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 G. W. LeMESSURIER
 Deputy Min. Posts & Telegraphs

April 19, 23



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House of Assembly

OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS

(Continued.)

Tuesday, July 31st, 1923

1. By a removal of the export tax on dry codfish and a refund of export tax which had been collected up to the date of that decision on the proceeds of last year's voyage. (I am now recommending that the export duty be taken off Salt-Bulk Codfish entirely and a resolution to that effect will be submitted to the Committee.)

2. The elimination of the twenty-five cent surtax which had been imposed some years previously for the specific purpose of securing additional revenue to meet the special War burden which the Colony was carrying. There was also a large reduction in the tax on sugar, namely, a reduction of two and one half cents per pound. The aggregate of these reductions as at the 30th day of June 1923, is estimated at the sum of \$412,040.00. It will be thus seen that when in his Budget Speech of April 5, 1922, the late Prime Minister Sir Richard Squires, estimated a revenue of \$8,953,000.00 on the basis of the tariff then current he was again conservative in his estimate, the revenue for the year on that basis actually working out at the approximate sum of \$9,231,040.00, which was \$303,040.00 more than his estimate. In view, however, of the special reduction in revenue subsequently made for the purpose of stabilizing our fishery operations, the gross revenue as at the 30th day of June is now estimated at \$8,844,000.00.

He felt that the decision of the Government to make a sweeping reduction in taxation after the close of the last session had been a good one. It meant the lifting of a heavy burden of taxation from the people and a corresponding stimulus to the trade.

The estimate of revenue for the fiscal year 1922-23 is as follows:

Estimate of Revenue on Current Account, 1922-23.	\$6,325,000.00
Customs	207,000.00
Postal	169,000.00
Telegraphs	40,000.00
Stamps	80,000.00
Crown Lands	6,000.00
Liquor Sales	550,000.00
Fines and Forfeitures	60,000.00
Fees Public Institutions	6,000.00
Broom Dept. Penit.	4,000.00
Int. Guaranteed Loans	20,000.00
Excess Profits	250,000.00
Income Tax	60,000.00
Sales Tax	500,000.00
Miscellaneous	70,000.00
Taxes, Cable & Bank	140,000.00
Estate Duties	125,000.00
Bank Tax 3-8 of 100	150,000.00
Civil Service Reduction	150,000.00
The estimate of expenditure on current account for 1922-23 is as follows:	
Interest on Public Debt	\$2,850,000.00
Finance Department	260,000.00
Colonial Secretary's Department	260,000.00
Justice Dept.	330,000.00
Education Dept.	800,000.00
Public Charities Dept.	480,000.00
Marine & Fisheries	320,000.00
Agriculture & Mines	100,000.00

Stall's Books

Rev. T. Albert Moore, D. D., General Secretary of the Dept. of Social Service and Evangelism of the Meth. Church of Canada, who visited Newfoundland in Sept., 1917, in connection with the Social Congress, says:

"Stall's Books on Avoided Subjects have been standard works for such a long time that it seems almost unnecessary to say a word in their behalf. I believe they have accomplished great good, and are written with care and delicacy, at the same time with sufficient frankness or the modest discussion of these delicate subjects. They are safe books for general reading, especially if from the various books there is proper selection for the youth or adult, man or woman, as the case may be."

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THE GUARDIAN OFFICE
 Bay Roberts.

Public Works Dept.	1,000,000.00
Posts and Telegraphs Department	1,300,000.00
Customs Dept.	440,000.00
Liquor Controller	617,000.00
Tax Assessor	12,568.00
Accountant of Contingencies	155,000.00
Military Pensions Board	561,865.00
Shipping Dept.	50,000.00
Old Age Pensions	90,000.00
This shows a deficit of	\$682,433.00

During the past year the strain upon the various departments has been very great because of unemployment conditions which necessitated special expenditure under the head of Department of Public Charities and Department of Public Works.

The Estimates for the year 1923-24 already tabled call for an expenditure of \$9,106,153.57 under the following heads:

1. Finance	\$3,130,681.35
2. Colonial Secretary	66,554.00
3. Justice	336,025.88
4. Education	839,851.03
5. Public Charities	439,458.33
6. Marine & Fisheries	346,969.39
7. Agriculture & Mines	115,020.00
8. Public Works	992,080.26
9. Posts & Telegraphs	1,244,465.83
10. Customs	493,960.50
11. Liquor Controller	65,864.00
12. Tax Assessor	14,840.00
13. Contingencies	170,617.00
14. Military Pensions Board	699,766.00
15. Shipping	50,000.00
	\$9,006,153.57

Estimated total revenue from all sources for the fiscal year 1923-24 is the sum of \$9,150,000.00, made up as follows:

Customs	\$6,980,000.00
Postal	245,000.00
Telegraphs	185,000.00
Inland Revenue Stamps	50,000.00
Crown Lands	80,000.00
Liquor Sales	480,000.00
Fines and Forfeitures	6,000.00
Fees Public Institutions	45,000.00
Broom Dept. Penit.	10,000.00
Interest Guaranteed Loans	84,000.00
Excess Profits Tax	30,000.00
Income Tax	250,000.00
Sales Tax	60,000.00
Bank Tax 3-8 of 100	125,000.00
Cable and Bank Tax	70,000.00
Estate Duties	150,000.00
Miscellaneous	150,000.00
Civil Service Reduction	150,000.00
	\$9,150,000.00

While the general finances of the Colony on current account are eminently satisfactory yet it will be fully realized that it would be quite impossible to carry on current account the considerable capital expenditures which it is desirable and will be permanently beneficial to the colony to incur in connection with many necessary public improvements. The establishment of the important industrial development in the Humber Valley will necessitate a considerable addition to the railway rolling stock and equipment. Then, again, the proposed further operations with which the Anglo Nfld. Development Company is identified will necessitate considerable additional rolling stock.

A large section of the line in the western portion of the Island over which the heavy freight required for construction purposes in connection with the Humber operations must pass will require special attention as it is estimated that there will be seven capacity load freight trains per day passing over that section in connection with the new services only, which is in addition to increased general services for the country also passing over that section.

Such permanent works as are imperatively necessary for the well-being and development of the resources of the country should be undertaken on the basis of contract subject to a rigid inspection. Such a course would give employment to those who are able and willing to give value for money expended and those who for physical or mental reasons are unable to give value in work for the money expended should be handled through the various religious and philanthropic charitable organizations assisted where necessary by the Department of Public Charities in precisely the same manner as such assistance was given to the post-war turmoil which has so upset labour conditions and reduced efficiency.

To meet requirements for railway equipment and improvements necessitated by the industrial development of Newfoundland which as a result of

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the active policy of this Administration has been so largely undertaken and to provide essential permanent improvement in connection with road and bridge work and other necessary public utilities I propose to submit in due course resolutions authorizing the Government to raise a loan not exceeding \$300,000.00. In addition to the public improvements cited above the Municipal Council requires additional funds for extension to water and sewerage services, and highways within the Municipality. The Government has already guaranteed an advance to the Municipal Council of \$130,000.00

When we say that the funded debt of Newfoundland at the present moment is \$55,030,027.66 we announce in the nature of town, city or Municipal debts, because all such debts are included within the Colony's funded obligations. In considering the public debt of Newfoundland in comparison with the public debt of other countries this factor is rarely mentioned.

Savings Deposits Increased Last Year.

The peak of Savings Bank deposits was reached in the year 1919, when the amount on deposit was \$21,019,375.69. In the year 1920 the deposits had dropped to the sum of \$20,543,937.99 or a drop for the year of \$475,437.70. There was a further drop in the year 1921, when the total amount on deposit was \$20,136,058.87, or a drop for the year of \$406,979.12. The records for the year 1922 show a slight improvement over 1921 the total on deposit being \$20,163,957.51, or an amount in excess of 1921 of \$27,016.64. This was a very gratifying position.

Preferential Tariff.

On the 27th of June, 1922, the Government of the Dominion of Canada entered into a Commercial Agreement with the Government of Jamaica, under which each Government was entitled to claim the privileges of the preferential Tariff of the other Government.

A Resolution under which the Product of Jamaica will be admitted to Newfoundland at a rate 25 per cent lower than the regular tariff. This will apply to cigars, sugar, molasses, fruit, or other such products of Jamaica as may be imported, and it is hoped that the lowering of the duty may encourage greater trade in these products. Under the General Tariff in Jamaica, salmon and trout pay a duty of 7s. 6d. per 100 lbs; herring a duty of 2s. 6d. per 100 lbs; fish, dried salted smoked or pickled, a duty of 4s. 8d. per 100 lbs. Under the preferential tariff, these duties will be 25 per cent less. Directly and indirectly we ship to Jamaica fish products to the value of \$300,000 per annum.

Under the Commercial Treaty between the United Kingdom and Spain which came into effect November 6th, Newfoundland salt codfish is admitted at a reduced rate.

The duty on salted codfish had been 32 pence per 100 kilos, but that fixed by the Treaty was 24 pence, which is a very substantial reduction in the duty applying to Newfoundland codfish entering Spain. In return for this concession it was agreed that iron ore, corks and cork discs grapes walnuts, almonds (shell and unshelled), onions, tomatoes, oranges, bananas, olive oil and preserved vegetables, the produce of Spain, shall not be subject to any Customs duty on importation into Newfoundland or other territory of the British Empire, nor shall any prohibition be imposed on the importation of these articles, except such prohibitions as it may be found necessary to impose in time of war. It was also provided in the Treaty that wine and wine lees, brandy, and raisins, the produce of Spain, shall not be subject on importation into British territory to higher Customs duties than those in force at the date of the signature of the said Treaty.

A comparative statement of revenue for the past 10 years shows as follows:— 1912-13, \$3,018,950.43;

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NOTICE

To Owners and Masters of British Ships

The attention of Owners and Masters of British Ships is called to the 74th Section of the "Merchant Shipping Act, 1894."

75.—(1) A Ship belonging to a British Subject shall hoist the proper national colours—
 (a) on a signal made to her by one of His Majesty's ships, including any vessel under the command of an officer of His Majesty's navy or full pay, and
 (b) on entering or leaving any foreign port and
 (c) if of fifty tons gross tonnage or upwards, on entering or leaving any British Port.

(2) If default is made on board any ship in complying with this section the master of the ship shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.
 At time of war it is necessary for every British Ship to hoist the colours and heave to if signalled by a British Warship; if a vessel hoists no colours and runs away, it is liable to be fired upon.
H. W. LeMESSURIER,
 Registrar of Shipping

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