

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS

(Continued.)

greater thought both as to price and as to the sale itself than the second form of proposed sale. Under the second form of sale, we could consider only that portion of Labrador lying between the height of land and our own Newfoundland Labrador territory of which, so far as this country is concerned, we have only the most meagre knowledge. I do not know that we have any more meagre and scanty knowledge than Canada has. We have purely hypothetical ideas as to the timber, but we have assured ideas as to its water powers.

One of the things that we have to sit down and consider would be the price which we would ask for it. Even supposing for the moment that you wanted to sell that land—that you had agreed to sell it, and you had destroyed all idea of sentiment about parting with Labrador and the coastline, can you say what it is worth, apart altogether from what you would try to get for it. There is no method of valuation. There is no method known to ordinary business science that can value that land. You can only approximate something. Even suppose that you were certain of your rights, and that the Privy Council was going to render judgment in our favour, there is no one here to-day that can do any more than give a guess at what we ought to sell for. I think that our friends in Canada are impractically the same position as to knowledge of what is down there.

There is just one word more I want to say in this connection, and that is as regards the position of the delegation. I want to explain this to the members of the House. The delegation did not go up to Canada to sell or try to sell Labrador. They did not go up even to endeavour to negotiate a sale of Labrador or any part of it. All this talk about a sale was naturally brought in by the Opposition as a means of saying something as something must be said from the Opposition standpoint. We did not go up there to sell the Labrador and come back with a bag of money in our pockets.

That could not happen, because, in the first place, we would have no authority to even attempt it. Even if Canada had offered us five hundred thousand millions for Labrador the delegation had no power to accept it. The only thing that we did was to go up there in response to the invitation that was sent to us. And despite the natural interest that those who had claims were exhibiting, the Government took care to make clear that the Conference was between the Governments of Quebec and Ottawa and Newfoundland, and no outsiders were to be represented. The delegation only went to ascertain, without any prejudice whatever, what possibilities there were of discussing a legal settlement. Perhaps before long if one may judge from the talk that is being advanced, we may be able to come into the House with a settlement. But members on both sides of this House must remember that nothing whatever can be done by any individual of the delegation, or by the Government itself, except in the proper way through this House, so, therefore, there is nothing to be afraid of or worried about. As a certain clergyman was accus-

tomed to say in the course of his sermons, "the hour has not yet come," and that is the situation at present, the hour is not yet arrived.

As Mr. Warren has said, we have not the control of the situation in our hands. He left office with the Newfoundland case, signed and sealed, and placed it in my hands only to be printed. The arrangement was that when our claim was printed and exchanged with us, but this did not transpire. On our return, so that there would be no excuse on the part of the Canadian Government to complain of delay on our side, I immediately wrote the Attorney General at Ottawa to hurry up and expedite their case, and I make the statement now that there was nothing whatever done on our part to cause delay in any way. Their case was not filed, and the position is, that when it is filed with the other, and they go to the Privy Council, I would not undertake to forecast the result. It must be remembered her case being right as we are that Canada is just as sure of ours. Ours, it is true, looks good on paper, but I have known hockey and football teams which looked good on paper, but when they got on the field were cleaned up. As far as our case is concerned, I think the expense in connection with it has been justified, and as one who has not yet been able to get my hand in the chest, though I need the money, I must say in justice to those who have been conducting the case, that they have had to deal with a matter that is entirely different from going out and selling a five ladder or a hose. This matter of the Labrador is one in which the territory involved is three times the size of Newfoundland, and none should regard it in any but a serious light. The question is really a tremendous one. It is not a partisan question, or one affecting only this side of the people outside are most vitally interested, and anything that we can do to conserve our rights must, therefore, be done.

Now there is our other matter that I would like to clear up, and which has been referred to by the honourable member for Fortune Bay. I wish to make an explanation of what appeared to be an interruption on my part when he was speaking yesterday. He was referring at the time to the conduct of Besco, as to the export tax on ore after the contract had been passed. As I said before when Mr. Bennett and myself as representatives of the Opposition were appointed on the Committee not alone was it a surprise to us that the Besco representative would not sign a contract, but it appeared at first blush that the matters were so ridiculous and so difficult to follow that we

agreed we should have tried to get a new contract drawn up. No lawyer could interpret the contract in its existing form, and it was made so intentionally. The Committee said that a clean cut one, clear and explicit, ought to be brought in. We had two things in mind, the continuance of work, employment of a large amount of men, and the fixing of wages as high as possible because if we secured these the export tax on ore would be only an incident and nothing at all in comparison to the benefits to be derived from these other factors. The more men at work and the higher the rate of pay, the more revenue would result. But what happened, we were told the contract had to go through without crossing a T or dotting an I. We came back into the House and the contract went through. Now I don't want to resurrect what happened since—as it was not the fault of those in the present Opposition but the case to-day, as I told Mr. Wolvin in Montreal, is that whether rightly or wrongly, the men at Bell Island have lost faith in the outfit and we will never get back again to the old conditions at that industrial centre till the popular status of the Besco concern is proved. It has no desire to review what happened after the passing of the contract, as perhaps it would not be fair because the man chiefly concerned is not now in the House. As Mr. Wolvin said to me in answer to a question when I was talking to him at Montreal, the clause in the contract relating to the smelter was ridiculous, but was put in because a politician of the day, who was a big factor in the Government, had apparently given the idea to the Besco people that, if this thing was not gone through there was the danger of a heavier tax being put on. I said that was absurd and ridiculous because the House being in session it was possible to withdraw the clause. He said "we could not withdraw that clause regarding the smelter as that was thrown in as a camouflage and because the Government of the day, through those who were negotiating it, wanted something nice on paper." But there was no intention to put up this smelter, and he said himself that the reason why Besco did not bother was because in the event of the smelter not being put up in five years, the tax would begin to operate back; but from the moment the tax was put in force, not only was not a cent paid under the contract, but history in this country shows that steps were taken to have this clause removed. Now the present Government does not want to talk fireworks but without making any suggestion as to the future this Government will try and see that some definite arrangement is arrived at. That contract and that Act as it is on the Statute Book is an imposition and a fraud and a joke on the people. It was never intended to be carried out, it cannot be carried out. It is impossible to carry it out. The idea suggested of bringing coal down from Sydney to the electric smelting plant on Bell Island was never intended to be lived up to. I therefore must subscribe to the sentiments expressed by members on the other side of the House that we try and get a new agreement drawn up and stop this annual lockout and this annual farce. There is one thing, though, in this matter; and that is that one cannot get up and idly say that this must be done and that must be done. The hard part of this position is that those people on Bell Island are like a crowd marooned. They are over there to-day working for less wages than they would like to get and they are working as shovellers for less wages than they deserve to get. But, God help them, they've got to work under these conditions because there is no place else for them to go now, and, if, as I said to Mr. Wolvin, there was some place else for them to go there would be nobody on Bell Island shovelling ore. But one must not lose sight of the other side of the story. We do not want Bell Island mines closed if they can be kept open, because they day that they are closed a hardship will be inflicted upon our people. We must keep them going and accept them at the

moment for what they are worth. For these reasons I endorse the idea that there should be an absolutely new agreement and a thorough enquiry into Besco affairs. The position taken to-day by the miners and workmen generally in Sydney is that they refuse to have any enquiry, except an enquiry on oath. Our position here is somewhat similar and the nature of such an enquiry would be advantageous to both Sydney and Newfoundland miners. To-day the position is that the officials of Besco produce their sheets and a statement of their overhead charges and expenses showing that every time they shipped ore last year they lost money on it. We do not know whether their statement is true or not and we have no means of finding out. Of course, it must be borne in mind that this ore petition with ores from counmined on Bell Island goes in com tries that have more up to date marketing methods and more modern grades of machinery. At Bell Island to-day the ore is mined for the purpose of mixing to a proportion of three to one, there are at the present time a couple of hundred thousand tons of old ore piled at Bell Island and the only hope is by mining fresh ore to raise the quality.

The Prime Minister moved the adjournment of the debate and the House rose until 3 p.m. Monday.

(To be continued.)

IN MEMORIAM.

In Memory of my loving wife, Annie E. Evans, who died June 22nd, 1924, aged 56 years.

The roses in memory's garden, They never fade away, But the one that died a year ago Is the one we miss to-day.

When the evening shades are falling, And we're sitting all alone; In our hearts there comes a longing— If she only could come home.

We can hear her gentle words, As she looked on us with pleasure, Saying to us as her children, "Meet your mother up in Heaven!"

Off and oft our thoughts do wander To her grave not far away, Where they gently lowered her body Just one year ago to-day.

—Inserted by her loving husband and children.

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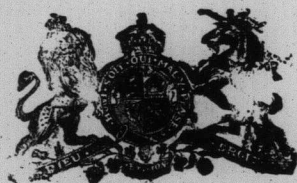
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Oct. 1923

PREPAYMENT OF IMPORT DUTY BY CUSTOMS STAMPS ON ADVERTISING MATTER, ETC.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and Customs, under the provisions of Item 306 (f) of the "Revenue Act, 1925," has been pleased to approve of the following regulations respecting prepayment of Import Duty by Customs Stamps on Advertising matter, etc., viz:—

1. Customs Duty Stamps, for the payment of import duties on advertising matter, price lists and catalogues, can be obtained in one, three and five cents each on application to the Deputy Minister of Customs, St. John's, Newfoundland, or to the Secretary, High Commissioner for Newfoundland, 58 Victoria Street, London, or to His Majesty's Senior Trade Commissioner, 285 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal, Canada.

2. The duty stamps are to be affixed on each package for the amounts of duty payable on the same, and should be affixed to the reverse side of the package.

3. Packets bearing Customs duty stamps on arrival at any port in Newfoundland, shall be transferred to the Customs, to be checked for proper payment of duty and to have the Customs duty stamps thereon cancelled by marking same with the Customs dating stamp, or other cancellation stamp.

4. Item 306 (f) of the Revenue Act 1925 provides "that on the goods specified in the foregoing item and imported by mail on and after July 1st, 1925, duties may be paid by Customs Revenue Stamps, under regulations made by the Minister of Finance and Customs, at the rates specified in the said item, except that on each separate package weighing not more than one ounce the duty shall be one cent."

5. The articles specified in Item 306 (e) of the Revenue Act are:—

"Advertising Pamphlets, Advertising Show Cards, Illustrated Advertising Periodicals; Price Books, Catalogues and Price Lists; Advertising Almanacs and Calendars; Patent Medicine or other Advertising Circulars, Fly Sheets or Pamphlets; Advertising Chromos, Chromotypes, Oleographs or like works produced by any process other than hand painting or drawing, and having any advertising or advertising matter printed, lithographed or stamped thereon, or attached thereto, including Advertising Bills, Folders, and Posters or other similar artistic work, lithographed, printed or stamped on paper or cardboard for business or advertising purposes, N.O.P."

St. John's, Nfld., 27th May, 1925.

H. W. LEMESSURIER,
Deputy Minister of Customs.

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