

Fog in the Narrows!

Fortify your system first thing in the morning with a cup of

VI-COCOA

Nourishing and Delightful.

House of Assembly.

Immediately following the return of the members from the Council Chamber (yesterday afternoon) and directly the Speaker had taken the chair, Sir Michael Cashin, leader of the Opposition, rose in his place for the purpose of moving a resolution. The Minister of Justice, at once claimed a point of order and an interesting discussion took place between learned legal members on both sides of the House as to whether the Speaker should report to the House the previous proceedings in the Upper Chamber before any business could be transacted. The ruling of His Honor was that as the House had not been notified of his acceptance by His Excellency, and therefore was not properly constituted until such announcement had been made, nothing could be transacted in the way of parliamentary business. He, however, at once intimated that the Governor had confirmed his selection and granted all the ancient privileges belonging to the Commons. The House being now constitutionally formed, Sir Michael Cashin moved the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the Prime Minister, the leader of this House, has been accused upon the oath of a former Member of this House, of criminal misconduct in relation to the election of a Member hereof;

AND WHEREAS the Governor in Council has announced an intention to appoint a Commission under the Public Enquiry Act, to take evidence upon oath, and to report its findings thereon in relation to the truth or otherwise of the said charge;

RESOLVED, that in the opinion of this House it should not proceed with the transaction of public business under the leadership of an accused person awaiting trial;

AND THEREFORE that this House should now adjourn for one week to give opportunity for the said inquiry and report.

Profusing his remarks to the resolutions with a congratulatory reference to the newly elected Speaker, the leader of the Opposition pointed out that this was a remarkable session, inasmuch as the Prime Minister was resting under a serious charge, and his presence in the House was inconsistent with the traditions of the House and a violation of both moral and political decency. The accusation against Mr. Squires was of weeks standing and no measures had been taken by the leader of the Government to deny the allegations, but within the past few days that announcement was made that a Royal Commission to investigate the charges had been appointed. That being so, the speaker did not consider it proper for the

Prime Minister, while under a cloud, to attend the sessions until such time as the Commission had finished its work and reported, and should the House negative the resolution, or should the Prime Minister persist in holding his seat, the Opposition members would see that no business be done, until the report and findings of the Commission had been made public.

Mr. J. R. Bennett (St. John's West), seconded the resolutions, and in doing so felt that for the sake of the dignity of the House and the personal honor of the Prime Minister that the latter should absent himself from the sittings while the Commission were investigating the Woodford affidavit charges. More was involved in these charges than was perhaps apparent to the superficial observer. They touched not only the honor of the Dominion but that of the whole Empire, and there should be no undue or vexatious delay in clearing the matter up. Mr. Bennett took the opportunity of offering his felicitations to Mr. Speaker, who he was sure would right nobly maintain the traditions of his predecessors and add to the dignity of the chair.

It was noticeable that Mr. Bennett suffered many uncalled for interruptions during his speech, and the suggestion was made by people in the House that the party backs were present in force. The conduct of the gallery yesterday was a most glaring exhibition of partisanship.

Mr. Walsh (Placentia and St. Mary's), begged to offer his congratulations to Mr. Speaker. He supported the resolution before the House, and claiming that by the Woodford charges a serious blow had been dealt the very foundation of the Constitution. He believed that the leader of the Government would welcome the opportunity given him and withdraw from the sessions pending the findings of the Commission.

Mr. MacDonnell (St. George's), desired to add his congratulations to those already accorded Mr. Speaker on his election as the first commoner. He was in complete accord with the tenor of the resolutions moved by Sir Michael Cashin and thought that they should be taken at face value by the House. The resolutions were not directed at the Prime Minister personally but against the position itself. The House should be, and is, concerned with the dignity of the office and in a matter of this sort an attempt should be made to divorce all considerations of personality or party politics from the main facts. The leader of the Government is under a cloud and he should not make procedure more difficult by persisting in attending the sessions. His exalted office demanded that he absent himself from the House until the charges made against him had been investigated and reported upon, and he was further of opinion that no business should be proceeded with until the whole of the allegations had been cleared up. No respect could be guaranteed for the laws if the law makes themselves become law breakers, and laws enacted under present conditions in this House could not be expected to receive that confidence which the people have in Legislative Acts of Parliament. The Prime Minister should be free from every trace of suspicion in the premises. He should be above reproach and until this charge of misdemeanor was thoroughly investigated, he should follow the course suggested.

The Minister of Justice (Hon. Mr. Warren), did not enter the debate but to make a statement only. The charges were so well known that it was not necessary for him to deal with them, with the details he had nothing to do. He objected to the business of the House being suspended, and quoted the British axiom of legal jurisprudence that a man is innocent (of crimes) until he is proven guilty. He had been called upon to start the machinery of the law, but refrained from doing so because he had come to the conclusion that there was nothing criminal in it, even if the Prime Minister had been guilty. He also fortified himself with another opinion. He had cabled the facts to the Dominion's solicitors in London and asked them for an opinion and he had been advised that it was not a criminal offence "under the Newfoundland law." There was, therefore, no foundation for action so far as the Department of Justice was concerned.

The Prime Minister, (Hon. Mr. Squires) started his defence by playing to the gallery. He was glad to have been afforded this opportunity of dealing with the ST. PATRICK'S DAY allegations of Mr. William Woodford. He deprecated the at-

tempts that had been made to keep him from entering the House as Prime Minister and charged that he had been unjustly and hostilely criticized by Opposition members and Opposition press. He had remained quiet (a hard job for Mr. Squires) for weeks, but now his chance had come. In a most theatrical manner he denounced past actions of other men and declared that the Commission to be appointed would go away back into political records and dig up all they could find against others who had done things. Loudly and harshly he declaimed against the leader of the Opposition for his alleged negligence in not demanding an enquiry into the Lornias and Tobacco charges. The Woodford charge was not true in fact, and he would no more deny them than he would get out of his car to bark at a dog that was in his way. And yet his next words gave direct contradiction to this statement in fact. He did not ask Mr. Woodford to resign, did not offer him a job or financial consideration of any kind "as an inducement to him to vacate his seat." It was quite true Woodford had resigned his seat, but only because of such pressure as his party may have been responsible for. As to the Commission, he said he was unable to say how soon it would be appointed, neither could he say how many members of the House would come within the scope of its enquiries. It was proposed to enquire not only into this matter, but into all deals of recent years, where members had changed sides, and the circumstances surrounding them. The Government did not pose as a bunch of purists, but it stood for purity in public life.

The Prime Minister followed other gentlemen of the House in referring in complimentary terms to His Honor the Speaker.

The people in the galleries and outside the bar became very demonstrative, so much so that the Speaker rose in his chair and administered a severe reprimand, warning the demonstrators that he would not tolerate such conduct, and if necessary, in the event of a repetition he would use the power placed in his hands by the rules of the House, and order the interrupters removed. This had a salutary effect and no further applause of a wild and unruly nature was heard. It speaks volumes for the courage of the Speaker that his remonstrance and warning came at a time when the applause was for the Prime Minister, who could not have foreseen that the plan of the crowd upon his eloquence if slightly hysterical exhortation, would be so thoroughly frowned upon and checked by His Honor.

Mr. Fox (St. John's East) added his congratulations to the Speaker and in supporting the resolutions before the House, said the matter was not one wherein personalities should enter, and the Prime Minister had shown poor taste in introducing them. The Minister of Justice had said the offence was not criminal. That may or may not be so, but it is not the important point. What is of importance is that it is a breach against the proprieties of this House, a political crime and an offence against public morals. The charge itself will be dealt with by the Tribunal, but he pointed for the purpose; but the best traditions of the House will not be conserved by having its business done under the leadership of a man under a cloud. If the Prime Minister considered his own interests, as well as the interests of the country, he would concur in the resolutions and have no business transacted until the investigation had been concluded and he was exonerated. Failing that the only honourable course for him to adopt was to vacate his seat until the Tribunal had handed in its report. In his address the Prime Minister had absolutely begged the question, while his personal references to Sir Michael Cashin came with very poor grace. Mr. Squires said that unlike himself he did not have a commission appointed to go into the Lornias and Tobacco cases; but if memory served, the hon. gentleman himself had been charged in this House by a present colleague and minister in his cabinet with receiving certain moneys, and he had taken no unlawful means to have an inquiry into the justice or injustice of the charges. The Prime Minister had referred to enquiries into charges against members of the Opposition. He had not particularised, but so far as he (Mr. Fox) was concerned there were no charges against him, and he could use the language so frequently on the lips of the hon. gentleman himself and "Thank God that he was not as other men." Evasions and personalities were not what the House wanted. The matter affected the good name of the House, and the members were in honor bound to protect it.

Mr. Sullivan (Placentia and St. Mary's) was thoroughly in accord with the sentiment and expressions of the last speaker. The occurrence with which the resolutions dealt, was a reflection on the morality of the House, and he trusted that the Prime Minister, against whom the accusations were directed, would co-operate in clearing up the matter. No other stand than the one taken could have been adopted by the Opposition. The country expected it of them and they would be false to their constituents had they acted otherwise. The Minister of Justice stated that he had asked for and received, by cable, legal advice on the matter at issue from an

eminent legal authority in England, who gave it as his opinion that the offence was not a crime. He should have the correspondence so that the House could see what had been cabled. It was rather late for the Prime Minister to come in with a statement, and he doubted if he would have made it now only that he had been forced. Mr. Sullivan read the resolutions adopted at the citizens' meeting, and said they provided the reason for supporting that now before the chair.

Sir John Crosbie (Port de Grave), wished also to associate himself with his colleagues in support of the resolutions moved by Sir M. P. Cashin. He referred to the nasty insinuations thrown across the floor of the House by the Prime Minister who had said things this afternoon that were very much better left unsaid. Insinuations and innuendoes were no new thing to the Prime Minister, as he had been carrying on that game for six months past or longer. He thought he would be in jail long ago according to the remarks of the Premier in the general and bye-elections. Chartered accountants were brought down here to go into the public departments and find out the graft and still no sign of jail. He wanted to say that when he went to the Penitentiary he would have company in going, but all his company would not be composed of Opposition members. He had stayed home all the past winter and forfeited his annual trip to be ready for the trials which would land him in jail. He advised the Prime Minister to remember the Scripture which saith, "He that is without sin let him cast the first stone." If this were put into practice he would guarantee there would be no stones cast around this House. He had seen lots of stuff printed in the Daily Star that was not fit to read, and as Mr. Squires assumed the role of preacher and purist he must first sow the seed himself and begin by sowing it in the Daily Star whose columns contain his contributions. If the Government has any good legislation for the country he will support it; if it is not good he will oppose it. Reference was made in the Speech from the Throne to the Fishery Regulations. If regulations to be introduced are the right thing he will support them; if they are the same as what we now have, we will oppose them. The present Government party had gone to the country and beaten the party with which he was identified. There it should have ended, but the Government party couldn't take their victory, and in the first three weeks after the general election resorted to all kinds of filth and dirt to try and down defeated opponents. And he had no hesitation in saying that the man who is responsible for using the columns of a newspaper, hiding behind the editor, to print filth, dirty abuse, is the worst kind of a cur. The resolutions before the House simply asked for adjournment for a week in which to let the Royal Commission report its findings as to the innocence or guilt of the Prime Minister. He thought it indecent to do business with a man in charge who is under a very dark cloud. He therefore gave the resolution his hearty support.

Mr. W. J. Higgins (St. John's East), had not intended speaking at first, but Mr. Squires, when referring to what he, the Premier, termed "The St. Patrick's Day Affidavit" of Mr. Woodford, had turned his fierce eyes on him. He could thank the Premier for giving him an opportunity of supporting the resolution. If Mr. Squires thought that by using theatrical language and "making eyes," he could frighten the Opposition, he had another thing coming to him. There should be no personal feelings exhibited in connection with this serious case, but from what the Leader of the Government had said, there was going to be nothing else. There was not an unkind word in the resolution which should be welcomed by anyone. The House wanted no more than to have its rights safeguarded. Why should business be done while the Leader of the House was resting under a cloud? The integrity of the House is at stake. He would vote for the resolution.

The latter was then read by the clerk (time 6.25 o'clock) and defeated on division by a strict party vote of 23 to 12. Immediately after the Speech from the Throne had been read by the Speaker, the Prime Minister moved the following resolution: "RESOLVED that this House desires to record the expression of its deep regret on the death since last session of the Legislature of the Honourable George Skelton, A. F. Goodridge and John Harvey, some time members of the Honourable Legislative Council.

"RESOLVED—that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the relatives of the deceased Honourable Gentlemen."

In moving the resolution the Prime Minister traced the careers of the three deceased gentlemen and outlined the splendid services they had rendered to the Legislature and the country.

The Leader of the Opposition, Sir Michael Cashin, in seconding the resolution, referred in eulogistic terms of the three late lamented legislators whose memory will be for long held in reverence. Dr. Skelton lived a long life of service and did much in the Council to help the country in gen-

eral. Hon. A. F. Goodridge he knew intimately for many years, for he was for a long period a resident of Ferryland district. In Hon. John Harvey the country had lost one of the foremost of its legislators and business men. In concluding, Sir Michael asked the House to stand while he repeated aloud, in Latin, the De Profundis or 130th Psalm. The whole House and visitors stood reverently with bowed heads while this was repeated. The resolution was then carried by a unanimous standing vote. To Lieut. H. Small (Burgoe and La Poile) and Sgt. P. F. LeGrow (Bay de Verde), fell the honor of moving and seconding the appointment of a Select Committee to draft a reply to the Speech from the Throne. The gallant members, who appeared in military uniform, were given a warm reception by members on both sides of the House, being frequently applauded. The young members succeeded in making their maiden speeches creditable ones and at the close of proceedings became the recipients of general congratulations.

Hon. R. A. Squires, Colonial Secretary, tabled a number of reports and gave notice of bills, the Minister of Justice also giving notice of bills.

The Minister of Marine also gave notice of a bill.

Notices of question were tabled by Messrs. Cashin and Crosbie, after which adjournment was taken until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

OVERSTOCKED SALE!—Everybody in St. John's is waiting for this gigantic \$80,000.00 Sale, where they will buy for the two weeks of the Sale enough wearing apparel to last until prices are brought down by a similar over-supply of the merchandizing centres of the world, which will take at least two years. People, take advantage of this Sale Tuesday next and be in on the market to make as you have heard of others making on a good tip. LONDON, NEW YORK & PARIS ASSOCIATION OF FASHION, Grace Building.—apr22.26

ELLIS & CO.
Ltd., 203 WATER ST.
Grocers & Delicatessen Market.

Fresh Canadian Turkeys.
Fresh Canadian Chicken.

Finnan Haddies.

New Cabbage.
Sweet Potatoes.
Ripe Tomatoes.
Artichokes.
Beetroot.
New Carrots.
Fresh Garlic.
Egyptian Onions.
Fresh Lettuce.

oked Fillets Cod.

Rhubarb.
Bananas.
California Oranges.
Palermo Lemons.
Grape Fruit.
Dessert Apples.
Tangerines.

Fresh Kippers.

Spanish Pimentos.
Pancake Flour.
Buckwheat.
Pettijohn's Breakfast Food.
Puffed Rice.
Parrot Food.
Mayonnaise.
Maraschino Cherries.
Champignons.
Asparagus Tips.
Extra Fine Spinach.

New Blue Nose Butter,
2 lb. slabs.

BLUE PUTTEE HALL—
Cor. Gover Street and King's Road, may be hired for small dances or meetings. Rates: Evenings \$12.50 up. Afternoons \$7.50. Apply W. F. POW-ER, Manager. Jan 2, 1917

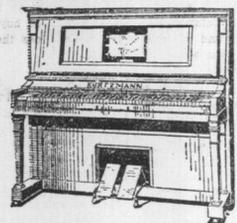
The surplus gives the uncorrected figure a trial appearance. Pearl gray and beige footwear will be popular for Spring.

NEW CABBAGE ORANGES, etc.

To-Morrow ex "Rosalind,"
New American Cabbage,
"Sunkist" California Oranges,
OneCarload Turnips, and
650 Bags Mixed Oats.

F. McNamara,
QUEEN STREET.

RE-BUILT Piano Case Organs.



(Six Octaves.)
BY FAMOUS MAKERS.

We have in stock a number of Rebuilt Organs, piano case, six octave, by Bell, Doherty, Thomas, etc., which we are offering at the same price practically as five octave parlour organs. Every instrument guaranteed.

Owing to its limited scale the five octave organ is only suitable for sacred music. The advantage of the six octave instrument is apparent since its larger scale will accommodate any piano selection, while the finish, style and tone of these instruments should appeal to everyone.

Rebuilt Piano Case Organs \$150 to \$175
Rebuilt High Top, 5 Octaves \$100
Rebuilt Low Top, 5 Octaves \$85

Musicians' Supply Co.

(Royal Stores Furniture)
DUCKWORTH STREET.

BATTERIES.

Dry Cell, No. 6—New stock. Multiple, 5, 6 and 8 Cell. Flashlight, flat, round, 2 and 3 Cell. Bulbs and Flashlights.

WRENCHES.

Stillson, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14. Adjustable S. for pipe and nuts, 6, 8, 10.

LINNETT.

3/8, 4, 5, 6 inch 15 thread.

LINES.

Steam Tarred and Hemp.

TWINES.

Cotton Herring, 6 thread, 9 thread, 15 thread. Hemp, Herring and Mackeral.

OIL CLOTHES.

300 suits, best quality.

SPLITTING KNIVES.

200 dozen in stock.

The Neyle-Soper Hardware Co., Ltd.

MINARD'S LINIMENT RELIEVES NEURALGIA.

Ford Owners!

Royal Garage,

Carnell Street,

OPEN TO-DAY.

Satisfactory Work Guaranteed.

Wm. Elton,

Manager.

Mitchell's Magic Marvel

—world's greatest washing compound. Bleaches clothes snow-white. Can be used for anything. It has pleased thousands. It will also please you. Washing day becomes a pleasure day once you use this Powder. You will be delighted with it. Try it and see. For sale at Bishop's, Bowring's and Royal Stores. apr20.20.11

Minard's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

T. J. EDENS.

By Rail to-day:
50 bags Local Potatoes.
5 cases Local Fresh Eggs.

By S. S. Schem:
50 doz. 1 lb. boxes Moir's Choocs.
100 doz. 1/2 lb. boxes Moir's Choocs.
200 Moir's Cakes, 1 lb. pkgs.—Plain and Sultan.

SMALL PRICES BRING BIG BUSINESS—WE WANT THE BUSINESS.

Quaker Tomatoes, 2 lb. tin, 20c.
Quaker Tomatoes, 3 lb. tin, 25c.
Baked Dinner, 1 lb. tin, 20c.
Cod Tongues, 1 lb. tin, 20c.
Happy Vale Appricots, 45c.
3 lb. tin, 13c. per lb.
No. 1 Salmon, 1 lb. tin, 26c.
Rolled Oats, 50c. \$1.10 per stone
Became Belle's Baking Powder,
1 lb. tin, 20c.

Due by S. S. Rossland, Friday, April 16th:
CALIFORNIA ORANGES.
CALIFORNIA LEMONS.
TABLE APPLES—Boxes.
GRAPE FRUIT.
KAWABAKI.
NEW CABBAGE.
NEW TOMATOES.
CRANBERRIES.
PARSNIPS.
CARROTS.

20 cases Australian Rabbit, 1 lb. tins.

T. J. EDENS.

151 DUCKWORTH ST.
(Next to Custom House).