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**Legislative Council**

**Synopsis**

Saturday, April 29th.  
The President read a message from the House asking for the appointment of a Select Committee, to confer with one from the Lower House re the deadlock on the Education Bill. The following Committee were appointed:—Hon. Messrs. Bishop, Robinson, Squires, Power and Milley.  
The Public Service, Prohibition, Put Prop and Lumber Export Bills were read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.  
The House then went into Committee on the Sealing Bill.  
HON. MR. GIBBS dealt first of all with the criticisms of Hon. Members on the Bill. The various sections were then read and debated exhaustively by practically every member. Amendments were made to six out of the first nine sections, when the Committee rose to meet again at 3 o'clock on Monday, to permit of the Bill getting a full discussion.

Monday, May 1st.  
The Council met at 3 p. m., and immediately went into Committee on the Sealing Bill.  
HON. MR. ANDERSON, in moving an Amendment to Section 13, related some further historical facts and figures connected with the seal fishery. He then moved an Amendment to the effect that no sealing steamer be permitted to bring in more than 35,000 seals in one season, or more than a gross weight of 700 tons, any surplus to be confiscated and the proceeds paid over to the Marine Disasters' Fund. The Amendment also provided that instead of the steel ships being debarred from prosecuting the fishery, they shall not be permitted to sail until forty-eight hours after the time fixed for the sailing of the wooden ships.

HON. MR. BLANDFORD followed reviewing the remarks of previous speakers. He did not agree with Mr. Harvey that the way to preserve the herd was to prevent the killing of the old. He rather advocated protecting the young. He feared that if no limit was put upon the catch for each steamer occasion would arise when they would be overloaded and endanger the lives of the crews.

HON. MR. HARVEY agreed with the Hon. gentleman's remarks as to the danger of overloading, and moved as an amendment an additional Section providing for a survey of every ship and their being marked with a load line.

HON. MR. MURPHY was of opinion that the reason for the decline in the numbers being brought in was due to the fact that there were less seals to be found. He thought it would be a retrograde movement to prohibit the steel ships from engaging in the fishery, which he described as the fag end of a played out industry. He thought the limit should be placed at 30,000 for one ship.

HON. PRESIDENT thought it a very dangerous principle to legislate against special steamers as was proposed. With regard to the killing of old seals and limitation of the catch he would prefer to see the old laws continued for a few years, as no new steamers would be built until the end of the war, and the wooden steamers would gradually drop out. He did not agree with the mover of the Bill that there was no possibility of the industry passing into the hands of outsiders. The same had been said of the bait industry and the Bank fishery, which were now being successfully carried on by others. As to the ships which had been disposed of to the Russian Government, he did not think their owners were entitled to any consideration.

HON. MR. GIBBS replied at length to the various arguments, after which the amendments were carried.

The House then rose till 7.30 p. m.

Monday, May 1st, 1916. (7.30).  
On resuming after recess some discussion arose over Section 14 of the Bill which deals with the shooting of seals.

HON. MR. BISHOP thought that as

guns were not to be used for killing seals, at least 10 or 20 should be allowed.

HON. PRESIDENT thought that the officers, or at any rate the master, and not the owner should be made liable for a breach of the Section, and would move an amendment to that effect.

HON. MR. GIBBS held that it was quite in accordance with everyday principles that the principal (or the owner) should be liable for the acts of his agent in the ordinary course of his duty.

HON. MR. HARVEY while agreeing with the principle of the Section, thought it absurd that the owner should be made liable. He suggested that the fine should be "not exceeding \$1,000." He then went into the question of the protection of the old seals, which he had always been in favour of, replying to the various statements that had been brought forward that the seal herds were not declining. He considered the shooting of seals was most wasteful and expensive, and was largely responsible for the unquestionable decline in the seal herds at the front.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE was of opinion that the section limiting the number of guns to two was unnecessary, as they could not be used for killing seals.

The section dealing with the right of property in panned seals was next taken up and was debated by practically every member present.

HON. PRESIDENT finally moved that section be stricken out, as being impracticable and certain to lead to bloodshed. The Amendment was carried, all but Hon. Mr. Gibbs being in favour of it.

Section 15, providing for the appointment of a Board of Examiners for certificates as Master Mate and Master Washers, was amended so that the rules and regulations of the Board should be approved by the Governor in Council, after becoming law.

Some minor amendments were made to the Compensation Sections, so as to bring them into conformity with the Workmen's Compensation Act. A proposal to give these sections to be approved by the approval of the Governor in Council was rejected.

HON. PRESIDENT, MR. GIBBS AND MR. MURPHY contended that the resolution should not be carried until the Governor in Council, and should be made law before the next seal fishery.

Section 13 was then reconsidered, Hon. Mr. Harvey moving an additional sub-section, providing that a load line shall be marked on each ship, beyond which no ship should be loaded with seals.

The Bill was then read a third time passed and sent to the Assembly for concurrence in the Amendments.  
The Loan Bill, Public Service Bill, Prohibition Plebiscite Bill, Death Duties Amendment Bill, Censoring of Moving Pictures Bill and Municipal Bill were introduced and read a first time, and will be further dealt with to-morrow.

Tuesday, May 2nd.

The House met at 4 p. m.  
The Prohibition Bill was the first Bill to evoke discussion. HON. MR. BISHOP introduced the Bill, which was explained in detail by the Minister of Justice. Certain amendments and additions to the Plebiscite Bill had become necessary, the principal one being due to the fact that the druggists had refused to handle alcoholic compounds, so that it had become necessary to empower the Controller to fill the prescription.

HON. MR. ROBINSON thought the new section was dangerous. It was the duty of druggists to fill prescriptions, and if they refused it would lead to the establishment of a "glorified shebeen" in Newfoundland.

In Committee HON. MR. GIBBS took exception to the clause requiring the Controller to keep a record of the names of all persons for whom alcoholic prescriptions were filled, contending that people's maladies would thus become known and would be made public.  
HON. PRESIDENT pointed out that it was necessary to keep the record in order to prevent violations of the Act. He failed to see what interest the newspapers would have in publishing the names of people for whom alcoholic medicines had been prescribed by medical practitioners. The verbiage of the section was practically identical with the same section in the Poisons Act.

The Bill was then passed without amendment.

The Expectation of Timber (Pit Props) Bill was the next measure taken, and evoked lengthy discussion.  
HON. MR. MURPHY objected strongly to the section providing for a minimum price for pit props, characterizing it as a dangerous precedent, which would not be attempted with any other commodity exported from Newfoundland. He considered the prices named were too high and would kill the industry.

HON. MR. ANGELO thought the Government and the exporters should cooperate. He pointed out that this was an exceptional industry, introduced because of exceptional circumstances,

and therefore could not be compared with the fish or ore business.

HON. MR. HARVEY disliked the principle of the Bill, and would like to know how it effected contracts which had already been made at a definite price.

HON. MR. BISHOP endorsed the remarks of Hon. Messrs. Harvey and Murphy. He considered the prices too high, and would result in no props being shipped. He thought that if the Government fixed a price they should be prepared to take over all wood at this price and reimburse exporters for any loss occasioned thereby. He also pointed out that \$100 a cord would not represent the difference between unbarbed and barbed wood.

On the other hand, the Bill was vigorously supported by HON. MR. GIBBS who introduced it, who set out very clearly the reasons for such legislation in the interests of our cutters; by the HON. PRESIDENT, who narrated some of the revelations with regard to the poor prices paid to men cutting since the industry began; and by HON. MR. BLANDFORD who in a vigorous speech, set out the various facts ascertained by his Department with reference to the industry. He was quite satisfied that the prices named were fair and reasonable.

A suggestion by the President to make the prices of unbarbed props \$4.50 and barbed props \$6.50 was adopted.

The Saw Mills Bill, Loan Bill, Death Duties Bill, Moving Pictures and Censorship Bill, passed through the various stages without amendment.  
The Coal Lifter Oil Refining Bill was introduced and read a first and second time.

At the request of the House of Assembly the President appointed the following Committee to confer on the Amendments to the Sealing Bill:—HON. MR. BISHOP, HARVEY, SQUIRES, MURPHY, GOODRIDGE and ANGEL.  
The Report of the Joint Committee on Weights and Measures Bill was read and adopted.  
HON. MR. HARVEY introduced a resolution that in future the year of the passing of the Acts be quoted on the title thereof, after which the House adjourned.

Wednesday, May 3rd, 1916.

The House met at 3.30 p. m.  
HON. MR. ANDERSON tabled the report of the Joint Select Committee on the Education Bill.  
The Codfish Refining Bill passed through its various stages without amendment.

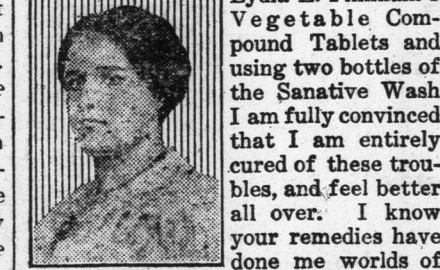
The Revenue Bill passed through all its stages, the Hon. JOHN ANDERSON availing of the opportunity to deliver an interesting and carefully prepared speech, in which he reviewed the part played by the Colony and the Empire in the war, quoting lengthy and valuable statistics in support of his statement. He referred to the unfortunate outbreak in Dublin of the Sinn Fein rebels, and paid a tribute to the loyalty of the Irish and the gallantry of her soldiers in the war. He also spoke in the highest terms of the efforts of our people, and paid a high tribute to the work of the W. P. A., quoting figures to show the enormous amount of work performed by that body.  
The second reading of the Municipal Bill was moved by HON. MR. GIBBS, who explained that its object was to

(Continued on 3rd page.)

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SYDNEY D. BLANDFORD, Minister of Ag. & Mines.  
Dept. Agriculture & Mines, Sept. 1st, 1915-16  
Sept 13, 1916

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