

A Macedonian Appeal.

Government Asks Assistance of Opposition--Will Remove Regulations But Cannot Accept Amendment Now Before House.

The House met at 3 p.m. yesterday. Notices of question were given by Sir M. P. Cashin, Messrs. Fox, Bennett and Walsh. Answers to questions on the Order Paper were then tabled by the various departmental heads. Questions on previous order papers were also answered.

Sir John Crosbie then rose to continue his speech on the Address in Reply. He first dealt with an article which appeared in the Daily Star on Saturday, the responsibility for which he laid at the door of the Premier. The Star was the latter's paper and on his head rested the responsibility. "It is about time you were put in your place, Sir," said Sir John, "and your daily slurs in your filthy rag hurled at some other than myself. The Star sneers at me because it thinks I am uneducated. That is my misfortune. Owing to illness when young I did not have the opportunity the Prime Minister had and although I may not possess the powers of oratory the same as he possesses, I possess something just as good and that is common sense. But if I had the education and made such a mess of things as he has made with the Government I would run away somewhere where people would not look at me. I am attacking you in the House in your political capacity and charging that you are absolutely incompetent and incapable to run a Government. All the answers I got from you is abuse. All the Prime Ministers we ever had before you always stood up in this place and gave some reason for their actions until we struck you. When we attack your Government you come back in the Star with filthy abuse, and if you cannot use up enough of your billingsgate to make it effective you then raise the religious cry. You have made such a mess of things by your methods that I give you notice that before I lend a hand to the helping out of this country from her present position, you, Sir, will have to depart. Now take a note, will you, and remember in days to come what I have now said."

Sir John then turned his attention to the Fish Regulations and said that the situation was more acute than ever and if they were not repealed there would be serious trouble. Letters were being constantly received by members on both sides asking for the repeal of the Regulations. He then read the following letter received by the Leader of the Opposition from Capt. W. T. Hollett of Burin:

Burin North,
April 13th, 1921.
Hon. Sir M. P. Cashin,
St. John's.

Dear Sir:—The Trade of this coast is waiting to see what the Government intends doing with the act referring to the exportation of codfish. If the act isn't repealed at once, the business men cannot attempt to meddle with fish in any way. When we think of the losses made possible on this coast by those fool-hardy regulations, when one watches his business driven into bankruptcy by the actions of an individual power, mad and delighted to put the West Coast out of business, it is time to take notice. Certainly the intelligence of the country will demand that the act be repealed, so that Coaker and his machinery won't be allowed again to bring about conditions that will paralyze trade and complete the ruin of the country.

The standardization is useless and costly to the shipper if not to the country. If a shipper wishes to ship poor quality he will reap the results. If a firm will ship good quality it will be to his advantage, and rightly so. I personally have had to deal with several inspectors and have had to show them what fish was suitable or otherwise.

And again, why should we continue to pay thirty cents per quintal export tax, in most cases on \$4.00 fish, meaning anywhere from five to ten per cent. and with an increasing duty in Port of fish by Government guarantee. It is about time you were put in your place, Sir," said Sir John, "and your daily slurs in your filthy rag hurled at some other than myself. The Star sneers at me because it thinks I am uneducated. That is my misfortune. Owing to illness when young I did not have the opportunity the Prime Minister had and although I may not possess the powers of oratory the same as he possesses, I possess something just as good and that is common sense. But if I had the education and made such a mess of things as he has made with the Government I would run away somewhere where people would not look at me. I am attacking you in the House in your political capacity and charging that you are absolutely incompetent and incapable to run a Government. All the answers I got from you is abuse. All the Prime Ministers we ever had before you always stood up in this place and gave some reason for their actions until we struck you. When we attack your Government you come back in the Star with filthy abuse, and if you cannot use up enough of your billingsgate to make it effective you then raise the religious cry. You have made such a mess of things by your methods that I give you notice that before I lend a hand to the helping out of this country from her present position, you, Sir, will have to depart. Now take a note, will you, and remember in days to come what I have now said."

Why should the revenue of this country be used for the benefit of the northern fishermen more so than the West Coast fishermen, as I understand on the purchase of salt in 1920 there was considerable money lost. What about the report of purchase of a quantity of Labrador fish by the Government? If it is true that upwards of \$340,000 was paid for Labrador fish by Government guarantee, it is time for the West Coast to demand the reason for this discrimination. If one man is guaranteed why not all? We are supposed to be living in a land of equal rights. We do not wish this protection because we know the revenues are not equal to it, but we do demand equal rights and free trade.

Repeal the Act referring to the exportation of codfish, remove all taxes relating to shipments, dispense with the standardization and give those inspectors that are receiving one hundred dollars per month, a hundred and one of them, a chance to earn a living in some other way; and bring back our fish commissioners that are enjoying their fat salaries living at the rate of five thousand a year, thus costing the country ten thousand dollars each.

The above is a just reason why the regulations, standardization and the whole outfit should be thrown out, and the country be permitted to do business on usual lines.

Yours very truly,
W. H. HOLLETT.

St. John's,
April 18, 1921.

SIR MICHAEL'S REPLY.

Capt. W. H. Hollett,
Burin.
Your message received. Myself and associates are in entire sympathy with you and your fellow sufferers through Government's blundering policy respecting fisheries which has proved so disastrous to country. If representatives of southern districts had been as much alive to your interests as they were to securing fat salaries and other pickings for themselves present deplorable condition of staple industry would never have occurred. Opposition has amendment to Address in Reply now being considered by Assembly which amendment demands repeal of Coaker fishery policy and we are vigorously insisting on this step being at once taken. If we are outvoted we will take other steps to secure this result.

suit and you can count confidently upon Opposition doing everything possible to put fishermen and exporters in position where they can carry on their industry this summer.

M. P. CASHIN.

"We have done our best," said Sir John, "to see that justice is done men like Capt. Hollett but our reward consisted of ridicule in the Government press. The West Coast merchants could no longer supply if the Regulations were kept on the Statute Book. He would like to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries if it were correct that the Regulations were to be lifted."

Mr. Coaker—Yes, they will be lifted. (Loud cheering greeted this remark.)

Sir John Crosbie thanked the Hon. Minister and then stated his intention of dealing with the Railway Policy of the Government again. At this juncture the Premier left the House and Sir John asked for adjournment until he returned. The

Minister of Justice said the Premier had been called out to see the Mayor but there was no reason why the adjournment of the Debate should not take place. Sir John then asked if the amendment could be voted on before he went on with his speech. The Minister of Justice thought it was a very good idea. Sir John then asked the House to accept the resolutions. After what Mr. Coaker had said he thought they would do so. If the Regulations were taken off the Statute Book they would all be willing to help put the country into the path of prosperity again.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries then spoke in defence of his policies of last year as regards fish. The Minister's defence was a weak one and as bare as the Speech from the Throne. He admitted that the Fish Regulations had been a mistake but said that if the trade of the country had been unfettered they might have been successful. He also placed a great deal of the blame for their failure on the rates of exchange in our various foreign markets. The depression now existent all over Europe and in fact, all over the world, was also responsible to a great extent for the failure of the Regulations. The Governments of France and Italy had changed four times since the Armistice. In Spain, Italy, Portugal and the United States there were millions of unemployed. What damage—if any—had been done when the regulations had been recently taken off. The Regulations were useless for the purposes for which they had been made, as there were no penalties for those who broke them beyond the loss of exportation license. It was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill to repeal entirely and forever, the Fish Regulations. The Regulations had been the Trade regulations, not his, Mr. Coaker then went on to try and explain away the salt question and the Government purchase of fish. For several minutes he dwelt on these matters but his explanations were entirely devoid of any weighty statements and in fact were nothing more or less than quibbles. He concluded by saying that the country was up against conditions that no men on the Government side of the House ever had to face and he said that everyone should work for the country's best interests.

Mr. Bennett then rose to speak to the resolutions. The whole House was pleased to hear the remarks of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but he could not congratulate him on his defence of his administration. Everybody expected to hear something from the silent members of the other side. But Mr. Coaker's speech was in keeping with the Speech from the Throne. It was also devoid of anything that will give satisfaction to those who had suffered. The Minister had been warned that his policy was a suicidal one, but he would not listen to the warnings. Exchange was not the sole reason that our fish was a drag in the market. Our misfortunes began when we had to sell our fish through Hawes. They started wrong in the first place. Discrimination was rampant throughout the whole business of the Fish Regulations. Mr. Coaker had put forward the excuse of exchange being against us in the European markets. But what explanation had the Government got for the way the regulations had been applied in the American markets. Exchange was not against us there. He cited instances of misuse of the Regulations. He would say with Lord Morris, "tear up the laws rather than the people should starve." Mr. Coaker, himself, sold 7,500 qts. of fish at \$8.50 per qt. to Sellers. This was at a profit of 50 cents per quintal. Did not the fish from the West have as much right to be sold as that from the North. Discrimination was rife everywhere. The letter of Capt. Hollett's which Sir J. C. Crosbie had read had voiced the people's sentiments. The country had been prosperous until the Regulations had been enforced. Now, every child on the street was calling out against these nefarious restrictions which had been the cause of beggaring the country. When the Government bought fish why did it not buy herring, salmon, lobsters, drums and other things? He did not believe that there was no hope for Newfoundland in the future, but there would be little chance of redemption with a government led by men like those at the head of the present administration. The present Government had been

tried and found incompetent and incapable.

Capt. Lewis was the next to speak to the Resolutions. He too did not think much of Mr. Coaker's defence of the Regulations. In an attempt to get a higher price for fish, the Hon. Minister had broken the law of supply and demand. Mr. Coaker says people get a high price for fish on account of the Regulations. It is true they kept the price of fish up for a time in the foreign markets, but that price was for the merchants, not for the fishermen. The price of fish could have been considerably lower in the foreign markets and yet our fishermen could have got the same price that they obtained last fall. At one time merchants in fact were satisfied with 50 cents profit on fish, but last year Mr. Coaker wanted \$3.00 profit, and it was to secure this that the Regulations were enforced. He then went on to deal with the effects of the Regulations on various markets. One of those days we would make no fish and ourselves completely sold out to Canada. The Government had squandered the people's money in all directions and when the country had been cleaned out Mr. Coaker came and cried for mercy. Capt. Lewis hoped within a very short time to see a new administration plot the country to safety.

Mr. W. J. Higgins also spoke to the Amendment. He had a question to put to Mr. Coaker which he hoped a gentleman would answer, for on that answer depended the length of the debate. Mr. Coaker had acknowledged he was at fault and said he would bring in a Bill to lift the Regulations. The Opposition have introduced an amendment to the address in reply, which exactly covers Mr. Coaker's intentions. We say the regulations have been disastrous to the trade of the country. Mr. Coaker says the same. He admits everything this afternoon that we have been charging against the regulations and throws up his hands and says, "I surrender." He appeals to us as an Opposition to help the Government get the country out of the hole she is in. He appeals to us to throw aside party leanings and be big, be magnanimous and help the Government. If Mr. Coaker is sincere he should be the first to start. He should set the good example. Now then here is our amendment, which is true in fact. Mr. Coaker admitted every line of it. If they were going to be big and broad now was their chance. Was Mr. Coaker going to vote for the Amendment? He appealed to the Hon. Minister. Was he or was he not? He only wanted one word in reply, either yes or no. A lot depended on the answer. If it were yes he (Mr. Higgins) would sit down and the debate as far as the Opposition was concerned, would be closed. But, if the answer were no, then that hour would start the full dress debate, which would eventually succeed in lifting

not only the Fish Regulations, but also the Food Control Board, and the War Measures Act.

Hon. Mr. Coaker would not give Mr. Higgins a satisfactory answer and tried to beg the question. He absolutely declined to say he would vote for the Amendment.

Mr. Higgins then said it was evident Mr. Coaker would not vote for the Amendment. What a lovely position the Hon. Minister was in? He cried for mercy and yet could not sink his differences. Mr. Higgins went on speaking until nearly 6.30 p.m., when the Minister of Justice rose and tried to explain the Government's position. He was not going to vote for the Amendment. Not because of party feeling, of course, but merely as a matter of principle.

Mr. Walsh moved the adjournment of the debate until 3 p.m. to-day.

The Late John Brunlees.

(H. F. SHORTISS.)

Many friends in St. John's will hear with feelings of regret the death of Mr. John Brunlees, for about sixty years a highly respected resident of Harbor Grace.

Mr. Brunlees was a native of Kelso, Scotland, and came to this country in the early sixties of the past century, entering the employ of the well-known firm of Rutherford Brothers, who, for many years, conducted a large and prosperous mercantile business in Harbor Grace. In fact, they issued their own coin, and the historic "Ram" half-penny pieces, with the name of Rutherford Bros. thereon, passed current throughout the country, and even to-day, a few of them are to be seen.

After severing his connection with Rutherford Bros., Mr. Brunlees entered the enterprising firm of Panton & Munn (afterwards John Munn & Co.), where he held the dual positions of clerk in the large provision store and time-keeper in the laborers' office. At that time there were some hundreds of laborers employed on the premises during the busy season. Mr. Brunlees must have been in this employ for at least a quarter of a century.

He was a man who was universally esteemed for his many fine traits of character, and which he exhibited not only to those who knew him best, but to those having merely a casual acquaintance. His death is regretted by all classes of the community. For many years Mr. Brunlees was one of the elders of the Kirk, the duties of which he performed to the satisfaction of all, and for about twenty-five years, he held the position of Secretary of "Harbor Grace" Lodge A.F. and A.M., S.C. in the above city. The deceased leaves a widow, (sister of Rev. T. James), to mourn her loss, to whom the Telegram extends sincere sympathy.

The Ferry Boat Service at St. Joseph's.

Editor Evening Telegram
Dear Sir:—The easterly wind of Monday the 11th has cleared our harbor of ice so that traffic is once again open after a hard winter. We are anxiously looking out for the ferry boat to operate. Last June the boat was handed over to Mr. P. Tremblay, North Side, with a small salary of \$1500. The boat was to operate by contract beginning on July 1st but for some reason Mr. Tremblay did not appear until July 13th. His services until the end of October were anything but satisfactory, at which time he put the boat ashore, as we understood, to change her into an icebreaker. Owing to some reason unknown she has not been seen on the harbor since. Although traffic was open until late in December, now that the harbor is open again it is likely that Mr. Tremblay will remodel the boat to make her suitable for passenger service. By the time this is done it is not unlikely that the harbor will be again frozen over. We should like to know if Mr. P. Tremblay is paid his salary—and if so for what? It is time that the service should begin, and it could have commenced on Monday.

Yours,
SUBSCRIBER.
St. Joseph's, Salmonier, April 13th, 1921.

When M. P.'s Fall Out.

On more than one occasion fierce discussions in the House of Commons have led to blows being struck. Once, indeed, there was something very like a free fight on the floor of the historic chamber. This was in July, 1893, when Mr. Hayes Fisher—afterwards Lord Downham—struck another member in a fit of temper. In 1912, again, Mr. Ronald McNeill hurled a book at Mr. Winston Churchill's face; and the latter, white with passion, challenged his assailant to "come outside."

In the old duelling days, when knights of the shires—as members of Parliament were then termed—came wearing their swords, such challenges were not infrequently led to serious trouble, and once swords were drawn in the House itself.

To prevent a recurrence of this it was ordered that members should divest themselves of their weapons on taking their seats, and hang them up along the walls behind a barrier.

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR DIS-TEMPER.

Outport Women Enthusiastic.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir:—It may be of interest to your readers, particularly all women readers to know that the lists of signatures to the Woman's Suffrage Petition are coming in daily, with encouraging letters attached.

Bay de Verde still heads the list with the greatest number of signatures. Fortune comes next, and now this from a very important place in Conception Bay, where practically every woman has signed:—

"I am sending you by registered post the Suffrage Petition. The names attached are all reliable, and we could have got many more. Everyone is in favour of what we spoke to. We do hope it will pass and will write or see our members on the subject. I am indeed glad that at last this great boon is likely to be granted to women, and am indeed grateful to those who are working for it. Practically all laws affect women as well as men. Therefore we should have a voice in the making of them. Hoping for speedy success."

Then this from a big settlement in the North:—

"I am sending along the Petition signed for signature. We had a meeting of the women and had a great crowd, and we had several papers read on the subject and quite a discussion after. Then the signing and election of a committee to look after any further business, of which I was appointed Chairman. We sent on a report of our meeting to the Public News Department, but have seen nothing of it. With best wishes for the success of the cause."

From the West Coast we have:—

"Please find enclosed a petition signed by all but two old ladies, who did not care to vote. All the men are enthusiastic over the idea and you may call them unanimous for the vote."

And again from the West Coast:—

"Your letter, with Petition enclosed, for the women to sign to give them a right to vote at the Parliamentary and Municipal Elections received. I called a meeting immediately on receipt of this and as you will notice from the petition enclosed, we had a very successful result. I might say the women of this place are very keen and agree with the women of St. John's that they are entitled to a vote. I will be glad to further any other thing that you suggest in connection with this."

We have a great many more letters that I should like to publish, but feel that I have already taken up too much space.

I remain, with many thanks,
Yours faithfully,
AGNES M. AYRE,
Secretary.

April 16, 1921.

Fisherman's Friend.

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MINARD'S
"KING OF PAIN"
LINIMENT
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The East End Feed

AND
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at 11 a.m. by

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Everything will be disposed of by the single package or in lots to suit purchasers.

A CHANCE FOR EVERYBODY.

W. A. Munn, of St. John's, of the Belmont, M. arrival of the page on her way.

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