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SQUIRES SAVES THE EMPIRE.

Wraps Himself in Union Jack on Telegraph Question.

Mock Heroics of Prime Minister.

Whilst the expected debate on the railway question was again postponed owing to the motion for a commission being once more deferred, nevertheless yesterday's session was anything but a dull one. The afternoon was occupied by a discussion on the money due the Government from the various cable companies which precipitated some heated arguments in which the unfortunate Mr. Halfyard, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, always found himself and moreover always came off second best. During the debate on the Telegraph question the Prime Minister metaphorically wrapped himself in the Union Jack and practically declared that he was saving the Empire by his action in connection with the Telegraph Companies. Mr. MacDonnell's amendment to the Woman's Suffrage Bill was discussed at some length during the night session but was finally withdrawn to be again moved in Committee.

The House met at 3.15 p.m.

Questions were tabled by Mr. Moore, Sir Michael Cashin and Mr. Sinnott.

The Prime Minister asked that the motion for the Commission to enquire into Railway matters be deferred. A lengthy list of questions was replied to by the various departmental heads.

"You must be overworked in that department" said **Sir Michael Cashin** when the Minister of Education gave the answer that the reply to J. C. Crosbie's question would be tabled on Monday.

Mr. Moore was told by the Prime Minister that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had not resigned that position. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries said that Lieut. Colonel Timewell had not been instructed to prepare a Blue Book on the British Fisheries. The Bill to amend the Maintenance of Public Roads Act was read a third time. Supply and Ways and Means were deferred. In moving that the Women's Suffrage Bill be deferred the Prime Minister tabled petitions pertinent to the Bill.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Resolutions for the Confirmation of an agreement between the Government and the Pulp and Paper Corporation of America. The Bill was fathered by the Minister of Justice. In it, the Company, having acquired leases of timber areas in Newfoundland agrees and intends to manufacture pulp and paper and stipulates to erect a plant within five years and to expend not less than $50,000 a year for each of these five years. The capacity of the pulp plant must be not less than 15,000 tons per year.

Mr. Bennett thought this Bill should be carefully considered before any action was taken with respect to it. He thought that a mill which cost $250,000 would be a small one. He further said that establishing a precedent as regards concessions on the Labrador should only be done after mature consideration. Newfoundland must get every dollar it was entitled to out of this deal.

Sir Michael Cashin agreed with Mr. Bennett. He asked the Minister of Posts what progress had been made in collecting the money due from the various Cable Companies.

The Minister of Posts said he thought Sir Michael Cashin knew almost as much about the matter as he knew himself.

Sir Michael Cashin.—"I know more, judging by what you have said in the House."

The Minister of Posts said a conference had taken place between Executive Ministers and Messrs. Saunders and Tranfield of the Cable Companies over the matter. He was hoping to be able to make a more definite pronouncement later.

Sir Michael Cashin expressed his surprise at the baldness of Mr. Halfyard's reply.

The Minister of Posts wanted to know how in the world the Government could do business properly in the House. He stated that he was in a mix-up with all the companies.

Mr. MacDonnell said that if Mr. Halfyard thought that Sir Michael Cashin could not make an agreement with the Anglo-American Telegraph Company he didn't know what he was talking about.

Mr. Halfyard completely lost his temper at this and shouted at Mr. MacDonnell that he did think so. In reply to further comment of Mr. MacDonnell's, the harassed Minister accused him of impertinence, and told him it was not his business.

Mr. MacDonnell.—"It is my business. The cheek of you accusing me of impertinence! I am sick of people talking through their hats.

Mr. Halfyard.—"Sir Michael Cashin does not want your assistance."

Mr. MacDonnell.—"When you get out the Opposition will take things over and run them properly."

Mr. Halfyard.—"I'm fed up with the remarks from your side of the House."

Mr. MacDonell.—"You're not half as fed up as you're going to be."

Mr. Halfyard.—"I want no more of your clownish impertinence. You can't out-herod Herod."

Mr. MacDonnell.—"Who is Herod?"

Mr. Halfyard.—"Your tactics have reached such a depth of infamy that you can't excel them."

Mr. MacDonnell.—"Is that so? Well, if you say that Sir Michael Cashin can't make an agreement with the Anglo Company you're as incapable as the rest of the crowd."

Mr. Halfyard here lost control of himself completely and shouted "Sit down! sit down?" After some more exchange of repartee in which Mr. MacDonnell got the best, Sir Michael Cashin read an offer his Government had received from the Anglo Company which they had not accepted. He accused the Minister of Posts of trying to side-track the matter until the House closed. Mr. Halfyard interrupted but was compelled to take his seat by Sir Michael. The latter continued with his address and was again interrupted by the Minister of Posts. Sir Michael asked if he were prepared to take advantage of that proposition but could not get a satisfactory answer from the Minister. He made some strong comment concerning the untabled correspondence. He said he was making these statements with the belief that they were true in every respect. He hoped he was wrong when he charged the Minister with not tabling all the correspondence.

The Minister of Posts protested that the correspondence already tabld had been done only as an act of courtesy.

Sir Michael Cashin said it was no act of courtesy but a duty to the people and it had not been fully performed. Sir Michael also referred to the bonds still unpaid at the Customs House. The total amount owed to the Government between Cable Companies and unpaid bonds was in the vicinity of $300,000. He suggested the appointing of a commission from the Government side of the House to enquire into Telegraph matters.

The Minister of Posts replied to the Leader of the Opposition.

The Prime Minister also spoke. He said it was not expedient to table the correspondence that had been demanded as negotiations were pending and the intention of the Government was to hold over all correspondence in the tinerest of the British Empire who should be first informed in these matters where cable contracts and wireless contracts are concerned.

Sir Michael Cashin stated that there was nothing pending between the Government and the Cable Companies and he defied the Government to deny it. The action of the present Government turning out Dr. Robinson and putting the present specimen in his place was outrageous.

Mr. MacDonnell said the Minister of Posts had made a notorious exhibition. The story of the whole business should be sent to the Colonial Office as proof that the time had come when a man should be sent out to run the whole affairs of the country. Mr. MacDonnell simply made the Minister of Posts squirm with his biting sarcasm and cleverly construed criticism. He offered to collect the $180,000 due the Government by the Anglo Company if he were given 10 per cent. commission. The Prime Minister, he said, did not think the country was big enough to save but now he wanted to save the British Empire. Sir Michael Cashin was the only man in the country capable of running the Government.

The Committee rose and reported progress.

The House next went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill for the Protection of Neglected and Delinquent Children. Mr. Warren stated that Bill was in the form drawn up by the Select Committee of the House appointed to deal with it. After some slight discussion the Committee rose, and reported some progress.

The House next went into Committee of the Whole on the Act to Indemnify the City Council for acts done in connection with recent public works. The Bill passed the House with a slight amendment.

The Prime Minister wished to move the House into Committee of the Whole on either Ways and Means, or Supply, but **Sir Michael Cashin** told him that neither of these could be touched until a railway policy was introduced.

Recess was taken at 6.30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

NIGHT SESSION.

Upon the House resuming **Mr. MacDonnell** moved his amendment to the Election Act providing for the granting of Suffrage to Women, asking for a plebescite. He spoke at some length in support of his amendment.

Mr. Fox said that according to Mr. MacDonnell's argument there should be a plebiscite on every matter of importance that might come before the House.

Mr. MacDonnell—"So there should."

Mr. Fox argued that members of the House had been sent there to make laws for the people by the people. Despite Mr. MacDonnell's arguments he could not see sufficient reason why the women of Newfoundland should not be enfranchised. He contemplated proposing an amendment that not only should women be enfranchised but they should also be eligible for a seat in the House. But upon consideration he decided not to.

Mr. MacDonnell here interrupted and **Mr. Fox** said he reminded him of a woman because he was so impatient. He denied the right of any man to impugn the fact that the whole of Newfoundland should bow down in gratitude to the class who suffered so much during the war—the women. It was not possible, do what we might to repay one jot or tittle of the debt due to women for their war sacrifices and yet it was thought they should not be enfranchised. A lot of bickering occurred between Mr. Fox and Mr. MacDonnell, the latter interrupting constantly and who was replied to with clever repartee, though somewhat heatedly at times. In the carefully chosen and sarcastic replies of Mr. Fox. Amongst the matters they debated were Lord John Russell's Reform Act of 1832, and quotations from Grotius and Scripture. The faces of the Government members were wreathed in smiles as, temporarily freed from the embarassing criticism of the Opposition they watched the unusual spectacle of two members of that party engaged in argument. Mr. Fox, during his speech, asked for a glass of water and Mr. MacDonnell gave him one. This, said Mr. Fox, disproved of the Biblical quotation "He asked for bread, and received a stone."

The Minister of Justice.—"You asked for water, but he didn't give you a drink."

Continuing, Mr. Fox said that what was being asked for by women was what was being given to the most illiterate man in the country. By denying women the right to vote, they were casting on them the stigma of incompetence to have a voice in the conduct of the affairs of a country for which they had done and were doing so much. The enfranchisement of women would mean that a section of our people capable of rendering invaluable assistance to the country would be joined in co-operation with the forces now working for the welfare of Newfoudlad.

Mr. MacDonnell replied to Mr. Fox in a serio-comic vein. He enlivened his address with quotations which varied from Latin authors to Shakespeare. Although it was terrible to be hoary headed as he had been called by Mr. Fox, it was especially terrible to be called so before a crowd of men, women and children. The point was not whether women were entitled to the vote but whether they had the right to give it them.

Mr. Sullivan moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. MacDonnell withdrew his amendment upon being informed it could be moved in the Committee Stage and adjournment was taken until Monday at 3 p.m.

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