



Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, --- Proprietor
C. T. JAMES, --- Editor

Wednesday, April 13, 1921.

Questions and Questions.

The asking of questions in the House of Assembly appear to have taken on a new phase. Instead of being confined to Opposition members, Government members have become possessed of an inquisitive turn of mind, and are seeking knowledge from the departments, which naturally would become their property merely by the asking informally, but which have now been made the subject of an official query and thereby demanding an official reply tabled in due form, and perhaps with more wealth of detail than their importance to present conditions warrant. Messrs. Samson, Jones and Targgett have become affected with the query germ, having been inoculated thereby by some political physician higher up, and the symptoms of the disease took development yesterday, when the gentlemen named, animated by a desire to dig down into ancient history with a view to unearth information calculated to embarrass certain members sitting on the right of His Honor the Speaker, presented a series of queries which may probably in their answers involve more people than the querists intended.

There are questions and questions. It is a parliamentary privilege accorded representatives by ancient right and custom that they may from time to time subject the Administration, through the proper channels, to a catechising of their deeds done and intended, in order that the people may have cognizance of what is going on. Bourinot, whose authority honourable members are so fond of quoting, referring to questions put by members, says, "a practice has long prevailed in parliament . . . of putting questions to Ministers of the Crown, concerning any measure pending in Parliament,

or other public matters, and of receiving answers or explanations of the persons so interrogated." It will be noticed that Bourinot states specifically that such questions are to be those concerning any measure pending in Parliament or other public matter germane to the current business of the House. Questions are not in order, according to the same authority, when they affect the character or conduct of a member. This in order to prevent personal questions which have no direct bearing on public affairs, or other matters connected with the business of the House. Reduced therefore to correct form questions may only be asked in so far as they have a direct bearing on public affairs, and quite properly the personal aspect is forbidden. Were it otherwise much time would be wasted and unnecessary and troublesome questions would cumber the Order Paper to the detriment and delay of the business of the House. There is nothing in the questions asked by Messrs. Samson, Jones and Targgett that bear on matters of public policy to-day. Casually it might be said that they are merely red herrings dragged across the trail of regular questions put to the Government by members of the Opposition. Their answers cannot have any immediate bearing on public matters of the moment, and their whole tenor and purpose is to divert public attention from the current acts of the Government in order to screen Ministers of the Crown from the censure that inevitably must befall them for official actions done without that authority which the people's house of representatives alone can give.

Boost Home Industries.
april 13.

Concert and Sociable.

The Cochrane Street Girls' Club concert and sociable will be held to-night in the basement of Cochrane St. Church. This is the first concert this Club has ever given and as some of the best local talent will participate the affair is bound to be a splendid success, and all who attend are assured of a most enjoyable time.

A Correction.

A paragraph in the text of the Address of A. B. Morine, Esq., K.C., in yesterday's Telegram, referring to the sum on deposit of Savings Accounts in the four Canadian Banks doing business here, was by the dropping of a cypher made to read \$99,000,000. The correct rendering should be: "I would like to point out that the capital of these four banks is \$142,000,000 and that they have \$339,000,000 of demand deposits, upon which they pay no interest, and upon which, therefore, they earn full profits, while they have not less than \$990,000,000 of deposits bearing interest, upon which they probably earn more than they pay."

AT THE BALSAH.—The following are guests at the Balsah.—Mr. P. L. G. Grow, Broad Cove; H. W. Abbott, Port au Port; Mr. Greenland, Coley's Point; Misses Brookhurst, Carbonear.

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april 13, 1921

Lively Session at People's House.

Opposition Leader Scores Government--Sir M. P. Cashin Delivers Splendid Oration.

Never since the advent of Responsible Government in Newfoundland has such a splendid speech been delivered in the Assembly as that of Sir M. P. Cashin yesterday. Never has a Government been the subject of such unmerciful criticism. And never has such criticism been more justly deserved and based on such undeniable facts. For three hours Sir Michael Cashin presented volumes of indisputable facts which showed up the Government as the weaklings they are. For three long hours the Government members had to listen to criticism, delivered in a manner so ironical, so sarcastic, that even the least of Coaker's many pawns must have been touched to the innermost part of their consciences. They simply squirmed under the severe castigation they received, and not one, not even the Minister of Marine and Fisheries himself, could deny one statement made; not one could open his mouth to dispute any of the facts which the Leader of the Opposition poured forth. The House met at 3 p.m., and after notices of question had been given and answers to questions tabled by the various departmental heads, Sir Michael Cashin rose to commence his great oration on the Address in Reply. He first read the following amendment:

WHEREAS "the policy of the Regulations of the marketing of the Colony's staple product," referred to by Your Excellency, was first put into force in November, 1919, by means of Rules and Regulations made and proclaimed by you, with the advice and consent of the present Executive, and subsequently re-made and re-proclaimed under the pretended authority of the War Measures Act;

AND WHEREAS your Ministers claim that the aforesaid policy and rules were the sole issue at two bye-elections to this Assembly, held before the first session, and were approved thereof by the electors;

AND WHEREAS the measure under which so-called Rules and Regulations were made in 1919, and indifferently enforced until quite recently, was introduced into this Assembly as a Government Measure;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, speaking on behalf of the Government, declared to a Convention of Licensed Exporters, so called, in September, 1920, that "we consider these rules a part of our policy, we will not waver (in their enforcement) until there has been time to test whether they are good or bad, for this season will prove whether they are valuable or valueless," and "if (after trial) it can be shown they are injurious, or not beneficial we shall say they have been tried and failed, and we will forego any further attempt to control the fixing of the prices of fish for the foreign markets";

AND WHEREAS, as the result of experience gained in 1920, the Licensed Exporters have unanimously requested the repeal of all the Rules and Regulations, and the Codfish Exportation Board, so called, has recommended the repeal, and they have been repealed accordingly by you;

AND WHEREAS Your Excellency, speaking for the Government, admits that "the practical application of the policy has met with adventures as well as inherent difficulties" and has asked us as legislators to consider that policy in the best interests of the Colony, her commerce and people;

BE IT RESOLVED, that we are of opinion—

1. that the policy has not been beneficial;
2. that any attempt to continue it would be detrimental to the public good;
3. that uncertainty will be most hampering to trade;
4. that while the measure authorizing the making of Rules and Regulations remains unreppealed, the suppliers and exporters of the Colony will be disinclined to venture into the fishing business as fully as they otherwise would; and
5. that, therefore, in our opinion, "The Act to Regulate the Exportation of Salt Codfish" should be immediately repealed.

THE WOODFORD AFFIDAVIT.

Before going into the Fish Regulations Sir Michael said he wished to comment on other public matters. First he wished to remind the House that last year petitions were filed against the election of Dr. Jones and Mr. Woodford for bribery and corruption. Mr. Woodford was unelected and disqualified in the Supreme Court but Dr. Jones was only unelected on a technicality. Those who persecuted Mr. Woodford were not the Simon Pures they pretended to be. Sir Michael then made reference to the Woodford Affidavit and said that Mr.

Woodford had been completely vindicated as regards the truth of his deposition. He also referred to the appointment and finding of the Royal Commission on the case, and the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, laying particular emphasis on the fact that Mr. Woodford was not represented by counsel. He then read the finding of the Commission. He would leave criticism of that finding to an intelligent public. Before leaving the question, however, he quoted certain passages from the evidence of Hon. R. A. Squires, delivered in a manner so ironical, so sarcastic, that even the least of Coaker's many pawns must have been touched to the innermost part of their consciences. They simply squirmed under the severe castigation they received, and not one, not even the Minister of Marine and Fisheries himself, could deny one statement made; not one could open his mouth to dispute any of the facts which the Leader of the Opposition poured forth. The House met at 3 p.m., and after notices of question had been given and answers to questions tabled by the various departmental heads, Sir Michael Cashin rose to commence his great oration on the Address in Reply. He first read the following amendment:

WHO TOLD THE TRUTH!
After reading the correspondence Sir Michael commented on the matter and enquired as to who was telling the truth, Mr. Squires or the Governor? He thought the country was behind him when he backed the Governor in that matter. So much for clean politics in this country! The Minister of Agriculture and Mines went out to Mr. Main and wasted money right and left in the district and in fact, he was a public disgrace. The Prohibition Law was violated in all its moods and tenes by him. If a script were asked for, it was given. That was what clean Government meant under the present administration. And yet Mr. Woodford was unelected for allocating public money! The Woodford enquiry was a case of going to court with the devil and having it tried in Hell. Sir Michael then castigated the Mr. Main specials of the Star and Advocate. The men who took the scripts from Campbell, however, had more sense than he and voted according to the dictates of common sense. The Opposition Leader then informed the Premier that it was a dirty bird that fouled its own nest.

ONLY POLITICAL HYPOCRITES!

The present Government was only in power 18 months, but they had committed more political crimes than any other since responsible Government was granted. The Opposition, in spite of the Premier's insults, had gone to Harbour Main and returned two "Woodheads," Capt. Lewis and Dr. Jones. The present Government were only a crowd of political hypocrites. They dared not deny it. And Mr. Woodford after 30 years in the House, had to go down to a trial like that! If Woodford perjured himself on that affidavit, wasn't it the duty of the Minister of Justice to arrest him. But the Minister knew Woodford was not the culprit. He (Sir Michael) knew also and he would tell it later. There was no one of any intelligence who fall to know what was in the right. The Commissioners handed down a Scotch verdict. Did that not leave the Premier under a cloud? He believed that over 500 gallons of smuggled rum was drunk in Mr. Main before the election. Even molasses and yeast cake was given out for the making of moonshine! The Custom House is not a Custom House to-day. Duty has not got to be paid unless one wants to pay it. But the public will suffer for it.

WHOLESALE SMUGGLING.

Smuggling is going on everywhere and the Daisy is tied up at St. John's wharf! And that was the clean election the Premier was going to fight! Dr. Campbell was allowed to go to Mr. Main for three weeks leaving his patients in the Fever Hospital and he drew \$10,000 a year for this! Wasn't this the man who refused to go to Signal Hill to attend to the tubercular patients in the Hospital there and who was fired out of his job by the late Government? He was not romancing but stating plain unvarnished facts, so plain that the Premier could not shrink them and had to go out. The Governor practically called Squires a liar but why is he still Premier?

(A Voice—"Coaker is keeping him there.")
Sir Michael—"Coaker won't keep him there much longer. And Coaker will be fired out with him!"
The Speaker—"Address the chair."

Sir Michael—"I'm addressing every chair in the room, sir. But enough of the Woodford Affidavit!"

He then referred back to the resolution. The House last year practically agreed to put on the Fish Regulations under certain conditions but these conditions were not heeded after the House closed.

DROPPED \$20,000,000

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries was too headstrong to be advised by any of the practical fish merchants. The rules and regulations were kept

on and where are we to-day? The Minister of Marine and Fisheries could do as he pleased. The Opposition were willing to give the Regulations a trial but they found they were injurious and then there was no redress. In 1920 the export value of our fish was \$36,000,000 whilst he ventured to say that this year only about \$6,000,000 worth had been sold, making us \$30,000,000 behind in export. And on that amount we have to lose 30 p.c. Revenue! Was there any man in the House who could say where we are to-day? The Reform Government came in with promises of economy. And what did they do? They criticized the past Government for their conduct of their financial affairs. Now there is not enough remaining of the large surplus left by his Government to pay the interest on the debentures maturing on June 30th. The loan the Government was going to raise last year was not yet on the market. They made a temporary loan of 1½ millions at 5% from the Bank of Montreal where they had 3 millions on deposit at 3 p.c. They admitted the Railway was going to cost 2½ millions at the end of the fiscal year. That was 2½ millions of the surplus gone. Then they took \$500,000 to buy fish when there was barely a quorum of the Executive in the country. And the Government under Mr. Coaker took it upon themselves to buy \$500,000 worth of fish from a certain section of the country. That was another half million gone and that was the way they had been playing ducks and drakes with the people's money. Then the Coastal Breeze must be costing the country over \$1000 per day. There were also smaller items as salt and when all the Bills were added up the Government would find that even now they could not pay them. Down at the Customs House were bonds given. Of these \$60,000 from last year were still unpaid, and now there was \$250,000 in notes unpaid in the Custom House besides. Referring back to the minute in Council, he said that Messrs. Geo. Shea, S. E. Foot and Dr. Campbell had taken it upon themselves to perform the duties of the whole House, as they were the Committee of Council which was responsible for the expenditure of \$500,000 on Labrador fish. Was the marketing of Labrador fish any more urgent than that of shore fish? Why should Hon. Mr. Foot take it upon himself to dare allocate that large sum to be paid to Mr. Coaker's dealers?

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS LEAVES THE HOUSE.

Sir Michael then told the story of the two public meetings called in November last. The three men already referred to allocated \$500,000 to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and his deputy to pay out. The House of Assembly should have been called together to decide whether this allocation should have been made. The men who got this money denied all knowledge of it up to 48 hours before it was disclosed in the House. Sir Michael then read the Minute in Council which provided for the allocation. Capt. Gosse was paid \$2,805 for his fish. Was that decent? (At this juncture Mr. Gosse could not stand any more of Sir Michael's biting criticism and got up to leave the House.)

Sir Michael—"Yes, you may go, and I'll drive everyone of you out of the House. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries himself will be the next to follow." (The Gallery applauded vociferously, and Mr. Gosse turned on his heel and out and snapped out some remark which no one could understand. As he left the Assembly the Gallery simply roared with laughter and even the colleagues of the member for Harbor Grace could not refrain from smiling.) 7,500 gals. of fish were now drifting about the Mediterranean. It was shipped from Port Union and no money was paid for it. According to the Auditor General's Report the Minister of Marine owed \$60,000 for salt. It was not decent, nor fair to himself to hold his position. Mr. Higgins was kicked against because he was Reid's Lawyer, and yet here was Mr. Coaker holding several jobs outside of his portfolio. He was going to make another statement now that the Prime Minister was back. There were a number of motor cars running around town on which no duty had been paid, and contributors to the Premier's Party Fund owned them. He then referred back to the \$500,000. Hon. Samuel Foote would get his walking ticket soon, and Dr. Campbell would get his also. At the time that money was paid out those who purchased fish with it were dishonest to the country. The Labrador fish had now got to be kept until August next. What a lovely bill would be presented for storage then. He did not know how we were going to get out of the mess we were in. He was saying this as a true Newfoundland.

Sir Michael then went on with an even more scathing indictment of those responsible for the "Minute in Council. This was the Reform Government. Look at them. He was going to sell them right out before the House closed. Never mind their Wreck Commissioners. He would soon attend to the biggest wreck he had ever known, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries would be looking for him to save him from his friends. Sir Michael then referred to the schooner "President Coaker" and said that part of the freight on the fish cargo was paid out of the half million allocation. The money was allocated

for the purchase of fish, not for the freight on it. He asked the Government to tell their programme. What were they going to do to alleviate the supplies question? Give supplies, unless cash is paid. What a lovely story the Premier would have to tell when he attended the Imperial Conference next June. The only thing they could hold out for the redemption of Newfoundland was the blood of those who died for us. The Fish Regulations had been a curse to this country. What were they going to do with the people? They had either to sell them out to Canada or have a recurrence of the Governor Murray affair of the year of the Bank Crash. Present conditions will not bear comparison with that year. He appealed to the Prime Minister to rise in his place and paint some program in place of the Speech from the Throne. There was not one man in the country to-day who could tell us how to get out of the mess we are in. There was nothing before us but despair. If the Premier had anything to spring on the country let him spring it. He could see nothing better than the codfishery which gave 80 per cent. of our revenue, and now the fishermen were ruined. Starvation was stalking all over the island. The Premier had gone back on every promise made in his manifesto. Moreover he had no business to go overseas last year, and allow his Minister of Marine and Fisheries to run the country as he pleased. Sir Michael ridiculed the Labrador Boundary Question and said that before the reports of the lawyers looking after it were concerned the island itself would be part of Canada.

At this juncture Sir Michael moved the adjournment of the debate which will be continued this afternoon.

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Wedding Bells.

BARTLETT—MAUNDER.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized yesterday afternoon, the 12th inst., at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Maunder, Forest Road, when Miss Mabel Blanche, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Maunder of this city, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Capt. Harold Sinclair Bartlett of Brigus, Rev. Dr. Bond of Cochrane St. Church, assisted by Rev. I. W. Williamson of Canada, officiated at the ceremony. The bride, who looked charming in a very pretty gown of white Georgette over silk, with bridal veil and orange blossoms, and carrying a bouquet of sweet peas and carnations, entered the room leaning on the arm of her father, while Mendelsohn's Wedding March was rendered in his usual good style by Arthur Mews, Esq., C.M.G. The bridesmaids, Misses Is. Taylor and Hilda Maunder, looked charming in blue crepe de chene with picture hats, carrying bouquets of sweet peas and tulips, while the groom was supported by his cousin, Mr. Lewis G. Bartlett of this city. After the ceremony a reception was held, when a very pleasant and enjoyable time was spent by the relatives and friends of the bridal party. The groom's present to the bride was a handsome cheque to the bride, made to gold brooch and signet ring, and to the groomsmen an amber stem pipe in leather case. The presents were numerous and costly, testifying to the esteem in which the popular young bride was held. Amidst showers of rice, confetti and good wishes, the happy young couple left by the 6 p.m. train for Holyrood, where the honeymoon will be spent, whence they will proceed to their future home in Brigus. May their voyage through life be long and happy.

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