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House of Assembly.

April 6th.

The House met at 3 p.m.

Notices of question were given by Messrs. Fox, Lewis, MacDonnell, Sinnott, Vinnicombe, Walsh, Higgins, Sir M. P. Cashin and Dr. Jones.

The Premier tabled answers to questions.

To Mr. Walsh he said that the only payments made re the preparation of the regulations of the Fisheries Act was $250 to Mr. Brian Dunfield.

The Minister of Public Works tabled answers to question.

Dr. Jones said that he had received an unsatisfactory reply to his question to the Premier re Poor Relief. The hon. member took exception to the fact that questions to which replies were not asked, had been answered.

Mr. Higgins criticized in a very severe manner the way in which the Government had been answering questions. The answers received to certain questions were uncalled for. The practical business of the House was curtailed by this method of answering questions. Improper questions should be struck out; caustic questions should receive caustic replies, but it was indecent and unbecoming the head of a department and unworthy of the Premier to drag information not asked for into the answers.

The Minister of Justice was in accord with Mr. Higgins. He had discovered that some questions had not been answered in a strictly proper manner.

Mr. MacDonnell remarked that the Government and the Lobelia were analogous to the Wooden Horse of Troy and quoted "Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes." He expressed the hope that when the Premier went to the Imperial Conference he would use the Lobelia as his private yacht. He was proud of the fact that he was the first member of the House who had even yet attained so much importance that it was necessary to keep a warship in port to watch him. The Premier had designated the Opposition as wooden heads. There were worse things than having wooden heads, such as having empty ones. When they saw the mess the present Government has made the people will wish that they (Govt.) had got wooden heads. He insisted that his questions be answered in a fit and proper manner.

Mr. Bennett asked a question, which the **Minister of Justice** claimed was unparliamentary and quoted authorities to support his claim. A sharp debate followed, in which Messrs. Higgins, Warren, MacDonnell, and Premier participated.

The Minister of Public Works also had to have his little say. Finally the Speaker said that in future all question would be revised.

Mr. Bennett read his question in a different form.

Mr. Fox spoke re his question concerning Sudbury and said it had been asked without malice. He would withdraw the question if the Premier would withdraw the answer.

The Premier assented to this.

The following Bills were then read a first time:—"An Act respecting the cutting and exportation of Timber for special purposes. "An Act to confirm an agreement between the Government and the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co., Ltd."

The questions on the Order Paper were then dealt with. In reply to Sir M. P. Cashin the Premier said that 2,700 cases of whiskey had been brought here by the Stanmore.

In reply to Mr. Higgins the Premier stated that Escasoni property was to be used as a smallpox hospital, the purchase price being $9,000.

Mr. Higgins said that farmers of the neighbourhood had told him that milk would not be purchased from them if the small pox hospital were instituted at Escasoni.

Asked by Sir M. P. Cashin when the Public Accounts would be forthcoming, the Premier replied that he would inquire to-morrow.

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Mr. Walsh then rose to continue his speech of yesterday and he occupied the attention of the House until 6.30 p.m., when adjournment was taken until 8 p.m. His speech was an eloquent one and in well chosen words he severely castigated the Government in a manner which could brook no contradiction. Throughout his lengthy speech the hon. member for Placentia was loudly applauded by the Gallery and members of the Government were seen to hang their heads at the relentless criticism they suffered at his hands. He dwelt at considerable length on the matter of questions. In connection with his question concerning the F.P.U. owing money to the Customs on account of bonds, he said that the F.P.U. was not a private firm but the greatest political organization in the country. At this juncture the **Minister of Posts** attempted to interrupt.

Mr. Walsh: "Sit down and take your medicine like a man. There's a whole dose coming to you." Mr. Walsh was upheld by the Speaker and continued with his castigation of the manner in which the Government was handling questions. He then read an article in the Advocate referring to himself and he strongly condemned the tactics of the writer of said article. He went on to refer to the Auditor General's Report and mentioned that the auditors brought down to investigate the affairs of the past Administration had received $10,000 for their work. It was the best possible compliment that could be paid the Cashin Government that nothing incriminating could be found against them. Referring to the Premier's Manifesto Mr. Walsh said that none of the pledges had been carried out. The policy of the present Government was, by camouflage or other means, to hide from the electors what the true situation is with regard to public matters. He also dwelt at length on the matter of Poor Relief and said that the Commissioner of Public Charities had been called upon during the past six months to provide more money for emergency cases than he had been during the past 20 years. Mr. Walsh severely criticized the Minute in Council giving the power to Hon. W. F. Coaker to make use of half a million dollars of the public money. The money had been used for certain districts only and he was surprised that the other members of the Government had not stuck up for their own districts. Re referred to the Railway Scandal and the way in which the Reids had got the present Administration in their power. The Railway had never been in such a rotten state as it has been since the Government Commission took charge. He spoke also of the Food Control Board. "There are smiles which make us happy," he quoted, "and smiles which make us blue," but the smiles that he got are those that make us blue. It takes a lot of smiles, he said, to pay for a barrel of flour. He also spoke of Mr. Coaker as having forgotten his lowly origin, since being called "Excellency" by European people. Here he noticed the Minister of Public Works seemed to be asleep and he expressed the hope that the Minister's ears were not closed if his eyes were.

Mr. Jennings asked the Speaker if it were permissible for a member to close his eyes.

Mr. Walsh: "Sorry, I haven't my trumpet and can't hear you."

(Here he produced an ear trumpet amidst loud laughter.)

Continuing he said he wasn't anxious about the Minister's eyes, but his ears. (More laughter.) He dwelt at length on the Sugar question and also said when speaking of the F.C.B. that beef is being imported at 12 cents per lb. and is retailed at 40 or 50 cents. He objected to the personel of the F.C.B. At this juncture the afternoon session was brought to a close.

At 8 p.m. Mr. Walsh continued his speech on the Address in Reply. Referring again to the sugar question he said said that since adjournment he had heard that a reputable broker in this city had offered a commission merchant a large quantity of sugar recently at 7¾ cents per lb., but the F.C.B. refused the Commission merchant permission to take the sugar. The Premier when appealed to took the same stand as the F.C.B.

Matters concerning Education and Hospitals were also discussed. Mr. Walsh also referred to the scandalous amount spent on snow shovelling in Hr. Main. He also discussed the Labor Bureau, Mining Inspection, the price of coal and ended up with an impassioned appeal to the Government on behalf of the Naval Reserve men who are appealing to the Government to be given their prize money. He deplored the lack of sympathy shown by the Government to those men who had been so brave and had fought so well for us who stayed at home. No matter what the financial condition of the country these men should be looked out for. This brought to a conclusion a most eloquent address of three hours.

Mr. W. J. Higgins rose at 9.15 and spoke until 11.45, when adjournment was taken until 3 p.m. to-day. The address of Mr. Higgins was a most scathing condemnation of the Government and will be published to-morrow, when it is hoped sufficient space will be available to do it full justice.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

THURSDAY, April 7th, 1921.

(1) Presenting Petitions.

(2) Presenting Reports of Standing and Select Committees.

(3) Giving Notice of Motion and Questions.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Mr. Moore—To ask the Hon. the Minister of Public Works to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the expenditure up to date of the Road Commission appointed at the Session of the Legislature; if himself or any other member of the Commission is receiving a salary for services in connection therewith; and if so, to give the names of the said parties and the amounts paid to them. Also if the Hon. Member for Fogo, the Secretary of the Commission, has published a pamphlet or book in connection with its work; if so, to lay on the Table of the House copy of the same and to state if any amount was paid him for compiling the said book; and if so, how much, what the cost of publishing the said book was, and how many copies were published.

Mr. Moore—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister if the Food Control Board, since its appointment in January, 1920, has taken any steps to secure a reduction in the price of milk in view of the admitted fact that there has been a substantial decline in the price of many materials used in feeding cattle.

Mr. Fox—To ask the Hon. the Minister of Public Works to lay on the Table of the House an estimate of the cost of the new water service to the sanitorium on Topsail Road and to accompany it with the original bills and accounts to date for inspection by the Members of the House.

Mr. Lewis—To ask the Hon. the Minister of Shipping what steps, if any, the Government are taking to deal with the provision of fishery salt for the coming season's requirements; also what provision, if any, the Government are taking to see that an adequate supply of molasses is provided for the requirements of the Colony during the present year.

Mr. Fox—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, what salary is being paid the Meteorological Observer at Port aux Basques, and whether said observer is not already being the recipient of an exceedingly large stipend from the Government as operator in charge of Port aux Basques telegraph office.

Mr. Fox—To ask the Hon. Minister of Posts and Telegraphs to lay on the Table of the House statement showing:

(1) How many operators are on duty at present at the Office known as the "Cable Station," Port aux Basques.

(2) What salaries are paid each, giving the name and amount?

(3) The amount of revenue collected by that Office for the years ended June 30th, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, giving each years earnings separately?

(4) Whether the Chief Operator is furnished with free rent, fuel and light, as during the period when the office was the Newfoundland terminus of the Commercial Cable from Canso, N.S., and the actual cost of these items of upkeep for the building and the housing of the resident operator?

(5) How has the estimate of salaries, etc., for this station as voted last year, viz: $5,412.00 been spent, and in what form?

(6) Is it the intention of the Postal Telegraph Department to continue to carry such a huge appropriation for this office, the earning power of which, at present, is no greater than any other outport station?

Mr. Lewis—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister if Mr. W. Rennie of this city has been appointed or is to be appointed to a position in the General Hospital, if so to state the nature of the position, the duties he is to perform, the salary he is to receive and when he is to take up his work, and also whether some men who went overseas and fought for King and Country in the Army or Navy, preferably a wounded man, could not have been secured to carry out the duties of this position as well as Mr. Rennie.

Mr. MacDonnell—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister to lay on the Table of the House copies of all correspondence, if any, between himself and the Imperial Authorities in connection with the acquiring by this Colony of the airships and airplanes now at Botwood, and if no correspondence exists, statement of circumstances under which these aircraft were acquired. Also a statement of the cost to the Colony of their acqusition, transport here, and present operation; also a statement of the terms of the agreement, if any, between the owners of the sealing fleet and the Government, for the alleged joint operation of same, and an estimate of all the liabilities which the Colony is likely to incur on account of the working of these machines for the period for which the agreement, if any, between the Government and the sealing steamers, is to run.

Mr. Vinnicombe—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, as Chairman of the Railway Commission, to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the number of times the Minister of Marine and Fisheries proceeded to Port Union by special car from July 1st, 1920, up to date; what he paid for it; and if not in what capacity was he journeying; what would be paid by other parties for the hire of said car if they were using it in making similar trips; the total mileage travelled by the hon. gentleman to Port Union and back; if he paid his fare on these occasions, and if not, the total amount the fares at first class rates would mean; if the hon. gentleman took along with him on any of these occasions parties or guests and if so did these pay their fares and if not why not? also if meals were served on the private car on these occasions and if so were they paid for and if not to what account was the cost charged, and what is the total value of the meals so taken for the entire period.

Dr. Jones—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines, what site has been selected by the Government for the Model Farm, the creation of which was indicated at the last session; what amount, if any, has been paid for such site; what buildings, if any, it is proposed to erect and the cost of the same; and what steps are being taken to utilize all the live stock purchased by the Minister last year and brought to the Colony during the autumn.

Dr. Jones—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister if, during the period he was in Great Britain last fall, he took any steps with a view to securing for this country a share of the indemnity to be paid by Germany, arising out of the recent war, and if so to lay on the Table of the House all documents in his possession in regard thereto; that is to say, copies of any communications forwarded by him to the Imperial authorities in relation to this matter, and the originals, if any, received from them for inspection by honorable members.

Dr. Jones—To ask the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs, to furnish a statement showing:

(a) The number of applications for old age pensions on file on Feb. 1st last, specifying the districts from which they were made.

(b) The number of applications received from the District of Hr. Main from February 1st last to date, giving names of applicants and names of those recommending them, and

(c) How many of the latter application have since been granted.

Mr. Fox—To ask the Minister of Public Works to lay on the Table of the House statement showing in detail:

(1) Total amount of fire insurance carried by the Government on Public Buildings and other public property throughout the Colony.

(2) Amongst what companies is the said insurance distributed and in what amount?

(3) How much additional insurance was taken out by the Government last year; amongst what Companies was the said additional insurance distributed, and in what amount?

Mr. Walsh—To ask the Hon the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Mines, to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing what amount was paid the same Minister for expenses in connection with his trip to Canada and the United States last year for the purpose of buying cattle and the amount expended by him and of the cost of the same; likewise the cost of the expenses of transporting these animals from point of purchase to St. John's; also a statement of the cost of maintaining these animals since their arrival up to the present day.

Mr. Sinnott—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister if the Government permitted the cutting of pit props or pulp wood as a relief measure during the past winter, and if so to what extent, and to table a statement showing (a) the localities in which such permits were given, (b) the parties to whom they were given, (c) the extent of the said concessions, (d) the amount guaranteed by the Government per cord for the wood cut, and (e) the minimum prices which the Contractors were to pay those who cut the wood, and if it is correct that in some places those engaged in cutting the wood received only two dollars a cord for their work while the contractors will receive six dollars a cord from the Government.

Mr. Bennett—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister, to lay on the Table of the House a statement, showing what amounts of public money have been paid for the import of sugar from the 15th of November, 1919, to date; what loss has been sustained in the Colony by the act of the Food Control Board; how long more it will be necessary to maintain control of sugar; and what amount would have been saved to the taxpayers and to the Treasury if the Food Control Board had not followed the course they did.

Mr. Bennett—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister if any person is being paid or has been paid since the advent of the present Government to office, for performing the duties of Minister of Militia, or any duties equivalent thereto, and if so to name the Party and state the amount of remuneration paid to him; also to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the number of officials employed by the Militia Department as on March 31st, showing (a) the daily rate of pay received by each; (b) the daily rate of allowances received by each; or, if the payment is in the nature of "consolidated pay" to state (a) the amount received by such parties as separation allowance, marriage allowance, or otherwise on behalf of their wives or other dependents! (b) to furnish a similar statement of the officials employed by the Civil-Re-Establishment Department and the Vocational Board, if any, and to state how long more it is intended to maintain these Departments, and whether, in view of the need for economy, it is not time to reduce these to civil service, and to state the saving that would be effected by such a change, and also why such a change could not have been put in force on the first of July last at the very latest.

Mr. Higgins—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance and Customs, to lay on the Table of the House statement showing what amounts, if any, have been paid to the Treasury by the Commercial Cable Company in respect of claims against that Company by the Colony and the subject of legal actions recently determined in the Colony's favor by the Imperial Privy Council and if no amounts have been paid, why not?

Sir. M. P. Cashin—To ask the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Finance and Customs what amount has been paid as Profits Tax by the Nova Scotia Steel Company in respect of operations on Bell Island, and if no amount has been paid, why not?

Sir. M. P. Cashin—To ask the Minister of Shipping to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the amount paid by the Government during the calendar year 1920 for fishery salt; and the amount received for the sale of the same so far; the amounts outstanding and a list of those owing the same, and an estimate of what proportion of the cost of this salt was borne by the Government and what proportion charged to the fishermen, and an estimate of what will be the loss to the Colony on the entire operation.

Mr. Walsh—To ask the Hon. the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, if he is aware that a Circular has recently been issued to the Lodges of the F.P.U. throughout the country setting forth that it is the intention shortly to procure and operate a fleet of ten steamers to be used at the seal fishery annually, half to sail from Port Union and half from St. John's, and that it is the intention also to start flour mills, soap factories, and other commercial enterprises on joint account by the Government and the F.P.U. throughout the country setting forth that it is the such policy and to lay of the Table of the House any documents in relation thereto and indicate the nature of the obligations which the Government intends to undertake in regard thereto.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

Address in Reply.

Committee of the Whole on Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Women's Patriotic Trust Fund, 1930."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act respecting the encouragement of Sheep Farming."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Crown Lands Act, 1918."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act for the Protection of Neglected, Dependent and Delinquent Children."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act to amend Chapter 170 of the Consolidated Statutes (Third Series) entitled 'Of Marine Courts of Enquiry.'"

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Law relating to Lotteries."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Terra Nova Sulphite Company's Act, 1920."

Second reading of Bill entitled, "An Act respecting the High Commissioner for Newfoundland in the United Kingdom."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act respecting the Board of Pension Commissioners."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act respecting the Cutting and Exportation of Timber for special purposes."

Second Reading of Bill entitled, "An Act to confirm an agreement between the Government and the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, Ltd.

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A new oil lamp that gives an amazingly brilliant, soft, white light, even better than gas or electricity, has been tested by the U. S. Government and 35 leading universities and found to be superior to 10 ordinary oil lamps. It burns without odor, smoke or noise—no pumping up, is simple, clean, safe. Burns 94% air and 6% common kerosene (coal-oil).

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Dodd's Kidney Pills are a kidney remedy. They strengthen the kidneys so they can do their full work of straining the impurities out of the blood. Dodd's Kidney Pills have been used for backache, diabetes, rheumatism, dropsy, urinary troubles and heart disease. People who use them are satisfied.

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Sale Prices-- 4.80, 5.60, 7.60, 9.20, 10.00

Marshall Brothers.

Wedding Bells.

LEARNING—HALL.

This morning, at 7 o'clock, a beautiful wedding took place at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, when Mr. Ronald McKenzie Learning and Miss Annie Maude Hall were united in the Holy Bonds of matrimony, the Rev. J. Brinton officiating. The bride was beautifully arrayed in travelling costume of peacock blue and was ably and admirably attended by her sister, Miss Florence Hall, and Miss Florence Mabel Learning, sister of the groom. Mr. M. Noseworthy ably assisted in the position of the giving away of the bride. The groom was suitably arrayed and waited upon by Mr. Walter C. Learning, his brother. After the signing of the Register the wedding party, consisting of the bride and groom, Mr. M. Noseworthy, Miss F. Learning, Mr. Walter C. Learning and Miss Florence Hall, and a number of friends drove to the future home of the couple, 111 Long's Hill, where a splendid breakfast was awaiting and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Immediately after breakfast the toast to the bride was splendidly delivered by Mr. W. C. Learning and to the groom by Mr. C. Rendell, a friend of the groom. Mr. Learning, the groom, replied in very few but well placed words, thanking Mr. Learning and Mr. Rendell for their toasts and general good wishes, after which the health of the couple was partaken of. As soon as possible preparations were made for the honeymoon trip, which will be spent at Kelligrews, and the happy couple boarded the 8.45 train amid the farewells and good wishes of many friends. The bride was the recipient of many valuable and useful presents, which tend to show the esteem of relatives and the many friends. The **Telegram** joins with their many friends in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Learning bon voyage over the sea of matrimony.

Thursday, the fourth day of the sale of "Ruddigore" tickets. Get yours before it is too late.

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