

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

the steamers and securing crews could be notified at once, for the time was very short.

THE HON. DR. ROBINSON considered the passing of this Bill through under suspended rules at that early hour of the session, the remedying of one irregularity by the substitution of another irregularity. A full week remained before March 5th, and there was no sufficient reason to depart from the regular method. This was the second Bill introduced, the first was passed under suspension of rules, and now the Chamber is asked to pass in twenty minutes through all its stages, a Bill dealing with sealing, a subject that once was regarded as of chief importance and interest, and, moreover, to do so, without having seen the Bill. He admitted that the reasons advanced by the Leader for the Government in the Chamber were satisfactory as to the Loan Bill, but not equally so in the present instance. It was a dangerous precedent which was urged. Hon. Dr. Robinson said that if the members of the House desired in the present instance to put the Bill through its various stages, under suspended rules, he would offer no further objection, beyond the mild protest made. He wished, however, to say there and then, that except at the close of the session, when circumstances might justify some laxity, he would be unable to assent to suspending the rules.

MR. MORINE explained that his reasons for asking that the Bill pass through all its stages in the same afternoon was to do away with the necessity of His Excellency coming a second time, when the two Bills might be assented to at the same time; and also that the men whom the Bill particularly affected could be informed in time, as they would need to know some three or four days before hand so as to make their arrangements. The Government did not consider the Bill a contentious one.

The Bill was then read a first time and by unanimous consent of the House a second time, committed and passed without amendment, and ordered that a message be sent to the House of Assembly to that effect.

His Excellency the Governor arrived at the Council Chamber at five o'clock, and being seated on the Throne, commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, through the Hon. President to summon the members of the House of Assembly to the Bar of the Chamber, who being come thereto, His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the following Bills, namely:

An Act to amend the Act 13, Geo. V., Chap. 20, entitled "An Act for the raising of a Sum of

Money by Loan on the Credit of the Colony for certain Public Purposes.

An Act Respecting the Seal Fishery during the Present year.

His Excellency then retired, and on motion of Hon. Mr. Morine, the House then adjourned until Tuesday next at 4 o'clock p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 9.

The Bill to amend the Supreme Court Constitution Act of 1898 and Amendments thereto passed through Committee stage with some amendment, and was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

The Council went into Committee of the whole on a Bill "An Act to Amend 11 Geo. V. Cap. XLV, entitled, 'An Act to Incorporate the Women's Patriotic Trust Fund, and for other purposes', with Hon. Mr. Gibbs in the chair.

HON. MR. MORINE said that in 1920 an Act to incorporate the Women's Patriotic Trust Fund was passed providing for the funds being vested in certain parties, and it is now proposed to amend this by appointing as Trustees of the said Fund the wife of the Governor, the wife of the Prime Minister, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, three Secretaries of the Council of Higher Education, two members nominated by the G. W. V. A., together with an Hon. Secretary and an Hon. Treasurer appointed by said Trustees.

HON. DR. ROBINSON asked what provision would be made for substitutes in cases of any of the officials being bachelors, or was this a Bill for compulsory marriage?

HON. MR. MORINE suggested that they be made get married. He thought, however the point, though brought up in jocularity, was a good one and that it would be well to inquire into it.

HON. SIR PATRICK McGRATH said he did not speak from a bachelor's point of view. He said he understood that the reason for this alteration was that in the event of some of the active heads of the Women's Patriotic Fund dropping out, a continuous body might be formed. He remembered where both the Governor and the Prime Minister were single men but this was not likely to occur often. If one or two were absent the others of those named would form a body sufficiently large to operate. There was the need to delay to find out what would be done in the event of some of the officials being without wives.

HON. MR. MORINE thought the matter sufficiently serious to merit inquiry, and upon his motion the Committee rose and retired to sit again.

The Council went into Committee of the whole on the Bill "An Act to further amend Chapter 29 of the Consolidated Statutes (Third Series) entitled, 'Of Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals', Hon. Sir M. G. Winter in the chair.

HON. MR. MORINE said that the proposed amendment provided for striking off from section 83 of Chapter 129 of the original the words "which sum shall be paid in stamps affixed to the document." In compliance with a request made last session he had had a conference with the Auditor General re this Bill and the explanation given was that when people were applying for grants money for stamps was sent with the application. The money was put to the credit of the applicant to be used later to buy stamps or stamps were bought then and kept to be used later. The result has been the keeping of two accounts and has meant some confusion. The Auditor General wished to do away with trading accounts so far as possible.

HON. MR. BISHOP thought that this explanation was no reason for the alteration. It was to remedy the defects that the change was made of payments of fees by stamps and now we are asked to abolish stamps altogether and pay in cash. The present Act was a good one. The stamps were a proof to the holder that he had paid in full. The amendment would not, he thought, remedy the irregularities which had existed.

HON. DR. ROBINSON said that when he last spoke of this matter he had hazy memory as to the reason for the introduction of the Bill which it is now proposed to amend. Since then his memory had become more acute. The original Bill passed many years ago, was introduced

in the Lower House by Sir James Winter; and the second reading was moved by the present Leader of the Government in the Upper House. According to the records the Hon. Mr. Morine gave utterance to words just as applicable then as now in moving the second reading. These are they: "I know that it will be approved by all in this House. It is for the providing of fees by stamps rather than in cash. At present cash is paid in certain departments but I fear it does not always find its way into the public revenue. It is now proposed to substitute stamps which is the principle of this Bill and thereby a saving to the revenue." Then followed 15 or 16 purposes for which stamps might be used instead of cash. So convincing was it that here was discussion although the Bill was long delayed in passing to the Council. It was introduced on February 1st, the second reading being placed on February 15th, and it didn't go through until sometime in March. Hon. D. G. Green, Q.C., a clever and experienced lawyer introduced this Bill in the Upper House, and his words were "In future there would be only one cash keeper, the Receiver General's Department, from which stamps would be issued or sold." This recommendation of the Stamp Act was made in 1898 at the instance of the present Auditor General, then first clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department, and who was selected for the appointment of Auditor General when the Audit Act of that year came into force. The value of this stamp Act was fully recognised in all the intervening years, and in 1914 the principle was again endorsed in the Saw Mills Act of that year when provision was also made for payment of fees by stamps. The amendment now advocated and the original Act of thirty years ago, aimed at the same thing, viz., that of preventing moneys from going astray. Had the Act so long in force failed in this particular? Would the amendment set matters right? He did not speak with the object of opposing the Bill, but wondered if this amendment were going to help. It was clear some method must be adopted to secure better accounting but how this would do it, he did not know.

HON. MR. MORINE felt convinced that there should be an explanation from the Auditor General, and accordingly moved that the Committee rise and report progress and recommend the Bill be referred to a Select Committee and Mr. Berneau asked to come and explain matters, which was ordered.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Morine the Committee arose, re Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill and 'Payment of Certain Fees and Charges by Stamps' amendment Bill, both dealing with the matter referred to above, be dealt with by the same Select Committee, which was nominated by the Hon. President to consist of Hons. Morine, Bishop, Robinson, Gibbs, Ellis, Alderdice and McNamara.

HON. MR. MORINE moved the second reading of the Light Dues Amendment Bill. The amendment provided for the striking out of the words "Light Dues of Vessels trading outside the Colony."

HON. MR. GIBBS enquired at whose request this Amendment was being made.

HON. MR. MORINE answered that the Bill had been introduced by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and be presumed it was a Government Bill.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN thought the Bill needed careful consideration. He cited one case of a vessel from St. John's having to put into Carbonara because of weather conditions and which was charged light dues although same had been collected from it in St. John's. He considered the law very often was a hindrance to an industry and not a help as it should be.

HON. MR. GIBBS suggested that the second reading of the Bill be deferred as the members did not understand the aim and scope of the Bill.

HON. MR. MORINE mentioned that another Bill which should have been on the Order Paper was that dealing with the tax on goods—duties on pork and beef. On examination it was found that a Resolution and not a Bill had been sent up by the Lower House and he asked that the same be discharged from the Order paper.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN—In regard to this Bill Hon. Mr. Winter had referred a few days ago to having stocks of pork and beef on hand, and the Hon. Leader of the Government had promised to enquire into the matter. Had anything been done. It seems to him (Hon. Mr. Templeman) all governments were bent on hampering the merchants. How will they manage if firms do not import. He had spoken to one member of the Government and he only laughed at him, but that gentleman did not carry any stocks of beef or pork and never will. A good business man had said to him recently there are very few business men in the Executive Council. The merchants had no protection and governments apparently did not care what they did. And still they are supposed to give employment and supply people for the fishery.

HON. MR. ELLIS thought the measure rather a drastic one. If it were to be carried out he considered it only fair to notify those interested in good time so that they might dispose of their stock.

HON. DR. ROBINSON said that if this were an isolated instance the contention of the Hon. Member would be unanswerable. On the face of it the proposed legislation does place the burdens upon the importer, involving him in loss to the amount of the duties paid on the stocks of pork, beef and kerosene oil in his possession when the resolutions were tabled. But things are not always what they seem. Where there is indirect taxation there is a tariff. That tariff necessarily varies. Sometimes new duties are levied; at others they are removed. Sometimes duties are increased, at others decreased. There is one way only in which these changes may be effected without having loopholes for graft or for the enrichment of individuals at the expense of their fellows, and that way is by surrounding all tariff proposals with the barrier of absolute silence, until such time as they are introduced in the House of Assembly, from which moment they become operative.

Reducing the tariff is comparatively rare. Increasing it is of more frequent occurrence. So too removing duties is less customary than levying them. If new duties are levied or old duties are increased the importer stands to gain, and does gain, by the amount of the new and increased duties on the commodities which he has in his possession. Sometimes this considerably augments his profits, and every cent of it is unearned increment. No complaint is voiced on such occasions. Take a concrete case. A dealer has 1000 barrels of flour. An increase of duty 20 cents means that until that stock is exhausted the public pay \$200 direct into the pocket of the importer and not into the Treasury. On the other hand when the duty is decreased the importer loses and the public correspondingly benefits. But as increase has been more frequent than decrease the balance favours the importer.

(To be continued.)

ACCIDENT ON RAILWAY.
On December 2nd a message was received from Acting Sergt. Churchill, at Corner Brook to the effect that a serious accident had occurred there when Miss Dinah Morris, aged 18 years, of Jeffrey's Brook, St. George's, was struck by the west bound express 60 yards east of the station and had both legs severed from the body below the knee. It is stated that the girl was struck when attempting to cross the line ahead of the train. The girl was immediately taken to the Hospital at Corner Brook. The latest news heard from that place states that she is now out of danger.

The radio "fans" of this town are delighted with the concerts they are receiving this year. There seems to be far less static heard now. Moncton, N.B., Boston, Pittsburg, New York, Schenectady, Springfield and Miami are among the stations which local owners of sets enjoy listening to.

NEWFOUNDLAND
NOTICE TO MARINERS
NO. 7—1925.
Fog Alarm Established
Point La Haye
St. Mary's Bay,
Lat. 46° 54' 20" N.
Long. 53° 36' 40" W.
POSITION—On Pt. La Haye, entrance to St. Mary's Bay.
DESCRIPTION—A 3 inch Diaphane Fog Alarm operated by compressed air by oil engine.
PERIOD—Three blasts of 1½ seconds duration every 60 seconds, thus—
Blast Silent Blast Silent Blast Silent
1½ 2 1½ 2 1½ 52½
STRUCTURE—Flat roofed engine house, dwelling house and store, all painted red and white horizontal bands.
REMARKS—This Fog Alarm will go into operation on December 26, 1925.
W. C. WINSOR,
Minister of Marine & Fisheries,
Department of Marine & Fisheries,
Lighthouse Department,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.
PUBLIC NOTICE.
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All bills or accounts properly certified and on hand in the Department for approval and audit on the preceding TUESDAY will be available for collection on the following SATURDAY.
The above also refers to allocations in connection with Roads and Special Grants.
In the event of any SATURDAY being a whole holiday, bills must be in the Department on the preceding MONDAY and payment will be available on FRIDAY.
All those concerned will please govern themselves accordingly.
C. E. RUSSELL,
Minister of Public Works,
Department of Public Works,
November 7th, 1925.
Nov. 18, 41
Sept. 25, 41 p.m.

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ADVERTISE-
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C. & A. DAWE.

Your Satisfaction our
First Thought.

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Sold by
JOHN PARSONS

Newfoundland
Postal Telegraphs

Foreign Connection
The Commercial Cable Company
and its World-Wide Service

THE POSTAL is the only extensive public telegraph service for Newfoundland, and has connection to all inland places. A "Canadian Pacific Railway" ten word message costs only twenty-five cents, the address and signature as well as Postal fee, "Halifax and Bermuda Direct West India Cables."

A cheap night, as well as day service is also given to all points in Canada and the United States of America. The Postal has also direct connection with Great Britain, thence to all European points. Rates as low as 6c. per word. Stamps to value of ten cents must be affixed by senders to all cable (foreign) messages from Newfoundland.

Cable business handed to the Postal ensures quick service via New York or Canso to Brazil, Bahia, Pernambuco, Bahamas, Barbados and Bermuda. Our connections are as follows:—

The Newfoundland revenue benefits largely when you patronize the Postal Telegraphs. Its whole staff (clerical and operators) from Superintendent to Messengers are sworn to secrecy.



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No doubt you INTEND to have Electricity in your home SOMETIME—no home is complete now-a-days without it.

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Perhaps you are not familiar with modern methods of installing Electricity, whereby wires are drawn through partitions and under floors by expert workmen.

There is no dirt, no disfigurement of walls or woodwork and no interruption of the everyday household routine.

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For particulars apply to Mr. F. J. WINSOR, Bay Roberts, agent UNITED TOWNS ELEC. CO., Limited.