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Legislative Council Proceedings:

Messrs. P. T. McGrath, W. C. Job, J. A. Robinson, A. Goodridge, Jas. Ryan, P. Templeton, Speak Against The Labrador Fishery Bill and Oppose the President of the F.P.U. Representing the Sellers on the Board

The House met at 4.30 in committee on the Labrador Fisheries Bill. **MR. JAMES RYAN** begged to say a few words on the matter, as he knew the subject to be a most important one, and calling for much reflective consideration. He believed that there should be two prices fixed: (1) a larger price for shipments freighted to foreign markets from the Straits and (2) a lower price for cargoes shipped from the Labrador coast.

His experience on this whole important question is, that buyers of fish who understand their business, and are aware of the price of fish refuse to ship their fish from the Labrador coast. He (Mr. Ryan) would call particular attention to the poor curing of fish of late years. We should remember that our curing of the cod affects our prices, and fish was never more valuable than it is to-day. At the same time competition was never as keen as it is to-day. He did not agree to the seeking of new markets, as the markets we held would buy properly cured staple.

Mr. Ryan moved that Sect. 1 of the Bill be adopted.

MR. ROBINSON had no intention of opposing the Bill, and it would be wise to put the bill through, that something might be done.

He saw possibilities for it, but would propose an amendment that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries be given power to act on the Board instead of the President of the F.P.U.

MR. GIBBS could not agree to the acceptance of that amendment. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries was of a political party, and naturally held certain ideas relative to such an influence. He thought that the Bill should receive every support. It was not an item, not a mere feature of another project. It was a bill brought before that House by the representatives of 20,000 fishermen, and surely an organized body representing the fishermen of this country, must appeal to the right and justice of the Honorable Members of that House.

In England the Government was made up of different elements, as for example the Unionists, the Trades Labor parties, etc. Those bodies possessed the big support of the public, and certain rights were conceded to them by Legislative powers. Must not equal rights be conceded to the F.P.U. when that body approaches that honorable legislative with a wise and fair resolution. In New Zealand a similar Trades Party held power, and were granted right-of-concessions, and this is all that the F.P.U. claims here, and he (Mr. Gibbs) could not see how any reason-

able mind, and fair mind would reject any section of the Bill now before that Hon. House.

MR. MCGRATH admitted the value of the Bill, also that the F.P.U. was the better qualified to handle the matter, but he (Mr. McGrath) thought that the Board of Trade, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, or any appointee of any board, or any arbitrator rather than Mr. Coaker, the President of the F.P.U.

No one, said (Mr. McGrath) can speak for the fishermen, or advise to the interests of the fishermen, like the outport member, but he (Mr. McGrath) certainly would feel aggrieved and offended if Mr. Coaker was appointed on a board of arbitration or had anything to do with anything that might amount to anything which he (Mr. McGrath) had anything to do with.

MR. GOODRIDGE opposed the Bill, more than ever. He could not agree to any measure that would seek to define an actual price scale on the price of fish. He thought that the price was after all subservient to conditions.

MR. GIBBS pointed out that the bill did not seek to do this. It was not a bill to fix the price of fish, so much as a measure "to fix agreement between buyer and seller" and which would be subject later to certain definitions.

It was a bill that gave both parties to the transaction a margin. It was not binding on the buyer or seller. It was simply a measure that would deal with fish sold where no prices had been agreed upon, and would aid the seller in arriving at a decision as to whether the price he has been offered was near the proper value.

MR. JOB was inclined to agree with his honorable friend, Mr. McGrath, and thought the clause which he (Mr. McGrath) would place in the Bill regarding the cutting out of the President of the F. P. U. from the Board a wise one.

MR. HARVEY would wish to help the Bill through. He was inclined to the Bill, would like to see it go thru, and some work performed. He recognized that it is somewhat a difficult matter to place the price of fish. It was really a speculation—a gambling with conditions. It all so very much depended on such conditions as quality, curing, quick shipping, markets, etc. etc.

Hon. Messrs McGrath, Robinson, Templeton and Bishop spoke to some further length on the measure, and the committee rose to report progress. The Stamp Duty bill being read a first time the Council adjourned until 4.30 this afternoon.

Shooting For the Cigars

One of the best stories told about St. John French is how, one night at dinner, some officers were discussing rifle-shooting. The general was saying, as was his wont, without making any remark, until at length he chipped in with:

"Say, I'll bet anyone here," in his calm, quiet, deliberate way, "that I can fire ten shots at 500 yards and call each shot correctly without waiting for the marker. I'll stake a box of cigars on it."

The major present accepted the offer, and the next morning the whole mess was at the shooting range to see the trial.

St. John fired. "Miss!" he announced. He fired again. "Miss!" he repeated. A third shot. "Miss!"

"Hold on there!" protested the major. "What are you going? You are not shooting at the target at all."

But French finished his task. "Miss!" "Miss!" "Miss!"

"Of course I wasn't shooting at the target," he said. "I was shooting for those cigars."

Partition of Poland

The first partition of Poland was actively commenced 152 years ago, under the terms of a compact between Frederick the Great of Prussia and Catherine of Russia, in which Austria was seized on this occasion.

The second partition, in 1793, and the third, in 1795, practically completed the dismemberment of the ancient kingdom, and after the congress of Vienna, a century ago, nothing was left of Poland but a memory. Before the first partition the kingdom stretched from the Carpathians to the Baltic, a distance of 600 miles. It is to these original lines that the Czar has promised to restore Poland after the conclusion of the present war.

During the last century Germany, Austria and Russia alike have sought to stamp out the language, literature, and national spirit of the Poles, but with little success. The attempt to force school children to adopt the German tongue has resulted in many "strikes" of the pupils, and the Poles have been so determined in their attitude that the Governments involved have been forced to make compromises.

Italy to Harness Her Volcanos

Italy's newest product is electric energy from volcanic steam. Not far from the little city of Volterra, in Saxony, is a region of volcanic hot springs that for a century have been a source of boric acid, and that in addition supply heat for drying the crystals and for the power needed in preparing the material for market.

Borings of 30ft. or 40ft. are said to yield an unending supply of steam at pressures up to more than three atmospheres, and of temperatures up to more than 700 degrees F. The steam has been wastefully used in small engines of an old, non-condensing type, but in recent experiments the heat of the springs—on account of the impurities contained—is made to generate steam from fresh water, and this is employed in low-pressure turbines for driving electric generators. The large area to be served with electric energy from the earth's own heat, if present expectations are realized, will include the neighbouring cities of Volterra, Siena and Leghorn.

The Biggest Typewriter

Visitors to the Panama Exhibition will be kept in touch with the latest war news by means of huge bulletins of a remarkable character. The bulletins will be typed on paper 36 in. wide, run from a reel through a typewriter no less than 1,700 times larger than an ordinary typewriter. This super-typewriter, which is 15ft. high and 21ft. wide, and weighs fourteen tons, will print characters 2 in. high and 2in. apart, exclusive of the space between the words. Among other interesting details given in the "Scientific American" it is mentioned that a single type-bar is 4ft. 4in. long, and weighs as much as a typewriter of ordinary dimensions. The lady typist, however, will not actually operate the machine, which will be electrically connected with a standard typewriter, the depressing of any keys on which will cause the corresponding keys on the super-typewriter to be also depressed.

The Biggest Typewriter

Telegrams from Rome to the newspapers say it is confirmed that Italy has broken off all conversations with Austria-Hungary and Germany. The Austro-Hungarian ambassador, it is stated, has not appeared for the last forty days, and is living absolutely alone in Rome with an Italian servant, his family and staff having left for Vienna.

According to telegrams from Rome published by the Paris newspapers, seven wagons containing iron, copper, and antimony sulphate, consigned to Germany have been seized at Como.

Humors of Distorted Messages

Talking of humors of the Army, a service man was telling me the other day how amusingly distorted messages sometimes are when passed along the line. He told me of two very funny cases. A battalion attached to a well-known line regiment engaged in field operations passed along the message, "A Company hard pressed; needs reinforcements." When the message arrived it had been metamorphosed into "A Company hard pressed; needs three and fourpence."

Again, "Siege guns on the right crest" was changed into "Seagulls with a white breast."

In every direction we behold the angel with the flaming sword ready to strike down those whose curious glances are turned towards Germany's frontiers. Let them come, the invading hordes, and the harvest yield of our land will be the richer for their blood.

"Deutsche Tageszeitung."

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George Neal

PHONE 264.

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