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J. J. ROSSITER,
Agent.
may 7, 3m

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE."



(To Every Man His Own.)

The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., SEPT. 5, 1914.

OUR POINT OF VIEW

At The House

THE Government submitted their financial proposals which provide a tax of 3c. per lb. on cube sugar, granulated sugar 1 1/2c. per lb., tea 5c. per lb., flour 25c. per brl., kero oil 5c. per gall., beef \$1.00 per brl., pork \$1.50 and \$2.00 per brl., hay \$3.00 per ton. A probate duty on estates of deceased persons which exceeds in value, \$500 is also to be enacted.
There was not a word of retrenchment; no proposal to cut salaries or to dismiss useless officials. The same song sung by Sir Edward since he became Premier was resung last night. There is but one note and one line to that song—Take! Take! Waste! Waste! Waste!
The Colony last year spent \$600,000 more than the revenue. \$360,000 was provided by loan acts passed last February and the balance—\$240,000, which is the deficiency at the end of June— is to be taken from the Reserve Fund which exist on paper supposed to amount to \$500,000, and the balance of the Reserve Fund—\$260,000—will go to wipe out the deficiency at the end of June next.
This is the showing for the fiscal year 1913-1914.
It must be noted that the year 1913-1914 contained three months in which the additional duties placed last winter were collected but in spite of that fact the country went behind \$240,000.
The new taxes imposed last night really amount to 6c. per lb. on tea and sugar, 6c. per gallon on oil, 2 1/2c. on flour, \$1.10 on beef and \$1.65 to \$2.20 on pork per brl., as the Government is collecting the 10 per cent. surtax in addition to the tax fixed.
The Government has therefore increased taxation during the last two sessions to an enormous extent.
Their proposals last winter contemplated an increase of \$750,000 in taxation and now they hope to raise \$500,000 during the balance of 1914-1915 from taxes imposed last night, while not a cent of expenditure has been reduced.
Mr. Coaker last night in replying to the Premier's speech showed that the country demanded a reduction of salaries paid public officials and the

cleaning out of scores of useless blood suckers, and read a letter from the F.P.U. Carbonear, and another from a city correspondent which reveal anything but a creditable condition of affairs.

When Mr. Cashin was delivering his speech embodying the new financial proposals there were not twenty visitors in the House, and it was more like reading a death warrant than an amended Budget.

The Premier in reply to a splendid exposition of the Opposition's attitude in respect to those taxes and the Government's financial policy, delivered by Mr. Kent, made a strong partisan speech defending his past extravagance and waste and the collection of such enormous sums as revenue, and one would imagine that the land was flowing with milk and honey from the remarks of the Premier which called forth a strong and well merited rebuke by Mr. Coaker when he told the Premier that anyone listening to his remarks, who knew the true condition of the Colony, would never place much confidence in any opinion expressed by the Premier in future, for said Mr. Coaker, one could not imagine that one occupying the Premier's position could know so little about the condition now existing in the Colony.

The Premier stated also that there was no reason why prices ought not to be as good in the fish markets as they were last year as fish eating countries were not at war.
Mr. Coaker explained that such a statement was not founded on fact, for Brazil buyers had cancelled orders for four cargoes of fish arranged for in July at 48s. per drum and this was caused by the fact that the people's means of earning had been cut off, and the purchasing power of Brazil was greatly reduced, as four-fifths of the exports from that country were taken by Germany.

In Italy and Spain the exports to Germany, Austria, Russia, France and other countries had been stopped owing to war conditions, and the working people put out of employment which reduced very considerably the purchasing power of those countries. The markets held no fish and fish buyers abroad wanted fish, but their means of paying were very small and therein lay the trouble.

The Premier also attempted to show that the depression in Newfoundland was on last year, and that Canada had passed through times of great stringency last year, and he tried to show that those conditions were responsible for the wretched financial condition of Newfoundland at the close of the fiscal year last June.

Mr. Coaker's reply was, that having admitted that this great trade depression was being experienced, the Premier's duty was to prepare for the storm he knew was approaching, by cutting down expenditure and saving every possible cent, but instead of so doing, money was squandered last fall in every possible way and in all directions. Yet the Premier now confessed that he knew a period of great financial stringency had overtaken our country as well as other countries.

In connection with the Sealing Commission about to be appointed, Mr. Coaker asked why someone had not explained why this Commission had not been appointed in April when the facts were easily obtainable and all the witnesses at hand. That question said Mr. Coaker would no doubt be answered by the Government by the statement that no law existed authorizing such an enquiry into the loss of the Newfoundland's crew, but such a position was a false one, for power did exist enabling the Government to appoint a Commission and fully complete the enquiry, and in proof of that statement Mr. Coaker said he had asked the Union's Solicitor for an opinion on the matter and Mr. Morine had replied as follows:
W. F. Coaker, Esq.,
President F.P.U.
City.

Dear Sir:—
In reply to your question, has the Government power to order an inquiry into the loss of a portion of the crew of the S.S. "Newfoundland," I have to say, that in my opinion Chapter 30, Con. Stat. (1892) confers ample power on the Governor-in-Council to hold such an inquiry.

The statute in question is, "I believe of British origin, and the words 'good government' have been given an interpretation which clearly establishes that they include any matter which can be of general public concern, and not merely, as some persons might suggest, those matters which refer to the administration of business under the Governor-in-Council.

There is a very striking illustration of the wide meaning of these words to be found in the British North America Act (1867), enacted by the British Parliament, for the purpose of calling the Dominion of Canada into existence. Under Sec. 91 of that Act, the Queen, by the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons, may make laws for the Peace, order and good Government

of Canada, and this is construed broadly.
Reference to Chapter 104 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, will show that the first part of that statute authorises Public Inquiries, as distinguished from Department Inquiries, in the second part of the Act, and that the language used is almost precisely similar to Chapter 30 of this Colony's Statutes.
ALFRED B. MORINE.
Not a word of reply came from the Premier. He could not dispute Mr. Morine's opinion and the country will learn with amazement that the excuse put forward by the Government, as to its having no power to appoint a Commission and its action in passing a law this session to empower a Commission to enquire into the massacre of 78 of the Newfoundland's crew is but another of their bluffs, and an attempt to throw dust into the eyes of the fishermen.
Mr. Morine's letter disposes of the pretext of the Government and shows how much the Premier and the Minister of Justice knew about the law.
Mr. Coaker and Mr. Kent stated that The Herald's statement in reference to a substantial agreement existing between the Government and the Opposition as regards the new taxation was unfounded, for no agreement of any sort had been arrived at.
The Premier confirmed Mr. Kent's denial.
Both Opposition Leaders stated they did not approve of all that was being done, but it was their duty to do nothing now that would embarrass the Government, as all must unite to fight the King's enemies, but that when the regular session opened next February the Opposition would carry on its efforts to expose the wrongdoings of the Government and scrutinize all their actions.
Mr. Coaker closed by asking the Premier to make some arrangements to cope with the destitution which is sure to confront the Colony the coming winter. Work must be found for one-fifth of the people. He suggested that the construction of the Branch Railways be pushed during October and November.
He explained conditions existing from Conception Bay to Bonne Bay. No action has been taken so far by the Government. At least \$250,000 should be granted for relief works in outports in addition to railway work.
Now is the time to make arrangements, said Mr. Coaker, and not in February when the people will be asking for bread, and don't make paupers of our able-bodied toilers, but give them labor.
Mr. Jennings followed Mr. Coaker and explained conditions existing in Green Bay, endorsing Mr. Coaker's statements and appealed to the Premier to take some action.

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Emergency
Morris Budget
Boosts Taxes

(Continued from page 1)

As foretold by the Minister's statement \$237,000 of that \$500,000 reserve must go to meet our deficit, and the balance must be taken to cover other indebtedness.

So the whole \$500,000 must be sacrificed to the orgies of extravagance introduced by the Morris Government.
When the House opens next winter he (Mr. Kent) will deal more in detail with the financial policy of the Government. They cannot be properly dealt with at this stage for two reasons. In the first place the accounts are not before the House and secondly the opposition had no desire to embarrass the Government, but rather wanted to help them out of their awkward position.

Contradicted It.

Mr. Kent referred to a statement made in the Herald to the effect that the opposition had agreed with the Government to support their financial transactions. This he denied in toto.
The Opposition always reserves to itself the right to criticize the financial policy of the Government.
Here the Prime Minister interjected with the assurance that he knew nothing of any such agreement between the Government and Opposition, and he condemned the action of the Herald.

The statement was a deliberate falsehood, and meant to neutralize the position of the Opposition Party.

Proceeding, Mr. Kent remarked that he hoped expenses would be carried on with a greater degree of economy than heretofore practised by the Government. Every department of the Government should be searched for retrenchment.

"You must curtail expenses. The retrenchment is more urgent than raising revenue. Heavy taxation will render the position difficult for the people. We cannot approve of the Government in its methods of dealing with the question."

"Sound Principles."

The Premier attempted to defend the financial policy of the Government. He asserted that the business of the Colony has been conducted on a sound financial principles.

He predicted a wonderful development in the country and fore shadowed a big undertaking where millions will be involved.

He saw no reason to be gloomy over the outlook. The war would not affect us very greatly. Countries that buy our fish are not at war, and our markets are still open.

Mr. Coaker wished he could take so rosy a view. He begged to point out how illogical and unfounded the arguments of the Premier, that our fish markets are not affected by the war. How utterly superficial and unsound the Premier's argument, he would show.

He took Italy as an example. Italy is not at war, but her markets for the products of her country are in the countries involved in the war, and are therefore affected.

If Italy cannot market her productions she is not able to buy the products of another country. The people have no money. Germany buys largely from Italy, the war practically closes that market and Italian products must remain unsold. He cited just this one instance to show how directly we are affected.

Confronted With Want.

He could not entertain the Premier's rosy view of the matter, whilst he was confronted with the knowledge that thousands of our fellow countrymen are face to face with absolute want and see no prospect of supplying it.

The Premier made an attempt to show that the financial difficulties that confront us, are the outcome of

that money stringency that other countries had suffered the past year.
Mr. Coaker wanted to know why, with that cloud of depression rising up before us, the Government took no pains to prepare for it.

There has been no effort to prepare the country to meet the coming storm. Expenses, instead of being curtailed, have been actually increased.

Here were read portions of letters dealing with the question of expense. These are samples of countless such letters which Mr. Coaker receives daily from all over the country:

One Sample.

A St. John's mechanic wrote: "I wish also to remind you that at No. 72 Bannerman Street there lives a supporter of the Tory party one Jas. MacGregor, who receives \$800.00 a year as stamp licker at the General Post Office. His wife receives \$400.00 and pickings, \$100.00 for house rent, as well as fire and light thrown in, which I suppose would mean about \$65.00, in all \$565.00, not much when you say it quick for 2 hours a day dusting the Long Room and a few other small offices for Harry LeMesurier in the Custom House . . . 565.00
Add Jimmie's \$800.00 to his wife's 800.00
\$1,365.00

"I say that \$200.00 is enough for Mrs. Mc. and \$400.00 for Jimmie, making \$600.00 in all would be big money going into one house."

From Carbonear.

A Carbonear correspondent wrote: "It is rumored here that when the House meets today duties are to be put on flour and the other necessities of life. As far as we can learn, the general public are looking to the Opposition to protect their interests. Instead of making it harder for the poor man to live, legislation should be enacted to cut down the salaries of the numerous useless officials infesting the public offices of the country and giving no returns whatever for the pay which they receive from the taxpayers of the country."

"Let us take this town for example. The public service is ten times overmanned in spite of the falling off in trade. Mr. G. A. Moulton, the postmaster under the late Government, has been pensioned on full pay to make room for T. Powell of Victoria, who receives a large salary and has his board paid by the Government as well. Last month Giles Smith was appointed as assistant to the Postmaster, although there is practically nothing for him to do. John Burgess, who is supposed to be on the sick-list or pensioned, is the understood letter-carrier. Fred. Saunders was doing his work until he was taken off to supply for Goff, the Telegraph operator, while he was on holidays, and then Hawker's son was taken on to fill the position. Powell, the postmaster, is now away on a holiday.

"All this work used to be done by one woman who lost her life in the burning of the post office some years ago. With the aid of Miss Pike in the money order department, Powell could do the whole post office work himself, without any inconvenience to himself or the public. The post office also pays a yearly salary to James Taylor as janitor.

"In the Custom House, Thos. Hogan has been appointed as sub-collector in the place of Lawrence Barron, and two men, Geo. Crocker and R. Taylor. Taylor is past his work and has been retired on full pay, so it is estimated, and Capt. George Dean has been appointed to fill his place, although his position involves practically no work.

"At the railway station Pat Joy is paid a salary as Customs official and Chas. McCarthy receives a salary of \$360.00 from the Customs Department but fails to see what he gives in return.

"This matter should be taken up by you, for the people on both sides of politics in this town are of the opinion that his salary should be stopped. Hogan can fill all the above positions easily as there are tidewaiters paid to go on board foreign vessels.

"In addition to all this there are four policemen are paid salaries for doing nothing but working in their gardens and drawing their salaries.

"We are of opinion that the best way for the Government to raise a war fund is to do away with three-quarters of the useless offices and let the remainder work on one-half of their salaries. If the Government officials object, plenty of competent men can be found who will be quite willing to work on half pay while the war is on. In fact, we have heard one man say that he would volunteer to take charge of the work of one Government office here for nothing during the war.

"We want you to do all in your power to do away with useless officials who are the curse of this country."

Why the Neglect?

Mr. Coaker regretted his absence from the House during the passage of

the address in reply, and now took the only opportunity of asking the Government why a commission was not appointed last spring to enquire into the sealing disaster.

The plea that there was no machinery at the disposal of the Government to deal with such questions, would not hold water. He had the word of a leading legal authority, that such machinery already existed, and read a letter from Mr. Morine wherein it was pointed out that the case was well covered by the Good Government Act.

NOT SAFE AT LARGE

Public Opinion, London:—"Europe must see to it that the war is not ended till the power of the two German Empires is smashed and the possibility of them imposing their base wills upon the world again is broken for ever. They have proved that it is not safe for them to be at large. They are in conflict with all that the world holds dear. There is universal testimony to this feeling."

The Presbyterian College
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On MONDAY, September 7th, at 10 o'clock a.m.

The Elite Tonsorial Parlor,

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