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Legislative Council.

LIVELY SKIRMISH IN THE RED CHAMBER.

At yesterday evening's session Hon. Mr. Whiteway started the further de-
bate on the Election Amendment Bill, and in the course of his remarks urged for a purer political life, and that the press should not be so defamatory, and he stated it was a pity that men capable of the work did not come forward to put politics into a higher sphere.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs agreed with Mr. Whiteway and stated that it was the men did not engage in public life. Hon. Mr. McNamara called the attention of the House to the high freight, citing the excessive charges on hay and coal, at \$20.00 and \$6.00 per ton, respectively, and stated that a re-adjustment of the tariff was necessary.

Hon. Mr. Templeman also took up the question of freights. Freight on fish shipments to Europe, as charged the exporters, were matters for serious consideration. The high freight was no other reason for shipping the fish, which crowded the markets, except a desire on the part of the shareholders of the Escacon to grow rich at the sacrifice of the fish shippers. It was a case of downright stealing. St. John's shippers might think they knew it all, but they had a lot to learn. The city merchants did not have to bear the burden of supplying the small fishermen; they supplied the output, planter mostly, and were generally assured of their returns, but suppliers (like Mr. T.) who were called upon to attend to the "small" man, were bound to get caught all the time. As regards the Food Control Board, he looked upon that combination as a joke. He cited cases of getting supplies of molasses last year, where one was obliged to swear to a document a "mile" long before the supplier could get three puncheons, and then told of a case where one party got as many puncheons as he demanded without swearing at all, and had enough to go around and to spare. The personnel of the Board of Food Control was not as it should be. There were men on it who did not know the weight of a barrel of pork. One member was used to selling laces and women's skirts, and such like, and not knowing how to sell them properly had to give it up. The whole trouble was that with high freights and charges our fish was being placed in well held markets at \$40.00 a quintal, and put out of the reach of the regular consumer. And altogether with this, England had dumped 180,000 quintals of Iceland fish on the market without a consideration of Newfoundland, which rendered our position worse than ever.

Hon. John Anderson then referred to his own previous criticism saying it was justifiable, and he seized the opportunity to again censure the Hon. President and the editor of the Herald for his remarks in that paper especially on Mr. Ayre, pointing out that the honours which had gone to the President and others of Newfoundland were chiefly awarded by reason of the blood of the soldiers poured out on the fields of battle. He also spoke of the Housing problem and the disrespect which the Government showed while trying to remedy the present conditions of the people. He stated that in St. John's there were 2,500 houses in which 12,000 people were living without water or sewerage facilities, and nothing had been done. He was voicing the sentiments of 6,000 workmen, and it was not he who was thrown down, but the men he spoke for.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge emphasized the importance of passing the necessary legislation now for the raising of the loans, for payment of our liabilities. Mr. Goodridge also stated that there was no combine on the part of merchants to make the freights greater. He also denounced the editor of the Herald for his recent writings relative to Mr. Ayre saying the writer was not worthy of the confidence of

anyone, either in the House or out of it. Hon. the President then endeavoured to answer Mr. Anderson with reference to Mr. Anderson's criticisms of titles, he wished to say that all titles came from the King and not from individual influence. He took exception to Mr. Anderson's remarks that the Newfoundland titles had been won at the sacrifice of the blood of the Regiment. So far as Hon. Sir M. P. Cashin was concerned, he had sent two sons to the front, one of whom had made an excellent record, and no more could be expected of him. He (Hon. Sir P. T. McGrath) was not a married man, but he had sent his ward and nephew to the battle lines, and he had covered himself with honour and won a distinction. What more could he do. Mr. Anderson had two sons, one enjoying a lucrative position in the Pay and Record Office of the Newfoundland Regiment in London, and the other was running a Cabaret in New York. He had nothing to say against them, and would not speak disparagingly. He only wanted to bring this matter to the attention of the members of the House. It was impossible to be sure of Mr. Anderson's position as to being with you or against you. His connections with the Herald were purely of a private nature, and no one in the House had a right to bring them to question, any more than he had a right to delve into the private business of other members of the House. He was sorry for the references made to him by Mr. Goodridge. It was uncalled for. He assumed all responsibility for what appeared in the Herald about the Citizens' Meeting, and it was a private concern. Mr. Goodridge himself, 30 years ago, on the floor of the Assembly had attacked a member of the House, and told him he was feeding him and his family, and it was ill grace for Mr. G. to lecture him. The House should have nothing to do with his private affairs.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs—Mr. Goodridge only replied to a vicious attack made on him, and in self defense. It was an aggravated case, and in no way similar to yours.

Hon. the President—That might be so, but I have made no attack on Mr. Ayre.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs—You know the references you made to him were untrue. Hon. the President—I did not know but they were true.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs—Then as editor of a newspaper desiring to publish facts, you should have enquired and learned if they were true before you published them.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge—I was replying to a venomous attack made on me. No one had made any attack on you. You accept responsibility for the publication of the article, and the dignity of the Chair of this House has not been maintained.

Hon. the President—I am well able and intend to maintain the dignity of the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge—Your attack was made behind a screen, while mine was a just defense. Mr. Ayre in no way said or suggested anything against your character. No one can say anything against any political career; it has been straight, honest and without a desire for any personal aggrandisement.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs then took the floor and again referred to the bill before the House saying there was nothing to be gained by not accepting the amendment that nomination day should be May 16th. If the Govt. were sincere they would legislate the loan bill right away. The Colony would soon be assuming a debt of \$50,000,000, and current obligations would call for \$2,500,000 on the debts, \$750,000 for war pensions, and other expenditure of \$7,500,000. He estimated an average voyage of fish at 1,500,000 quintals, and a fair price, considering economic conditions of the markets which we supply, at \$10.00 as it was sold by the producer. At this ratio, every second quintal of codfish taken from the waters west towards paying the revenue. How long the Colony could stand without falling in its obligations, he knew not, but unless



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modern methods, im-
proved equipment &
tested chemicals in-
sure results.

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your Kodak began.

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Hon. Mr. Anderson did not consider it was important what time the Minister of Finance got to New York so far as lifting the maturity bonds were concerned. It was only a matter of getting the money. This could be floated either in Newfoundland or in Montreal, and it was only a matter of transferring the amount to New York to reduce the note.

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