

House of Assembly.

SATURDAY, July 10.
The House opened at 3 p.m.
Mr. Sinnott gave notice of question.
Telegraph extension to Odegin.
Mr. Warren moved that the preamble of the Municipal Act be read.
At a previous session the bill had actually gone through the Committee stage.

Mr. Higgins wished to have placed on record a good word in behalf of the Citizens' Committee, who have devoted so much time to the matter with the various alterations that have been made, and thought that the measure could be satisfactory, and that the Council to be elected next December will not have been given objectionable authority. He thanked the House on behalf of the Citizens' Committee for the courtesy shown.

Premier Squires also eulogized the good work done by the Citizens' Committee and particularly the work done by Mayor Gosling, to whose energy the matter is due.

Mr. Brownrigg endorsed all the remarks of Mr. Higgins. He intimated that some difficulties yet remained to be adjusted by the Committee.

The Patriotic Fund Act was read a second time and passed all its stages without amendment.
The additional estimates amounting to \$1,014,975 were itemized by the Premier. The quarter of a million dollars is required to wind up the Public Works Department and includes expenditures for 1920-21. The \$200,000 Soldiers' Pensions will be able to pay on nearly equal footing with the Canadians. The Civil Re-Establishment Committee will have the disbursement of \$73,000, which will be sufficient up to the end of their term in October or November next. \$50,000 for a Telegraph building, which is added to the present Post Office premises, and a sum of \$50,000 for Long Bridge. A new structure will be built and the approach to it paved for this amount.

\$100,000 for Harbor improvements for the whole Island and to be distributed as per necessity.

Mr. Higgins—I am afraid that only permanent interests will get this \$100,000.

Mr. Sullivan asked if his district could get a share of the \$85,000 for the same.

Minister Marine and Fisheries—The House is intended to increase the subsidies. Asked in what way the trawlers would be distributed, he replied: 1 for the Straits, 1 for the Bay of Islands, and 1 belongs to the Bay business people and will play on that route. It may be improbable that an additional trawler would be placed on the West Placentia Bay at a later date.

Mr. Walsh suggested a smaller boat for the Argyle, as she was too large for the lesser ports.

Mr. Higgins noted that the supplementary supply showed that the reforms of the Prime Minister had not materialized.

Complimentary supply then passed Committee stage.
Answer to Mr. Higgins' question as to why Mr. White had been dismissed, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries said it was on the recommendation of members.



Could Not Sleep

Mr. Earnest Clark, Police Officer, 338 King St., Kingston, Ont., writes:

"For three years I suffered from nervousness and sleeplessness. I believe my condition was brought about by overwork. I had frequent headaches, neuralgic pains and twitching of nerves and muscles. I had indigestion, was short of breath and easily tired. I commenced a treatment of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and seven boxes of this medicine cured me of all my symptoms. I am now feeling one hundred per cent. better than I was, and have to thank Dr. Chase's Nerve Food for the good health I am now enjoying."

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Mr. Higgins—Members of what? Of a district? Of a Union? Does the Minister mean that he was dismissed for the color of his tie or his complexion?

Minister of Marine and Fisheries—For political reasons. He has since been appointed a Warden.

Mr. Higgins—As a Warden I understand he does not receive as much remuneration as he did in his other job, and I would ask the Minister to right the wrong done to this man and see that his salary is made equal to that which he received last year. He was quite satisfied if the man was given fair play.

Minister of Finance and Customs produced the bills in relation to Mr. McGrath and claimed that although signed and passed by the Auditor General, that they were not vouchers.

The House then went in Committee on the Loan Bill, and Sir Michael Cashin dealing with the matter at length said: He was glad that the railway policy of the Government had struck the House at last. For nearly 10 weeks the Opposition has been asking what was going to be done with the railroad. From last September to June a lot of blame was laid on the late Government for their inaction in connection with the railroad. The Government made the railroad policy their platform, and said in effect that

if you—the people—elect us we will see that the railroad is placed in good running order. Every kind of accusation was made against us and the contractors, and after saying so much we were led to believe that the Government would do something. Only yesterday a half hearted railway policy was introduced. The amount asked for in the Loan Bill is not near sufficient, it is only a waste of money. 2% of the rails need replacing. The opinion of the many railroad men he had met with is, that it would cost 6 or 8 million dollars to put the railway in shape. This expenditure of one million dollars is only throwing good money after bad. The Prime Minister in his manifesto said that he was going to make Reids' live up to their contract. Has he found out now that the Government is not in a position to compel the Reid Co. to do so? I take it that the Reid people can say to the Government: Here is your railroad. We have lost over 3 millions of dollars in its operations and have gone to our limit. Well, if the Government were sincere in their statements they would confiscate all the Reid assets or compel them to repair the road. The Government is not in a position to compel the Reids to repair the road, and they are not in a position to get the Reids to carry on the contract. Why not tell the country the truth that you are in a position where you have to come down here and vote \$1,000,000 to continue the service. You are only tinkering with the service now, and in two years from now we will be called upon to spend another 2 million dollars. Your proposition is only throwing dust in the people's eyes. It is a misrepresentation to state, as you said, that you are only loaning Reids this \$1,000,000 against what will be due Reids at the end of their contract and you know it. Is not the appointment of this Commission going into the railroad business? You go in with your four directors and say to the Reids, Here is one million dollars, run the railroad. What happens if there is money lost in operating next year. I am not protesting against this million dollars, millions more are needed. You, Mr. Premier, used the Reids to your advantage. You held them up to ridicule as supporters of the late Government. You came here yesterday and asked for a loan for Reids to run the railroad, and in your previous statement said they did not know how to run it. I could hammer you for the next 24 hours on this railroad bill and I have the material at hand. Last fall you horrified the people with tales about the railroad, and now you wish the country to forget those tales. Yesterday you read the statement of Reids for a purpose. I am prepared to support the bill, but the vote is not sufficient. It would require hundreds of men to-day to put the road in condition. The Government is in power now long enough to have the work started. The men who had to emigrate might now be working in their own country. As it is now the snow will be on the ground before the work is started and then we will be faced with the same old conditions. As for the Reid statement we must take it as correct in the absence of proof to the contrary. These are their sworn statements. Are we doing justice to the Reids? If you give them money on loans to run the railroad, why appoint a commission

with an auditor. If the Commission reports at the end of the year that the operation of the road was done at a loss, what then will be the position of the Government in this regard? I would like to hear the whole story of what the Government intends to do in the matter. Referring to the coal business, Sir Michael said, the coal situation to-day is serious. Steamers are now in Sydney that are held up for the past 2 or 3 weeks. It is an easy matter for the Government in its present position, to arrange that we get all the coal that we need. At present it is impossible for ships to get coal, owing to the Sydney people getting more money from others for their commodity than from us. I wish the mines at St. George's every success. I would ask the Prime Minister to table the data he has in reference to this matter.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries—The coal supply is serious, and it is probable that the Grand Falls industries would have to close down. However, Sydney assures us of a domestic supply. We will apply all the pressure possible to compel the Canadian Government to give us supplies. If they don't give us our supplies, we will retaliate in the tariff.

Sir Michael—That would not be the correct policy as it might injure our trade and we might be the sufferers. This coal matter is not a political one and we should all work together for the common good. Why not send a prominent man of the Government to Sydney and arrange matters. It could be done.

As this was near closing time Mr. Fox asked that the House adjourn until Monday afternoon as nothing could be gained by having a debate on Saturday night and it would not take long to finish up on Monday afternoon. To this the Prime Minister would not agree and called the House for an evening session. Messrs. Fox and Higgins protested against this manifest discourtesy.

Mr. Coaker asked Mr. Fox how he would like it if the resolutions were withdrawn altogether, to which Mr. Fox replied that it did not in the least interest him personally; the responsibility was in no way his but the Government's, and as to the veiled threat it had no effect whatever. He still asked that the House adjourn until Monday. The Prime Minister would not agree and the House rose until 8 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

On resuming Mr. Sullivan took the floor and continued until 9.30. He could not let the resolutions go through without a word on them. He congratulated the Prime Minister on his evident conversion to the principles of Reidism. No doubt there is joy among the directors of the Reid Nfd. Co. over the return of the Prodigal Squires back to the fold in which he used to wander from 1908 till 1918. He then quoted from the Daily Star the Prime Minister's remarks in introducing the resolutions wherein he stated that he undertook the duty with great reluctance, because the R. N. Co. were bound to keep the road in repair. That being so, why are we voting them one million dollars? Mr. Sullivan said the idea was absolutely ridiculous that the road would be put in new fish plates. That was not only one item. No provision was made for raising the standard of the road bed, new ties, renewing rails, reducing curves and numerous other things that had to be done before the road could be operated successfully. He predicted that with equal conditions, next winter will be worse than last as far as tie ups are concerned. He could understand the Premier coming in and asking for a million dollars for road repairing, but when it comes to put \$700,000 for terminals and rolling stock, and only \$300,000 for road work, it is bordering on the ridiculous. "The road now is twenty years behind the times, and if the Reids could not run it, it was up to the Government to see that it was run and run properly." Mr. Sullivan had just returned from a trip to Canada and came across on the Kyle. The accommodation on the little steamer was not nearly sufficient for the number of people travelling by her. Another boat on that service was absolutely necessary. He then turned to the coal situation, and from first hand knowledge gained while at Cape Breton, he gave a forceful denunciation of the laxity of the Government in not doing enough in the way of getting our coal supply guaranteed. He pointed out that the Kyle engaged in the Sydney-Port aux Basques service was not given more than her bunker supply, while the Meigle was 14 days at Sydney waiting for a supply. The fact was the coal company were not worrying about the Newfoundland trade, they had abundance of markets elsewhere and better paying. While he was at Sydney, an eight thousand ton steamer had loaded for Europe and another large ship was ready to land. The companies were receiving three dollars a ton more from Europe than we were paying, and a twenty-dollar freight in addition. He protested strongly against the Government's inactivity with regard to the local supply and denounced their incapacity. A couple of big men, with brains, would soon be able to solve the situation, but these were not to be found in the Government ranks.

Mont. Mr. Coaker admitted that the situation was really serious, but the

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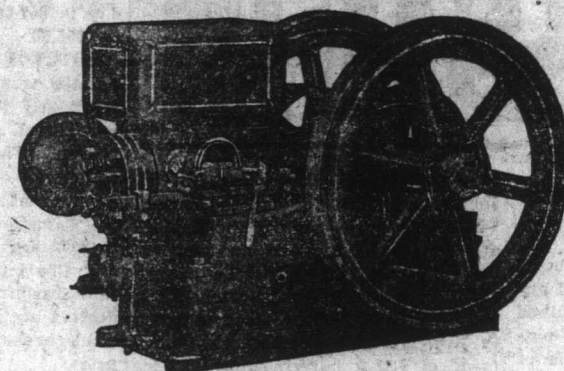
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Government wouldn't agree to the proposition submitted by the representatives of the coal company when they were here, regarding the tax on ore, and no arrangement has been made up to the present. The present tax of 7½ cents will continue until the new agreement, which will be retroactive, is made. In admitting the seriousness of the situation, he stated that only on that day he had received a cable from Lord Northcliffe, stating the mills would have to close down unless it was possible to secure an ample supply of coal, and the railway company was in the same position, not being able to get enough for their needs. The coal company would guarantee enough for domestic purposes, but no more. Despite this position, however, he was at least, one man in the Government who was not going to be bluffed, and he was prepared to give the coal company as good as he sent.

Messrs. Macdonnell, Higgins, Sinnott, Walsh and Fox occupied the time in the order named till midnight. When the hands of the clock showed midnight, Mr. Fox was speaking, and he politely drew the attention of the chair to the fact that it was then the Sabbath morning, and asked if legislation was going to be put through the House on Sunday.

Mr. Brownrigg stated it was not Sunday according to the slow time and was then 11 o'clock Saturday night. This apparently was the ruling of the chair, and Mr. Fox appealed to the Prime Minister, who remarked that it was a pity to interrupt Mr. Fox in his speech on any account.

Mr. Fox thanked the Prime Minister for his flattering remarks, but wanted to know if the resolutions were going to be put through. As

answer the Assistant Clerk started to read the same.

Mr. Fox stated he bowed to the ruling of the chair that it was not yet Sunday, and that being so, he did not see why he should cut short his address. Accordingly he continued. (At this stage of the proceedings, Messrs. Targett and Jennings retired from the House.) Mr. Fox, resuming, took up the inconsistency manifested by the Prime Minister in introducing the resolutions on Friday, and the statements continued in his manifesto. He proposed to read the utterances of Mr. Squires as contained in his manifesto, to which Mr. Coaker objected, as it had already been twice read in this debate. The chair ruled that Mr. Fox could proceed, which he did, to the utter discomfiture of the man who wrote the utterances, because for the space of nearly an hour he tore into shreds and heaped ridicule and sarcasm on the manifesto of the leader of the Government, such as was never heard in the Assembly before. Mr. Squires could not stand fire and was out of the House half an hour while Mr. Fox was speaking. At the hour of one o'clock Mr. Fox drew attention to the fact that it was now most assuredly he Sabbath morning, and like good citizens they should adjourn the House. As answer the clerk again started to read the resolutions before the vote was taken. (At this stage Mr. Cave retired from the House.) Mr. Fox protested, and Mr. Vincombe spoke to them until 1:10 Sunday morning. The clerk then read the resolutions under suspended rules, the Opposition offering no further criticisms, and at 1:15 the resolutions passed, and a bill introduced which was put through all its stages. At 1:25 the Salaries Bill was introduced and put through and at 1:30 the Public Service Bill was

introduced and put through all its stages. Then at 1:40 the Prime Minister coolly announced that the House would be prorogued on Tuesday next and moved the adjournment until 3 o'clock on that day.

The House adjourned at 1:45 Sunday morning. The laws of the Sabbath were violated for one and three-quarter hours to satisfy the whims of the Prime Minister to get the legislation through before another adjournment took place.

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