

emergency to bargain for the continuance of themselves in favour.

MR. GRIMES said the situation had changed entirely since last year. If conditions last year had been as they were now, there would not have been an election or a referendum in either Canada or Australia. This was no time for politics. The hon. member was unpatriotic in opposing this Bill. He, Mr. Grimes, opposed on principle the holding of an election at such a time as this.

MR. WALSH said he opposed the Bill. He could have been a member of the Government but he had gone over to the opposition on principle. He said that hon. members on the other side had changed their views remarkably since last year. The spoils of office were evidently the cause of this. The Government had a following of paid officials in the House; their patriotism was the kind that pays. They were more interested in their salaries. He challenged anyone to fight him in Placentia District. He had nailed his flag to the masthead.

The Bill was read a third time on a division. Mr. Currie and Mr. Walsh voting against it, and sent it to the Council.

The Daylight Bill passed Committee.

The remaining items on the order were deferred and the House adjourned to Monday at 3 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 29th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Targett, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Winsor, Mr. Stone, Mr. LeFeuvre, Mr. Downey.

Various questions were asked and answered.

The Maritime Conventions Act was read a third time, and sent to the Council, and so also were the Patent Law Amendment Bill, the Daylight Bill.

The following Bills passed Committee of the Whole: The Maritime Disasters Fund Amendment, Dog Act Amendment, Inflammable Substances Act Amendment.

The Bill relating to the reporting of missing schooners was read a second time.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES explained that the object of this Bill was to have the masters of schooners report by telegraph to the Department when driven into port by stress of weather after October 15th, in order to facilitate the sending of assistance when schooners were driven off, and also to quiet the anxiety of relatives in many cases where there was no need for it.

The Crown Lands Amendment Act, Consolidated Statutes Publication Act, Bill to create a Ministry of Shipping and Control of Imports and Exports Bill were read a second time.

THE PREMIER explained that the last Bill was to provide power to stop any attempt on the part of Germany to dump cheap goods on the markets after the war, and so injure British industries. Similar legislation was being passed all over the Empire, and by allied countries.

The Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment was read a second time.

THE PREMIER explained that it was to enable the employer, if he admitted liability in case of accident to pay into court, without waiting for action to be taken against him.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE gave notice that he would, on to-morrow, move that supply be granted to His Majesty.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA gave notice of a Bill in relation to the Military Forces.

The House adjourned to to-morrow at 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30th.

The House met at 3 p.m. and proceeded to the Government House to present the Address in Reply, for which His Excellency was pleased to thank them.

The House returned to the Assembly Room at 3.45.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Abbott, Mr. Winsor, Mr. Walsh.

THE PREMIER had leave to introduce a Bill relating to the Fire Patrol, the Identification of Criminals, and the control of dealings in certain ores.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA had leave to introduce a Bill relating to the Military Forces of Newfoundland.

Various questions were asked and answered.

The Education Act Amendment,

Inflammable Substances Act Amendment, Marine Disasters Fund Act Amendment, and Dog Act Amendment were read a third time and sent to the Council.

The Bill relating to the Reporting of Missing Schooners passed Committee without debate, also the Bill for the Publication of the Consolidated Statutes, the Bill to create a Ministry of Shipping and the Trade Control Bill.

In relation to the Bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, MR. CURRIE suggested that there ought to be some means of enforcing a settlement of strikes, such as the recent railway strike, in which the public were always the chief sufferers.

THE PREMIER said that a strike in connection with transportation was particularly regrettable at the present time. He considered that the matter ought to be in the power of the Government to deal with, and hoped that it might be possible at a later session to introduce legislation. The Bill then passed Committee.

The House adjourned to to-morrow at 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1st.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Targett, Mr. Grimes, Hon. Mr. Crosbie, Mr. Abbott, Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Various questions were asked and answered.

The following were, without debate, read a third time and sent to the Legislative Council: The Bills relating to Missing Schooners, Publication of the Consolidated Statutes, Department of Shipping, Control of Trade after the War, Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment.

The following were, without debate, read a second time: The Bills relating to the Identification of Criminals (by taking finger prints) and the Control of Trading in certain ores.

The House adjourned to to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 2nd.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Hon. Colonial Secretary, Mr. Winsor and Mr. Walsh.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES introduced a Bill for the further Preservation of Beavers. The Bill for taking finger prints, etc., of Criminals, passed Committee without amendment, also the Bill relating to Control of Trading in non-ferrous ores.

The Military Force Bill was read a second time.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA explained that this was a Bill dealing with the organization of the military forces of Newfoundland and was to replace the old Volunteer Acts.

A message was received from the Legislative Council saying that they had appointed a Select Committee of nine to consider the Military Service Bill, and requesting that the Assembly appoint a similar Committee to meet them, which was done accordingly. The House adjourned till to-morrow at 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Young, Mr. Goodison, the Premier and Mr. Abbott.

THE PREMIER introduced resolutions to increase the expenditure on the Forest Fire Patrol from \$4,000 to \$5,000, which were passed.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE introduced the Estimates, explaining the various items of increase. The Committee rose until Monday.

Various questions were asked and answered.

The House adjourned till to-morrow at 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 4th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Hon. Mr. Crosbie, Mr. Abbott and Mr. Goodison.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the War Loan Resolutions.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE referred at length to the manner in which previous loans had been spent, and to the high rate of interest at present prevailing in Canada and the United States; somewhere between 6½ and 7½ per cent. He explained that he

had found there would be no difficulty in getting the loan abroad, but that the interest charged would be so extreme that it was considered that an effort ought first be made to borrow from the people of Newfoundland. If the loan were taken up in this country it would keep \$360,000 a year in the Dominion. He did not think our people would be satisfied to keep fifteen million dollars in the savings banks at 3 per cent., while the banks made six or seven per cent. on it, and at the same time pay taxes to cover the tremendous interest charges we would have to pay if the money was raised abroad. If everyone in this Dominion subscribed only \$25 to the War Loan, it would give us as good as any in the world. If the British Empire went under, all securities would go under with it; if the Empire came through, Newfoundland would come through with it, and the money would be safe. He believed that everyone in Newfoundland would come through with it, and the money would be safe. He believed that everyone in Newfoundland would subscribe to the Victory Loan.

MR. CURRIE said he supported the loan. It would, however, be necessary for the Government to run a strenuous campaign or canvass to get the people to buy these bonds, and the bonds would have to be in small denominations. A loan at 6½ per cent. was a very attractive proposition, and anyone who had money to spare would be a fool if he did not take advantage of it.

The resolutions passed Committee without amendment.

The Bill relating to the identification of criminals and the Bill relating to trading in certain non-ferrous ores, passed third reading. The Bill relating to the Military Forces of Newfoundland passed Committee without debate.

The Bill to extend the period of protection for beavers was read a second time without debate.

The Fire Patrol Bill was read a second time without debate.

The House adjourned till Monday at 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 6th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

HON. MIN. OF MILITIA read a message relating to the presentation of an aeroplane to Newfoundland by the Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool, at which Lady Harris, Col. W. H. Franklin and Lord Morris represented Newfoundland.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time: The Weights and Measures Amendment, Wills and Estates of Volunteers Amendment, War Pensions Act Amendment, Shipbuilding Act Amendment.

The Military Forces Bill was read a third time and sent to the Legislative Council.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

MR. CURRIE said that the salaries of the Deputy Heads of Departments ought to be levelled up and fees to their offices abolished.

THE PREMIER agreed, and hoped to arrange it shortly. Mr. Currie and Mr. Morine approved the new salary which had been voted that it was time this and other Ministerial Offices were properly paid, because bad service made bad work. No one could be expected to do the work of that office and maintain a proper position as Premier on less than \$5,000 per year. The present salaries of \$2,000 were absurd, and would not pay for good work.

MR. MORINE referred to the vaccination regulations at present in force, which he considered unscientific and absurd. He considered that as at present carried out the system was inconvenient, dangerous and unnecessary. The proper method would be to appoint two doctors at Sydney and leave the matters in their hands.

MR. CURRIE asked what the situation was at St. John's.

THE MIN. OF SHIPPING said the situation at present was very acute, especially since the loss of the S.S. Louisiana. There had been a great deal of correspondence by telegraph with the Companies, which had promised to do their very best for us. The stock at present was very small. It was intended to make use of the sealing steamers, but they altogether could not keep the Colony supplied. If the Companies did not do what they could for us, there were methods in which perhaps we could put pressure on them.

MR. MORINE said the Government could, and he had no doubt, would, compel the Companies, which were falling into American hands, to do what was right by the

Colony, because the Colony controlled the iron ore, and much of the labour, which the Companies must have.

MIN. OF SHIPPING said that he had practically put that position to them as an ultimatum this morning.

MR. CURRIE desired to know why the system of fees was not put into force at the Hospital, as decided long ago. It would put a stop to the system of having crowds of people sent up to town for trifling ailments, and boarded in town for long periods at the Government's expense.

MR. WALSH said the allowances for shipwrecked seamen were insufficient.

The Committee rose until to-morrow.

The Bill to amend the Fire Patrol Act passed Committee.

THE PREMIER explained that it was to increase the expenditure on this service from \$4,000 to \$5,000, which had been found necessary.

The Crown Lands Act Amendment, Congregational Church Lands (private) Bill, and War Loan Bill were read a second time without debate.

The House adjourned till to-morrow at 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 7th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Targett, Min. of Marine and Fisheries, and Mr. Abbott.

The Fire Patrol Bill was read a third time and sent to the Legislative Council.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

MR. CURRIE asked why the Min. of Marine and Fisheries had not answered his question in relation to the dismissal of the light-keepers at Bonavista. One of these men, with 23 years service, had been dismissed on 6 days notice, without pension or recognition, because he was a political opponent of the Government. He said the Minister was unable to give the reason.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES said the answer was being prepared.

MR. MORINE said that he, as representative of Bonavista, desired to look into this.

THE MIN. OF FINANCE said the estimates for the Department might stand until the information was tabled.

A considerable part of the Estimates were read and passed, and the Committee rose until to-morrow.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Beaver Protection Bill.

MR. DOWNEY said he thought it useless to continue protecting the beaver, they would be all cleared out within a year or two after the protection was discontinued.

The Bill passed Committee.

The Crown Lands Amendment Bill was referred to a Select Committee.

The Congregational Church Lands (private) Bill passed Committee without debate; also the War Loan Bill.

The Weights and Measures Bill and Volunteers Estates Bill were read a second time.

On motion for adjournment, HON. MINISTER OF SHIPPING explained the coal situation.

The situation had become acute owing to the loss of the Louisiana, and 2,000 tons the other day, and while the Dominion Iron & Steel Company were quite willing to do all they could for us, the Nova Scotia Steel Co. seemed less willing, and pressure had had to be put upon them with reference to the Bell Island ore supplies, which had to a considerable extent, the desired effect. But the great difficulty was tonnage, and unless the country at large gave their full moral and practical support the coal situation would be very grave. There was a similar salt situation. At present, despite all efforts we had in view 10,000 tons of salt less than would be absolutely necessary. The merchants and the Government were working together, and doing unlimited gabbling, but what success they would have he did not know. Coal would be dearer. This could not be avoided. He had looked most carefully into the whole matter, and found freights not excessive. As regards the importation of automobiles, which certain newspapers had complained of, he found from the shipping companies that the position was that they had to fill up immediately with whatever cargo was at the docks, and get away. The cost of delaying the steamers while freight was ascertained would so greatly increase freights that on the whole we would lose by it. He had hopes of getting another steamer for six months, which would relieve the

situation somewhat.

MR. CURRIE recognized the seriousness of the situation, and thought the Minister and his Department were doing the best they could to meet it.

The House adjourned to to-morrow at 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Min. of Marine and Fisheries and Mr. Grimes.

The Beaver Preservation Bill, Congregational Church Lands (private) Bill, and War Loan Bill were read a third time without debate and sent to the Council.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

MR. CURRIE asked why the light house keepers at Bonavista had been dismissed.

MIN. OF MARINE AND FISHERIES said it was on account of their failing to report some men drifting by on the ice fifteen months ago, whereby two of the men lost their lives.

MR. CURRIE asked if the Minister had made any enquiry into the charges.

THE MINISTER—No.

HON. MR. COAKER said the men had been removed because a public meeting was held at Bonavista to demand their removal, mainly on account of a charge that they had seen men drifting off on the ice 15 months ago and failed to report it.

MR. CURRIE said it was simply a piece of political jobbery. The men had been removed because their political opponents at Bonavista were jealous of them. Rev. Dr. Bayly, Dr. Forbes, and other prominent citizens at Bonavista had endeavoured to prevent the scandalous injustice to the men who had been a lifetime in the service, and had been prevented from holding a meeting. These were Bolshevik methods. The affair was most outrageous.

MR. MORINE said he did not know the men personally, but he protested against what had been done. The F.P.U. had not done this officially; they would have known better than to abandon, as had been done here, the ordinary principles of justice and settled government. Mr. Coaker had shown that he did not approve of what had been done, he said he resisted it, but in spite of his resistance the Government had eventually dismissed the men at the request of a public meeting, without enquiry into the charge or opportunity of a public meeting, without enquiry into the charge or opportunity of defence. Such an outrage against justice and good government, such a surrender to the demands of a mob, could surely not be countenanced by an organized society such as the F.P.U., which would realize the fatal results of such a course of conduct, and which would display the justice and good sense which he believed the whole body of the F.P.U. to possess. How could these same charges apply equally to four men? How could they be dismissed without the opportunity of defence? One would not treat a dog in such a way. What did it matter if a previous government had made unjustifiable dismissals? Did one crime justify another? Were not the F.P.U. Government going to try to injure things rather than to perpetrate injustice. The thing had been done by the Government against their own judgment, as a mere bowing to mob rule. He did not believe that the people of Bonavista wished it so, and he would be prepared to go and make his protest before them to-morrow.

HON. MR. COAKER asked if the people of Bonavista would hold a public meeting and vote by 20 to 1 in favor of an action which they knew to be wrong, and would they refuse to hear Dr. Forbes and Rev. Dr. Bayly against this action unless they knew they were right? The row had started in Bonavista in 1913 when a Union man was turned out to make room for a supporter of the Morris Government. He, Hon. Mr. Coaker, had had nothing to do with the action taken, and had not known anything about it. Did anyone suppose that a man in his position would be responsible for insulting a clergyman. He, Mr. Coaker, intended this summer, to allow the people of Willinggate to decide upon his resignation, in view of his having voted for conscription.

MR. MORINE said it was not a question at present of Mr. Coaker's political record, but of the occurrence of mob rule. He meant by it rule by public clamour in spite of the constituted authorities. The executive Government had carried out the behest of a public meeting

against their own judgment. That meant mob rule, no matter how orderly the meeting which made the demand. Public meetings with no responsibilities, were not the proper parties to decide these matters. It would have been proper to hold an investigation upon the demand of that meeting, and to take evidence, to hear the defence, and then either to dismiss the men or retain them in their positions. Suppose these charges were absolutely unfounded. He did not believe that the Christian and intelligent people of Bonavista would demand a thing they knew to be wrong. Mr. Coaker himself had admitted that he thought it wrong; but he did it because he thought it good politics, although it was a cruel injustice.

MR. GRIMES said that in 1897 the Winter-Morine Government had thrown many Government officials upon the street for opposing them. He, Mr. Grimes, did not suppose that two wrongs made a right nor would he justify the action of the people of Bonavista, but no one would believe in the sincerity of Mr. Morine when he objected to this action now.

MR. MORINE said that Mr. Grimes, while condemning what had been done in 1897, was defending the doing of it again in 1918. We were not dealing with 1897, but in any case what Mr. Grimes said of 1897 was not true. Whatever was done in 1897 was done by the Government of the Colony, not by public meeting. Mr. Grimes defended himself for things he was doing in 1918 by going back 21 years to try and find someone who did something equally wicked.

MR. WALSH said that if any charge involving loss of life were proved against a public servant, his dismissal was absolutely justified. But when there had been no enquiry whatever, when the only real charge was political opposition to the ruling party, then it was a crying outrage, and perhaps the tears and curses of crying children would call down vengeance on the Government. Nothing but an immediate impartial investigation could clear the Government.

HON. THE PREMIER said it was not true that the dismissal was due to the demand of a public meeting. The dismissal was made upon the recommendation of the responsible department, the Marine and Fisheries Department. He was not prepared to say whether injustice had been done or not, but was ready to investigate any petition alleging that injustice had been done.

MR. MORINE said that was a mere technicality. Instead of acting on the resolution of a public meeting they got the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to recommend the dismissal. He did it as a direct result of the meeting, and admittedly without any investigation whatever. The Council had refused the resolutions of the public meeting, and acted on the recommendation of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries immediately after. It was the same application sent up by another channel.

MR. WALSH said he could not approve of the Premier's salary from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Very able Ministers had been satisfied with \$2,000 ever since responsible Government, and he thought the Premier could have gone on without until times were better, especially in view of the small payments our soldiers were receiving.

The same applied to the salary amounting altogether to nearly \$4,000, paid to the Minister of Militia. He thought the Deputy Ministers all excellent officials, and appointed for life, ought to have adequate salaries, and that it was a bad principle to pay them fees and bonuses which the House could not follow. These men ought to be made independent and have \$2,000 salaries all round. They were well worth it. The allocations for old age pensions were also insufficient. There were still many applications unsatisfied. The use of the dredge was very unsatisfactory. It was not used in the outposts as much as it ought to be. There were many places where there were bars now dangerous to life, which could easily be dredged out. Coastal communication in Placentia and St. Mary's Bay was very inadequate.

MIN. OF MILITIA explained the circumstances under which he took charge of the Militia Department. He said there was a great deal of work connected with it; it was a new department which he had had to organize, and the late Premier said he ought to receive a salary of \$4,000. Many of the staff officers in the Canadian Militia Department were paid \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year. He was giving his whole time to the Department, and he was earning

every cent he got for it, and it was unfair to attack him. As to the Staff Bldg., it housed not only the Militia Department, but also the Council of Higher Education, the three Superintendents of Education, the Inspector of Weights and Measures and others. He considered it a very good bargain.

MR. CURRIE said there was no intention to cast aspersions on the Militia Department but the Government were themselves to blame because they had not tabled any account of the expenses of the Militia Department. All sorts of rumours were abroad with regard to it. But he concurred that Ministers should be properly paid, if the country could afford it.

MR. MORINE said his view was that the country could not afford not to pay public servants properly. It would be true economy to do so. There was no comparison between the work of a minister now and that of some years ago. The work was much greater and the value of the posts less. A man without private means could not afford to hold a Ministry and keep it up on the salary paid. The Premier of this Colony in the past had been paid less than the judges, less than the Government engineer, less than the Superintendent of Constabulary. A competent lawyer or a competent commercial man could earn very much more than \$5,000 with less ability than the Premier'ship demanded, and to-day it was a loss to such a man to take office.

HON. MR. COAKER said that \$5,000 was a very moderate salary for a Premier; such a man could make far more in any other walk of life. He hoped that in future salaries would be paid to ministers which would make the posts worth while to men of real capacity.

The Committee rose until to-morrow.

The amendments to the Weights and Measures Bill and the Soldiers Wills and Estates Bills passed Committee.

The House adjourned to to-morrow at 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 9th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions were presented by Hon. Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Currie. Various members of the Opposition gave notice of question.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE gave notice of Ways and Means for Saturday next.

THE PREMIER introduced a Bill to amend the law relating to the encouragement passed third reading.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply, passed one or two votes and rose until to-morrow.

The House adjourned at 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 10th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE gave notice of resolutions relating to an income tax.

Two Bills relating to Municipal matters were introduced and read a first time. Some resolutions from the Committee on Supply were read and passed.

A question was asked and answered.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE briefly explained one or two items, which were passed. The Committee rose until to-morrow.

The War Pension Bill and Shipbuilding Bill were deferred.

The Bill relating to the encouragement of sheep-farming was stricken out on motion of the Premier.

The House adjourned to to-morrow at 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 11th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

THE PREMIER gave notice of suspension of the rules for Monday next.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

HON. MIN. OF FINANCE introduced his tenth consecutive Budget. In a lengthy speech, from which the following are extracts:—

Mr. Chairman: It is my good fortune to-day, to be able to present my tenth successive Budget to this House, and to be once more able to congratulate the country on having a generous surplus to its credit as a result of the operations of the fiscal year which ended on the 30th of June last, a surplus moreover, greater than any in the previous history of the country. It amounts to \$651,750.93, and is thus \$162,370.68 over that of 1915-16, which previously was the largest on record amounting to \$489,386.25.

(To be Continued.)