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At the House.

TUESDAY, May 25th, 1915.

In reply to Mr. Lloyd's question re railway station at Northern Bight, Long Harbour and Bay Bulls Arm, T. B. the Colonial Secretary tabled some correspondence on it.

Mr. Lloyd reminded the Premier to table copy of instructions to the Government Engineer with reference to the condition of the entire railway, as promised by the Premier several days ago. The Premier did so.

The Council's Amendments to the Bill relating to the Sale of Codfish on Labrador were read a first time.

The Bill concerning an Agreement between the Government and the Newfoundland American Packing Co.; also the Bill respecting Retiring Allowances were read a third time and sent to the Upper House for concurrence.

The Council's Amendments to the Disasters Fund Bill were concurred in and sent back.

The House was resolving itself into Committee on Ways and Means when Mr. Lloyd rose and drew the Finance Minister's attention to his promise on Thursday last to have the Resolutions printed and distributed on Friday. That was not done and on Friday the Minister promised to send copies of the Resolutions to members on Saturday. The fact was that it was only a few minutes before he started to speak that the Resolutions had been tabled. In view of the circumstances Mr. Lloyd asked that the order be deferred until Wednesday. This was ordered.

The House then went into Committee on the Prohibition Bill.

Mr. Lloyd thought that the provisions of the Bill should be examined more carefully to see how one section stood with another. He cited clauses which were in conflict, and pointed out the absence of a penalty in another clause. His remarks were endorsed by Mr. Higgins, after which the Committee rose and asked leave to sit again to-day, meanwhile the defects shown by Mr. Lloyd will be attended to.

The Bill respecting the Grand Bank Water Supply passed without amendment and will be read a third time to-day.

The Products Corporation Bill was deferred.

In committee on Bill to amend the Act respecting the Volunteer Force in this Colony, the Premier explained that the Act was extended for another year and read through the sections.

Mr. Lloyd took exception to Section 4.

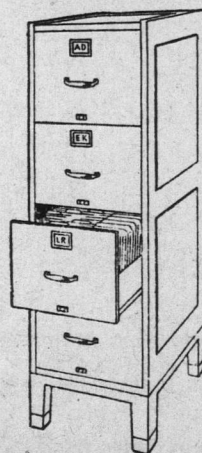
The Premier said he would consider Mr. Lloyd's suggestion.

The House went into Committee on Resolutions respecting the Exportation of Timber. The Resolutions are amendment of the Act, passed last year and extending the time limit of cutting pit props for export to the United Kingdom and Republic of France for another year; also that the exportation of unmanufactured lumber from the Labrador be extended for 10 years. Minister of Finance and Customs Cashin, read extracts from a report of the expert who came here in connection with the pit props industry. If this industry didn't go ahead our people would be forced to live in idleness and probably die of starvation, the Minister contended. He said he would table the correspondence that had passed between this Government and the Home Government on the pit prop industry, also the report of the four experts who were here last year. Whilst he believed that the continuation for 10 years of exporting timber would be a boon to our workmen he said that the freight rates from Newfoundland

were higher than from other countries.

Mr. Cliff rose to make a few observations on the matter before the chair, even though it was at the risk of being charged with making them from a party standpoint or merely for the sake of opposition. Hitherto it has been the policy of all Governments to prohibit the exportation of timber in its raw state, said Mr. Cliff, but he did not think sufficient reason had been given by Minister Cashin to warrant a departure from that policy. Continuing, he said the Minister had spoken very largely from a report written by some experts or persons supposed to know what they are talking about. He would like the Minister to bring down the report of the Experts and all correspondence and would like to know if there was any correspondence on the matter with the French Republic and what prompted the amendment of the law respecting the exportation of timber or pit props to the United Kingdom or France. At the present he was not inclined to support the Resolutions and he was strongly opposed to a continuation of the exportation of pit props or any other raw material that might be manufactured in the country. Referring to the war session of last year he said amendments were passed authorizing the exportation of pit props, but that was done on the ground that pit props were very necessary in England and France on account of war conditions. If it was shown that there was still a necessity for the pit props, Mr. Cliff contended there would be no objection to allow the exportation to continue. But the Resolutions now ask that the Act be continued in force for 10 years and he thought that before further consideration be given the matter the House should have an opportunity of examining the reports made on the subject, also examining into conditions on the Labrador with regard to the timber licenses that are now existing in that territory. He pointed out that there are licenses granted to persons on Labrador for the purpose of cutting timber for the manufacture of pulp and paper and he understood that there are a number of applications under consideration of the Government for such licenses at the present time. He would like to know whether those holding licenses already on the Labrador and cutting timber for the purpose mentioned have complied with the law in erecting saw mills, etc., and if it is the intention of the new applicants to make such erections. If pit props are to be exported he did not see why they should not be exported from Crown Lands. Before proceeding further he would like to have some information as to the rights of holders of licenses cutting timber and disposing of it for pit prop purposes, and an opportunity afforded of studying the whole matter fully. He would have more to say on the Resolutions later.

Mr. Lloyd was of the opinion that before dealing with the Resolutions a report of the tensile test referred to in the statement read by Mr. Cashin as going to be made, all information possible on the subject should be furnished so that the matter could be gone into intelligently. The Minister said there was very little to go into. Mr. Lloyd came back with the rejoinder there is the entire reversal of the Colony's policy in regard to the export of pulpwood to be gone into. The Minister should remember we are not in the same position as he or his Government is, because the Government has had all the reports before them this long time and Government members have had the advantage of considering those matters with all the information at party meetings. There is no justification, said Mr. Lloyd, for the export of pulpwood and pit props except so far as meet the requirements of trade in the Old Country which is handicapped by the War. In that connection we ought to agree to aid those so handicapped. This new proposal is not merely to meet the necessities of war but a proposal to reverse the policy in regard to the Labrador for ten years. It is the cul-



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mination of a campaign which has been going on steadily for many years by persons interested in Labrador timber licenses and who have not lived up to the obligations of those licenses. It is now intended to ease out those obligations by pit prop licenses. This Mr. Lloyd considered a very serious matter and it was necessary to have full information as to why the Government has surrendered to the campaign of those who are timber holders on the Labrador.

Mr. Piccott spoke for a long while, appealing to popular sentiment regarding the fishermen and said that he had gone over St. John's to get supplies for men for the fishery, without success, and stated that if our monied men were sincere now was the time to come along and show their sincerity and patriotism by helping the fishermen. Some of Mr. Piccott's own associates (suppliers) got their feelings hurt as they expressed themselves in bitter terms over the remark.

The Committee then rose till 8 o'clock.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. Coaker endorsed the request for the rising of the Committee on Pit-Props until to-day and the Minister of Finance acceded to the request and the Committee rose.

The House went into Committee on the Products Company Bill. The Bill was read through and a few minor amendments were made to some of the clauses.

Just before the adoption of the last clause of the agreement, Mr. Grimes moved that the matter of the confirmation of the contract be submitted to a plebiscite. He explained his reasons for favoring a referendum, and cited the Premier's remarks on the matter of prohibition, when he stated that the Government had no mandate to pass a measure that might conflict with the rights of the people without first submitting the question to them by a plebiscite vote. These remarks, Mr. Grimes contended, applied with equal force to the agreement before the Committee. The matter of granting such enormous concessions constituted a great public question, which was in his opinion, too important to legislate upon without consulting the wishes of the people. He therefore would move that the question be submitted to a plebiscite in December next.

Mr. Walsh, in reply to Mr. Grimes, held that the Government was carrying out its policy of 1908, by fostering the development of our natural resources. He then spoke on the contract for some fifteen minutes, during which he painted a glowing picture of the return of the exiled Newfoundlanders to labour in their homeland. He promised the measure his hearty support.

Mr. Coaker regretted that he could not see such a future for Newfoundland as Mr. Walsh had depicted, and thought that the measure was one that will in all probability rise up in judgment against the legislators responsible for it.

The Committee then rose and reported having passed the bill with some amendments. It will come up for third reading this afternoon.

The Council's amendment to the Hospital Bill was read a first time. The other items on the Order Paper were deferred and the House adjourned at 10 p.m. until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Miss Jessie Bonstelle in Buffalo.

Miss Jessie Bonstelle recently celebrated her one thousandth appearance as a stock actress in Buffalo. For the week in which the celebration took place, Miss Bonstelle used Hazelton's Mistress Nell, a costume comedy that was so popular a few years ago when Henrietta Crossman played the title role. Miss Bonstelle has maintained her popularity with the best class of theatre-goers in Buffalo by a consistently progressive policy, always maintaining a highly efficient company and giving up-to-date successes. Miss Bonstelle's friends in the city will be glad to hear of her continued success.

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