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of the Legislature, which arose at your last meeting. Proposals will be laid before your two Houses, in order to secure the undivided authority of the House of Assembly over financial matters. Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly: In order to provide for the additional Revenue for the war requirements of the Colony, you will be invited to consider a measure for the imposition of a tax on business profits.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly: I trust, that in the consideration of these important measures Divine wisdom may influence you to results advantageous to the Colony and its people.

MR. HIGGINS moved for the appointment of a Committee to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to open the Legislature. He said that on this occasion his was a war speech. After three years of war the cry was still for more men, more munitions and more money, and in finding these Newfoundland, the only island in the Empire, must do her share. The object of this special session was to raise more money by the imposition upon business profits.

I rejoice that it has been found possible, during the session, to constitute a National Ministry, with the object of ensuring the co-operation of all parties in the working out of the very serious domestic and imperial problems to which the war is giving rise, and the equally serious problems with which we seem doomed to be confronted in the reconstruction period which will follow after the war. I sincerely trust that the expectations entertained with regard to the results to flow from this union of parties will be fully realized.

MR. SPEAKER and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly: I thank you for the appropriations which you have made for the several Departments of the Public Service, and I assure you they will be expended with due regard to efficiency and economy.

MR. PRESIDENT and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly: In now relieving you of your usual duties I am glad to be able to note that the industrial operations of the Colony contain an assurance of continued prosperity for it, and I assure you of my sincere desire for your well-being and advancement.

taxed, and would give the Government less than \$8,000 instead of \$19,000. It had been said that it was not fair to allow the charge of 8% on capital borrowed by some business from the bank while refusing it to the man who owned his own capital. But there were very few of the latter, and they could and should pay a larger share. Then some members of the Legislative Council had proposed that instead the money should be raised by an export tax on fish and produce. That would mean that the price would fall, and in effect the fishermen and producers would pay the tax, while the merchant would go scot free. These were our patriots. They were prepared to throw the burden on the fishermen of this Colony, and refused to contribute to keep our soldiers in France to protect these men in carrying on their businesses. Since war broke out in 1914 they had not been called upon to pay one cent toward the expense of the war, beyond the ordinary Customs Duties shared by everybody in Canada and most other countries.

MR. HON. MIN. OF FINANCE (Mr. LLOYD) said that he fully concurred in everything the Minister of Finance had said. Persons who argued that the Legislative Council had a perfect legal right to throw out any finance bill were talking hundreds of years back in the times of the Empire, and that innumerable things under our constitution were perfectly legal, and at the same time would never be done legally. The King might dismiss every soldier, might sell every warship, might veto every bill; but it was unconstitutional and unthinkable that he should do so. Our constitution depended not upon strict rules of law, but upon custom and usage, and only when points were disputed was it necessary to put them into statutory form. In his opinion the various objections that had been made in the Upper House were nothing but pretexts for unwillingness to pay. No matter how good the bill it would have been equally opposed. The days of grabbing were past; the days for those who had means to pay their equitable share were over, and he for one, was not to make them pay. It was not pretended that the bill was perfect, but it could be improved and extended. And it was the intention that the Tax Bill and the Bill to Limit the Powers of the Upper House should go through.

MR. COAKER said he had been surprised that the Upper House had ventured to throw out the Tax Bill. They had aroused the old class feeling of thirty years ago, which had better have lain dormant in the pockets of the trade for excessive profits made since the war. He knew a firm on Water Street that had \$300,000 in one year on flour, pork, beef and molasses. Were these people not to contribute towards the millions that the war was costing. One of the principals of that firm was in the Upper House. Such men did not deserve to have the Bill sent back to them in the same form. They deserved to be arrested and put in the penitentiary. They were a disgrace to the country. More money was being spent on pleasure to-day than ever before. Would anyone suppose, seeing the motor cars in our streets, that we were in the midst of the greatest war in history. Compare this with the sufferings of such men in Holland and other countries. Were such things to be measured in dollars and cents. And now they were calling for conscription for sending other people to war. They ought to be sent themselves, instead of helping in every way in their power, instead of endeavoring to maintain harmony in a year when our trade would be confronted with unprecedented difficulties they had chosen to raise a resistance, to arouse class feeling, to bring the House here again in the middle of August to obtain the money to carry on the war. Were these men in the Upper House, who were not elected by the people, who represented nobody but themselves, be allowed to resist the people's representatives? He thought they had learnt their lesson, and they ought to thank their stars that they were to be treated so well as they were. They had supposed that the National Government was weak. If anyone thought that they might take it from him that the National Government had come to stay, and that it would take a very strong party to beat them, because they intended to do what was right, and they did not intend to leave the Legislative Building this summer until both bills went through, whether the Upper House liked it or not.

HON. MR. CROSBIE said that the Government had given the fullest possible consideration to the purpose to tax the Commercial life of the Colony, because its importance was fully realized. He himself was one of those who would have to pay under the bill, and he was ready and proud to pay his full proportion of whatever tax was needed for the maintenance of our soldier boys and the defense of the Empire. In every other Colony of the Empire such taxes had been in force before now. They had not been taxed here since 1914. He would never agree to conscription unless it was a conscription of money as well as of blood. Business profits had been double the past two years. He supported every paragraph of the Resolutions.

The Committee passed the resolutions. The Tax Bill was then introduced and read the first and second times, and referred to Committee of the Whole on Monday next.

"The Bill to Define the Powers of the Legislative Council was read a first time.

Continued on 1st page.

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ADVERTISING RATES.—For display advertisements, 50 cents per inch for the first insertion; 25 cents per inch for each subsequent. Special prices quoted for six or twelve months.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents. All advertisements subject to the approval of the management. Birth and Marriage Notices 25 cents per insertion. Notes of Thanks and Lists of Presents, 50 cents.

We cannot guarantee to insert items of news or advertisements received after the Thursday morning. All small and transient advertisements must be paid for at the time of insertion. The number of insertions must be specified.

BAY ROBERTS, FRIDAY, Sept. 28, 1917.

## The Fire Investigation

### AND OTHER MATTERS

Citizens generally are expressing their very strong opinion on the lack of efficiency in connection with the Justice Dept. in investigating the fire that occurred here on the 6th of May last.

The enquiry was conducted in a more or less formal manner, and very little effort was expended in getting to the root of the matter and investigating every circumstance of a suspicious nature, until Bay Roberts is becoming a byword for fires. The time is coming when insurance companies will be tempted to side-track as also together.

In the enquiry made into the Thomson fire some time ago Judge Oke made a report to the Justice Dept. His report and findings ignored altogether important evidence given by the owner of the building, the constable and several other witnesses, and a favourable finding for Thomson resulted. The only cause of the fire was, in the learned Judge's opinion, "defective planning and arrangement of the stove pipes and flanges," and the blame is therefore placed on the technician, Mr. A. J. Wood, who did the work. He is made the scapegoat.

The investigations conducted by the police would have been just as efficiently and—well—accomplished by a 12-year-old school-boy.

We have not yet lost sight of certain things in connection with that fire, and we hope before we are through to let the public know a thing or two about officialdom as we have it in this unfortunate country and in this town and district. When minor matters are

paid strict attention to and important things are treated lightly, it is time for a change.

What has happened to all the investigations which have taken place in this country from time to time? People have been drowned and frozen to death, burned in the flames, killed or maimed for life in our mines, mills or factories, and yet very seldom is any person held responsible for any of these things.

The investigations are held in the privacy of a courtroom, and that is usually the end of it.

Fires are frequently occurring, and investigations are held, but very seldom is a charge of incendiarism laid. The reason offered, it is so hard to get a conviction against a person who is very rich, is that it is so hard to get a conviction against a person who is very rich.

The correctness of that statement depends very largely on whether every suspicious circumstance connected with a fire is thoroughly investigated or not. Was that done in connection with the investigation which was held at our dead-end? Was any real attempt made to get to the cause of the fire? Was ALL the evidence obtainable secured? Was the evidence secured properly considered?

A fire, mark you, is a matter in which not only the owner of a building or an insurance company is concerned, but it is a matter of concern to the general public. The valuable property of others is often endangered by a fire. The only thing which saved our property west of Empire Building on the 6th day of May last was probably the direction in which the wind was blowing.

British Law and Justice ensures every citizen his rights, and we do not intend to drop this matter until Justice is done. We will be satisfied with nothing less than a thorough, efficient, impartial and complete investigation.

## House of Assembly, 1917

Official Synopsis of Debates

Continued from 3rd page.

the shores of history from the days of Magna Charta to the present time.

I repeat, I am sincerely sorry for the action of the Council, because there are gentlemen in that Chamber from whom I had expected more liberal and broad-minded treatment for the people.

## SPECIAL SESSION.

THURSDAY, Aug. 16.

At 3 o'clock Thursday His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by his suite, arrived at the Council Chamber, and in the customary address opened the special session of the Legislature to deal with the situation created by the refusal of the Legislative Council to pass the Profits Tax Bill. Very few visitors attended the opening, though contingents from the Regiment, Naval Reserve, Police, which were reviewed by the Governor, were present.

The Speech from the Throne was as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly: I have called you together in this special session in order that proposals may be submitted to you, which will remove the possibility of the recurrence of the difference of opinion between the two Branches of the Legislature, which arose at your last meeting.

MR. SPEAKER and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly: It affords me much satisfaction to be able to relieve you from the arduous duties which have devolved on you during a somewhat protracted session, at this period of the year, and I desire to express my appreciation of the zeal and industry with which you have devoted yourselves to the discharge of your legislative labors.

MR. SPEAKER and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly: I think you for the appropriations which you have made for the several Departments of the Public Service, and I assure you they will be expended with due regard to efficiency and economy.

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