

## Proceedings at the Legislative Council

(Continued from page 9.)

or the speaker. He strongly supported the second reading of the Bill, and he was to judge by the work of the women during the war, and in society generally, they were far more entitled to the vote than many of the men. He would like to see them enter into the political contests and if they secured control of both the Legislature and the Upper House he would not be in the least afraid of the Leg-

islation that would be enacted. If the women had been in control for the past few years, he felt the country would not be in a position it was in today. The women, to say the least, were not "plungers" like the men, and we could always expect just and reasonable legislation. He agreed the women should have a little more responsibility in public matters. And he had the greatest pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill. HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN supported the second reading. He congratulated the women on their victory, and remarked that they were not lazy like some of the men. A good woman was the best asset one could have, and if

only half the men of the country listened to their womenfolk, Newfoundland would be much better off than at present. The average woman is endowed with better judgment and keener observation than the average man and there was no reason in the world why she should not have equal rights. The winning of the war was made possible by the women who sent forward physically strong and intelligent boys who had been designated by England's renowned leaders as "better than this war." Newfoundland women in his opinion were endowed with a superior intelligence, and the vote should have been accorded them long ago. It was their right, and like the previous speakers, he would support the second reading.

HON. MR. COOK voiced the same sentiment as the Hon. Gentlemen and gave the bill his hearty support. He quite agreed with Hon. Mr. Templeman in all he had said as regards the women. Everybody knows that a man is what his wife makes him and if the man is no good he can blame it on his wife. From his experience and personal observation, he thought Newfoundland would make no mistake if the power to vote was placed in the women's hands and it was only what they deserved. He had much pleasure in giving his support to the Bill.

HON. MR. STEER.—It seems to me that the country at large has already shown its unqualified approval of the principal of "Woman Suffrage" and that the concurrence of this House is only a matter of form more or less, for in reading the reports of the speeches made in the Lower House during the passing of this bill, I was particularly struck with the fact that, during the past few years, all opposition thereto seems to have been gradually eliminated, so that there has not been one voice raised in opposition to this Bill in that House. What is it we are asked to do, by those who have presented it to us for our consideration and approval?

This is no favour, we are asked to confer. The women of Newfoundland should not have to approach on bended knee, praying for the franchise, which has been for so long withheld from them, but are perfectly justified in demanding it as a right. Are we prepared to withhold this right from them? Are we prepared to say to the world that, in our opinion, the women of Newfoundland, our women, are not the equals in every way, of the women of the rest of the English-speaking world, equally deserving, with equal intelligence, and judgment just as sound?

Mr. President, I would even go further and ask, are we prepared to assert that the women of Newfoundland are not just as capable of exercising the privileges which this Bill proposes to confer upon them, with just as much intelligence and judgment as the male voters, amongst whom are included members of a certain institution, concerning some of whom at least, we are safe in saying that they are, to put it mildly, mentally deficient.

Mr. President, I say emphatically no, never, I, at least, am not prepared to become a party to the placing of such a stigma upon them. Our women are entitled to justice. They are asking for justice. Let us then give the justice they are entitled to. The justice that has been so long withheld from them: The bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed to-morrow.

The second reading of the High Roads Construction and Maintenance Bill was deferred until to-morrow, and on motion will stand first on the Order of the Day.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Morine the Council then went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill to incorporate the Women's Patriotic Trust Fund and for other purposes. Hon. Mr. Murphy in the chair.

HON. MR. MORINE said that when this Bill was before the committee there was some question as to what provision would be made in the case of some of the officials named as having wives. He had consulted with those responsible and now asked that this bill go through as it is. If either the Governor, Prime Minister or Chief Justice has no wife then there will surely be a vacancy, and the other members will be sufficient for its purposes.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, and it was ordered read a third time on to-morrow.

The Council went into Committee of the Whole on a bill to amend the light dues Act. Hon. Dr. Campbell in the chair.

HON. MR. MORINE.—As this bill came from the House of Assembly it required amendment. Light dues on vessels trading to foreign ports was 24 cents on the ton, and 6 cents on local coasting, trading or sealing vessels making occasional trips. The amendment was that Section 3 now read that there was no light dues on vessels engaged in the sealing fishery or in the coastal trade. Some difficulty had arisen because some vessels had only colorably been engaged in the sealing fishery or the coasting trade, and in this way escaped the 24 cent tax. After consideration the amendment now proposed is that in Section 1, Chapter 25 the words "except as provided hereinafter" be added, and in Section 3 that words to the effect that vessels in the sealing



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fishery or coasting trade be allowed free. This would extend to vessels even going to ports of Canada; also that any sailing or coasting vessel instead of paying 6 cents would now pay nothing.

HON. MR. BISHOP asked if this meant there would be no light dues paid by local vessels, no matter where they go.

HON. MR. COOK presumed that Sydney and Nova Scotia would be included practically as coasting voyages. Vessels participating in Atlantic voyages would pay the same as before. Vessels from the West Coast go to Sydney for coals and occasionally to P.E.I. for produce, and he thought it a hardship if they should be required to pay the 24 cents per ton, as this was really only within the limits of an ordinary coasting voyage.

HON. MR. MORINE.—At present only vessels going abroad pay 24 cents except fishing or coasting vessels which pay 6 cents. This amendment strikes out the latter charge.

HON. MR. BISHOP said that in the case of a man owning two vessels, one which traded between Canada and Newfoundland and the other to Portugal, would it be equitable for the former to pay nothing and the latter to pay the full tax.

HON. PRESIDENT thought that the basis of the whole Act had been shifted since they last considered this bill. He thought that trips to Nova Scotia should be allowed and not all Canada. For if such was done vessels going to Montreal and further ports would be paying nothing. It was only fair to give vessels the opportunity to go once or twice without paying the light tax, but that those opportunities should not be extended. Also there was no provision made for St. Pierre.

HON. MR. MORINE.—It was not proposed that vessels should go to Canada all the time and escape the light dues. They would only go to Cape Breton those of them that were coasting vessels. But it was thought that it would be better to put in the Dominion of Canada. All had been done by the Customs authorities. As for St. Pierre it was deliberately left out at the express request of the Customs officials. They said they were constantly having trouble with ships coming and going to that port, and on this account it had been left out. He moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

The Council went into Committee of the Whole on a Bill to Amend the War Pensions Act. Hon. Mr. Power in the chair.

HON. MR. MORINE said the object of this bill is to extend slightly the cases for which pensions can be given. He understood that the addition made would be small and amply provided for by the dropping of pensions given in case of death.

HON. SIR P. T. McGRATH and he should like to say a few words on this Bill. It would commend itself to the members. The first section provides for extending the time during which a disabled man may apply for a pension. Section 2 deals with the case of a man who dies leaving children who, by reason of his pension, get a small supplementary pension, which ceased on his death, but is now extended for twelve months. Section 4 provides that a person who receives his pension from the Imperial Pension Fund may have this increased if such is found necessary. There are many new cases where increases may be needed and no great amount will be expended.

HON. DR. ROBINSON said he cordially approved of this Bill, but inquired as to what would happen in the case of a returned soldier who was suffering from a trouble which may have developed after July 31st, 1925. Would he be ruled out?

HON. MR. MORINE explained that that was not what was meant. The conditions were alternative.

HON. PRESIDENT said he knew of repeated extensions which had to be made, to deal with cases here and in Canada. The Bill had been taken from the Canadian Act. The Canadians having vastly more experience in these matters than we have.

DR. ROBINSON accepted the assurance of the leader of the House; but found it difficult to regard the three sub-sections as other than co-ordinate and foreshadowed the introduction of a similar Bill next year. His sole purpose, however, was to draw attention to what had seemed to him an omission, so that provision might be assured for those cases where trouble may not develop until years after the seeds of disease had been sown during the war.

HON. DR. MOSDELL said these recommendations resulted after conference with the G.W.V.A. He cited a case of an aged woman who died and had no provision made for her funeral expenses, her soldier son having pre-deceased her. The matter was taken up by the Board who have power to deal with cases such as these and set them right. The Act was based on the Canadian Act and was proposed up by the G. W. V. A., who have ultimate knowledge of the conditions of the returned men of our country.

The Committee rose and reported having passed the Act without amendment. It was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

HON. MR. MORINE.—In moving the second reading of the Act respecting the Lobster Fishery, said that unless any objections were raised the Bill might pass its Second Reading and be sent into Committee of the Whole House when details could be discussed. The only principle involved was the close season. The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed to-morrow.

The House then adjourned until Wednesday next at 3.30 p.m.

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