

House of Assembly

Proceedings

OFFICIAL SYNOPSIS.

TUESDAY, July 15th.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Speaker in the chair. Mr. Brown presented a petition from the residents of Long Island, St. John's Island and Triton Island in the district of Twillingate asking that a sum of \$800 be allocated for the purpose of repairing and building North Twin Lakes and Badger Bay wharves.

Mr. Moore supported the prayer of the petition.

Mr. Cashin presented a largely signed petition from the residents of the district asking for a public wharf at that place. For a number of years boats and others used the wharf of a private concern. Last year this wharf was carried away and at present there is no wharf for the fishermen of Ferryland and the adjacent settlements to tie on their boats.

Mr. Moore gave the petition his support.

STATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Mr. Lake presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Address in Reply.

Mr. Hibbs congratulated the Speaker on the high honor conferred upon him by the House and also extended congratulations to Mr. Lake and Mr. Linegar, the mover and second respectively, of the Address in Reply.

He took occasion to offer his congratulations to the Prime Minister on his good fortune to come into just as prosperity was about to dawn in this country. He told a story which happened after the 1919 election when certain members of the Government were regretting that they were defeated, and Mr. John Crobie said to his associates at that time, "don't worry, we'll go home and say your prayers, and that bunch got the biggest kick that ever any Government had."

Continuing, Mr. Hibbs said that Sir John was right, and he believed if the men who were in opposition five years ago were thankful to God now with the approach of the wave of prosperity. He had every reason to believe that the worst period in our history had been gone through and that, as a people, are in better times. He said it was very easy to criticize and thought that some people should not forget that the Government that was in power from 1919 to 1923 experienced some trying times in the annals of this Colony. Demands were made on the Government from all quarters and very loud demands were made by persons who were unfair enough to misrepresent them to the public.

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would like to see the facts disclosed and he did not think that anybody who was a member of the late Government had any desire to hide anything. He said we all should remember that we are human and make mistakes, and predicted that the members of the present Government will be wiser in four years' time than they are to-day. If, he said, 75 per cent. of the working people of the country were demanding relief and assistance and besieging the Government constantly with deputations and petitions with innumerable requests, and as was in evidence during the years 1919 to 1923, the present administration would find that they would have to steer a different course. Mr. Linegar in his speech referred to deputations coming to the bar of the House demanding that something should be done to relieve their destitution, and he would like to ask the present Government what would it do if they had to cope with the same conditions? What would you do? He said that the present Government would probably make as great, or as many mistakes, as its predecessors did; it is only human to make mistakes.

Mr. Hibbs sincerely hoped that all the promises contained in Mr. Monroe's Manifesto would be carried out, and if they were Mr. Monroe would find every man on the Opposition side of the House giving him his fullest support. Mr. Hibbs went on to say that it was not the intention of the Opposition to tear down, they would like to give as much support as possible in building up.

One of the things that he would like to see in this country was the encouragement of tourist traffic, and he trusted that the trade, which would have an exceptional benefit to the country, would be encouraged and developed. He said the question may be asked why did we not do it when we were in office? The answer to that is that owing to depression and exceptionally hard times coupled with the lack of employment we had other more important and emergency cases to deal with. He said that at present we needed some sound policy to be developed along the right lines for the encouragement of this trade. We have the facilities and we have the resources, he did not think that the majority of our leading citizens would disagree with him regarding the need of developing the tourist trade, and he felt certain that they would be only too glad to give their help, and act on a committee if they are called upon to do so. He called attention to the great tourist trade of Bermuda, from which that country reaps a benefit of millions of dollars every year. He said that it may be true that they have a larger scope and a better chance to cater to this trade than we have, and while we may not have such opportunities natural and otherwise, yet we can do as well as some of the Eastern Provinces of Canada, and better than some others.

Mr. Hibbs pointed out that if we put our minds to it and get down to business we could do a wonderful trade in this country, which would add materially to the country's benefit. The most important things we need are good hotel accommodation and good roads. We have other natural things in our favor, such as resources, climatic conditions, sport, etc. He also pointed out to Mr. Monroe that if he put forward an effort to develop this trade he would have the whole-hearted support of the Members of the Opposition side of the House. He also said that whilst the Members on this side of the House did not want to see Mr. Monroe successful with his Party at the next election, he assured him that if Mr. Monroe developed a plan and put forward good reasons towards the encouragement of the tourist trade it would go a long way towards the success of his party at the next election.

Mr. Hibbs requested the Government not to judge its predecessors too harshly, but to hear in mind the conditions with which they had to contend during their term of office. He also told Mr. Monroe that his Party would be judged by the electors, not because of their criticism of the party they succeeded, but by what his party now in power would do.

Mr. Hibbs expressed himself as being very interested in the Gander proposition which was soon to be considered and deliberated upon in the House. He felt certain and was convinced that it would be a splendid enterprise not only for the district which he happened to represent, but for the great good and benefit of the whole country.

He also said that one of the bones of contention on the part of all Oppositions is as to whether the Government that is in power is going to allow the members of a district which they represent, whether those members be Opposition members or not, to look after the grants of their particular Districts. He pointed out to the Prime Minister that it would not help him any or enhance his popularity any to discriminate against the Opposition Districts or the Members who represent those Districts. He also said that it had been started already, and it is now being done in a northern District by a member who represents a District on the West Coast, viz. the Hon. Member for Burin, Mr. Long. He wanted to give Mr. Long a bit of fatherly advice and told him that he would not do himself any good by interfering with this particular District. Mr. Hibbs also said that it would not do himself any harm and that there were things being done in his District to-day which are ridiculous. He pointed out that this was not done when his party was in power and that there was no discrimination made against the Members of the Opposition. He quoted an instance where he himself had been refused a grant for his District by the Department to which he went, and that half an hour afterwards a member of the Opposition was given the grant. He also would like to say before taking his seat that the Opposition members should be treated decently and the Opposition would treat the Government decently. He had no intention of holding up the House, and although his party may look small, he warned the Prime Minister that they could in spite of the smallness of their number hold up the House if they cared to.

Mr. Hibbs said he would like to say a few words with regard to the Speech from the Throne. He said that it contained very little indeed, but it was not always what a man said that counted, but what he did. He pointed out that it was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne that a further and more thorough investigation was to be held into the dealings of the several Departments of the Government, and he trusted that these investigations would be conducted in a proper way and that the misdoings of the guilty parties brought to light and that the parties responsible be dealt with according to justice. He also made mention of the proposal to have the matter of public printing controlled by the Colonial Secretary's Office, and in this connection he called attention to the suggestion that public or Government advertising might also be handled and controlled in the same way, and not to waste money by having Government advertisements scattered over pages of pamphlets, magazines, and various other small publications. He also pointed out that as it was the wish of the Government to have a brief session it was not the intention of the Opposition to prolong the session unnecessarily.

He also wished to congratulate Mr. Monroe upon his success at the recent Election, and he trusted that Mr. Monroe would be square and fair with all concerned. He did not intend to criticize at present as there is nothing to criticize at the present time, but after a short while he may have more to say on this point.

Mr. Scammell desired first of all to congratulate the Hon. the Speaker upon the high office which had been conferred upon him, and that he felt certain the choice was a good one, and he had every confidence that the Speaker would uphold the good name and traditions of the House. He also wished to congratulate the mover and second of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He said that he had listened attentively and with interest to the speech made by Mr. Lake, and he wished to congratulate him upon the success which he achieved in moving the address and reply. He was not surprised to hear such a good speech from Mr. Lake as he knew, before the Hon. Member had made his speech, that he was quite capable of doing justice to the occasion.

He congratulated Mr. Linegar upon his speech, as second of the motion, and although it was the first time that he had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Linegar, he felt that it was incumbent upon him to congratulate the Labor Movement of the West End District of St. John's upon having such an able supporter and challenger of their rights.

In passing he would like to reiterate the remarks of the Hon. Member for Trinity regarding the Speech from the Throne; the most notable feature about the speech was its brevity.

He said that they had not the chance to talk much at the present time, because of the present Government having been in power such a short time. Mr. Scammell speaking of the Bonavista Bay Bye-Election said that Mr. Monroe gave as his reason for not having the Bye-Election until the Fall that so many of the fishermen were away at present, and that to hold a Bye-Election now would disfranchise a great number of them, but Mr. Scammell would like to point out that the same thing applied to the district of Harbour Grace, and that if a number of the voters of Bonavista Bay would be disfranchised by holding the Bye-Election in Bonavista Bay it was equally as logical to say that a great number of voters had been disfranchised in the District of Harbour Grace.

Mr. Scammell said that he had before him a copy of Mr. Monroe's Manifesto. He pointed out that though it was brief it was very weighty, and it was the intention of the Opposition to see in so far as it was humanly possible that all those promises contained in it would be kept. He expressed himself as being very much afraid that before Mr. Monroe carried out all the promises contained in his Manifesto he would experience many wafers and unpleasant nights.

In speaking of the Address in Reply Mr. Scammell said he had been informed that Newfoundlanders employed on the Humber were in a proportion to the outsiders of 96 per cent. to 4 per cent, but still, he thought, there was much discrimination and he hoped there would be a firm stand taken in this direction. Scores of men are knocking about who could still fill the jobs held now by foreigners, and the Government should see to it that the positions are filled by local men. Beyond the Humber matter there was nothing in the Speech to refer to, but when the Estimates came up for discussion he hoped to have something more to say.

Mr. Brown, Member for Twillingate, said he would like to support the

Gander proposition. He congratulated Mr. Fox on his elevation to the Speakership, and felt that in him both sides of the House had every confidence. He also complimented the Mover and Second of the Address in Reply, but took exception to the claim of Mr. Linegar in his opening remarks as to being the first labor representative elected to the House. He thought that honor devolved on himself as he had been acting on behalf of the workmen for 14 years and had attended various conventions abroad in their behalf. He congratulated Mr. Linegar, however, on bringing back a Labor seat and hoped to see many more like him in the House to give Labor its proper representation, and he could give him every supporting in fighting for the rights of those whom he stood for. While Mr. Linegar represented Labor in St. John's, he stood for it throughout the country and hoped to see the day when it would be properly organized.

He welcomed the Gander proposition as a labor giving enterprise and thought that provision should be made to have those engaged there receive better pay than at similar concerns at present in operation in the country. The sub-contract system, which he classed as disgraceful, should be abolished, and he later hoped to introduce a bill to that effect. Children of sub-contractors are starving to-day, a condition not due to the present Government, and he hoped to see this situation speedily remedied and a square deal given to all.

Mr. Ashbourne congratulated the Speaker, the Mover and Second of the Address and considered it a sign of the times to see so many new faces in the House as their presence meant the introduction of new blood into the conduct of the affairs of the country. As to Prohibition, the Speech states that the law has not been enforced and he would like to know why. Did the fault lie with the medical practitioners, the Government or the Justice Department? The law was put on the Statutes by the people and he hoped the Government would enforce it. He would like to see a plebiscite taken and the women given a chance to voice their sentiments on the question. As to the Government printing being put out on contract he advocated the establishment of a purchasing department to which tenders for everything the Government needs would be submitted. This he felt would cut out the giving of too much patronage to printers. He hoped the Opposition would be given a chance to express their opinions and that the Prime Minister would see to it that their advice was taken as they represent certain sections of the country and this consideration would tend to the greater stability of affairs

in general. As to only 4 per cent. of foreigners being employed on the Humber he would like to hear the proportions of their wages and to see that steps are taken to prevent them occupying any job that a Newfoundland can fill. The country, he said, has now entered upon an era of prosperity and the Opposition were anxious to co-operate with the Government in every step that would promote that object. As the fisheries are the backbone of the country he hoped that everything would be done to foster them. According to the reports to date the fishery North is not so good as at first expected, but he trusted that with the advanced prices the fishermen would be better off than in previous years. He was glad to see that the Government had taken the duties of the necessities of life and expected them to go further in this direction and help the fishermen to reap the rewards due them from their toil. Continuing, Mr. Ashbourne approved the idea of Mr. Hibbs that steps be taken to encourage tourists to come to Newfoundland and that our attractions should be advertised abroad. To-day, he said, we want men of vision, who will develop our resources. It is not good enough to allow all our wood to be cut without making provision for the future, and seeing that the rights of future generations are protected. It should be provided that those cutting timber attend to reforestation so that the lands would not be left barren. Dealing with the dismissal of Government employees he did not think that one should be discharged merely to give a job to another as this was without advantage to the country. Though we have the trappings of an empire we are really a small community and will never be able to do anything till

(Continued on 6th page.)

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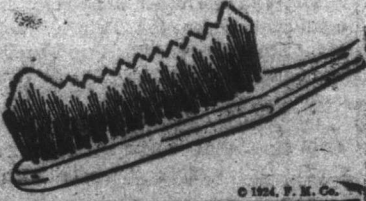
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