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### NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND PARTNERSHIP!

Hon. R. A. Squires, K.C., LL.B.

ANNOUNCES the removal of his LAW OFFICES to the New BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA Building at the corner of Beck's Cove and Water Street, and the formation of a PARTNERSHIP for general practice as Barristers, Solicitors and Notaries, with MR. J. A. WINTER, eldest son of the late Sir James S. Winter, K.C., under the firm name of Squires & Winter.

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## Practical Speech of Mr. Jennings on Our Herring Fishery

With Thirty Years Experience Behind Him Mr. Jennings Deals With This Branch of Our Fisheries—Suggests the Appointment of an Inspector Who Would be Entirely Free of Either Buyer or Seller

APRIL 3th.

MR. JENNINGS—Mr. Chairman: I wish to thank the hon. member for Placentia and St. Mary's for the compliment he paid me with regard to my experience in the herring fishery. I think I can claim to have some knowledge of that industry, having been engaged in it more or less for thirty years. To get down to the practical point, this industry resolves itself into two systems, first, what is generally termed the Newfoundland cure, and secondly, the Scotch pack. We hear a great deal about the bad pack, and the bad packages, but there are other matters which are not dealt with at all. I contend that a large percentage of the barrels made on the south side of Notre Dame Bay are as good as any Scotch barrels made from soft wood, with the exception of the iron chime hoop, which we suggested last fall to the Fisheries Board it would be well to introduce, only giving reasonable time for the importation and introduction of the same. We also suggested an inspection of the barrels, which we believe would bring the small percentage not properly made up to the required standard. But I assert here to-day that no matter how well herring may be packed, if they are allowed to lie around wharves in the hot summer sun for five or six months, as a large quantity did the past summer, when they reach the market they will be only fit for manure, and then the poor packer gets the blame.

The Scotch Method of Putting up Herring.

I hear that several parties in Twillingate are starting this spring to put up herring according to the Scotch method. I am very much afraid that it is not going to be a success. They salt, under that method, two barrels for the same quantity of salt we use on our barrel, Newfoundland cure. They leave the gut and spawn in the fish, and the belly is not ripped. We clean it all out. Now, in my opinion, if these herring lie around for some months before they are shipped to market, we shall have the same old cry repeated over again: "Newfoundland herring unfit for human food. There was an attempt made some years ago by a Scotch firm, who located at Twillingate, to pack and market our herring after the Scotch plan; the venture proved a failure. There was a rumour they were paid to fail; for that I cannot vouch, but I know they handled our spring and summer herring, and that might have easily contributed to the failure. I have been told that the herring caught in Notre Dame Bay this fall, although cured, according to the Scotch plan, did not fetch near the price the herring coming from Scotland did. What is the reason for this? Our fall herring should be as good as is caught in any part of the world. It looks rather suspicious to me; is there some little secret that we have not yet learned and which the Scotch people intend to keep to themselves, fearing future competition in the American markets? I heard of one cargo of herring taken to Lewisporte this fall. I believe those herring lay in that vessel's hold for a month and were thus taken out in a frozen condition when salt would have no effect upon them packed and shipped to an American market. Who gets the blame if this is another black mark against Newfoundland herring?

The Best Herring in Newfoundland Are Found in Green Bay.

Again as to our Newfoundland cure I had the opportunity of speaking to the Halifax agent who first came to inspect a quantity of herring Messrs D. P. & L. Osmond were shipping to Halifax. I found that he was well satisfied with both the barrel and the cure of the herring, and with all due deference to the hon. member for Burgeo, Mr. Moulton, he told me he could buy herring much cheaper on the West Coast than he could get them at Moreton's Harbour, but they were no good. The barrels, he said, had no wood in them, and sometimes would burst abroad in the vessel's hold. The firm of D. P. & L. Osmond must have shipped nine or ten thousand barrels to Halifax and other ports this year, and they told me themselves that they did not have a complaint of one bad barrel in the whole shipment. This goes to prove that with a little painstaking and

carefulness we can both make the barrel and cure its contents fit for the requirements of the market. However, I believe the introduction of an inspection will meet all the conditions required and hasten the time when our herring shipped from Newfoundland will reach the markets in a first-class condition, and that prices will be realized second to no other country in the world.

Inspector Should be Independent of Both Buyer and Seller.

In looking through the Fishery Report to-day in regard to herring, I notice that reference is made to an old statute which provides that the inspectors should be paid by the firms who employ them. I think the Government should take up this matter, and appoint inspectors. I believe that they should be independent of both the buyer and the seller. To my mind, if the buyer of the herring has to pay the Inspector, it simply means so much of the price that he will pay the seller, and the producer stands to lose. I think the inspectors, if appointed, should be paid from the revenue of the country, and so be independent of all parties.

I listened carefully to the remarks of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries with regard to the production of barrels and the introduction of a barrel-making factory. Well, I don't think that would be altogether a blessing, that is, if it meant that the making of packages would be altogether confined to that factory. I know a great many poor men, who have no opportunity of earning anything in any other way, especially down North, who spend their winter months making barrels; and they make good barrels, too, as good, I think, as any barrel factory could make. But those barrels could be improved by the introduction of the wide iron hoop on the chime. I think that is a thing that should be done—that all barrels should have a wide iron hoop on them; it

would improve the barrel in every way. The herring industry is an important one, and every measure should be taken to make the article marketable and to see that it is well packed.

The Careful Packer Suffer for the Sin of the Careless One.

There are a few people engaged in this business who don't take the trouble that they should and who do their work badly, and it is those men that we almost always hear of. We hear very little about the people who do their work well, but if a man does it badly, it is advertised all over the place. Now, I don't stand here to defend the man who does his work badly. I think that inspection ought to be introduced, and the men who put up the bad article should not be allowed to sell it. Probably the introduction of inspectors would meet that requirement. But something should be done immediately. If you intend that there should be an improvement in the future, you will have to disturb the present.

Makes Few Suggestions as to Old Age Pensions.

There is one other little matter—not exactly connected with the vote that we are discussing to-day—that I would like to say a word about, and that is in connection with the Old Age Pension scheme; and it is a matter which I would suggest the Government take up. I understand that the Old Age Pension office has no particular means of finding out when a pensioner dies. Now, those pensioners are all very old men, and I think it is very important that some arrangement should be made in this respect.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The Relieving Office is supposed to make it known.

MR. JENNINGS—That may be, but in many cases the Relieving Officer may live twenty or thirty or forty miles from the place where the death occurs. A case came under my notice during the past year. An envelope was brought to me containing an old age pension cheque. The man to whom that letter was addressed had been dead six months; which, to my mind, shows that somebody did not do the square thing. Now, my suggestion is this: The Local Affairs Act, I think, included the possibility of the placing of matters of this kind in the hands of the Road Board. Why not arrange to have this matter looked after by the Chairman of the different Road Boards? They would not expect to be paid for it. It would merely be a matter of reporting to the Deputation when a death occurred, and I believe you could go further than that and let the Board recommend a person to fill the vacancy.

## EXPENDITURE

On Account of Marine Works, from June 30th, 1915, to December 31st, 1915, for the Following Districts:

### TWILLINGATE DISTRICT.

F. Thistle	King's Point	\$50.00
Geo. Ryall	Norris Arm	20.00
Phillip Pippy	Shoal Tickle	200.00
Peter Parsons	Lush's Bight	50.00
S. J. Blackler, Ltd.	Nipper's Hr.	2.21
P. Burke	Little Bay	3.42
Cuthbert Moore	New Bay	2.18
Wm. Potter	Sampson's Islds.	5.00

### FOGO DISTRICT.

E. Ludlow	Fogo	\$80.00
Geo. Downer	Fogo Hr.	40.00
J. W. Hedge	Fogo	6,021.12
Ellias Chauk	Carmanville	40.00
Simon Brown	Joe Batt's Arm	150.00
Jesse Perry	Indian Islands	50.00
Thos. West	Ladle Cove	30.00
Jno. Powell	Deadman's Bay	40.00
Wm. H. Waterman	Change Islds.	30.00
Ellias Chauk	Carmanville	30.00

### BONAVISTA DISTRICT.

L. Carey	Broad Cove	\$100.00
George Brown	King's Cove	5.00
Sam. Winsor	Wesleyville	63.03
Jobs Stores	Bonavista	9.46
Geo. White	Bonavista	12.00
Chr. Road Board (Cape Isld.)	Cape Freels	100.00
Wm. Brenton	Wesleyville	5.00
Wm. Brown	King's Cove	30.00
J. H. T. Moss	Salvage Bay	10.00
Jos. Davis & Sons	Valleyfield	10.56
Art. Feltham	Deer Island	25.00
A. Vivian	Slambier's Cove	20.00
Wm. Hounsell	King's Isld.	100.00
Jes. Wells	Gooseberry Is.	4.59
Jas. Petten	Coward's Is.	5.00
Chairman Road Board	Salvage	100.00
"	Fair Island	30.00
"	Pinchard's Is.	30.00
"	Greenspond	150.00
"	King's Cove	100.00
Geo. White	Bonavista	700.00
Thos. Fennell	St. Brendan's	5.00
Japhet Winsor	Wesleyville	21.68

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