a great deal of support because the Liberal party supporters gave us their votes. Though I believe we would have lost some votes, yet I think we would still have been here with a majority of votes.

#### Northern Districts

The Northern districts returned their men, and I trust they will have reason to feel proud of them, and that the Government will aid them in their efforts for the welfare of the country. We don't believe in the present Government, because we don't believe in the policy that is being carried out. The hon. members on the Government side will not agree with me because they want to back up the Premier.

Did he not say that the five branches would not cost more than \$4,000,000, and now we know that they will cost about ten or twelve millions? Was not that misleading? We are all able to make mistakes. Did not the Premier make a mistake when he said that if he came back he would so improve matters that two blades of grass would grow where only one grew before? Did he not make a mistake when he said he would cover the Southside hills with sheep? There are many things that the Government has promised to perform that have not yet been carried out.

#### Price of Coals

Take the question of coal. Is not coal more expensive to-day than ever it was? I hold here in my hand a statement as to the cost of coal supplied to the Government. I see the coal supplied to the lighthouse at Catalina cost \$15 a ton for anthracite and \$9 for soft coal. It is about time that we began to look into these things and cut down such enormous expenditures. We would then be able to carry out a real Old Age Pension policy and pay a few more old men.

In my election campaign I came across many cases of old gentlemen who had applied for a pension and had not been able to get it. If we cut down these expenses for such things as coal, we would be able to pay all deserving cases a proper pension, and thus reward old men worn out in the service of the country.

(To be continued)

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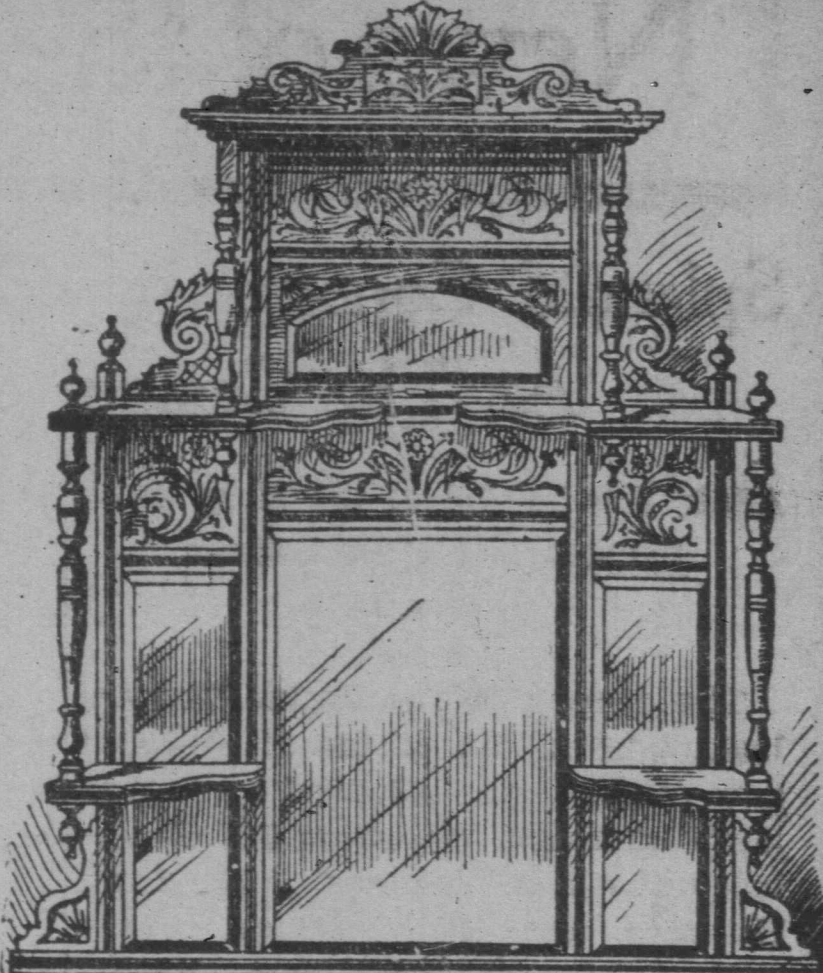
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