

Prime Minister's Honor Impugned.

His Association With W. F. Coaker Should End.

Scandalous Transaction of Swapping Cheques—Peculiar Conduct of a Crown Minister—More Facts Anent Fish Cargo of Schooner "President Coaker."

As if enough sensational headlines had not been expounded this season, yesterday afternoon still more light was thrown on some of the Government's shady transactions by Sir John Crosbie, who made an exposure starting in the extreme in connection with the "President Coaker" cargo. The question of supplies was also thrashed out at some length, and when the House adjourned at 6:45 p. m. no business had been done, the House being still debating Sir Michael Cashin's address up to the hour of adjournment.

The House met at 8:30 p. m. Sir John Crosbie asked the indulgence of the House whilst he said a few words on a matter of great importance. He said that about 20 men belonging to St. Mary's Bay, who had returned from Grand Falls, where they had been working, had called on him that morning and stated what was to his mind, a very serious case. He was promised to lay the matter before the Assembly that afternoon. Their spokesman was Mr. Gus White from Pt. La Haye, St. Mary's. He had been working as a grinder at Grand Falls for 3 years. Seventeen of the men with him were family men. Several of them came from Grand Falls on passes from Magistrate Fitzgerald. They could not attempt to go home because they could not get supplies and they had nothing at home to go to. The average of these 37 family men was about 5 children to each, and they could not go home unless they could get some supplies and they wanted to know what could be done. He was there to ask on their behalf what could be done. This was only a forerunner of many such cases. If nothing were done he feared what would happen judging from the tone of these men. There were about 2000 men out of employment all around Grand Falls and other interior towns. He wanted to know if the Premier had any plan to help these men out. He was prepared to do what he could to relieve the conditions which would be prevalent here shortly, although it was the Government's job, not his. Everywhere the cry was being raised for work of some sort or supplies for the fishery. The Premier had said he had some plan to relieve conditions. If this plan had to do with road grants it was not good enough. What was the Government's intention in this matter? These men demanded a reply and if they didn't get one he feared the consequences. He passed the list of men he referred to across to the Premier. He sympathized with the Government in its endeavour to find some scheme to carry us over the present situation, and trusted that, on behalf of these Southern Shore men, something would be done and he asked the Premier again to make a statement as to what was to be done. A loan would be useless. Labor must be started at once. Over 120 labourers were on his wharf looking for work that day. That condition existed all over St. John's. Let the Premier lay some plan before the House in the next 48 hours to solve the difficulty with which the country was faced.

Mr. Walsh thanked Sir John Crosbie for his plea on behalf of these men and on behalf of thousands of others similarly situated. The labor situation had become acute through the close down at Grand Falls. He had recommended previously a secret session to discuss the matter. He asked the Government to lay their cards on the table with respect to the "big West Coast" project. If it were not a cod, and let the other petty legislation slide. The Bell Island resolutions had been put off continually. If the Government were serious in this matter should have been first on the Order Paper. All the people wanted was work. He had not met one of his constituents that morning with \$250 cash to lay down on \$600 worth of supplies and he could get nobody to give him \$400 credit.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries—Send him to me. I'll give it to him.

Mr. Walsh—Will you give it to a hundred others?

Minister of Marine and Fisheries—No, but I'll give it to him.

Mr. Walsh said that was only one

but he thanked the Minister for his offer. He hoped Sir John Crosbie's plea would meet with serious consideration from the Executive Government.

Mr. Sullivan also thanked Sir John Crosbie and fully endorsed all Sir John's and Mr. Walsh's statements. It was regrettable to have to ask the Government daily if they had any plan to solve the supplies difficulty. He had been present when the men of his district called on Sir John Crosbie and their story would move anyone to pity. These men had had to sacrifice their last year's catch of fish through getting it to town too late, through no fault of their own, and now when they looked for supplies for this year they could not get them. The men were willing to work and too proud to beg. But when they had starving children at home their conduct could not be answered for. He knew that a strike was prevailing in Grand Falls, Badger and Botwood and the situation was a very grave one. Men were leaving these places daily and over 2000 of them were out of employment. At least 500 more men would soon be here looking for supplies. All they wanted was work. They could not go back to their homes when there was no food there. Let us provide the men with work if we could not provide them with supplies. He read a letter from a well-known resident of Baine Harbour appealing for necessities to keep the people from starving. Similar appeals were coming from other places in the district. Lobsters were coming in and there were no cans to put them in. Something must be done soon to alleviate conditions.

Mr. Bennett spoke about the destitution in St. John's and emphasized the importance of the Government taking some steps to help the people of the country now on the verge of starvation. All of the Premier's many conferences had been barren of results. The time had come for the Premier to have a conference with the House. It was absolutely essential that the Government should make some pronouncement as to what should be done or matters would arise outside their control. Let us realize the situation. Water Street was today, practically broken. The Banks had been non-sympathetic and we could not force them to make any concession. But the Government could do something. They had a responsibility to the people of the country which they could not shirk. The Banks were safe enough as regards the money they had loaned the city for relief work, as the city of St. John's was a gilt edged security without a government guarantee. In fact, every dollar owed by the city was safe, as our municipal revenue could be a great deal larger than it is, but this \$150,000 was not adequate though it was helpful. He, however, sympathized with the other districts which could not raise money for themselves, and now, conditions had been aggravated by the Grand Falls strike. The Opposition were ready to assist the Government in carrying out some plan to relieve the situation.

The Prime Minister said another plan, supplementary to that already undertaken, to find work for more men was under consideration by the City Council. Half a million dollars was to be distributed through the road boards in the outports to help men earn money to obtain supplies. The Grand Falls question was now under consideration.

Sir Michael Cashin thanked the Premier for his announcement that the matter of supplies was receiving consideration. He thought that about 2 million dollars worth of supplies would have to be issued within the next few days. He thought the distribution through road boards would be a troublesome one and assured the Premier of the Opposition's support in distributing the allocation, 5,000 barrels of flour were wanted to relieve the situation in Ferryland alone. He endorsed all his colleagues' statements that afternoon. The fishery to the West of St. John's was now abandoned. Only two boats had gone from a settlement, which usually sent out 30. He would not cause any trouble to the Government if they were in earnest over this matter, but what worried him was that time was flying and it was imperative to act promptly. He hoped the Government's efforts to relieve the situation would be successful.

Mr. Bennett addressed his colleagues

Norfolk Suit Bargain

Rugby Suit Bargain

Suffolk Suit Bargain

Clyde Suit Bargain

BOYS' TWEED SUIT BARGAIN

BOYS' TWEED NORFOLK SUITS—Plus collars, two box pleats, back and front; all 'round belt; Pants straight leg; to fit ages from 5 to 13 years, at the following prices from \$6.75 to \$26.00.

BOYS' TWEED 3-PIECE RUGBY SUITS—In plain and pinch-back; Pants, short straight leg; made of good strong material and trimmings; to fit 9 to 17 years. Prices range from \$10.00 to \$37.50.

BOYS' TWEED SUFFOLK SUITS—Two piece, Chesterfield collar, sham vest, box pleats back and front and all round belt; Pants, short straight leg; to fit ages 5 to 13 years. Prices range from \$9.60 to \$31.50.

BOYS' TWEED CLYDE SUITS—Two garment, light fancy collar, Buster Brown Coat; all round belt; Pants, short straight leg; to fit ages 2 1/2 to 9 years. Prices range from \$7.30 to \$21.75.

BOYS' VELVET CLYDE SUITS—Plain White and Fancy Collar, long Buster Coat, all round belt; in colors of Saxe, Brown and Navy; to fit ages 3 to 8 years. Regular prices \$13.00 to \$17.20. Sale Price \$8.70 to \$11.50.

BOYS' SERGE SUIT BARGAIN

BOYS' COLLAR BARGAIN—We are clearing a lot of our White Linen Eton, Sailor and 10c ordinary Double Collars at Sale Price

BOYS' SHIRT BARGAIN

BOYS' FLEECE LINED UNDERWEAR

BOYS' NORFOLK SUIT SPECIAL

KNOWLING'S BOYS' CLOTHING CASH SALE!

We offer these extraordinary bargains for SPOT CASH ONLY and cannot charge or send on approval.

Tweed Suits, Pants, Raglans and Jersey Suits.

BOYS' TWEED NORFOLK SUITS—Plus collars, two box pleats, back and front; all 'round belt; Pants straight leg; to fit ages from 5 to 13 years, at the following prices from \$6.75 to \$26.00.

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BOYS' NORFOLK SUIT SPECIAL

BOYS' COTTON TWEED PANTS BARGAIN

BOYS' CORDUROY CLYDE SUIT BARGAIN

BOYS' F. C. JERSEY SUIT BARGAIN

BOYS' SCOTCH KNIT STOCKING BARGAIN

BOYS' VELVET CLYDE SUITS

BOYS' COLLAR BARGAIN

BOYS' SHIRT BARGAIN

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BOYS' COLLAR BARGAIN

BOYS' SHIRT BARGAIN

BOYS' FLEECE LINED UNDERWEAR

BOYS' NORFOLK SUIT SPECIAL

BOYS' HIGH GRADE RAGLAN BARGAIN

BOYS' MACKINTOSH BARGAIN

BOYS' NAVY KNIT JERSEY BARGAIN

BOYS' VELVET CLYDE SUITS

BOYS' COLLAR BARGAIN

BOYS' SHIRT BARGAIN

BOYS' FLEECE LINED UNDERWEAR

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BOYS' NORFOLK SUIT SPECIAL

Prime Minister's Honor Impugned. (Continued from page 1)

debate on the Estimation of the Thriftiness of the Minister. An impartial and absolutely necessary. Sir John Crosbie, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, had not taken his advice. He dwelt at some length on the "President Coaker" case. He asked the Minister, if he had any cheques to Mr. S. J. J. on the table of the Prime Minister. The cheques and warrants, lay them on the table.

Sir John Crosbie would then be out of the Prime Minister's pocket. The Prime Minister was as follows:— Nov. 27th, 1920—\$67.00; Nov. 28th, 1920—\$38.00; Dec. 16th, 1920—\$38.00. The first two were for Mr. Joseph Sellars and the third for Mr. A. H. Murray.

Sir John Crosbie had fallen into the trap. He had been convinced the whole thing was a joke. That morning Mr. Sellars and Mr. Murray were in the presence of Sir John Crosbie. He had had no interest in the "Coaker" case, but that one cheque had been sent to the Department of Marine and Fisheries for \$8.00. Sellars deposited the cheque for his own account. The Union Trading Company, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, had deliberately sent the cheque to Sir John Crosbie for a similar cheque. Half was not the "President Coaker" case. Any arrangement to cover the money paid to the "Coaker" case was now landing in the hands of the Minister. It was now whether a cheque would be got for it. He would not get it. The Prime Minister had the pleasure of a conference with Sir John Crosbie. The cheques were only the transaction. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries had a cheque, it was important money had been paid. The cheque was the cheque. It was important money had been paid. The cheque was the cheque. It was important money had been paid.

The farce of the "Coaker" case, which was Joseph's Hall, was a very well managed affair. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries had placed himself in an unenviable position. There was never a precedent for such an act as he had committed in making the allocation for the purchase of Labrador fish. Many members of the House did not know anything of this allocation until they entered the House during the present session. He was surprised at the representation of Western constituencies supporting an action as disastrous to their districts. The Minister of the West Coast will have to pay their share of that allocation, and what have they got? Empty bags and empty barrels. It was indeed that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries should hold the dual position he held. He should be allowed to keep the power he has. He exhorted the Premier not to consider the Address as a vote of want of confidence. The (Continued on 5th page.)

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USE

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for road work would be wasted. Notices of Question were given by Messrs. Bennett, Sullivan, Sir Michael Cashin and Mr. MacDonnell.

Sir Michael Cashin moved that the following address be presented to H. E. the Governor:

ADDRESS.

St. John's, Nfld., May 12, 1921.

To His Excellency Sir C. Alexander Under Harris, K.C.M.G., Governor. May It Please Your Excellency:

The House of Assembly, in Legislative Session convened, humbly presents the following facts:

(1) That in the autumn of 1920, Your Excellency-in-Council, by Minute of Council, appropriated the sum of five hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of certain Labrador fish then in the disposition and control of fishermen, at certain fixed prices, and the said appropriation was placed under the control of the Hon. W. F. Coaker, Minister of Marine and Fisheries;

(2) That a portion of the said money was used in the purchase and shipment of the cargo of the vessel named the "President Coaker," and in paying freight, and that the said fish was shipped to market on account of the Colony, and is yet unsold;

(3) That this House has been informed that the said cargo was not purchased directly from fishermen, but from the Union Trading Co., Ltd., or Union Export Co., Ltd., at a price above the authorized rates;

(4) That the Hon. W. F. Coaker is President of both the said Companies; that the vessel called the "President Coaker" belongs to one of the Companies controlled by him; and that the purchase and sale of the said cargo, and the charter of the said vessel, was wholly made and arranged by him in his dual capacities as Minister and as President and controller of said Companies;

(5) That the transactions in relation to the said purchase, charter and shipment, including the payment for the said fish and freight, was made by the said W. F. Coaker, as Minister, to himself as President, and colorably only in the name of another person, and that the full particulars requested in this House in relation thereto have not been produced or satisfactorily accounted;

(6) That a large sum of money was taken from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in 1920, without, so far as the House is aware, the authority of a Minute of Council, and by whose pretended authority the House is at present unaware, and a cargo of salt pur-

chased by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries;

(7) That the said salt cargo was stored by order of the said Minister in the premises of the Union Companies at Fort Union, from which quantities of salt have been taken from time to time by or for the said Companies, and that the said salt has been at no time and is not now under the immediate control of any reliable agent of the Government;

(8) That the Auditor-General has reported to this House, in reliance upon the statements made to him by treasury officials, that the said salt cargo was sold to the Union Trading Co., Ltd., but that the Hon. W. F. Coaker has denied the fact of the said sale, and asserted that the salt at Fort Union belongs to the Colony;

(9) That since this matter of the said cargo has been mooted in this House, a sum of money has been paid by the Union Trading Co., Ltd., for salt admittedly taken from the said cargo by the said Company, the acceptance of which money may be asserted to be a waiver of the legal rights of the Colony in establishing that a sale of the said cargo as a whole was made to the said Union Trading Co., Ltd.;

(10) That the occupancy by a member of the Executive Council of the dual positions of Minister of the Department having to do with the said purchase of fish and salt, and of President of the Company selling, and buying from the said Companies, and disposing liability to the Colony for large sums of money, is inconsistent with public interests.

Wherefore this House respectfully requests—

(a) That Your Excellency shall be pleased to cause a Commission to issue to the three Judges of the Supreme Court, under the provisions of the said Chapter relating to Enquiries Concerning Public Matters, directing them to enquire and report concerning all the transactions connected with the said purchase and sale of fish, and the shipment thereof to market, and the purchase, sale, disposition, custody, and whereabouts of the said salt, and

(b) That until the said report shall be received, the Hon. W. F. Coaker shall be suspended from his office as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in which he has the custody and control of the said fish and salt, and of essential evidence concerning the said matter.

And this House, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc., etc.

In moving the Address Sir Michael said that a few days ago in the House he moved for an enquiry into the matter dealt with now by the Address. Sir Michael referred at some length to the circumstances which led up to the Government guarantee. He expressed his great surprise that his motion for a Select Committee could have been turned down on such a weak excuse as that put forward by the Prime Minister. He had now moved an Address to the Governor asking for a complete investigation, and he had dropped clear of party politics by asking that the Commission of Enquiry be the Judges of the Supreme Court. He expected, how-

ever, that this motion of his would also be turned down. In that case he had done his duty and it was the public's turn next. He declared that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries had prostituted his office to serve his own ends. Whilst the Minister had turned down Penny's and other people's cargoes, he had sold his own and his friends' cargoes. He appealed to the House to give their opinions as men on how and why they were going to cast their votes.

Mr. Bennett supported the Address. He regretted that the motion for a Select Committee had been turned down on Tuesday. He wished it to be understood that he did not make any personal charges against the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but that gentleman had placed himself in an unenviable position. There was never a precedent for such an act as he had committed in making the allocation for the purchase of Labrador fish. Many members of the House did not know anything of this allocation until they entered the House during the present session. He was surprised at the representation of Western constituencies supporting an action as disastrous to their districts. The Minister of the West Coast will have to pay their share of that allocation, and what have they got? Empty bags and empty barrels. It was indeed that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries should hold the dual position he held. He should be allowed to keep the power he has. He exhorted the Premier not to consider the Address as a vote of want of confidence. The (Continued on 5th page.)