

## Naval Reservists At Bar of House.

**Boys in Blue Present Their Prize Money Demands--Government Quibbling and Subterfuge--Appointment of Committee of Both Sides.**

For the whole of yesterday afternoon and last night, and until well into this morning the question of Naval Prize Money was debated in the House and fiery addresses were made by various members. The primary cause of the debate was the presentation at the Bar of the House by Naval Reservists of a petition praying that they be given their prize money. It appeared that through some misunderstanding these men signed away their right to Prize Money, which it must be distinctly understood, is entirely different from gratuity money. The matter after lengthy debate was referred to a Select Committee, a motion to vote the money, made by Mr. Higgins and seconded by Mr. Fox being turned down. The House met at 3.15 p.m.

The Prime Minister tabled answers to various questions from the Opposition.

Mr. Bennett called the attention of the House to articles in the Daily Star which referred to the report of the debate on the Railway Resolutions by that paper which stated that these were fully explained and outlined. This, he said, was just what did not occur. When members address the House on matters of national importance they at least expect to be reported correctly and certainly not to be grossly misrepresented as had been done in this case. He denied emphatically the charges made against him and he had no doubt but that Sir Michael Cashin would refute those made against him (Sir Michael). If the Prime Minister were in any way responsible for this then, he was not worthy of holding his position. Mr. Bennett thought the railway was essential to our public life and it was absolutely incorrect to state that he wanted it closed down.

The Prime Minister supported Mr. Bennett's contention. He had not heard him make the statement referred to.

Sir John Crosbie also took exception to part of the article referred to by Mr. Bennett. It accused him of answering back Sir Michael Cashin when the latter said something to him in the course of his (Sir John's) speech. His views on the Railway policy coincided with those of Mr. Bennett and Sir Michael Cashin. If the present railway programme went through we would be a part of Canada very shortly. There were men in the Prime Minister's party just as much against the Railway policy as he was. If the Prime Minister did not know this he would find out before the House closed. Before the railway policy went through, the people would know that their birthright had been thrown away. He knew it to be one of the worst attempts to obtain Confederation ever made, and he regretted that Hon. W. F. Coaker was part and parcel to it. The Hon. Mr. Warren might wake up to save the country. He concluded by saying he was against the Railway Policy, against the plot to sell Newfoundland to Canada and before the session ended he would nail the confederates.

### THE RESERVISTS PETITION.

At this juncture a deputation of R. N.R. men advanced to the Bar of the House and by permission ex-Reservist Frank Doherty read the following petition:

To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Newfoundland in Legislative Session convened:

HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. Your petitioners are members of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve.
2. All have seen service in the late war, and by reason thereof are entitled to Prize Money in varying amounts.
3. No Prize Money has ever been paid to any of your petitioners and it has been intimated to them that it is not the intention of the Government to pay any.
4. It has been brought to the attention of your petitioners that they assigned over to the Newfoundland Government on their discharge all Gratuity, Prize Money, or other moneys to be received from the Imperial Government in consideration of receiving from the Newfoundland Government the same Gratuity as was paid to the members of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. And your petitioners feel that they should not have been asked to give up their right to Prize Money. Prize Money is something over and above War

Gratuity or Pay. It is something dissimilar from, and in no way connected with, War Gratuity or Pay. It is of no settled amount, but depends upon the number of enemy ships captured or sunk, the value of which is divided among the members of the British Navy at the end of War in varying amounts. It has been paid to members of the British Navy for generations past and their Pay or Gratuity has never been lessened on account of this. Prize Money is a bonus which has always been paid to the members of the British Navy for successful work and meritorious service. If the Pay and War Gratuity of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve had been entirely in the hands of the Newfoundland Government, Prize Money would still be due your petitioners by the Imperial Government. Prize Money is payable in its entirety by the Imperial Government. For your petitioners to take away the right of Prize Money entirely is to take from some more than from others.

5. Attached hereto is a copy of the correspondence carried on between the Chief Accountant of the Department of Naval Service, Canada and the Great War Veterans' Association of Newfoundland with regard to Prize Money paid to members of the Canadian Naval Service. A perusal of this correspondence will show that the Canadian Government has paid to members of the Canadian Naval Service the same Gratuity as was paid to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, over and above their Prize Money, which was paid to them on its receipt from the Imperial Government.

6. Your petitioners most respectfully protest against the holding from them of this Prize Money. It is a course which is not being pursued in any other portion of the Empire and it seems hardly fit that the oldest of its Colonies, and the one which claimed to be the nursery for the material which manned the British Navy, should be the only place where the amounts, which are lawfully due Naval Reservists, should be kept from them.

7. Your petitioners therefore pray that Your Honourable House may see the justice of their claim, and that provision will be made, before the Session closes, to have right done to those who did their part when the cause of the Empire was at stake.

And as in duty bound they will ever pray,  
St. John's, the ninth day of July, A.D., 1921.

Reservist Doherty also read the following correspondence:

Dept. of Canadian Naval Service,  
Ottawa, Canada, 8th Dec., 1920.  
The Dominion Secretary, G.W.V.A., St. John's, Nfld.

Sir,—Referring to your letter dated the 29th ultimo, I have to inform you that members of the Canadian Naval Service are being paid Prize Money in accordance with the Royal Proclamation governing the grant, in addition to their War Service Gratuity.

For your information, however, I have to add that this Department is paying Prize Money only to members of the R.C.N. or R.N.C.V.R. and that applications received from the Newfoundland R.N.R. ratings loaned to

the Canadian Naval Service during the war are invariably referred to the Registrar General of the Newfoundland Reserve for his attention. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
L. J. BEAUSOLEIL,  
Chief Accountant.

G.W.V.A. of Nfld., 156 Water St. St. John's, Nfld., 21st Dec., 1920.  
L. J. Beausoleil, Chief Accountant,  
Dept. Naval Services, Ottawa.

Sir,—I thank you for the information you have given us regarding Prize Money as per your letter of the 8th inst.

Might we further impose and ask you if your Naval Ratings receive a Gratuity equivalent to the Army as it would appear that Naval Ratings are in receipt of more money than an Army Rating with the same services in rank?

Assuring you of our appreciation in the matter. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
G. J. WHITTY,  
Dominion Secretary.

Dept. of Naval Service,  
Ottawa, Canada,  
4th January, 1921.

The Dominion Secretary, G.W.V.A. of Nfld., 156 Water St., St. John's, Nfld. Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo and previous correspondence relative to Prize Money, I have to inform you that Canadian Naval Ratings received War Service Gratuity equivalent to that paid in the Army for corresponding qualifications. Naval Prize Money is a grant payable only to the Naval force and it is quite evident that for equal service a naval rank of rating entitled to both War Service Gratuity and Prize Money receives more money than any army rank or rating. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
L. J. BEAUSOLEIL,  
Chief Accountant.

The Prime Minister said in reply to the petitioners, that the matter had come before various late administrations. He delved into history and reviewed the various deeds of these Governments in connection with the Naval Reservists. The whole purport of his speech was that during Mr. Hickman's administration of the Militia Department the Reservists had signed a form giving up all right to Prize Money in consideration of the fact that their gratuities and pay should be put on an equal basis with those of the men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. He further declared that there was a deficit of \$100,000 in the Militia Department and that when the Prize Money was received it would go to make up this deficit.

Sir Michael Cashin expressed his sympathy with the reservists. They had come to the House to demand their rights. If there were a dollar left in the Colony the men at the Bar should be paid in full. He knew he was voicing the sentiments of the majority of the House when he suggested that \$100,000 be voted that afternoon for these reserve men. He read an extract from Sir Richard Squires' manifesto in which the latter pledged himself, if elected, to do everything in his power for the returned men. Sir Michael pledged the support of the Opposition for a vote granting the whole amount of the Prize Money. He asked Mr. Bennett to rise and settle all the misunderstanding in connection with the matter.

Mr. Bennett also expressed his sympathy with the Reservists. He explained all the circumstances in connection with the matter of Prize Money and defied any man to say he had not done his best for the returned soldiers and sailors. He explained in detail the processes whereby the Naval Reservists' pay was put on the same basis as that of the soldier's. In this connection the Admiralty had been asked to have an order published throughout the various fleets, at home and abroad, so that the Newfoundlanders scattered over the globe would receive the news. It was six months before he received an answer to his letter, and he was then told that too much trouble would be involved in promulgating this order. It was over a year after the increase in pay had been granted the R.N.R., before it could be announced to the men concerned. Mr. Bennett told of what he had had to go through as Minister of Militia and showed how he had been misrepresented and wronged. The money that the men at the Bar of the House were asking for would not cost the country anything and he hoped the Government would see their way clear to alter their decision.

Sir John Crosbie said the men were there at the Bar in a just cause. If any Prize Money was due them then let them get it. He supported the grant of \$100,000 being given to them at once. It would not make much difference on the day they went to Canada. It might as well be thrown away now as given to the Reds. In any case the money was coming from the Imperial authorities and the Government were exceeding their rights if they kept this money. He wanted to know what the Government intended to do in the matter.

Mr. Sullivan said that the men should get their rights. As an illustration of Government neglect he said that nothing had been done in connection with the Report of the Select Committee on pensions. When the men were overseas nothing was too good for them, but whatever they received had to be pulled from all Governments by continual agitating.

These men are at the Bar of the House asking for what is their own. Newfoundland was prepared to pay the same gratuities as Canada irrespective of prize money. The men should be given their money as soon as the Government received it from the Imperial authorities.

Mr. Higgins said that the deputation had come to the Bar of the House to look for their rights and they had been treated to an historical essay on Governments and those connected with them. All that these men asked for was a straightforward answer to their request. To discover the feelings of the House he would move the following resolution:

"Resolved, that in the opinion of this House the Government of the country should pay the Royal Naval Reserve men the money due them by the Imperial authorities or otherwise."

He thought it time the men should get a straight answer.

Mr. Fox in a brief speech, seconded the Resolution. The House must accede to the men's request if it wanted to do them justice. He asked the Prime Minister if he intended to vote the money and was answered with a statement that the ordinary rules of the House must be applied to the motion. Mr. Fox accused him of quibbling and said it was a gross breach of faith to deprive these men of what was rightly due them. The Militia Department account should be squared up by an ordinary vote.

Mr. Bennett said the granting of this vote would not cost the country a cent.

Sir John Crosbie said the men were entitled to their Prize Money and he was prepared to pay it out of the colony's funds. Referring to the Prime Minister's remarks as to the rules of the House, he said the House itself was out of order.

The Prime Minister—"Hear, hear!" Sir John Crosbie—"Well, you are the leader. If you were a man of strength, everything would be alright." Sir John then asked why the Militia Department overruled was not in the Estimates. He asked Dr. Barnes if he knew anything about it, but that gentleman was as silent as ever, and would give no direct answer. Sir John said that Dr. Barnes' silence was an admission of the fact that he did not know anything about the deficit previously. He demanded a definite answer for the deputation.

Mr. Archibald supported the resolution moved by Mr. Higgins and thought it only reasonable that if Reids could be granted \$1,500,000, our returned men should get the \$100,000 which was their due. Before he sat down he wanted to draw the attention of the House to some headlines in the Advocate about the policy of the Opposition, which was, so the Advocate said, to close down the Railway. He had never heard any person offer such a suggestion.

Mr. Samson thought there was a lot of politics in the attitude of some honourable members, but on being questioned by Mr. Higgins as to the intention of the resolution, he had to admit that politics were at the back of it. He stated that he knew his mind on the matter, which was that in the proper place he was going to vote that these men be given their prize money.

Recess was then taken until 8 p.m.

### NIGHT SESSION.

When the House reassembled Sir John Crosbie asked the Prime Minister if he had come to any decision as yet in connection with the Resolution before the chair.

The Prime Minister, in reply, moved as an amendment that the matter be referred to a Select Committee of the House for further enquiry. The Minister of Justice seconded the Amendment.

Mr. Higgins spoke to the Amendment and said that if ever there were occasion to give vent to political feeling there was none greater than this. The Amendment was only begging the question, and he had too much respect for the men who had gone out to vote for it. A wrong would be done these men if their money was taken through a misunderstanding. No Government could be so petty as to take Prize Money from the men to whom it was due. This taking of Prize Money was either right or wrong. If the Amendment was carried he wanted it distinctly understood that the matter would not be heard of again from the Government.

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July 12, 1921, St. J.

It was a deliberate attempt at side-tracking.

Sir John Crosbie had an interesting argument at this juncture with Mr. Jennings. He said that if the motion was voted down the Government would go down in history as the greatest crowd of political incapables that ever entered the House. Mr. Walsh, Sir Michael Cashin, and other members spoke briefly. At Mr. Higgins request the Select Committee called for by the Amendment, was to contain three Opposition and two Government members. Mr. Higgins then wanted to know why the Committee should report at all as the Opposition members would all vote for the grant of the money to the Reservists.

The Amendment was carried on a party vote of 17-14 and the Speaker named the following as the Select Committee: Messrs. Cave, (Chairman), Capt. Jones, Messrs. Higgins, Fox and Sullivan.

After notices of question had been given, the House adjourned until 3 p.m. to-day.

### Wedding Bells.

CHURCHILL-RYAN.

At the C. of E. St. Michael's, Hillview, on June 15th, a very quiet but pretty wedding was solemnized by the Rev. Mr. Fowling, when Miss Ethel Francis Churchill was united in holy bonds of matrimony to Mr. Simon J. Ryan, of Shoal Harbor. The bride looked charming in a dress of white silk and over dress of white net, hand worked sash and hat to match and carried a bunch of bridal roses. The bride was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr. Earl Baker. The groom was supported by Mr. Alfred J. Ryan, brother of the groom, Mr. Uriah S. Churchill, brother of the bride and Abel Churchill, cousin. The bridesmaids were Mrs. Alex Harris, sister of the bride, from New York City, who wore a saxe blue satin with hat to match; Miss Annie Ryan, sister of the groom, a dress of white voile, with hat to match; Miss Sadie Churchill, cousin of the bride, dress of white voile with hat to match. The groom's present to the bride was a handsome diamond gold ring. After the marriage a reception was held at the bride's home and an enjoyable time was spent until the late hours of the morning. The bride received some handsome presents. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Ryan many happy years of wedded life. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan will return to their future home in October.

VARDY-MACKAY.

A very quiet wedding was solemnized at St. James' Church, Channel, on the evening of July 2, when Rev. H. J. Read tied the nuptial knot which united Miss Amelia Vardy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Vardy, of Channel, to Capt. William Mackay of the United States schooner Gladiolus. The groom is a native of Bucksport, Maine, and has been no stranger to Channel, having loaded fish cargoes at that port on several occasions. To Capt. and

Mrs. MacKay, all good wishes are extended by their friends. The Gladiolus sailed for Bucksport on July 7.

### Casualties on the Glorious Fourth.

NEW YORK, July 4.—(By Canadian Press.)—The list of casualties due to celebration of the Glorious Fourth began to arrive in despatches received early to-day, and indications this morning were that the efforts to make the United States National holiday, "Safe and Sound" was not likely to meet with any greater degree of success than in previous years.

At San Jose, Calif., Gladys Flatman, youthful celebrant, is dead and her playmate, Joyce McLaughlin, is not expected to live. Their dresses caught fire while they were playing with fireworks and they suffered severe burns despite the efforts of neighbors to save them.

Damage to property estimated at half a million dollars was reported last night from Marysville, Calif. Small boys setting off fire crackers, started a fire which destroyed twelve city blocks and burned four spans of the Southern Pacific trestle, blocking railway traffic on the east side of the Sacramento Valley.

During celebrations to-day at Springfield, Mass., a young girl was assaulted and badly beaten; Joseph Starkey, also of Springfield, is in Mercy Hospital suffering severe knife wounds received during a fight in East Long Meadow. Two Italians in the same city engaged in a revolver duel, said to have resulted

from a family fight. Neither was injured.

Lockjaw resulting from the explosion of blank cartridges being used to celebrate the Fourth resulted, day in the death of Wm. Drumm, and Michael Santello, 14, of New York, Conn. The sale of explosives for the Fourth of July celebration has been forbidden in Norwalk, as the police are investigating.

### Talking Without Words

Natives in some of the far-away lands have languages in which human voice plays no part.

For instance, in Tierra Del Fuego that cheerful group of islands off the coast of South America, news is conveyed and conversation sustained between the different tribes inhabiting the islands by means of fires on the high peaks of the mountains.

The natives are always on the look-out for these fires, and know by what they are intended to mean.

The Basutos use a drum, consisting of a large gourd across which the dried skin of a kid is stretched. It is beaten with a padded drumstick, the sound having a range of from ten to eight miles. A sort of Morse code is employed.

The aborigines inhabiting the Malabar Islands speak to each other at distance by whistling; the whistles being selected for their ability to whistle loudly. They make this their livelihood. Messages are sent from one hill top to another in a series of sharp, separate notes, long and short, from fifteen to twenty at a time.

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