

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*During the Eight Session of the  
Twenty-Third General Assembly  
of Newfoundland*

1919

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# Proceedings

## OF THE

# House of Assembly of Newfoundland

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## SESSION 1919

WEDNESDAY, April 2, 1919.

The General Assembly having, by several Proclamations of His Excellency the Governor hereto prefixed, been prorogued until this day, the members thereof met in the Assembly Room.

At three of the clock in the afternoon a message from His Excellency the Governor was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, commanding the immediate attendance of Mr. Speaker and the House in

the Council Chamber. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House attended His Excellency the Governor in the Council, and, having returned to the Assembly Room, Mr. Speaker informed the House that when in attendance on His Excellency the Governor in the Council Chamber, His Excellency had been pleased to make a gracious speech to both branches of the Legislature, of which, for greater accuracy, he had obtained a copy and which he read to the House as follows:

**Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:**

**Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:**

It is with mingled sentiments of pride and thankfulness that I greet you to-day; pride in the wonderful success of the Allied arms in the Great World War which ended in November last; and thankfulness at the termination of a conflict which has caused untold miseries to the greater portion of the human race. I trust that from the wreck and devastation of the War, better, more enduring and happier conditions may arise, ushering in a new era of peace and contentment, which will in some measure justify and atone for the great sacrifices of blood and treasure which have been poured forth so freely and unselfishly upon the altar of Liberty.

At the time of the last session of this Legislature it will be remembered that the fortunes of the Allies were most critical, and the War situation was of the utmost gravity. Under those circumstances a Bill was introduced to postpone for a second time the General

Election, and the Legislature then determined that the term of the present Assembly should be limited to April 30th., 1919.

Thanks under God, however, to the almost superhuman exertions made by the Allies, the tenacity and sustained gallantry of the soldiers, and the continued pressure of the Navy, the situation underwent such a change during the latter part of the summer and autumn that armistices have been signed with the enemies. The victory for which we have been hoping and praying has been achieved. The Peace Conference, which followed the conclusion of hostilities, has been in session some months. Problems of international significance and far reaching importance, which may call for legislative action and approval, are in course of settlement at the Conference and my Ministers feel that the Government must be in a position to call the Assembly together whenever necessary without any undue delay.

There are many problems of first-class importance connected with the demobilization of our soldiers and sailors, their re-establishment in civil life, the making of provision for War debts and obligations as well as questions of transportation by land and sea, which call for a new mandate from the country, and a newly elected and full House of Assembly to deal with them. These problems are urgent

The object for which the Legislature is now called together is to make provision for that immediate appeal to the electorate which the legislation of last Session necessitates, and to enable the use of the last voters' lists, which was taken over twelve months ago.

The work of completing another list would throw unnecessary expense on the country, and cause delay in appealing to the electorate.

Your consideration will be invited, therefore, to proposals for amending the Election Act, in order to legalize the use in the forthcoming General Election of the Voters' List taken in 1917. Care will be had to ensure that the electoral qualifications of Newfoundlanders who have been serving in His Majesty's Naval and Military forces shall in no way be affected by their absence abroad on active service during the period of the War, and you will be asked to approve an amendment to the Act to this effect.

You will be asked also to extend the franchise to Newfoundland sailors and soldiers, under the age of 21 years, who have been overseas with His Majesty's Forces.

**Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:**

I am happy to be in a position to inform you that there was a

substantial excess of Revenue over Expenditure to the amount of One Million, One Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-seven Dollars and Ninety-four Cents, for the past fiscal year, and it is gratifying to know that a surplus of revenue over expenditure for the current fiscal year may also be anticipated as the Customs' Revenue for the eight months ending on February 28th shows an increase of One Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-four Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-three Dollars over the receipts for the same period last year.

You will be invited to vote the necessary funds to defray the expenses of the forthcoming General Election.

**Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:**

**Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:**

The tidings of the death of Prince John stirred the sympathetic feelings of Their Majesties' devoted subjects throughout the Dominion. It was my sad duty to convey to the Royal Household an expression of sorrow and sympathy of our people in their affliction, which has knit even closer together the ties of love and loyalty which bind us to the Throne.

In response to a summons from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Prime Minister attended during the summer the sittings of the Imperial War Cabinet, and represented the Dominion in the discussion and determination of vital issues connected with the conduct of the War. He also participated in the deliberations of the Imperial Conference which dealt with varied and complex problems affecting the present and future policy of the Empire.

In November last following upon the signing of the armistice, the Prime Minister was recalled to London by the British Government to take his place in the Imperial War Cabinet in connection with the discussion and formulation of terms of Peace. Later he proceeded to Paris with the British Empire delegation and took part in the Peace Conference there, actively interesting himself in all matters affecting or likely to affect the Dominion. Before returning home he represented Newfoundland's position to the Imperial authorities and received an assurance that our interests would be very carefully safeguarded.

My Ministers decided to endeavour to raise locally and in Canada the moneys required for the continued prosecution of the War and issued a Victory War Loan. Their faith in the patriotism and public

spirit of the people was fully justified by the magnificent result achieved, the amount of the issue being considerably oversubscribed within a very short period. This response is most gratifying as an evidence of the confidence of our people in the resources and possibilities of the country.

The continual growth and expansion of our trade and commerce of late years, combined with the increasing importance of our relations with the Mother Country, having emphasized the necessity of adequate representation there, my Ministers arranged for the appointment of a High Commissioner in London to look after the trade and commercial interests of the Dominion.

I avail of this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome home to our soldiers and sailors who have represented Newfoundland so valiantly and well during the past four years amid the changing fortunes and bitter hardships of War. Mere words cannot express our feelings of appreciation and admiration of their wonderful work. Their deeds are eloquent and pass to judgment before them. On land and sea and in the air their worth has been proven and their fame has spread far and wide. Those who have died for the Right have bequeathed us a precious legacy—the undying memory of duty performed even to the death, and the eternal fragrance of that love which exceeds all others—that a man lay down his life for his friends. Their loss to the country can never fully be estimated, because it is impossible to compute the value of the chivalry, honour, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty which these men possessed in the highest degree. We can only endeavour to prove worthy of the glorious heritage which they have purchased for us at such a price.

In taking leave of you I trust that your deliberations may conduce to the further welfare and prosperity of Newfoundland and that Divine Providence may guide you in the performance of your duties.

It was moved by Mr. Downey and seconded by Mr. LeFeuvre that an Address of Thanks be presented to His Excellency in reply to the gracious speech with which he had been pleased to open the present session of the Legislature, and that a Select Committee be appointed to draft such Address in Reply.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—I rise to move the appointment of a Select Committee to draft an Address in Reply to the speech with which His Excellency has

opened the present session of the Legislature.

I take advantage of the occasion to give expression to the feeling of thankfulness in all our hearts over the assurance that we were warranted in accepting, that in the immediate future a just and, it is to be hoped, a lasting peace will be given to the world.

The past four years will merit to be considered an epochal period in the world's history. Its result is that,

fortunately, the prospect today for democracy and the evolution of its many promising conceptions are in brilliant contrast to what the future would hold for us had it been possible that Germany and her allies had been victorious.

It is inconceivable to us that a people so virile and resourceful, so persevering and so enlightened as the Germans could be contented to live under the system of petty-serfdom that was the characteristic of their despotic system of Government.

Every cloud, we are told, has its silver lining, and even the lurid war-cloud of the past four years now breaking is showing a rift of silver in the evident determination of all the peoples of Central Europe to end the despotic systems of Government they have so long endured. Possibly, in course of time, they will even come to recognise the debt they owe our allies and ourselves for this happy result, and we, in turn, can congratulate ourselves that we have had the good fortune to be contributory to this through the limited, but efficient, measure of aid we were able to render the Motherland through the patriotism and valor of our naval contingent and our regiment.

The splendid fighting qualities of our men have attained for Newfoundland, in the short period of the war, a notoriety and measure of appreciation that would otherwise not have come to us for many years, and the country will be ready to accept its liability and give an appreciable, if not a fully adequate, recognition of this—the latter I feel it would be impossible to give.

In the last session, Mr. Speaker, it was deemed wise to extend the term of the life of the present Parliament, but the date of the extension was arbitrarily set to the 30th April. The Government, therefore, has no alter-

native but to accept the decision of the Legislature in this matter, but as the realisation of the conditions of peace may call for legislation in the Dominions as well as in the Mother Country, it is deemed imperative that a Parliament, with a mandate from the people to deal comprehensively with the many important problems awaiting ratification, should be available, there is no resource other than an appeal to the electorate in the immediate future.

This, in turn, calls for legislation to legalise the utilisation of the voters' list taken in 1917, and to ensure to our Reservists and to the men of the Regiment, the right of franchise which a technicality in the Election Act would deprive them of if this were not amended.

It is indeed a matter for congratulation that our revenue has responded so materially to the somewhat increased scale of taxation of the last session. This is an evidence of the country's ability to confidently undertake the consideration of any economic problem that the discharge of our war responsibilities may thrust upon us.

Our claim that we are the "oldest and most loyal Colony" has made ample verification during the war, and the measure of sympathy that went out so voluntarily to the Royal Family over the recent death of Prince John further establishes this contention.

It is gratifying to know that the Mother Country fully appreciates the measure of sacrifice we made in the interest of the Empire and of humanity during the war. Realisation of this appreciation was the calling of this country into the councils of the Empire in the formulation of the conditions of peace, and I entertain no doubt that when the record of the transactions are available, that it will

be found that our Prime Minister has acceptably and ably contributed to the stabilizing of our new status as a Dominion.

I move, Mr. Speaker, for the appointment of a Select Committee.

**MR. LeFEUVRE:**—Mr. Speaker, I rise, sir, to second the motion for the Select Committee to be appointed to draft an Address in Reply to the gracious speech of His Excellency the Governor, so ably proposed in his usual eloquent style by my Honorable friend the member for St. George's.

The main features of the speech are references to the signing of the armistice in November last and the consequent cessation of hostilities and the forthcoming general election.

On the occasion of this House being called into session in 1914 I had the privilege of speaking to the motion on the Address in Reply. That, Mr. Speaker, will be called our first war session. Although the peace treaty has not been signed, yet it was with thankful hearts that we witnessed the signing of the armistice which ended military and naval operations in November last.

We little thought when in 1914 we enacted legislation authorising the raising of the Volunteer Corps in this country that more than four years would elapse before those boys would be free to again return and that so many of them would never return. Mere words seem inadequate to express the thanks which are due to those noble boys who so nobly fought and nobly died. They fought and bled not alone for Newfoundland, but for the honor of that Constitution under which we are governed and which affords us the liberty and freedom which we are all so apt to take as a matter of course, forgetting that centuries of time have passed and generations of men have come and gone and the blood of martyrs in the

cause of liberty and freedom have given us that epitome of liberty which we call the British Constitution

It is this for which our boys have fought and whatever may have been the motive from which they volunteered whether the pure spirit of patriotism or a feeling of comradeship or otherwise, this we do know that wherever hard work was to be done, whether the fight was raging at its worst, there the Newfoundlanders won and merited the title of "better than the best."

Who, then, Mr. Speaker, will dare to say that in the proposed amendment to the Election Act giving to every soldier who has gone overseas the right of the franchise, irrespective of age, that we are doing a little more than we should do to make some recognition of the services of our boys.

The other matter referred to in the speech have been touched on by my Honorable friend, and I now pass on to His Excellency's remark on the financial condition of the Dominion. It is gratifying, Mr. Speaker, to know that we have had such a substantial balance to our credit at the end of the last fiscal year. It is equally pleasing to be told that we expect a similar balance at the end of the current year.

This, Mr. Speaker, is all the more gratifying when we remember the rather depressing state of affairs under which this House met at the beginning of the war. A general feeling of depression naturally was felt by all, but we should be thankful to find ourselves better off financially in spite of the fact that war conditions prevailed for over four years. Thanks to the British Navy, not forgetting our own brave sailor lads, the sea has been kept clear and our products have been marketed in spite of submarines and other perils from the sea.



Before I resume my seat I will take advantage of this opportunity to publicly tender to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister my sincere congratulations on the high honors lately conferred on him by His Majesty the King, and I also add the hope that he may long be spared to enjoy the same.

With these remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion that a Select Committee be appointed to draft an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

**MR. MORINE:**—Mr. Speaker, these are days when precedents are being smashed. One of them is that the Leader of the Opposition should speak first after the Mover and Seconder of the Address. Now it is the only independent member of the House who takes the position, as the Official Opposition have been courteous enough to allow me as senior member of the Assembly to make a few remarks at this stage.

We have heard the Mover and Seconder in brief addresses. The addresses which they have made this afternoon have only been enough to make us regret that these gentlemen have been so long under the stultifying influence of that side of the House, and have not had an opportunity of developing the talents which they so evidently possess. Perhaps after the election which is about to take place they may grace this side of the House and show to their constituents how fully they deserve their support.

I wish to extend my hearty congratulations to the honorable gentlemen opposite who since this House last met have had the honor of Knighthood conferred upon them. I recognize that the honor bestowed upon the Premier is one intended for the Colony. This has been the custom of late years, and is only one of many recognitions given the Colony from time to time. This goes to show that though small, we

are not forgotten. The splendid services of our brave soldiers and sailors have called forth the admiration and gratitude of the motherland, and if we are getting a larger share of these honors, which to outsiders may be considered out of all proportion, still Sir, I think we may claim they are only in equitable proportion to the quality of the services rendered to the Empire by our magnificent soldiers and sailors.

The honor conferred upon Sir Michael Cashin I regard more as a personal one; quite true he has been one of our many Acting Premiers during the past two years, but he has been for many years a member of this House. And although a political opponent of mine, I admire his straightforward and manly qualities, and it is because of these sterling qualities that I offer him my sincere congratulations. In other days there were no K.B.E.'s going, honors were not so plentiful, but perhaps more esteemed.

I am just thinking if there are no other Knighthoods to be announced. Is it not among the possibilities of the future that we may soon have a Sir John and a Sir William? The last named has quite recently returned from abroad, where he visited such historic spots as St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London. So far as I can learn there are some people who do not care a rap whether the honorable gentleman was buried in Westminster or beheaded in London Tower. "In the midst of life we are in death," and I now turn to that reference in the Speech from the Throne to the great sorrow which has come to our King and the Queen in the death of Prince John. Death is no respecter of persons; the same burden of sorrow comes to the Palace as to the hovel. On occasions such as this I think only of our great King as a good father, and of the Queen as the noblest type of true womanhood, following in

the footsteps of that noble woman, Victoria the Good. When we think of them in their affliction, let us cast aside rank and title and remember them only as father and mother.

And now, Sir, I want to say I was struck by some references made by the previous speakers to peace being established. I cannot give assent to the conclusion expressed by the Mover of the Address that the war had terminated. Certain terrible phases of the conflict have passed, but it cannot be said that the war has ended officially or in fact. We hear and read much of the triumphs of democracy, but so far as I can discern there is nothing in the conditions existing in Europe to-day to warrant us in the conclusion that wars will cease. On the contrary one sees on every hand signs that wars will never cease. Does anyone note a resolution on the part of the peoples of Europe to end wars for all time? Newsprints have been prone to tell us that Germany's war was caused and maintained by the classes; that the common people were not heart and soul in the struggle; but I contend that the Germans were one and indivisible in this fight for the mastery of the world, and let us be not deceived. Germany and her people; they are of the same mind now as when they went into the war. There is nothing to convince us that she will be any different under the regime of the peasant from what she has been under the rule of a Kaiser. Therefore we should always hold arms guarded on the Rhine.

I would like to make one or two remarks on the personnel of the statesmen who are now taking part in the great world Peace Conference as they appear to me. We as Britishers have the greatest admiration for that outstanding world figure in the person of the Premier of Great Britain, Mr. Lloyd George. I regard him as the greatest of them all. There

is an ancient doctrine amongst the people of England that in a grave national crisis God raises up the man who shall lead the people. There were some who might quarrel with what has been designated a League of Nations, and men may dispute as to whether such a league is superior to a balance of power alliance; but name it what you may, world peace must depend on the three partners, Great Britain, France and the United States of America. An offensive and defensive alliance between these countries, to which might be added Italy and the smaller nations, is the hope for that peace and security we all so much desire.

The other notable figures at the Peace Conference are that wonderful Frenchman Clemenceau, and that great American, President Wilson; his was a great mission and we know how faithfully he is endeavoring to use the great opportunities which are his to serve the cause of justice and humanity. Sir, I would not be fair if in passing I failed to pay my humble tribute to that other great American who has passed out of life a short time since. I refer now, sir, to Theodore Roosevelt. He was indeed a man's man, of great force and character. He was the most typical American I have ever known, representing as he did all that was best and virile in that great nation of which he was so exalted a citizen, a man who did yeoman service for Great Britain and her Allies before the United States entered the war.

I am in hearty accord with the sentiments of appreciation that have been expressed in this debate towards those gallant fellows, our soldiers. But I would like to say by way of warning, let us not forget that the empty flattery of words, the empty tribute of words to those who

have paid the supreme sacrifice, and to those who have come back to us, will not be enough. It is not what we say of them, but what we do for them, that will count. I think it was the mover of this Address who said that those who have died have performed the greatest service for this country, and to whom we should be most grateful; but I want to point out that we should be grateful also to those who have fought and come back to us. When they volunteered they made their sacrifice. They laid themselves upon the altar of their country then; they dutifully gave themselves up; willingly took their lives in their hands; and mind you, sir, during all this time were conscious of the risks they were taking, and the sacrifice which they might be called upon to pay. It was not when they had paid the price, but when they offered to pay the price, that they made the greatest sacrifice. In this connection I regret to say, sir, that I do not see signs of what appears to me to be adequate attempts to meet the demands of these men. We are too apt to think that when we have paid pensions to those who have been wounded, when we have paid our tribute of respect to those who have died, that we have in a large degree discharged the obligations which rest upon us to our soldiers. Meantime, unfortunately, we attempt to minimise in our own minds the debt we owe these men. We see them, perhaps, moving around strong, well and apparently happy, and we say to ourselves that after all these men have gone through the fight have had the experience, and have come back, why should we do anything more for them. But, can we ever replace the wasted years, and the wasted opportunities that they perforce had to let slip by; can we ever put them back again where

they were when they went, or, even still more, they would have been had they not gone? Four years out of the life of a young man is a period which can never be returned to him, and the occasions which he loses upon which he might profit himself, and the opportunities he misses to learn things in these four years, we can never compensate him for. And so, when we meet him on the street, young and strong, and think to pass him without further thought, we ought to have in mind these wasted years and wasted opportunities and the sacrifice that he has made. Are we grappling with this problem in an earnest way? The Government has held out some sort of promise that after an election some such earnest attempt will be made. That is not really satisfactory to me, because it is a promise and nothing more. In the meanwhile valuable time is passing. In my humble judgment we ought to have met here for the purpose of considering tentatively at least an adequate plan of re-establishment of our soldiers in a more or less permanent way; but, unfortunate, that is an opportunity that we have lost.

With reference to the proposal to hold a general election at this time, I think that really I am more consistent with the stand I took in the last session than anybody in either branch of the Legislature. When it was proposed last session to extend the time of the House, it was first proposed that the end of the year be the time allotted, but subsequently the 30th April was decided upon. I supported the bill for the extension. Members of the Opposition in the Upper House opposed it very bitterly; and in this House it was opposed in a more modified way by the gentlemen on this side of the Chamber. But I personally supported the bill on the ground that I thought there ought

to be no election till the men who had fought for the Empire and our Country had come back. These men are not back yet, and will not be back for some time to come. Therefore, I think the election ought not to be held until the Autumn of the year. I supported the bill on another ground as well, and that was that the electorate ought not be asked to pass upon the work of the Government until they were enabled to pass an intelligent opinion thereon. The evidence from which the electorate would be asked to base their opinion would be the record that the Government has to produce since it acquired power. That record would show how the responsibilities of its administration have been carried out; how the duties of its office have been performed; and how its obligations to the people whom it sought to represent were fulfilled. In other words, the manner in which it had discharged its stewardship would have to be shown. The electorate could not be expected to intelligently review the record which the Government ought to lay before them unless sufficient time were allowed for assimilation of the facts laid before the people. We cannot expect the people to judge the merits or demerits of the present administration unless they were in a position to have all the evidence before them, and a sufficient time within which to digest that evidence. I felt last year that if an election had been reached that the people would not be in that happy position to clearly determine the issues of an election contest; and that reason operates just as strongly in my mind today. In the short time at our disposal it is not to be expected that sufficient facts can be laid before the people to enable them to come to an intelligent decision upon the questions upon which they will

be asked to vote; and it is neither fair to the Government, nor fair to the people, nor in the interests of the Country, to have an election under such circumstances. Accordingly I took the position and made it known in certain quarters so that it might reach the ears of the Government that as far as I was personally concerned I was now prepared to vote for the further extension of the life of Parliament; and that if a bill were introduced here today to extend the life of the Government for either six or nine months that I would give it my hearty support. Reference has been made to the 30th April in the sense that limiting the life of Parliament in that way means that an election ought to be held not later than that date, but that is not the case. The House might have been extended under the present law on the 30th of April and the Government might have gone on until the Fall, when an election would have been held. If, in the meantime, anything untoward had happened and it was thought desirable to have the House summoned that contingency might have been provided against by having an Extension Bill put through at this session, so that if it were found wise to meet before the election of the Fall it might have been possible to do so. However, no such occasion is likely to arise. There is nothing likely to result from the Peace Conference which would necessitate an unusual summoning of our Legislature; and with confidence we might have looked forward to being undisturbed until the election date. It has been very fairly said upon the other side, as it was very fairly said by the Opposition that this House originally was elected for four years, and has now long gone over its time; that it has received no mandate from the people to remain in office; and

that, therefore, there ought to be an election. I accept the Government argument that in the interest of the Government it was not expedient to have the conduct of its affairs prejudiced by election contests during the past few years; but now we are in the position of an election sprung upon us; and we are told that people will be asked to go to the poll in the month of May, when ice and other physical conditions around our coast may make it absolutely impossible to hold the election at all; when in every district north of Trinity and probably north of Cape Ray it will be absolutely impossible to visit one half of the villages and settlements comprised therein. It will be impossible to meet the electors; it will be impossible to lay before them and ask their verdict upon facts connected with the administration of their affairs for the past six years. The people will be called upon to give a judgment which they cannot hope to base on evidence. During the course of the past six years the Government perforce has had to keep secret many details of their work. It is safe to say that the people generally do not know one half of what has taken place. We in this House do not know it; and without being in possession of all that information we are expected to criticise upholding or opposing the party at present in power. During the session we have not time to ask for the information which we desire to be tabled, nor have we time to engage in a discussion which would, through the public press, go to the people for their enlightenment. The people in the various districts will be asked to vote one way or the other without the slightest knowledge of the issues upon which they are supposed to pass an opinion. That is a position which to my mind should not be allowed to be created.

But what the Government is asking for is a mandate to come back in order to pass important measures, depending upon very important questions of policy, but this mandate will be given by the people at a time when they are not in a position to give an intelligent mandate. Had the election taken place at the customary time in the month of November, every question affecting the policy of the Government could have been discussed upon political platforms, and the people could have given a verdict that would have been a mandate indeed, but I am afraid that if the Government is returned at an election in the Spring, force of circumstances will prohibit the people's verdict from being in any true sense a mandate.

The Government will go to the country as usual, but it will obviously be impossible for any organised opposition to place and air their views before the people, and it is in view of this entire lack of opposition that I contend the time is not suited for an election and that a verdict of the people will be in no sense a mandate, rather will it be as a blank cheque given to the Government from the people; a blank cheque because the people will perhaps have no opportunity to give anything else. Will the Premier feel, that with such a cheque he will be morally authorised to fill it in?

These are things which occurred to me and which I know will occur to those people, who by means of newspapers are in communication with political life of the country. Standing here as an independent member of the House, one unconnected either to the Opposition or the Government, possibly having no future connection with either party, I say, this position appeals to me very deeply, and I would ask the Govern-

ment, if it be not too late yet, to take its time over this question and in the interest of the country ventilate every possible argument in the interest of the country. I believe that from their own view point the members of the present Government are as anxious to serve the people as I am myself, and in view of these things, I ask, is there not yet time to consider whether it will be ultimately expedient to hold an election at this most inconvenient season of the year, and if it would not be better to wait until such time as the country will be able and competent to give an honest and a fair verdict. How can the Government feel that they have a moral mandate and that they will be justified in passing important legislation in this House? I do not endeavor to predict the result of the election. I do not know enough about the feelings of the country. I would ask that the Premier face these arguments fairly and squarely. Perhaps they do not appeal to him. Perhaps it is not too late for him to extend the life of this Parliament for another year. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that if the Government were prepared to consider this possibility, I, myself, am prepared to give my heartiest support to the bill.

**THE RT. HON THE PRIME MINISTER:**—I must offer my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I realise that the speakers have had, as it were, bricks to make without much straw, because after all there are very few proposals of legislation embodied in the Speech. The Speech is somewhat long, but the measures foreshadowed therein are extremely short, and their task must therefore be a very embarrassing one, but naturally enough they utilise the references that the present times call

forth, and although the war may not have reached its termination, in the opinion of an independent member of this Assembly, yet there is no doubt that the present time is an occasion for joy as our sailors and soldiers are coming back to their homeland after doing noble deeds and performing their duty to their country and the Empire.

I thank the Honorable member for Bonavista, the father of the House, for his kindly admonitions. There was much in the way of advice that we must take from our paternal guardian and receive with filial respect, but even when we do receive it with filial respect, it does not necessarily follow, in our years of discretion, that we should naturally, and as a matter of course, follow it. I thank him for his kindly reference to myself. I recognise that the honor that has been done me by the King has not been due to any merit of my own. I recognise that the great honors which have been conferred upon me is due perhaps entirely to the office that I had the good fortune to occupy by possessing the confidence of the majority of the members of this House. The honors that were given, were given to honor Newfoundland. I have merely been the recipient of them.

Today we have met here to ask the Legislature for an opportunity to go to the country, and we have decided on this course after due deliberation and careful thought. I shall refer to this proposal again later.

Reference is made in the speeches here today to my visit to the Homeland. Naturally it was to me a pleasant opportunity to re-visit the land of my birth after many years. It was a great education to a public man of Nfld. to meet the leading figures of the Empire, and not only the great men of our own Empire,

but also the men among our Allies who have made good both upon the battlefields and in the legislative halls and council chambers. I regard the Prime Minister of England as the greatest figure in the Peace Conference. When I had the opportunity of coming across him first early in June last, I was expecting to see a man war-worn and bowed down by care. To my astonishment I saw a man buoyant, full of life, good spirits and activity. Yet he was the one great figure today who has been bearing heavy burdens from the beginning of hostilities, a man to whose unwearying efforts we largely owe the victorious issue of the war.

In saying this, I do not wish to depreciate other great figures. Clemenceau, "The Tiger of France" is a remarkable man, a man who, when France was almost worn out with the intensity of the struggle, buoyed up her spirit, and inspired her to sustained efforts until victory was achieved. To his unflinching energy, to his determination to see that France won out, we owe an incalculable share of the victory that has come to us, and then the other great leaders: the great Foch, grim, silent, determined and able; capable to grasp and competent to do; the President and leaders of the United States of America, whose army was just at that time rapidly growing to a power that was a telling factor in the War. This time last year America had been at War twelve months. She had just got into the field with comparatively few men. America had only one or two divisions in the field, and these were not fit for fighting. That was the time when the struggle was at its worst and the crisis at its greatest, and we were not receiving, and had not received, from the United States, that aid which they were capable of giving and which they did give afterwards. But after that crisis had pass-

ed the United States made efforts and tremendous efforts to supply men and materials. At that time practically all the workshops of England and all the mines of England were stripped of men able to bear arms, right up to the age of 50, and every soldier who had any training at all was shipped off to France. At one time there were 300,000 sent to France within a few days, so great was the struggle, and so great the need of men. The great question in England was "Can we hold out? Is it possible for the Allies to keep going until the great United States has got its forces over and can give the determining blow in the struggle?" For months past the anxiety had been great. Our soldiers knew that to give way at all meant ruin, and the question was whether or not the German power was sufficient to break in between the French and the English, turn their masses on the French and annihilate them and afterwards crush the English. It was hoped or expected at that time that there was any chance of an armistice being signed for a long while to come, and the great problem was to get over the Americans—to take the shipping away from other points—from the Pacific, from the Indian Ocean, from the South Atlantic, and throw it all in the North Atlantic to bring them over as fast as possible. And they were shipped over in immense numbers—in some cases as high as 300,000 within a week or so. And even then the men that were being shipped over were not all trained men. But the British were grimly holding the Germans and grimly determined not to give an inch, no matter what happened, and I can tell you this that even in those days of depression and uncertainty, there was an unshakable determination in the British cabinet not to give in. No matter even if France were beaten and crushed, Britain would fight on the sea and get back to the land and win out with the help

of America. But the anxiety and strain was there and the situation was most critical. When the Germans made their big effort in July and accomplished nothing, they got discouraged and lost heart. Then it was that diplomacy and fighting went hand in hand. The big campaign was started in Palestine and at the same time diplomacy was exercised with the Turks and Bulgarians, which ended in their abandoning the fight. Then Austria found that the game was up, and she collapsed. Germany, finding herself alone, lost heart. When she saw that victory was not possible she was forced to come to terms.

Now Sir, it is easy enough to enlarge on this matter, and having been over there, one is tempted to make some remarks about it. Reference having been made to the Prime Minister of England, I could not refrain from expressing what I thought of the efforts made by himself and his Government, and the big figures who were working with him. After spending many long days in Council, I learned enough to realize why Lloyd George was such a big figure in the war. He was always fresh and full of energy, and had the determination and force to overcome all obstacles of difficulties, and wit enough to devise ways and means of meeting all situations.

Now, sir, I would like to make some short reference to some other matters connected with the Imperial Council. Naturally, sir, you will appreciate that a very large proportion of the work of the Conference was of a confidential nature. It had very largely to do with the resources of the Empire, tabulating and getting information together regarding all kinds of resources, and determining how these resources should be availed of in the near future; how the Empire can be better kneaded together economically, and how the different portions of the Empire can

best co-operate with each other for the common good. Among the things dealt with, were naturally those resources which had to do particularly with the defence of the Empire, and which may be called key industries. It was a remarkable feature of conditions at the outbreak of the war that many of the resources of the Empire which were absolutely essential to defense, were found in German hands, and it was marvellous to the extent to which Germany had taken over and controlled resources of our Empire which are absolutely essential to its safety. Matters such as these were dealt with, and other subjects, but the one feature that struck me most forcibly was the thoroughness of the different committees and experts connected with the Colonial Office in their preparation of material for the conference and in devising means for the betterment of the Empire. With regard to the Imperial War Cabinet, the position was taken that the extension of the idea of an Imperial Cabinet, which had been found best for war, would also be best for peace. The idea is to bring together the Ministers of the Crown from not only the Home Country, but from the self-governing portions of the Empire and from the native states and British governed parts of India as well. A decision was taken that the usefulness of the Imperial War Cabinet, having been so strikingly evident, should not cease with the war, but should continue during time of peace, and in order that this idea might be carried out it was also determined that at any time a Prime Minister should be in London, he should be entitled to attend the meetings of the Imperial Cabinet; and further, that if he were not in London, and one of his colleagues in the Ministry should be, the Prime Minister would have the right to delegate



such Minister to represent him. I don't know that this particular feature is of much interest to Newfoundland, as it would scarcely be worth our while to permanently maintain a minister in London. It is of more interest to the larger Dominions, and there is every prospect that we shall have in London an Imperial Cabinet sitting almost constantly. It is also a recognized principle that a Prime Minister should have the right to communicate with the Prime Minister of the Home land on matters of importance, and in order to clear the way to freer communication, particularly on matters of first class importance, it was decided that the usual channel of communication, from the cabinet to the Colonial Office, and then to the Department which the matters concerns, should be shortened by direct communication between Prime Minister and Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister of England is a Minister with very onerous and important duties to perform and it would not be just and right that any matter not of Cabinet importance should form the subject of communication between the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Dominion Prime Ministers. If so, they could only be relegated to Private Secretaries, and the value of this new channel of communication would be lost.

We have taken into consideration the views of the Opposition that there are problems of far-reaching importance to be grappled with arising out of the demobilization of our soldiers and sailors. Last year we had a surplus and we have another surplus this year. We will be calling upon that surplus again as soon as we get the approval of the country. It is not absolutely the fact that we are mainly giving out the kindly word to returned soldiers and sailors and contenting our selves merely with promises. We are spending immense sums on returned

soldiers and sailors for which purpose measures were passed in this House. The Government have been giving and are trying to give more than words, and are learning their defects and gaining experience in relation to these matters affecting our returned soldiers and sailors. There are daily new problems coming up about which we have had not much experience. We are all aware that it is impossible to measure our debt to our soldiers and sailors, and when the Hon. member for Bonavista states that the efforts of our gallant soldiers and sailors are not adequately recognized he echoes the sentiments of the entire House. It is impossible to fully recognize them because they are immeasurable. However, the Government are trying to learn where the defects exist and are earnestly determined to do everything that it is possible to be done in the matter. We are told that the country should have an opportunity of knowing us before the general election. Well, if they do not know us by now I should like to know when they will. My Hon. friend, I understand, thinks there should be no appeal to the country just now on the grounds that the people do not know us. We are what is known as a National Government and it is surely time the country knew about the Government. The country ought know by now whether we have done any good and must also be aware of any bad things we may have done. I am prepared for whatever verdict may be recorded at the poll. I am not craving for power, nor are my colleagues. The Government are doing what they believe is wisest in the country's interest. At the very earliest moment we intend to ask the country for a new mandate. Mandates are usually set forth with Manifestoes and that is what we propose to do. If the people of this country think that there are wiser heads in the Opposition to carry on the burden of Government,

I will be perfectly satisfied to abide by their decision. I will not quarrel with the verdict whatever it may be. Personally I am prepared to abandon office if the voice of the people wishes it, and I think that my colleagues are of the same mind. We have had a pretty big share of the responsibilities of office during the past two years. Last year the Opposition vigorously opposed any extension of the life of Parliament, and were anxious to test their strength and the life of Parliament was limited to suit their wishes to April 30th this year. Now they have got to live up to that. The country will then be given an opportunity of giving a verdict on our stewardship. My Hon. friend thinks that we should declare our policy now. We will do that in our manifesto. That is the course adopted by all other Governments.

We are making every effort to try and get home the remainder of our returned soldiers and sailors. Similar efforts, I understand, are being made in London. The bulk of our soldiers and sailors are already back and they will be given an opportunity of saying whether we have done our duty or otherwise by them and by the country.

The following Select Committee was appointed to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, namely, Mr. Downey, Mr. LeFeuvre, Mr. Targett, Mr. Currie.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill to Amend the Election Act 1913.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that he would on to-morrow move that Supply be granted to His Majesty.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until to-morrow at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, April 3rd, 1919.

MR. WALSH:—I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Trepassey and a number of settlements asking for a ferry. The petition is very largely and influentially signed. It is signed by Rev. Father O'Flaherty and Dr. Giovanetti and a number of other residents of this locality. The petition points out that owing to lack of facilities for travelling by water they are put to considerable inconvenience and that if a ferry is put across Trepassey harbor it would do away with a great deal of this inconvenience which these people suffer because they are isolated from the clergyman and doctor, and if they have to call either one of these in a hurry, which is often the case, they must travel down to the north side of Trepassey harbor, and very often there is no private boat available with the result that they have to walk six or seven miles to the south side, which is the principal business part of the harbor and where the priest and doctor live. I have much pleasure in giving my hearty support to the prayer of this petition, and I trust that the Government will see its way clear to accede to the wishes of the petitioners which in my mind, are very reasonable.

I have also a petition from the inhabitants of Branch, in the District of Placentia and St. Mary's. This petition is very important and is largely signed; I think by over two hundred residents. I would ask the clerk to read the petition. (Clerk read petition.) Mr. Speaker, anybody who is at all familiar with conditions in this particular settlement will appreciate the importance of this request. Branch is one of the most important settlements in the District of Placentia and St. Mary's. Situate as it is on a wild shore, they have not any artificial harbor and they have not

had any assistance rendered them for a number of years. When I say assistance, I mean anything of very much importance. The expenditure of twenty, thirty, forty or even one hundred dollars on a big place like this is of very little use. I think the Government should meet the request of petitioner and send a competent man up there, such as the Government Engineer—I understand he was sent to Grand Bank last year and Grand Bank is somewhat similar to Branch in my opinion, in that it is also situate on a wild shore and is an important fishing centre. The people of Branch contribute largely towards the revenue of this country, and if they require this aid from the Government, they certainly should have it. It would be easy to send the Government Engineer over there and make an estimate of what is required. I have very much pleasure in endorsing the prayer of the petition and in giving it my hearty support.

Mr. Speaker, I have also a very important and largely signed petition from the residents of Trepassey, asking for a sum of money to complete a road from Trepassey to what is locally known as the Polls. I may say, sir, that sometime ago part of our special grant was devoted to making a start on this road, the completion of which will open up a large area of splendid agricultural land. The petition is signed by Rev. Father O'Flaherty, Dr. Giovanetti, Mr. Devereaux, J.P., and over one hundred others. I give the prayer of petitioners my unqualified support, and bespeak for it the sympathetic support of the Government.

**HON. MR. COAKER:**—Mr. Speaker I give the petition just presented to this House by the Honorable member for Placentia and St. Marys on the matter of a breakwater at Branch

my support. I well realise that the claims of the industrious fishermen of that thriving settlement should receive the favorable consideration of the Government, when the grants for marine works are being allocated. But I am of opinion that the breakwater to which the Honorable member refers will cost much more than the sum named in the petition. A few hundred dollars will not go far, and a substantial amount will be required. There are also other sections on the South West Coast where considerable expenditures on account of marine works will have to be undertaken in the very near future. At Grand Bank, for example, harbor improvements must be made which will cost a large sum. Personally I wish to say that I may be relied upon to give my support to those projects which aim at making the fisherman's labors as easy and productive as possible.

**MR. MORINE:**—Mr. Speaker, I rise to present several petitions which have been entrusted to me by the people of that section, on the subject of railway extension along the North Side of Bonavista Bay and the Straight Shore of Fogo District. The petitioners are asking that a branch line of railway be constructed from Gambo on the main line to Carmanville in Fogo District, touching at Locker Bay, North West Arm, New Harbor, South West Arm, Wesleyville, Cat Harbor, Musgrave Harbor and Doting Cove, and on to Carmanville.

I trust, sir, that the Government will find it convenient to begin the work this present season. The Colonial Secretary in his address to the Fogo District Council of the Fishermen's Union is reported in certain newspapers to have declared it to be the policy of the Government to construct this branch line, and I would

now like to have that opinion confirmed.

There is no more important section of the Colony deserving of consideration than the people who earn their livelihood on the North Side of Bonavista Bay and Fogo Straight Shore. Frugal, industrious, hard-working men who as fish-killers are entitled to be classed in the front rank of the Colony. I say it is most desirable that these people be given the facilities of carrying on their avocations in life, which a branch railway would afford them. Another strong reason why the people of the North Side of Bonavista Bay and the Straight Shore of Fogo are entitled to and should be given a railway is that there are virtually no main line roads through this section of the country.

Between Gambo and Carmenville there is nothing but winter paths which for the greater portion of the year are unpassable. It will therefore be seen that there is no part of the Island where the physical conditions are such as would justify the fair and reasonable requests of those independent and hard-working people to the benefits much must accrue from the facilities to carry on their labors that a line of railway is bound to give them.

But, sir, I also appreciate the fact that other parts of the country are entitled to the favorable consideration of this Legislature when the financial condition of the country warrants the completion of the branch lines for which legislation has already been enacted, and for further extensions, for instance, there is the linking up with the line through the Burin peninsula of the important towns of Burin, Great Burin, Lama-line and contiguous settlements, and I admit that those places may urge their right to railway facilities with equal force.

The people of Bonne Bay also will have to be considered at the same time. Mr. Blackall tells us in an interesting report that beyond Bonne Bay lies one of the most promising agricultural areas in this Island, while on the western side of St. Barbe District, if opened up for settlements by a branch line of railway, is to be found a country of most flattering prospects.

But still I feel that the claim of the North Side of Bonavista Bay is in no way subservient to the call from any other portion of the Island. The terrible condition of the main line of the railway has already been referred to. Not alone is the road not efficiently operated, but the most serious charge is made that traffic on the railway line is not safe for human life. Whether a broader line is to be constructed or the road re-railed from end to end is a matter which must in the immediate future command the serious attention of the Government, or else the operation of the road must be abandoned. A large expenditure of many millions of dollars must be made by the company or Government or by other means.

I ask that these several petitions be received and referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary.

**HON. MR. COAKER:**—I wish to give the petitions presented by the Honorable member for Bonavista my earnest support. The question of extending the railway down the North Side of Bonavista Bay and Fogo District has several times been up for consideration before F. P. U. Councils, where it was considered right and proper that the industrious inhabitants of that section of Bonavista and Fogo to which these petitions refer should be given railway facilities. There is another most important section which will have to be considered by the Government

when the time arrives that the Government can enter upon the work of railway extension. I refer to a branch railway on the North Side of Green Bay to Hall's Bay, which should be built from Howley on the main line. And then we have the people of St. Mary's Bay, who, when the Legislature can feel justified in undertaking this work must be given what, after all, is only their right to the benefits their contribution to the general taxation of the country entitles them to. Mr. Chairman, I beg to give these petitions my hearty support.

**HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY:—**

Mr. Speaker, in supporting the petition for railway extension from Gambo along the North Side of Bonavista Bay and through the District of Fogo, with Carmanville as the terminus, I wish to make my position perfectly clear to this House and the people I have the honor to represent. The remarks which have just fallen from the Honorable member for Bonavista, Mr. Morine, would I think convey an erroneous impression, if I did not offer a word in explanation to this House. My position, sir, is this, I strongly favor the building of such a line. The contributions per capita of the people in the locality which the road would traverse are as great as those received from the more favored portions of the Island, which enjoy the benefits of the railway as well as having for their convenience and use roads and other transportation facilities. But I want to make it clear that I have made no definite promise in my capacity as Colonial Secretary that this work would be undertaken now. What I did say in my address to the Fogo District Council of the F. P. U. last December, I am prepared to stand by, and it was this: When the Colony can safely undertake the construc-

tion of branch railways, then my constituents could rely upon me to see that they got a square deal. It furthermore is not necessary for me to hold out roseate promises to secure my election. The people whom I represent trust me to look after their affairs honestly and faithfully. That I shall do to the best of my ability while I have a place in the councils of the Government or on the floors of this House, and I can assure my Honorable friend opposite I have no fears of the verdict of Fogo District when an appeal to the country is made.

**MR. WALSH:—**Mr. Speaker, I would also like to give my hearty support to the petition. During the course of the debate one prominent member of the Government referred to the necessity for a railway from Trepassey to St. Mary's. I am glad that there is at least one point upon which the Hon. gentleman and myself can agree, and I wish that the good intentions of the Hon. gentleman would be acted upon by his party, so that I might have something more than an empty promise to give to the people of my district. I think that the people whom I have the honor to represent are a little bit too wary to be taken in by promises of the sort thrown out. A burnt child dreads the fire and these people have been too severely burnt to venture near fire again.

The extension of the railway system in the places referred to would open up sources of that country. If from a financial view point such policy could be inaugurated on a financial basis, then I would give it my hearty support. It is about time the Government took up the matter of removing the dangers that the present state of our trunk line offers. Apart from the inconveniences resulting from delays in handling freight there

is the all-important phase, namely, the safeguarding of the lives of the passengers transported over that system to be taken into consideration.

I notice that an inquiry into an accident that took place some time ago was started over a year after the accident had happened. One of the results has been that no action can be taken by those who suffered loss therefrom. I do not insinuate that the delay in this case was intentional, but in my mind it shows a sad lack of attention on the part of those responsible in a matter of such grave importance. In reference to the extension of the railway around Bonavista Bay District, if the policy can be carried out with safety to the country's finances, then I am in hearty accord with the proposition, and my attitude will be the same towards any other proposition for railway construction; but I want to see that the railway to St. Mary's is first completed.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that reasonable members of the Government recognise the disgraceful condition of the railway at the present time, and I am glad to see that the Government is taking up the matter. It is something the consideration of which cannot be longer delayed; the dangers resulting from allowing it to continue in its present state are accruing every day. If we do not act soon an accident will overtake us that will remind us in a very trying fashion that we have been trifling with a very serious problem.

**MR. MORINE:**—I have been wondering what has converted the Government to the new program which they have presented to this House this afternoon, and which they are prepared to submit to the country. We on this side of the House are glad to note that they are prepared to do

something of a beneficial nature to the country, but I am not so sanguine that anything can be done, because I think that the financial state of the country at this particular time does not warrant any great burdens. We should not delude ourselves with contemplating ideas and plans which will be impossible of performance. If anything can be done, it is indeed well that this important subject should be attended to. It reflects with great discredit on the Government that the railway line at present is absolutely unsafe for travelling; that it is so, is public knowledge, and the sooner the Government consider the matter the better; the matter itself is of the most pressing importance. It demands instant attention, and will not brook delay. The Government ought to see that the railway line is safe for every person who travels on it, and until the railway is in that state the responsibility for every accident which may occur rests on the shoulders of the Government.

Under present conditions business men are seriously handicapped, being unable to get their freight over the lines. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I know of no question before the Government at this present time which more imperatively and immediately exacts Government consideration. I need not add, Mr. Speaker, that an honest effort on the part of the Government intending to ameliorate this grave cause of dissatisfaction will receive my sincerest support.

**THE RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**—It is not my intention at this moment to occupy at any great length the time of this House, but there is one matter which I cannot let pass without a few remarks, and that is the important question of the railway line. I may say that this is a matter that must be attended to immediately, and I may say that it has

been under the consideration of the Government for a long time past. The Government has been trying to do something in this direction ever since I have been connected with it. The line has been kept open under extreme difficulties, for we were faced with a position, at least during the war time, of great doubt and uncertainty. Both submarine and the scarcity of shipping, rendered traffic by sea a matter of greatest concern, and it therefore was most essential that the railway line should at all times be kept open, and the Government has at all times been most zealous to effect this. I do not mean to say by this, that money has been improperly or recklessly spent in any quarter. That the Government has refrained from doing, but what I mean is this, that so serious was the railway problem that the Government devoted the greatest consideration and attention to it all through that precarious time, and what we have done is not sufficient.

This matter, I say publicly and clearly, was one of the matters referred to yesterday. There is no need for me to dilate upon this matter. The public can rest assured that what can be done will be done.

**MR. MORINE:**—Might I suggest to premier for his consideration, that while this matter is under the consideration of the House that the Government take this house into its confidence and discuss this matter in fullest detail. If a public session is impracticable, let the matter be thrashed out in a private session. I think that such a course could only be advantageous and no doubt productive of valuable suggestions. I do not think that this policy can strictly be called a party one, and it seems to me that the present time is a most opportune for the ventilation of all arguments now bearing upon this important pol-

icy. The financial aspect of the question is grave, and its gravity demands that it receive instant consideration. I think one afternoon could be devoted to this question with the greatest advantage, and it seems to me most desirable that the House should receive the entire confidence of the Government, more especially as some of the members of this House are intimately connected with the press. By so doing the Government can avert the needless and futile criticism which must necessarily result if this matter is not discussed. I may say that, I make these suggestions in good faith.

It was proposed that the petition be received and carried.

**MR. MOORE:**—Before the members of the opposition get away with all the money, I beg leave to present a petition of the inhabitants of Witless Bay who ask that \$400.00 be allotted to the fishermen of that Harbour in order to make the public wharf there a safe place for them to land in stormy weather. I give this petition my strongest support and I trust that the Minister will expedite this matter with the greatest possible despatch.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Mr. Downey tabled the report of the address of the committee, appointed to reply to His Excellency's speech.

To His Excellency Sir Chas. Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., C.B.C., C.V.O., Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Dominion of Newfoundland and its dependencies:

May it please Your Excellency:

We the commons of Newfoundland in Legislative Session assembled, beg to thank Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of the Legislature.

J. F. DOWNEY,  
THOS. LeFEUVRE,  
A. TARGETT.

On motion the report was received and adopted.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Mr. Speaker, before commenting upon the speech from the throne, I should like to join in the chorus of congratulations which have been showered upon the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs on the honours which have been conferred upon them by His Majesty. Verily these are days when one is fortunate to be the premier of this country. My right hon. friend opposite who assumed the premiership a little more than a year ago as plain Dr. Lloyd, is now the Rt. Hon. Sir William Lloyd. As he has told us he has been the lucky recipient of the honours paid this country. His predecessor has become a peer of the realm, and who knows that he may yet follow in his footsteps and become Lord Lloyd.

Sir, it is but natural that at this time the war should occupy a large portion of the speech from the throne. This House has held six sessions since the war lord of Germany hurled defiance at the world. To-day, we meet amid peace. The clash of arms has ceased save from minor engagements in Russia, and fervently we say thank God it is over; thank God that the horror of it all has all passed. It was difficult for many of us to realize the terrors of the struggle, situated as we were more than three thousand miles away.

Thanks largely to the courtesy of my honorable friend the Minister of Finance and Customs, I had the privilege, as representative of the Newfoundland press, of visiting France and the battlefields. It was my privilege for a fortnight to see the fighting front, and to experience the thrills of shell fire. When one has had such an experience, one can say with truth "Thank God it is all over." Peace is not yet restored, but I think the day is not far distant when we shall have it. The representatives of the allied nations are gathered at Versailles

seeking a solution of the great problems connected with the establishment of peace, and trying to arrange the terms to be handed out to Germany, terms which she must accept because she is not in a position to reject them. What these terms will be we have but a hazy idea, we can only surmise, but in all probability the financial obligations placed upon her will not be as heavy as anticipated, because Germany is in such a deplorable position to-day that it may be unwise to exact from her anything that would make her condition more perilous than it is. At present she is in great danger on account of the onward march of Bolshevism; and the safety of Europe demands that she be rescued from its destructive clutches.

Our great interest in the war lies in the fact that our men have gone across and taken a very manly and heroic part in the great struggle. It was my privilege to see them in France, to note the conditions under which they lived, to meet the great soldiers under whom they served, and to hear the highest tributes paid to them by all, from the Commander in Chief of the British Army, Sir Douglas Haig himself, down to the Colonel in command of the Regiment. Every officer with whom I came in contact told the same story of our men, and expressed the wish that Newfoundland had many more men of the same calibre to send over.

But their duties overseas are finished and they are coming back, and they are bringing to us some of the problems anticipated long ago, which I regret that I cannot help saying, have not been met in the way in which they should have been met. Yesterday the question of re-establishment was discussed, and what we have done regarding it, but I am convinced that this country has not done all that might have been done and



should have been done. My Right Honorable friend, the Prime Minister, said that we are learning by experience, yes by the experience of other countries. The Government apparently has not been able to formulate a policy of its own, and even with regard to pensions followed in Canada. We have, right from the start, copied what Canada has done. We adopted the original scheme of that country, and when that was changed we followed suit, and all the time we have been waiting, and are now waiting, to see what Canada does. The Government has made no effort to formulate a proper pension scheme for our men at all. Some effort has been made along the lines of re-establishment, to put the men back in civil life, but even this has not been handled properly. The gentleman who has been appointed to the post of Vocational Officer, Dr. Blackall, is undoubtedly a man of great ability, and if he had nothing else to do I believe he would handle the matter with credit to himself and the country, but no man can be Superintendent of Schools and Vocational Officer besides. No man can fill two such positions and give the satisfaction in both that the positions demand; and while I say nothing against Dr. Blackall, I cannot help feeling that a mistake has been made in passing over to him this important office. I understand that there is a Committee working with him, but this Committee has no particular power and only meets occasionally. There is no use in saying that these problems have come on us suddenly. My memory goes back to the late spring of 1917, almost two years ago, when we sat in this House, and when members of both sides were trying to come together so that we might have what is called a National Government to deal with such questions. That was almost two years ago, but no-

thing has been done, and the only information we have yet is that stated by the Prime Minister yesterday that "the policy of the Government will be outlined in their Manifesto." I don't think that this is very creditable to the National Government.

An appeal is being made to the country at the present time on the excuse of dealing with these questions. This is the same excuse that has served for two years, and so far I can see it is the same excuse that is going to continue to serve. It is going to be a case of promise, promise, promise, and no fulfilment, and while it is impossible for us to make an adequate return to these men who have gone over and made such sacrifices in our behalf, something should be done to satisfy, not all of them, because there are a few, half a dozen perhaps, whom it would be impossible to satisfy, but the great majority concerned. They feel they have a grievance, and justifiable grievance. These questions ought to be handled instantly, without any of this putting off, putting off that we hear so much about the men themselves. What is needed is a definite and decisive policy so that the men may never know what to expect.

The Prime Minister says that we are profiting by experience but surely when was on the other side he must have taken this matter up and considered it. It was my privilege while there (and let me express my appreciation of the many courtesies, extended by him) to come in contact with a great many of the military leaders of New Zealand, the commanders and those in charge of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and I found that thorough preparations had been even then made for demobilization. Every man of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force was already provided for. When they re-

turned to their country they were met by a committee and provided for on the spot. And that was, in July, when nobody thought that the war would be ended for another year at least. Now I think that we have been very dilatory on this matter. It may be that the Government is not altogether to blame, because we made the mistake at the start of handling this question in the wrong way, by leaving it to private individuals, who while they did splendid work, and saved the country tens of thousands of dollars, were acting largely without responsibility or authority, and were therefore unable to deal with these questions as they should have been dealt with.

There are a couple of other matters in the Speech from the Throne which I would like to make reference. One of these is the forthcoming election. The Government has announced its intention of appealing to the country in May. Well so far as I am concerned I don't raise any objection, even though I do not hold with the position taken by the Prime Minister yesterday. The proper time for an election is in the fall, but we have already had the precedent and the experience of an election in May, and while many things can be urged against it, it works out fairly satisfactorily. I thoroughly agree with the objections raised by the member for Bonavista, as to the difficulty of getting around the country for canvassing, particularly the northern districts, and the difficulty of getting the people to understand the issues before them, in such a short time; and this is the one objection—not that the election is being held in May, but because it is so obviously the intention of the Government to rush the matter without giving the people any chance to hear or understand the issues before them. Therefore some

district in the country the candidates will not be able to visit. I question if a candidate will be able to get to Fortune Bay in time for nomination, if reports are correct that the election is to be held early in May. And it will be much the same with regard to St. Barbe District. The candidate for that district will not be able to canvass it. The honorable member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker, will not be able to canvass his district, and I doubt if he will get there in time for nomination. However, I am not going to war with the Government on this question. They think that they should have a mandate from the people, and I thoroughly agree that no Government dare go on, situated as this Government is to-day, without a mandate from the people. The state of affairs existing in this country at the present time would not be tolerated in any other country under the British Crown. Contracts have been made and broken, and this House has not been consulted. It is a matter of common property that the contract with the Reid Nfld. Co. has been changed and the coastal service re-organized, and yet this House is not even asked to confirm that arrangement. The Government does not think it necessary to take the House into its confidence. Now I submit that that is not right, not proper, not constitutional; and in order to prevent matters of that kind going on, I feel that it is time to have an election. I am not so sure as the Premier seems to be that this Government will come back. The Prime Minister has said that so far as he is concerned, he is prepared to take his medicine. He will have to take it whether he likes it or not, and I am not so sure that the dose won't be heavy. With regard to setting the issues before the people, the Prime Minister says that if the people do not now know the

Government, it is time they did. Well, I think they know the Government pretty well. Anybody who has read the papers for the past five or six years, especially the one controlled by the honorable member for Twillingate, must know the political regulations of the Minister of Shipping and the Minister of Finance, and the characters of some of the other gentlemen connected with the Government. Likewise anybody who has been reading the debates of this House, must have learned from some of the speeches by the Minister of Shipping the character of the honorable member for Twillingate. So I think the Prime Minister is quite right in saying that the people of this country know the Government. They have taken good care that the people should know what kind of people they are; so I concur, that if they don't know the Government, it is time they did. I feel confident that the people do know the Government, and that the members of the Government know each other. The only thing is, that they don't express their opinions as freely as they used to, at least not publicly.

There is just one other matter that I would like to deal with, and that is the financial standing of the country. The section in the Speech from the Throne dealing with this matter, records a surplus for the year, and also points out that the revenue for the colony for the fiscal year is nearly one and a half times as great as the receipts for the same period last year, and because of that the Government expects a surplus this fiscal year. I trust that their hopes will not be disappointed, but from an observation made by the Prime Minister yesterday I fear the surplus will be very small. He told this House that there are big obligations to be met, and knowing what these obligations are, I

cannot help feeling that the surplus will be very small, if we have a surplus at all. We can't in the natural order of things, expect the same revenue that we have had for the past three or four years, and particularly the last two years. The country has had abnormal prosperity, large fisheries, immense prices for our fish, our people have had lots of money and have bought freely; and so far as it has been possible to obtain the goods, this country has gone short of nothing. This large importation of goods, with the high prices prevailing, has naturally given large revenues, because we have ad valorem duties, but in the days to come we cannot expect a repetition of all these conditions. We may have large fisheries, but we are not likely to have the same prices. We cannot yet say what the price will be, but we know it will not be anything equal to what it was last year. I know there is likely to be a reduction in the price of certain commodities, and that will mean that the revenue of the country will come down. We have had this past year the largest revenue that we are likely to have for many years until we get a very much larger population. In the meantime we are going on increasing our expenditures. We still have an annual expenditure of seven and a half millions, when we start paying the annual pensions to our soldiers and the interest on our war debt, and the most we can hope for, so far as I can see, is a revenue far short of that, unless of course we make up our minds to largely increase the tax on our people. I for one cannot help looking into the future with some dismay.

I think, Sir, that it is not worth my while at present to make any further reference to the forthcoming election. The bill will be before the House tomorrow or next day, and I may then

take advantage of the opportunity to comment further on it. We are satisfied to have an election. The country is tired of the conditions which have been existing for the past couple of years, and tired of all this political manipulation, and I believe firmly that the people of the country will be glad of this opportunity to express their disapproval of it.

On motion the report of the Committee to draft the Address in reply was then adopted.

A Bill an Act to amend the election act of 1913 was read a first time.

**MR. MORINE:**—I have privately spoken to the Prime Minister with reference to a couple of matters that I wish to draw public attention to. One or two of them it is necessary to mention in connection with this Bill, and the reason I speak about them now is so that they can be provided for in the Bill before the second reading of the Bill. It seems to me that it is manifestly impossible to hold an election in St. Barbe early in May month, at least there is the danger that it cannot be done, as I think the construction of the Election Act at present is that failure to hold an election in any one district might invalidate all the elections in all the districts. It is a grievous thing, as I see opening out before me election petitions in which I might figure, hence my desire to give notice beforehand. I would suggest that for that particular district, provision should be put in the Bill that is it is physically impossible and inexpedient to hold an election on that day, the Governor in Council should issue a Proclamation postponing it and appointing another day.

The next point I would like to draw attention to at this time is that with regard to the legalizing of the present list of electors, I think, standing by itself, it is an economical and unob-

jectionable thing to do, as men whose names are not on the list, can register on the Supplementary List, and vote. With regard to the supplemental list entitling soldiers to vote, I think that that should be prepared by the Militia Department, certified by the Minister of Militia, and copies supplied to returning officers. We must bear in mind that some fifteen or sixteen months having passed since the list was taken there will be a great number of names to be added and there will be a great number of names to be added than ordinarily would be at an election and that the Polling Booths will be kept pretty busy dealing with supplementary additions. Now in on the back of that you have soldiers and sailors crowding in who have become qualified under another section of the Bill, you will have a great deal of confusion and may prevent many soldiers from voting, especially in the outport booths and I suggest that an amendment be put in the Bill providing that a list, duly certified by the Minister of Militia of all those soldiers and sailors who are entitled to vote whether in the country to-day or not be provided and sent to the Returning Officers and that persons whose names are on that list shall have the same right to vote as if on the regular voting list in due course. That will relieve all those from Supplementary List and will greatly expedite matters.

Now, there is one other matter I wish to mention, that is with respect to the Districts of St. Barbe and St. George's. I recognise that this is not a time for the redistribution of seats, that is a big question that will have to be dealt with in the future, and is not of much importance at the present time. However, I would make a suggestion which might be acceptable and would be in the interests of jus-

tice and fair play and that is that the District of St. Barbe be divided into the district of St. Barbe East and St. Barbe West. I notice by the census that that can be done very conveniently if only divided a little to the southwest of the settlement of

I believe they trade with the eastern side of the coast and that would be a very easy division from that point south-west to Bonne Bay at Gregory River. In point of population, St. Barbe is entitled to two members. In point of extent and variety of interests it is impossible for one man to adequately represent it. It never has been represented, no human being could do it. Now, if it was divided one man could look after the eastern coast and still have a very extensive and scattered constituency and another man could look after the west coast. There is no party suggestion or partisan bias in this matter.

Now the District of St. George, I would not suggest treating it that way. There is no reason for a division and in fact there are very many reasons against it. St. George's is one of the districts we usually refer to as a Catholic district. By giving it two members it would adjust the denominational balance disturbed by giving two members to St. Barbe. St. George is an extensive district and justifies the additional member, in that it has a peculiar interest of its own. It is a very important district and one of great agricultural promise and I would like to have its importance recognised by the additional member being given to it. These suggestions can be carried out without in any way disturbing the present Act. They will not add to the cost and will be but a proper recognition of these districts.

I might say, Sir, that where you can I like the idea of having two man districts rather than one man districts.

You cannot do that in some cases like St. Barbe where the coast is tremendous and scattered but you can do it in St. George's. My reason for liking two men rather than one man districts is that they do not get into such parochial habit of mind and possessed of such parochial interests. Without being invidious, one could name one or two districts whose views are so self-centred on their own affairs that their representatives are only delegates of their own little town rather than representatives of the views of the people.

Again I say I do not bring these matters forward for the purpose of embarrassing the Government or to force my views on the other side but I present these things to the consideration of the Government, if they think well to act upon them they will go through without opposition. It only means a few words of drafting and I shall be very glad to help these things which I think are a public benefit and which will be gratefully received by those centres.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Hon. Minister of Finance supply was granted to His Majesty.

Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that on to-morrow he would move the House into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until to-morrow at three o'clock p.m..

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, April 4th, 1919.

The House met at three o'clock of the afternoon, pursuant to adjournment.

#### PETITIONS:

**MR. STONE:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a number of petitions from several settlements on the south side of Trinity District on the subject of railway extension, viz.,

New Perlican, Turk's Cove, Winterton, Hant's Harbor, New Chelsea, New Melbourne, Whale's Brook, Brownsdale, Sibley's Cove and Lead Cove. The inhabitants of the above places are asking the Government to extend the railway from Heart's Content to Lead Cove. To my mind, Sir, the request contained in these petitions is only a fair and very reasonable one, coming as it does from practically all of the people who reside in the several settlements already mentioned. On a great part of the south shore of Trinity Bay the harbors are rough and dangerous to shipping, therefore it is most difficult to obtain schooners to freight their products to market; as a matter of fact small schooners today are almost a thing of the past in many fishing settlements of the Colony. For instance, it is not so many years since 20 or 25 sail of craft sailed from Hant's Harbor, and today, if I am not greatly mistaken, there are only one or two; the principal reason of course being that schooners cannot be obtained. This past fall the fishermen were greatly handicapped, and put to all kinds of trouble by not being in touch with the railway. Schooners to freight their fish away were impossible, therefore they were compelled to hold their fish over until Christmas or after before anybody offered to purchase same, and when the deal was put through the men were forced to sell at a loss of from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per quintal, which, according to the number of quintals on that part of the shore represented a loss to the fishermen of more than twenty thousand dollars. As a result of no facilities to move it, the fish in casks had to be carted a distance of 8 or 10 miles. Now let us hope that this will never happen again; if so, the fishermen of the several settlements mentioned will be forced to

leave their homes and take up their abode in Canada or the United States. They are not likely to move to another part of the Colony. Now, Sir, I think I have clearly pointed out to the Government the urgent necessity there is for the extension of the railway from Heart's Content down the whole shore. May I express the hope that when the Government issues its manifesto that provision will be made for railway extension.

I also beg to present a petition from the residents of Open Hall, in the District of Trinity, asking that the sum of \$300.00 be allocated for the purpose of opening up a very necessary road at that settlement. The petition is largely and influentially signed by Robert Smith and others. I trust that the petition will receive, at the hands of the Department of Public Works, every consideration. Also a petition from New Harbor on the same subject of a road. The amount asked for herein is but \$60.00. Also a petition from New Harbor, T.B., signed by Frederick Woodman and 300 other residents.

**MR. TARGETT:**—Mr. Speaker, I wish to give my support to the petitions just presented by my colleague, Mr. Stone, but more especially to that one which asks the Government for an extension of the railway from Heart's Content down the South Shore of Trinity Bay. In these days, Mr. Speaker, the motor boat is taking the place of the schooner. Only a few years back there were from 24 to 28 vessels fishing out of Hant's Harbor; last year there was one. As has been pointed out to you, Sir, this condition of affairs meant last year the loss of thousands of dollars to the fishermen of the localities referred to. I therefore hope that the Government will see its way clear to begin the extension of the railway down the South Side of the Bay at the

earliest possible date. Many people suffer considerably in the Fall on account of not being able to ship their fish to St. John's, and now ask for the extension of the railway from Heart's Content down shore to provide facilities for this purpose. This appears to be a very reasonable request, and I trust that the Government will be able to see its way clear to accede to the prayer of the petition.

#### HON. MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS

—Mr. Speaker, I have pleasure in supporting the petition presented by my friend Mr. Targett. I think it is a mistake that the railway was not extended to this place originally. It is a populous district and provided with the transportation facility now prayed for will reach an era of prosperity that it cannot hope to attain to under present conditions. It is undoubted that the people are greatly handicapped in handling their fish through the present lack of railway facilities. I endorse what Mr. Targett has said, and join in urging the Government to give this matter their urgent consideration. One of these days I may be in the position of having to ask for similar facilities for sections of my district. I believe in railway extension. I believe that it brings untold benefit to the places to which the line is extended. One day I hope to see the sections of our Island that now require this utility provided with branch railways. Some reference has been made to an extension of the railway system from St. Mary's to Trepassey. In my opinion that is also a section of the country that deserves to have this service built through. A branch line from St. Mary's down to Trepassey and Colinet might be well determined at Whitbourne and connect up there with our main trunk line and in this way complete a very useful circuit. The Government will have to take these mat-

ters up, and make provision for them. No doubt the Government has under consideration a reconstruction policy to carry out work in this and other public directions. I have pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—In reference to the petitions just read to the House, I take occasion to say that I have no similar petition at the present time to present, but some five years since I presented a very largely signed petition asking for the construction of a branch railway from Stephenville Crossing to Stephenville and Port au Port, and I have in my possession a written promise from the late Government that immediately upon new railway construction being undertaken, this would be the first branch to be given attention, and I have no doubt that the present Legislature will be prepared to redeem that promise.

The District of St. George's, from the viewpoint of potential wealth, is one of the greatest in the Island. Its fisheries are most diversified, embracing the cod, herring, salmon, seal, smelt and halibut. Its timber and mineral wealth are very great, and it goes without saying that its agricultural possibilities are without an equal in the country.

A branch railway of some 16 miles in length, connecting Stephenville Crossing with Port au Port, would open up nearly 600 square miles of territory with possibilities greater by far than those possessed by any similar area in this country. The fertility of the soil over this area is of unsurpassed character and the climatic conditions are so much superior to what we generally experience on this side of the country that the raising of fruit and other of the more sensitive crops may be undertaken with an absolute certainty of satisfactory re-

sults. To use an Americanism, the land in this section merely requires "to be tickled with a hoe to burst into a laughing harvest."

There are many extensive areas in the District of St. George's, including the Great Codroy Valley, that, on the score of agricultural possibilities, are not surpassed by the choicest portions of the Anapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, and to enable the realisation of their very great potential wealth the only thing necessary is the providing of the facilities that will enable the profitable marketing of their products. The chief amongst the many drawbacks the District suffers are the want of a road system and this branch railway.

I now desire to serve notice upon this Legislature that, when the Government takes up the consideration of new branch railways, I shall press my claim for immediate attention to St. George's in this respect.

I heartily support the proposition for the extension of the railway through the Gambo and Straight Shore region. There are quite considerable areas of good land to be opened up by such a railway, and the entire section is a busy one industrially, especially in lumbering and fishery operations.

I fully realise the very great measure of benefit that this country has derived from its expenditures in connection with railway construction—in fact, the country was really only discovered industrially when the Cross-Country Line was built, and the great Cross-Country Trunk Line can never confer the measure of benefit upon the country that it is possible for it to confer until there are judiciously selected branch lines leading therefrom to promising industrial centres, and I will hesitate at no expenditure that can be safely com-

passed by the country for the increase of railway mileage.

**MR. ABBOTT:**—Mr. Chairman, I beg leave to present a petition from Open Hall asking for \$300 to build a bridge in that locality. The present bridge is broken down, and all the traffic over it is suspended. The petition is signed by the Chairman of the Road Board, besides a large number of representative Citizens of that place.

I also beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Bayley's Cove asking for \$100 to put a road to some agricultural property in that place. This petition is signed by 40 or 50 influential people of that district. I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant the prayer of these petitioners; and I ask that the petition be referred to the Dept. to which it relates.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to-day to present two petitions from the District of St. George, and I would preface my remarks in connection therewith by stating that, in my opinion, it is regrettable that petitions, especially those praying for road extensions, cannot receive the sufficient and prompt attention that their importance demands. This, I recognize, is not owing to the want of sympathy on the part of the Government with petitioners, but it is owing to the fact that our road grant is strictly limited by the Legislature to a per capita allocation which must go in proportionate amounts, based upon population, to all districts, and that there is no balance from which applications coming to the Legislature through petitions, such as I have the honor to present to-day, may have their prayers acceded to. The usual procedure in connection with petitions is that they are courteously received and relegated to one or other of the several Public Departments to which they relate, and there they are pigeon-holed and ultimately lost sight of, un-



less the Member for the particular District interested in such may be able to curtail expenditures in certain parts of his district and thus provide a meagre sum towards realising the object asked for thereby.

The fact that the petitions I now lay before the House are for the construction of new sections of road is absolute proof that the country has not an adequate road system, and there is nothing, to my mind, that tends more immediately and directly, or aids more largely in the development of the country, than an efficient road system and of this, unfortunately, we are lamentably lacking in Newfoundland.

We have, in the aggregate, a considerable mileage of roads, but, to a very great extent, their location has not been judiciously selected, and the surveys have been faulty. No attempt has been made to retain a uniformity of gradient, so that in almost every district you will be able to draw a load of in or about half a ton, when suddenly you are likely to strike a hill that less than half this amount will constitute a load for, and as it is impracticable to undertake the labor involved in the loading and unloading of a team every time one strikes a hill of this character, it must follow that the loads from the start must be only about a half of what should constitute an ordinary load, and the loss of time and the expense thus involved is merely because one unfortunate hill has been allowed to creep in in the original location of the road, that the expenditure of a few hundred additional dollars would have enabled the cutting out of.

The location, and the survey for establishing gradients, for all our country roads should be given greater care than they have in the past, as a road's efficiency is thereby either made or marred.

The Agricultural Board in the past year made careful and extensive en-

quiry as to the areas of cleared land in the country that are not now under cultivation, as some ten years back there were very large areas, the clearing of which had been paid for under the Land Bonus Act, that had been allowed to go out of cultivation. The result of these enquiries is that I am warranted in stating that at present practically all the cleared land in the country is under cultivation and that no further extension of agricultural industry can take place until suitable new lands are made available by the expansion of our present road system. Some 20 years back, when these bonused-clearings were made, those undertaking them took it for granted that the Government would be logical in the matter of its expenditure, and would have made the lands so cleared available for successful cultivation by extending the road system thereto, but the necessity for this, unfortunately, was not realised and force of circumstances compelled the owners to permit them again to lapse into the wild state.

The great necessity for the increased production in the past four years of home-grown vegetables, owing to the high cost of imported foods, has induced the owners to again bring these areas under cultivation, and the benefits derived from such action are very manifest, but as in very many cases the products of the lands have had to be carried on men's backs for considerable distances before a road practicable for horse traffic could be reached, and subsequently carried by team a very considerable distance before a railway station could be reached, it must follow that with the lowering of the price of imported food stuffs it will be again found impracticable to continue the cultivation of these areas, and once more they will be allowed to go out of cultivation.

The only means whereby this can be prevented is the providing of the

facilities in the shape of an extension of the road system that will make their cultivation less arduous and more profitable, and I am prepared to sustain the Government in any well-devised scheme by which any sum up to a million dollars may be provided to give to the country an efficient road system for the desirable areas, and there are many such—where such an investment would immediately become reproductive.

It is a regrettable fact, Mr. Speaker, that in the district of St. George to-day, and in the choicest agricultural portions thereof, there are people voluntarily relinquishing the further cultivation of extensive and well-cultivated farms, that in many cases carried from 10 to 20 head of horned cattle each, and the owners thereof are going back to the fishery because the high price of fish and the ease with which fishery operations can be conducted are more profitable than agricultural work under the great difficulties that handicap it in that district.

In many parts of the Codroy Valley a farmer having agricultural products to market is required to load them upon his team at his farm and haul them from one to as many as 4 or 5 miles to a ferry; there unload his team and convey the load across one of the large rivers (which may be nearly a mile or so in width); discharge the load on the other side; return and reconvey his horse and truck across, and then reload his products thereon and face a further haul of from 2 or 3 to 5, 6 or even 7 miles to a railway station, and be subjected to the same inconvenience on the return journey. Though these areas in St. George's District were veritable Gardens of Eden, they could not recoup for the time and labor involved in these arduous and, at times, dangerous procedures that the marketing of a load

of ordinary agricultural products thus calls for.

I have no doubt that when the new Government comes back with a mandate from the people to deal comprehensively with matters of this kind, that they will immediately consider the propriety of raising a loan of the sum that I have intimated for the construction of, say, a thousand miles of road, in order to give a reasonable chance of attaining the measure of agricultural development that the country is capable of.

It is hard to get the ordinary man to realise the conditions that actually exist in the District of S. George, owing to its want of a road system. Take, for instance, the case of the Humber Arm, in Bay of Islands. Along the side of the Humber Arm there are five towns, within a distance of seven miles, and, incredible tho' it may appear, tho' these towns are in no case more than two or three miles apart it is impossible to reach one from the other unless by walking along the railway track; and be it remembered that these towns are all centres of large industrial operations and equipped with all the advantages of modern civilised city life. There are costly churches of the different denominations, high schools, banks; the telegraph and telephone systems are in operation, and they are well provided with hotel accommodations for the large number of American and other summer visitors. The scenery of the locality is admittedly grand in character; the climate is ideal, and the only thing debarring the development to very large proportions of the different features constituting its industrial life is the want of the facilities—of which a road system is the chief; to render profitable the prosecution of such.

I may not trespass further upon the attention of the House at the present moment, Mr. Speaker, especially as I think that I may reckon

with confidence upon the sympathetic attention of the Government to the needs of the district when the opportune moment shall arrive for giving them practical attention.

**MR. MORINE:**—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present several petitions from the inhabitants of Port Blandford, Open Hall, Charlottetown, Bunyan's Cove, St. Brendan's, Fair Islands and Tickle Cove in the district of Bonavista upon the question of Bay steamer service. As they are all identical, I need only draw attention to the point which all the petitioners desire to be heard about. In short it is desired that the route of the Bay steamer, the s.s. Dundee, should be as it was prior to the change made last year. The petitioners claim why it should be so on the grounds, and the burden of their complaint is, that vested interests and business arrangements have been violently disturbed by taking off the steamer from certain parts of the Bay where connection could be made by railway, and the prayer of the petitioners is that the Bay steamer service that existed in 1918 with Port Blandford as the terminus should be again continued or some change made as may be thought desirable. We know, Sir, that the change was made in the interest of the business establishment as what is known as Port Union. In the first place it was a violent change of principle as well as of detail. The Bay steamers when they were put on their respective routes were put there as extensions of the railway service. Bay steamers were part and parcel of the railway contract of 1898. Later on the coastal steamers were put on by later governments. The idea of the Bay steamer service was for the purpose of connecting with all new branch services and for carrying passengers and freight from place to place, so that the benefits of the rail-

way were really the means of those boats extending to all outlying places. When the change was made to Port Union, it not only interfered with business arrangements and vested interests but it was an abandonment of the policy of railway extension by steamers and the idea that we were using the railway as a feeder to all the boats and the boats as a feeder to the railway was entirely changed and changed without legislative sanction or authority. With the idea of bringing a steamer to Port Union, under the circumstances, I have no reason for opposition. I see the principle at the bottom of it and with which principle I am in accord. For instance, the business at Port Union carried on by the F. P. U. Trading Company, is to a considerable extent, the business of the share-holders, amongst whom are the fishermen themselves up and down the coast. It is only right and fair that they should have a direct connection with Port Union to allow people to use it as a place for getting their business supplies and to otherwise accommodate them. If the business concern at Port Union was a private business, it would be very wrong to take the steamers off their routes for the benefits of a private establishment, but as it is a co-operative concern and its share-holders representing a very large number of the fishermen of the country who are investors to a considerable extent in that enterprise, then it is perfectly justifiable to help them to carry on their trade and to have beneficial means at their disposal. I do not think, however, that the members of the Union would disregard the rights and benefits of the people who are not members of the Union. They are too thoughtful for the rights of others to have anything done in their own interests that would be a disadvantage to those who are not members of the

Union. If the matter was submitted at their Convention meeting for discussion, I am sure that they would be generous enough not to do anything that would decrease the facilities of others for the purpose of increasing the facilities of those interested in Port Union, which this change in the Dundee's route means. I ask that this matter be honestly and fairly considered and that arrangements should be made so that the needs and requirements of all the people of Bonavista Bay should be met, not to take away anything from Port Union that would be to the benefit of others, but to allow Port Blandford and all other places represented in the petitions extra accommodation and what they enjoyed before the late change took place. The only way to meet the difficulty is to provide adequate steamer communication to reach the places which have been deprived by the change. The steamer now passing round Bonavista passes above Salvage and then goes over to a place called Sweet Bay. From that she goes eastward passing Southern Bay, where there is a railway station, to a place called Open Hall and so on down to a number of places where there is no railway communication. There is no harbour where passengers and freight can be landed so that she has to proceed around Port Union to reach Clarenville passing Southern Bay on the way. Whereas if she made a detour four or five miles people coming to St. John's could take the branch line train at Catalina or Bonavista to come in, saving themselves time, money, inconveniences as well as the exposure of travel. The main objection and complaint is by not allowing the steamer to call at Southern Bay where she will connect with the railway and people who want to go to Port Union to carry on business can do so, and instead of reaching Port Union by steamer they will reach there by train, thus avoid-

ing unnecessary expense and exposure.

In presenting these petitions I move that the Colonial Secretary bring them before the Executive Council for consideration. I hope that the rights of all the people interested shall be fairly considered and that while every true advantage shall be considered for the big enterprise at Port Union that the rights and vested interests and conveniences of others shall not be sacrificed but fairly considered.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**  
—Mr. Speaker, I may say that I know the trouble and disadvantages on account of the new arrangement and some attempts have already been made to remedy the matter. I will undertake that the prayer of the petitioners shall receive proper consideration.

Notice of Questions:—

Mr. Currie asked the Minister of Militia what salaries are paid to the Chairman and other members of the Pension Board, individually, also a detailed account of the expenses incurred by the Chairman of said Board during his trip to Ottawa to study the Canadian pension scheme.

Mr. Currie asked the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister for a detailed account of the expenses of the Food Control Board together with salaries paid to members and a detailed account of collections made by the said Board.

Mr. Currie asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries what salary was paid to Capt. John Lewis for acting as Fishery Representative abroad, also a detailed account of money paid to him for expenses.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Public Works to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the costs of fitting up the Empire Wood Working Factory to date together with the purchase price of same, and also the cost of fitting up of the rinks for the soldiers.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister

of Finance and Customs the amount of money paid to the Newfoundland Produce Company for Patrol Service during the years of 1915-1916-1917-1918.

Second Reading of Bill "An Act to amend the election Act of 1913."

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**  
—Mr. Chairman, in moving the second reading of the Bill I do not know whether it is necessary to add many words to what I spoke a few days ago on the Address in Reply to the Speech from His Excellency the Governor. I then intimated that the Government intended to seek an early opportunity of appealing to the electorate. The main object of calling the House together is to ask that an amended election list be used. In connection with the amendment to the Bill I also propose that any doubt that may exist as to the legality of voting at the general election of soldiers and sailors, who had been absent from the country during the past two years, on technical grounds, under the Election Act, would be removed and provision made in the Bill making certain that such soldiers and sailors for performing duty to their country, heroic service to the Empire and saving the liberty of the world would be given their primary right as citizens and an opportunity to vote. It would be a monstrous condition of affairs if these men who volunteered their all should by some mere statute, which did not contemplate any such contingency, be deprived of their right as free men. Therefore, I propose to have such doubts removed by making the Bill so that returned soldiers and sailors shall have the right to vote. And in that connection the Government have taken into consideration the suggestions thrown out by the Hon. member for Bonavista, Mr. Morine, the senior parliamentarian here and, indeed, the father of the House. We have availed of his suggestion, as a wise suggestion, that provision should be made to avoid any

delay and difficulty that might ensue in polling booths that, as a number of soldiers and sailors were absent from the country at the time the voters list was taken, that a special list should be prepared. I may say that the Minister of Militia has intimated to me that they are already prepared. It is proposed to insert a clause in the Bill that that special list, when certified by the Minister of Militia, will form part of the voters list and will be available in all the polling booths. We have also embodied in the Bill a clause that all soldiers and sailors who have not attained the age of 21 years shall have a franchise to be able to vote. I would like to say, speaking generally, and I think the contents of the Bill will make it clear, that it is the policy of the Government to give all soldiers and sailors, who possibly can, an opportunity to vote and the House can take my assurance that we are endeavouring and hope to have the bulk of our soldiers and sailors, who are at present away, back in the Island and able to vote on polling day, and efforts are being made, under the direction of the Minister of Militia, to bring those soldiers and sailors back in time. There are certain proposals in the Bill which will have to undergo reconsideration and when we get into Committee I will intimate them.

With reference to polling in St. Barbe District I shall propose in Committee that polling in St. Barbe be postponed to avoid any possible difficulty and to give candidates or others time to get around the district, also to make sure that the ballot boxes and ballots and other necessary facilities are available on polling day, the date of which will be fixed by the Governor-in-Council. I, therefore, move the Second reading of this Bill.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Elections

in the present year', was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**HON. MR. MORINE:**—Mr. Chairman, a few words in reply on this Bill. I want to go on record that I am prepared to facilitate the passage of the Bill this afternoon in all its stages, not because I have changed my position, but to save time. I agree with the contents of the Bill as to detail. I thank the leader of the Government for having accepted my suggestions. I think they are a decided improvement to the Bill. I will allow the Bill to pass without registering any vote against it. We all know that this Bill has already received the views of the Government and it would serve no purpose for us to take up time talking unnecessarily at this particular time of the year when all are anxious to get back to their proper or improper businesses and when candidates want to get to their homes in the outports. I am not one who believes in wasting time. I am going to propose that with the unanimous consent of the House, and with the proviso that I am not doing it as a waiver, but merely in the interests of saving time that the Bill be read a Third Time and sent to the Legislative Council.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I do not rise to record any objections to the Bill, as I expressed myself on the matter yesterday. It appears that I do not know exactly where I stand, in view of the proposition just made. I have heard similar propositions from the Government side of the House, but I have never heard such from the Opposition side before. In view of the fact that talking for a week would not change the attitude of the Government and in view of the fact that I have no desire to talk that long, I do not see why we should waste any more time on this Bill, as I do not believe in wasting time. Whilst in its present form the

Bill does not appeal to me yet I am perfectly satisfied to let the Bill pass through all its stages this afternoon.

On motion made and seconded and by unanimous consent of the House, it was ordered that the said Bill should pass its remaining stages at the present sitting.

Whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Elections in the present year."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parson took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

**MR. PARSONS:**—Before this section goes through I wish to make just a few remarks and I assure you Sir that I will be very brief. I am quite in accord with Mr. Morine in wishing to get the work done as quickly as possible. I am pleased to know that the soldiers and sailors have been recognised in this Bill. They deserve all the recognition that the House and the country can accord to them. Here today we enjoy the privileges that we are enjoying and this House is sitting today through the efforts of our Regiment and our sailors combined with the Allies. Every man, Sir, that donned the uniform helped towards the Victory and as I said before, I am pleased that this Bill gives the soldiers and sailors recognition, and I have much pleasure in giving it my support.

**MR. WALSH:**—I may say, Sir, that viewing the reason for the introduction of the Bill to make it possible for a General Election to take place this year that I am in favour of this principle. That has been my principle all through. In 1917 I was fully prepared to go back to the country for a mandate of the people. In 1918 I was anxious for an election and now in 1919 I think, as I have stated over my own signature in the public press, I am fully prepared for an election, and I take it that viewing the general condition

of the country and the actions of the Government that every man in this country is prepared for an election. If people are not prepared then it is their own business and if the people of this country have not sufficient public sentiment or have not sufficient interest in public affairs to be prepared at any time for an election, I think, while it is regrettable, that it is their own fault.

There are one or two matters in the different section of the Bill that I would like to make reference to, but I will deal with them when the Bill gets to the Committee.

Committee of the Whole on Election Bill.

**MR. WALSH:**—I notice in the first section that all men who have been on service overseas and who are over twenty one years of age are entitled to vote. Now, I think that those under 21—18, 19 and 20—who offered their services and who for various physical reasons were rejected, are as much entitled to this privilege as those who donned the uniform and went overseas. After all, it was no fault of their own that they did not have an opportunity of getting into the fight and I think they should be afforded the same privilege as those who crossed. I suggest that these men should be included as well as the men who went overseas.

**RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER:**—I may say, Mr. Chairman, that I have a good deal of sympathy with that view and the Government have given it a great deal of consideration. We have considered the cause of those who wore the uniform and did not go across the ocean, and the case of those who were called up and being called up were sent home without donning the uniform and the case of the rejected men as against those who actually donned the uniform and faced the risks of War. I can recognize that some consideration is due to these

men. They were prepared to make the sacrifice, but I do not think that we can blink out of sight the fact that some special recognition is due to men who actually did face the war risk. At all events, that is the view that was taken by the Government when they limited this recognition to men who actually went overseas. I am sorry, under these circumstances that I am not in a position to accept the proposals to extend the franchise in the case of these other men.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I am sorry that I cannot support the hon. member for Placentia and St. Mary's in his proposals, in that I am in accord with the views of the Government, that principal recognition is due to the men who have gone overseas. You must draw the line somewhere and if we do not draw it there where can you draw it. If you extend the principle to rejected men you would likely be expected to extend it to others. I think the position taken by the Government is a correct one and I do not know any precedent for any different course. I recognise the position taken by the member for Placentia and St. Mary's and perhaps under some conditions it might be possible to consider it, but I think that in the present instance the Government are doing all that can be expected in including the men who have gone overseas.

There is one thing I would like to be sure of. A great many men are away at the present time, some 1200 or 1500 are on the other side, and I think some chance should be afforded them by the Government for casting their votes in the General Election. Now, I know how difficult it would be to undertake anything like Canada or the Mother Country and to take separate votes of the men abroad; it is hardly worth creating new machinery for that; but if the Government expects them home very soon it seems

to me that the wisest course to adopt and the only course open, is that the election be postponed to such a date in May to give ample time for their return home. There is no reason, Sir, for rushing the election on the first week in May. I think the third week in May would give the candidates a better chance to get to their districts and would give the people a better opportunity of becoming acquainted with the issues before them. The Government will stand better in the country if they adopt that course and if they remove the disability, which I am afraid will be inflicted on a great many of our men who are at present overseas, if they are not given an opportunity of casting their vote. I simply make this as a suggestion. There is no other way I can see whereby these men will be given an opportunity to vote. It is not possible to my mind to have a deferred vote taken. There are too many difficulties in the way of that. Nothing will be lost if the election is deferred and it will give the candidates on both sides a better opportunity of placing their views before the electorate.

**HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:**—As regards the holding of an election late in May I think it is a mistake, for reasons that apply to my own District. Of late years the fishermen leave very early for the Labrador their object being to get there and secure trap berths as early as possible. Some of the schooners left very early last year, I think about the 15th of May. Those who arrive at Labrador first secure the best berths and consequently have the prospect of getting the best voyages. The sentiment is beginning to get round now that the earlier fishermen get to the Labrador coast to secure a voyage, the better the prospect for a good catch.

For these reasons I think it would be a mistake to hold an election late in May. Personally I would like to see the election the first week in May. In 1909 Nomination Day was the 8th of May and Polling Day the 18th.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Polling Day was on the 8th.

**HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:**—There is a possibility now of an early Spring and if Westerly Winds prevail the coast will be cleared of ice. Then there are a number of men preparing to go to the Sydneys to work. They will be starting now and will continue during the month of May. These men will be absent from the country unless we hold the election early in May.

**MR. MORINE:**—You will settle the question in the Executive Council, so what is the use of your getting up and talking about it?

**RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER:**—Mr. Chairman, a word in reply to my Honorable friend. So far as I am aware, there is no foundation in fact for the statement that a date early in the next month had been agreed upon by the Government for holding the Election. The Government have not considered the date, but deem it desirable that the election should take place as early in May as possible. Proper consideration will be given the arrival of our soldiers from overseas that they may be home in time to vote, and arrangements are now being made with that object in view.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—Mr. Chairman, In my opinion the date for holding the election should be fixed at the earliest possible date in May month. I notice by the papers and weather reports that the Labrador Coast is clear of ice, and there is every indication of an early season North. The apparent anxiety displayed that because of an early election any considerable portion of the electorate would be



precluded from exercising the franchise, is more fancied than real. Were their wishes to be acceded to, it is quite possible the very opposite to the views now entertained would be the result. If, then, we have an early spring, the planters and fishermen will be leaving correspondingly early for the fishery, and, Mr. Speaker, I am unable to see that anything will be gained by referring the election to a later date.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Bill with some amendment.

On motion this report was received and adopted, and by the unanimous consent of the House it was agreed that the Bill be read a third time.

“An Act respecting Election in the Present Year.”

Whereupon the Bill entitled “An Act respecting Election in the Present Year” by the unanimous consent of the House was read a third time and passed, and it was ordered that it be engrossed, being entitled as above, and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that body in its provisions.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of the Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair; Mr. Parsons took the chair of the Committee.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:—**

The purpose of this resolution is to provide the sum of forty-five thousand dollars to defray the expenses of the General Election to be held next month. Last year we asked for an extension of the life of Parliament for twelve months

which expires on the 30th day of April. We found it necessary to ask this extension owing to the war and the very unsettled conditions in the country due to it, and the Legislative Council in agreeing to the extension made it conditional on an election being held when the time expired. At that time the end of the war was not in sight, but today peace is proclaimed, a treaty of peace will be signed within a few weeks, and there is no reason why an appeal to the electorate should be made. There are very strong reasons for making an appeal to the country at this time. There are many serious problems to be dealt with, and it is important that they be dealt with by a Legislature representative of all the electoral districts.

Some Hon. gentlemen opposite complain that the election is being rushed, that they have not had sufficient notice, but they are as well aware as we are of the action of the Legislative Council, and knew a year ago that an election should take place early this year. As far as our actions as a Government are concerned, the people have been fully informed, during the past six years the members of the Opposition in the House have been given every opportunity to criticise our work and scrutinise everything in connection with public expenditure. The press has given the public the result of those criticisms, so that the people of the country are fully alive to all the issues and are not by any means taken by surprise. One of the daily papers has hinted this afternoon that we are rushing the election because we have something to cloak financially. I can state positively that this is untrue, we have nothing to cloak financially or otherwise, the figures given out are strictly correct, and the writer of that article, who was in pos-

session of the facts, knew that they were correct. He was one of the gentlemen who attended a conference with me last year, when I gave him, with others, inside information pertaining to the loan raised last year. Our financial statements for the six years have been willingly and fully furnished to the people of this Dominion. The press has been taken particularly into our confidence, and yet we find one of its representatives making a deliberately false statement of this sort in an endeavor to make political capital against us. His misrepresentation must have been deliberate, because twelve months ago he was in possession of information to the effect that the figures he commented on are real and not fictitious. These figures are placed before banking houses by our financial agents, and beyond all question open and above board. Our position now is, we have done our work. We have financed this Dominion through the most trying period of her history, and we have done this successfully.

The war is now over, and it is up to us to go to the people for a complete endorsement of our position. If our position is fully endorsed, we come back with a fresh mandate from the electorate to carry on the business of the Colony. Without wishing to unduly delay the time of the House this afternoon, I would like to place before Honorable members a few facts intimately associated with the financial side of our administration during the past few years. In the early days of the war, when we recruited our forces for overseas, we borrowed from the Imperial Government the funds necessary for this undertaking, but the calls on the Imperial Treasury were so great we could not expect to be continually financed from this source, and Sir Edward Morris, then Prime Minister,

negotiated a loan of \$5,000,000 in the United States. This was a short term loan which matures on the 30th day of June next, and must be paid by that date. We must find \$5,000,000, to redeem our bond on June 30th. Yet, with this task ahead, we hear intelligent men in this House suggesting that the election be deferred until the 30th of May or early part of June, not realising the importance of time is we are to successfully meet our obligations within the period stated. If we held an election at the end of May, we could not come back in time to pass the necessary legislation and raise that loan. Five million dollars cannot be secured within twenty-four hours. It may take months to do it, and yet we hear pleas for delay, knowing that we are within only six or eight weeks when this heavy obligation must be met. If after an election we find that the country does not give us a renewal of its confidence, then the party who does will have the same important task ahead of them, and it would not be fair to them that they should be embarrassed for want of time. So far I have heard no substantial argument against holding an election next month. In 1909 we had an early election; polling day was then on the 18th of May, and as we all know, there were more votes polled in the spring election than in the previous fall; that is a matter of record. If we do not carry out the election next month, but delay it as suggested by some Hon. gentlemen opposite, we shall be placing ourselves in a very dangerous position with regard to our financial obligations, so serious that I think it would be impossible to retire the outstanding loan and we would be making ourselves ridiculous in the eyes of the world. This is why an election should be held early in May to en-

able us to come back in time to pass the necessary legislation for raising the money to pay off the loan due the United States, on June 30th. I do not think any successful argument can be put up against an early election, viewed in the light of our position, and I hope the House will pass legislation quickly and give us an opportunity to get down to work. Apart from the loan to which I have made reference, loans to public buildings, railroads, steamers and other public utilities will have to be secured within the next few months, and unless we have time to attend to those matters, they cannot be successfully accomplished. I thoroughly agree with the remarks of the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister made here yesterday, when he said that if we are sustained by the people we are prepared to carry on the work, but if they are not prepared to re-elect us, now is the time to give them the opportunity. I think the people of the country are anxious to be given an opportunity to pronounce upon us whether favorable or otherwise, and should be given that opportunity now. I, for one, am prepared to come back and do my best; if there are better men and the people want them, now is their opportunity. The electorate will say whether they are to come in, or if we are to remain. While I am here I will do my best, according to the dictates of my conscience, and the reason why I ask for an early election, is that I believe it to be for the best interests of the country. We have not a strong party behind us today, not sufficiently strong to face the many problems that will arise. One of these is provision for our soldiers now returning. The Militia Department has provided an estimate which calls for \$5,000,000 of an appropriation for payments to them, and the amount required for pensions for the men of

both branches of the service will be about \$750,000 annually. These matters will entail a great deal of consideration and should be sufficient answer to the criticism of our action.

The statement made to the House in the Speech from the Throne, with regard to our financial position, is absolutely correct. We court fair criticism in all our public acts, but this is no justification for making deliberately false statements, particularly in such critical times, statements that may result in serious financial embarrassment to the Colony. I have much pleasure in moving the resolution.

When I was in Canada I had no authority to make provision for this loan. I could not help what the papers said in reference to my travels there and I will state in this House now that I took no steps towards making any arrangement in connection with same with the Canadian financiers. When I was in Canada I was interviewed about future loans in Newfoundland, but on each occasion that these financiers who were prepared to do business with Newfoundland approached me, I stated that I was not in a position to discuss the matter with them, and moreover, I understood that the Government intended to call for tenders in Canada and the United States. Now is it not obvious that if I was in Canada making statements like that, I was not arranging a loan. I had to have the necessary authority from the Legislature. The authority of the Finance Minister is not more than any other member of the Government.

When I went to Canada, I went on private business and not on the business of the Colony. Had I been in the position to raise a loan, I could have finalised matters pretty quickly, and I said no more to any financier than this, "that I was not in a position to do business with them."

**MR. CURRIE:**—Will the Finance Minister answer me this question? When this loan was first raised, was it not raised by Sir E. P. Morris before the Bill was passed?

**MR. CASHIN:**—No. The Bill was passed and he went over to New York to raise a loan fortified with it.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Had negotiations not been entered into?

**MR. CASHIN:**—None whatever. At that time affairs did not permit anyone assuming such responsibility.

**MR. MORINE:**—I must confess that I do not understand just what my friends are discussing.

There is one point, and it is this, that ever since this war began, I have kept clear of criticising financial matters, because I do not think it is safe in the interests of the country, to have a dispute about them, and to have the public press talking about them. The questions at issue are too great for us to engage in what seems to be the universal practice of threshing out these matters. With the great interests at stake, it seems to me that it is not right for us to say or do anything that might affect the credit of the Colony, and I think it is best to follow out that practice, and leave these matters in the competent hands of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs.

Now, I am sorry that he should have been irritated by this editorial. He has kept his temper so often, that it is surprising he should get ruffled, when we were only trying to save time, by moving that the resolutions be put through by unanimous consent, but, when a man looks like a prize fighter in all his get-up, it is not surprising that he cannot allow a session to go by without saying something that will cause trouble. I might have been inclined at one time to fight a little myself, but I have reformed, and to such an extent, that I am now

referred to as the "Father of the House." However, I do not like this "Father of the House" business to be rubbed in too much because, in some respects, I feel that I am the youngest man in the House, and I would wish that you would please forget my grey hairs, and, remembering only my virility, count me as one of the boys.

I am anxious to put these resolutions through, so that the Hon. Minister of Finance, will have the proper authority to pass his financial bill, and I have no doubt that after the election, the financial bill will be put through by unanimous consent, but that has not much to do with what is called a mandate. The House has not much legal authority, and so far as moral authority is concerned, there is no moral authority in a mandate under existing circumstances. The Bill ought to have been introduced and passed, to have the elections at the regular time next Fall, but we have threshed that out already, and why discuss it now? You have chosen your course, and the matter is settled. Let us pass the bill; and say no more about it, so that we may close quickly as possible, and to that end, he can count on the hearty support of this side of the House.

**MR. CURRIE:**—As the Hon. Member for Bonavista has pointed out, it has been the custom of the House during the past four years, on all matters relating to the war, to agree unanimously. There has never been any difference of opinion, and if the Minister is anxious to put this Bill through as a war measure, I, for one, have no objection, though I think it destroys the argument which he previously raised.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed a Resolution and recommended that

a Bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

On motion this report was received and adopted.

By unanimous consent of the House it was ordered that the measure be finalised at the present sitting.

Whereupon the Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported the Resolution which was read a first time as follows:

For General Election \$45,000.00.

The said Resolution being read a second time it was moved that the House concur with the Committee therein and the said Resolution was agreed to.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for Defraying the Expenses of a General Election to be Held During the Present Year" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for Defraying the Expenses of a General Election to be held during the Present Year" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House presently.

Whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act for Defraying the Expenses of a General Election to be Held During the Present Year."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Bill without amendment.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for Defraying the Expenses of a General Election to be Held During the Present Year" was read a third time and passed and it was ordered that it be engrossed, being entitled as

above, and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that body in its provisions.

Mr. Walsh gave notice of question.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rise it adjourn until Monday next at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, April 7, 1919.

The House met at three o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

#### Petitions

**THE MINISTER OF MILITIA:**—On behalf of His Honor the Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Flatrock, who ask that a concrete landing place to be erected at a place known as Martin's Point, in order that they may be able to land their fishing gear and cod traps at that place in stormy weather. They point out that under present conditions it is almost impossible to handle these commodities and they ask that a sum of money be granted for this purpose.

Although a concrete landing place would be a little more expensive than a wooden landing place, the petitioners point out once it was erected there, there would be no further expenditure. They also consider that a wooden landing place would be only a source of trouble and continual expense. I have much pleasure in presenting this petition and I give it my heartiest support.

I beg leave to refer it to the department to which it relates.

**MR. MORINE:**—I beg leave to present a petition of the inhabitants of King's Cove, Broad Cove, Keels and Indian Arm re the steamship service at present operating in that bay. The petition is largely and influentially signed, and appears to have em-

manated entirely from that section of the Bay. A few days ago I spoke upon this subject while presenting another petition, and I do not propose to-day to repeat what I then said. But I merely want to point out for the consideration of the executive that this is a matter warranting the greatest consideration especially now that the original programme has been changed as regards the coastal system there. Steamers coming North on their way to Port Union under the present system are caused a great dissatisfaction, as persons coming to St. John's or Eastward have to go to Port Union and make a very round about detour with exposed travelling. Now, under this petition they ask that a branch line be established to Port Union. I need not point out the advantages that this would mean. It would save the long delay that these people are subjected to now, and I think the large list of signatures shows conclusively the desires of these people with regard to the establishments of this branch line.

**MR. COAKER:**—With regard to the petition presented by the Hon. Minister for Bonavista, there are just one or two remarks I would like to make. In the first place, these petitions represent a very small portion of the electors of Bonavista Bay, and the next thing is, they are gotten up by certain men who find that the steamers going to Port Union do not give them the train and passenger traffic that they had before. Now, the next point I would like to raise, is, that this matter was fully considered last year at the F. P. U. Convention, and the present route was fully endorsed by this Convention, which was representative of the wishes of the people in that section. The next point is this: We have been considering whether or not we would alter the route in Bonavista Bay this year, and have been taking the matter up for some

time. In all probability, the "Dundee" will make two trips per week this year from Port Union to Wesleyville, as she did formerly—before war conditions prevented, and in all probability, may call at Port Blandford, if it is found that we can allow the steamer to go up there without interfering with the service around the Bay, and we will probably have two connections—one at Port Blandford, and one at Port Union. There is a saving of 180 miles by using the present route, as it only means the calling at three or four ports at the bottom of the Bay.

I have been looking over the statistics with regard to this service, and I find that the traffic, in passengers, and freight exceeds what has been done at any time before by 100 per cent, so much greater have the advantages been, and I think if my friend. Mr. Bay, and talk with the people there, he Morine, will go down to Bonavista will find that the present route is satisfactory, and that they don't want any alterations.

**MR. MORINE:**—I beg to present another petition on this same matter from the people of Southern Bay, and I wish to take occasion to reply to some of the remarks made by the Hon. member for Twillingate, and not, as I notice, by either of the members for Bonavista, in spite of the fact that we are in this House, members for Districts.

Now, Sir, it is not correct that the petitions presented this afternoon represent only a small proportion of the district, or that they represent people without grave interests at stake. These petitions represent the dominant opinion at least from King's Cove around to Southern Bay, and it is the opinion of all there, especially of all the business men in that section. In the next case, it is not a question of passenger traffic. The

traffic in fish and in freight that goes to St. John's from these places, back and forth, is largely and disadvantageously affected by the present route. I had a conversation recently with Mr. Dan Ryan, and he tells me that the change in the service has entirely destroyed the usefulness of the steamer to the people carrying on trade in that section. Now, the Hon. member for Twillingate has said that the present route was endorsed un-animously at the F. P. U. Convention. That may be as it is, but I fancy that almost anything that the Honorable gentleman himself wishes to pass, would be unanimously endorsed at such a Convention.

The present route is not to the interest of the North of Bonavista Bay. It is advantageous to some parties outside of Bonavista Bay, and I have dealt fairly with that feature before. The change of traffic may be some good to that portion which I referred to, and I willingly admit that the F. P. U. deserves some special consideration, representing as it does a large proportion of the fishermen, and that it is to their advantage to establish connections with Port Union, which is the headquarters of their trade, but I do not admit their right to enjoy these advantages at the expense of a large number of other people. In other words, I am willing to see anything done in the interests of the F. P. U., which is a cooperative body, formed by the fishermen themselves, provided that it does not harm one section, in order that good may be done to another. I think the interests of all sections ought to be consulted, and think that the petitions which I am presenting here this afternoon ought to be considered, and some remedy found. I do not wish to take away from the F. P. U. any advantages which they should enjoy, but I think these people should

have restored to them the privileges which they previously enjoyed, and which are theirs by right.

My Honorable friend refers particularly to the fact that Port Blandford has railway connection, and that is quite true, with regard to what they send to St. John's or get from St. John's, but he must remember that there are parts of Bonavista Bay entirely cut off from communication with each other through this system. Some mention has been made of Goose Bay, but there has been no petition from Goose Bay, and as this place has a railway station on the branch line, they are probably as well off as they were before. Now, if the "Dundee" on her route from Sweet Bay to these places, or from these places to Sweet Bay, on her return, would be allowed to go to Southern Bay to connect with the railway, very much of the harm now being done, would be remedied, and I cannot conceive for what malign purpose she goes back and forth, east and west, past the mouth of Southern Bay, and compels the people of this place to go right out around Cape Bonavista to Port Union. One would say that it is for the purpose of preventing them from getting connection with the railway. It cannot be a mere oversight. Here on the left hand is Sweet Bay, and on the right hand is and far out beyond that is Cape Bonavista and Port Union, and she comes to Sweet Bay and across the mouth of Southern Bay, apparently in order to avoid the railway at Southern Bay, where passengers and freight can take the branch line without having to go around Cape Bonavista.

**MR. COAKER:**—But the trouble is, there is no terminus in Southern Bay.

**MR. MORINE:**—There should not be the least difficulty about this. It is only a hop, step, and a leap from the railway to the water, and it only

means putting a wharf there. As a matter of fact, the steamer used to call there in times gone by, and land freight and passengers by boat. Now, whilst I not only repeat the right of the F. P. U. to special consideration, and myself am prepared to assist in getting them special consideration, I go upon this principle that it is not right to benefit one section of the community at the expense of another, and these people are entitled to consideration as well as the F. P. U. The other way would be, of course, to let the "Dundee" run as she is doing now and put another boat there.

There is just one more thing; the Hon. member says he has considered the statistics, and finds there is an increase in passenger traffic of 100 per cent. Statistics are things that lie terribly when twisted one way or another, but in any event, I would venture to say that this increase is not in Bonavista Bay. It might be due to an increase in passenger traffic from the Straits Shore, or due to more frequent trips to Port Union, and I am very glad, as I said before, that these people should have the opportunity of being in better touch with their headquarters, but I see no reason why we should deprive these other people of the consideration which they deserve. I therefore ask that this petition also be received and referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary.

**THE HON. MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES:**—Mr. Speaker I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Shoal Harbour in the District of Trinity, asking for a sum of money to be allocated for the purpose of building a wharf there. This petition is signed by Mr. Caleb Tulk, J.P., and a number of others. I hope the Government will see their way clear to grant the request of the petitioners.

I have another petition which I would like to present from the people of St. Jones Without, asking that that place be linked up with Little Heart's Ease by telephone. This request is a reasonable one and it is the desire of the people of the latter place that they have telephone connection, as at present there is no communication between these places at the disposal of the inhabitants. I trust that in the near future, the Government will accede to the prayer of the petitioners.

At the present time there are several people who are trying to procure a License to operate saw-mills on the above section mentioned. If the Agriculture & Mines Department would grant the request of these people and allow them to erect saw-mills there, it would only be a year or two when every little bit of the forest now left would be destroyed, thus depriving the people of Catalina, Little Catalina, Elliston and Bonavista from fire wood, room stuff, boats, plank, etc., which cannot possibly be done without if we want to prosecute the fishery. I therefore ask the Government to see that the section known as Seven Mile Camp and the Wood Spur, be reserved for the fishermen. I give the petitions my heartiest support and ask that they be received and passed over to the Departments to which they refer.

The Speaker vacates the chair to call upon His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that His Excellency the Governor would receive the Address in Reply at 4 o'clock of this day.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker and the House proceeded to Government House and being returned to the Assembly Room Mr. Speaker informed the House that His Excellency had received the Address of Thanks and had been pleased to reply thereto as follows:

I thank you for your Address in



Reply to the Speech with which your present Session was opened.

C. ALEXANDER HARRIS,  
Governor.

Government House,  
St. John's, Nfld.,  
7 April, 1919.

**MR. TARGETT:**—I beg to support the petition presented by my colleagues just before the House rose and I trust the Government will see its way clear to accede to the request of petitioners.

I have also a petition from Hant's Harbour for a sum of money for a breakwater at Caplin Cove. Formerly, sir, they did not need a breakwater. When they were fishing in small boats the fishermen could get together and haul them up. Of late years they have five or six motor boats there and they cannot haul them up and sometimes when it comes stormy, they have to take them down around the point to Hant's Harbour. Caplin Cove is back of Hant's Harbour. It is sometimes very rough getting around the point and they run great risk and sometimes very great danger of their lives. I trust that the Government will grant the request of the petitioners and help them out by giving them a sum of money to build the breakwater. The petition is signed by about sixty residents of that locality, and I beg to refer it to the Department to which it refers.

**MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES:**—I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition presented by my colleague, Mr. Targett.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—I beg leave to present a number of petitions on different subjects from the District of Twillingate. I have seven here from different localities on the subject of a branch railway. This is a subject that is becoming of lively interest down there especially in the north side of the Bay. The people

living in Hall's Bay and on the Cape Shore and so far south as Pilley's Island are interested in this question. They have to go about forty miles from the bottom of Hall's Bay by dog-team or otherwise. Especially during the past two or three years have they felt the need of railway connection in order to get their pickled herring to market. If railway connection is given them it will be a great convenience to people traveling from that part of the district to St. John's and Port aux Basques, in fact to any part of the country, especially during the winter and spring. Certainly, anyone who is at all familiar with the conditions in these localities must admit the necessity of this branch railway.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a number of petitions from different localities in the District of Twillingate on the subject of a branch railway to Hall's Bay. The petitioners point out that this railway would be not only a great convenience to them in connection with the main line for passenger and freight purposes but also for the shipment of herring, especially during the fall and winter. It is thought that herring may during the winter be shipped to the American markets in a frozen condition, and as such would meet a better demand than the pickled herring. There can be no doubt as to the necessity of this railway, and that it would serve the interests of the north side of Notre Dame Bay and also part of the District of St. Barbe.

The time is not far distant when these matters will have to be dealt with in a manner satisfactory to the people, and I have no doubt that when financial conditions permit the Government will give those petitions the consideration they deserve, and that a branch line to Hall's Bay will

be an accomplished fact, giving to the people of that part of the Dominion a share of the privileges enjoyed by the more southern districts. I heartily endorse the prayer of the petitioners, and ask that they be received and referred to the Department to which they relate.

**HON. MR. COAKER:**—Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition presented by Mr. Jennings. My remarks a few days since when supporting the prayer of a petition for a line of railway along the North Side of Bonavista Bay apply with even greater force to the petition now being presented. There can be no possible doubt that the people who have presented this petition are entitled to railway facilities, as well as more favored portions of the Island; and their reasonable request must be acceded to at the earliest moment the financial condition of the Colony will permit. But the public must also understand the one great matter in considering any expenditure on railway account must be putting the main line in a condition to meet the present day requirements of the trade and the safe carriage of passengers. The outlay which the Government of the future must make on what practically means the rebuilding of the road will be very great, how much, I am not in a position now to state even approximately. But whatever the cost, the responsibilities must be faced in the almost immediate future. The other petitions asking for the extension of the telephone system, linking up small settlements, do not cost very much and these modest requests have my hearty support.

**MR. ABBOTT:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the residents of Keels, Southern Bay, Princeton, Charlottetown, Happy Adventure, St. Chad's, Alexander Bay and other settlements in the electoral

district of Bonavista asking that a light be placed on Flat Island. From Little Denier to Shoe Cove Point there is no light to guide the mariner on his way while navigating this section of the bay. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that a light placed at the point indicated in these petitions would be a great convenience to not only the fishermen in the locality but to hundreds of schooners going in and out the bay.

I also wish, Mr. Speaker, to present a petition from the people of Hare Bay who are asking a grant of \$1,000.00 to construct a public wharf, and another petition from the electors of Bonavista Town asking for the small sum of \$150.00 for the purpose of opening up a road to some valuable agricultural property.

All these petitions are largely signed, the requests contained therein are reasonable and I trust the government, if at all possible, will accede to them. I therefore ask that these petitions be referred to the various departments to which they relate.

**MR. WINSOR:**—Mr. Speaker, the several petitions now presented by my colleague, Mr. Abbott, have my support.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Flat Island, Coward's Island, Salvage, and other settlements in Bonavista Bay, asking that a light be placed on Puffin Island, Flat Island. For some time this light has been asked for and promised and the people interested feel that it is high time something should be done. This light, Sir, would not only be of very great service to the fishermen who earn their livelihood in these localities, but it would prove a benefit to the whole district, as well as to the hundreds of other fishermen who during the fishing season might want at any time to make a harbor from stress of weather or any other cause.

**MR. MORINE:**—I rise to give this petition my heartiest support. I suppose the light house in question, while being of some service to the people of Flat Islands, as a harbor light, would be of still greater service as a leading light to the people living north, west and south of Flat Islands; many people would be benefited, and the usefulness of the light house would be very great.

**MR. WINSOR:**—I have here for presentation a number of petitions from the inhabitants of St. Brendan's, Gooseberry Island, Deer Island and Bragg's Island on the same subject, which goes to show that the request for this very necessary aid to navigation is a general one. These petitioners are asking that the proposed light be erected on Gulch Island. They say Gulch Island would be the best place to have the light and that by placing it there the public would be best served. This is the same light asked for in the other petition; one light is asked for by both parties, but they differ in opinion as to where the light should be erected. Puffin Island and Gulch Island are so near together that it would not be justice to the other parts of the District to expect at the present time that a light be placed on each of the said places. The location of the light, Sir, I think might be safely left to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Light House Department. They can be trusted to select the most suitable and servicable place, so that the greatest good would come to the greatest number. Anyhow, I trust the Government will see its way clear to have something done in this matter during the coming summer. I ask that these several petitions be referred to the Department to which they relate.

**MR. MORINE:**—Is Mr. Winsor asking for one light house or two?

**MR. WINSOR:**—The two petitions are for two different light houses.

Some people think Flat Islands the proper location, and others think Gulch Island the proper place.

**MR. MORINE:**—Why not ask for two light houses? If not both at the same time, then one after the other. I do not think that the people of Flat Islands, for instance, would be very much served by a light house on Gulch Island; and probably it is true that one on Flat Islands would not be so useful to the people of St. Brendan's and Gooseberry Islands as one on Gulch Island would be. If an agreement cannot be arrived at as to the proper location of one light house it seems to me that one should be constructed and another follow as soon as possible; while the dispute continues all the people are being deprived of a much needed service.

**HON. MR. COAKER:**—Mr. Speaker, For several years it has been decided that the light now being discussed should be erected, but the trouble has been to get the location of this very necessary and important aid to navigation settled upon. I think the erection of the lighthouse will come in due course when the people for whose benefit it is intended, come to a mutual agreement on the site. These petitions, Sir, have my support.

**MR. PARSONS:**—Mr. Speaker, I have several petitions to present Sir, and I hope they shall receive the best consideration of the Government. The first petition comes from the people of Upper Island Cove, in the District of Harbor Grace. Your petitioners ask for an amount sufficient to enable them to make repairs to a short cut by the use of which the distance to Hr. Grace, which is about eight and one half miles may be reduced to about two miles. This petition is signed by the Rev. E. E. Rusted and many other residents of the settlement, and I trust the Government will see its way clear to grant the prayer of the petition. Another very important petition has

been entrusted to me for presentation. It is also from the people of Upper Island Cove. Several wells to provide a supply of pure drinking water are urgently needed. In as much as the subject matter of the petitions relate to so vital a question as the health of a settlement containing eighteen hundred persons or three hundred and fifty odd families. A few years back there was a serious epidemic of Typhoid Fever at this place which cost the Department of Health a very considerable sum of money. The doctors who attended at that time gave it as their opinion that the cause of the outbreak was impure water. The land where the houses in which these eighteen hundred people live dips into a hollow and in winter and spring time the drainings from the gardens and farms run right down the sloping ground and pollute the water which the people use for cooking and drinking purposes. This petition is signed by one thousand voters. I am sure of my ground Sir, in urging upon the Government the immediate attention which this serious condition of affairs calls for; and I will undertake to prove that the public accounts will show an expenditure in doctors bills and other expenses in connection with these epidemics which will exceed the cost of the wells asked for. The people are satisfied to abide by the decision of the Government Engineer. I therefore move, Sir, that the petition be received and referred to the Department of the Colonial Secretary, and from there transferred to the Executive for consideration.

**MR. YOUNG:**—Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition presented by my colleague, Mr. Parsons. In doing so, I wish to draw attention to the serious condition of things which exists. We are ready to produce the evidence in the form of doctor's certificates that conditions are just as bad as represented, and I hope the Gov-

ernment will do the very best they can for us in providing the remedy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the residents of Tilton and Spaniard's Bay on the subject of repairs to a road. A part of the condemned old line of railway is now used as hoop road and woods road. It is used extensively and is a great help to a considerable number of industrious people. Three hundred dollars is the amount asked for, and I hope the Government will give us this small amount. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Speaker, I also ask leave to present a petition from ex-Corporal Solomon Gosse. This petition is signed by one thousand people. Ex-Corp. Gosse asks for the job of Sub-Collector and Relieving Officer on the Labrador boat. He is a returned soldier who has been wounded in fighting the Empire's cause and is now unfit for hard manual labor, but is prepared to take a light job such as the one applied for. He is not able to live on the pension which he now gets. This petition, as I have already stated, is signed by over one thousand voters, and supported by my colleagues, and should receive the favorable consideration of the Government.

I also ask leave to present the petition of ex-Corporal Duncan Collins, asking that he be given the position of Sub-Collector at Spaniard's Bay. One thousand voters have also signed this petition. We have heard a great deal of what the Government were doing and intended to do for the returned soldier; well, here is a way to test their sincerity. I do not ask that a delicate man be removed from the public service, but I do say that able-bodied men should be let go and their places filled by returned men. My two colleagues are also

giving this petition their support. The petition, Sir, was sent on to the Government last Fall, and I have never heard a word of it since. This I consider insulting and very unfair. Such a largely signed petition should have received better consideration at the hands of the Government. This man had been wounded while on active service, fighting the enemy and defending us, and certainly the petition of over one thousand voters would be acceded to.

**MR. PARSONS:**—Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this petition. As my colleague has stated, we have been treated very unfairly by the Government in this matter. We have been treated with contempt by those whose duty it was, and is, to live up to the promises made to the returned soldiers. I do not make this remark with a view toward making any trouble, but it seems as though we are on the outside of the circle of St. John's. Why those whose business it was to consider this petition did not think it worth while sending us a reply, I do not know. And so I want to go on record as favoring the first claim of the returned soldier to positions in the civil service. I do not mean that an old man should have his job taken from him, but I do say that strong, able-bodied men should go to make room for the returned soldier, and as long as I hold a seat in this House, I shall ever insist that those men who have fought and suffered in the cause of justice and humanity shall have first claim upon the country.

**MR. KENNEDY:**—Mr. Speaker, I have a small request to make which is contained in the petition I now present from a number of the fishermen at Chapel's Cove, in the District of Harbor Main. They ask that the dredge be sent there for the purpose of deepening the cove leading to the

public wharf. A couple of years ago, a heavy sea caused a large body of sand and rock to accumulate, and at present the wharf is of practically no service to those who have occasion to use it. Last year the people could not land their caplin at the wharf, and unless this work is immediately attended to, not even a small boat will be able to approach the landing place. I hope that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to whose Department I ask that this petition be referred, will give our modest request his favorable consideration.

**MR. WOODFORD:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to support the petition. The wharf referred to is practically useless. After a conversation with the Chairman of the Road Board last Fall, I asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to have the dredge sent up to remove this silt. If this sand and rock is not removed it means that one and perhaps two blocks must be built to the present wharf at a cost of at least \$1,000. A big saving may be effected by sending the dredge there and having this work properly attended to. The work would not take more than two or three days. I made application a few days ago to the Department that a survey be made, and I have no doubt if the preliminary report which my friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries receives is favorable, the job will be successfully attended to in the very near future.

**HON. MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES:**—Mr. Speaker, for the information of the Hon. Member for Hr. Main I may inform him that Mr. Fitzgerald has already been sent up to Chappel's Cove to make a survey, but has not made his report yet. And if his report is favourable and weather conditions are suitable the dredge will be sent there at the earliest possible

moment to do the work as requested by the people of Chappel's Cove. With regard to the point raised by the Hon. Member for Placentia as to surveys having been made in his district about three years ago, I may say that happened to be before my time, but any surveys made since I have assumed office and in any way reasonable I have been always only too pleased to have them attended to, unless the operations of the dredge would be hampered by something unforeseen. At the present time I am inclined to think that the frist place that the dredge will operate this year, if ice conditions do not interfere, will be at Grand Bank. Grand Bank is a thriving settlement and one of the leading places in the Colony, turning in annually a quarter of a million dollars of revenue and has a large fleet of schooners engaged in local and foreign trade as well as in the bank fishery. In the interest of those people and in the interest of the Colony their request for the use of the dredge will receive every consideration. As far as I am concerned, while I am in charge of the Department of Marine and Fisheries my sole endeavour will be to treat everybody fairly and squarely.

**HON. MR. WALSH:**—Mr. Speaker, I rise to give my hearty support to the petition just presented by the Hon. Member for Hr. Main asking that the Dredge be sent up to Chappel's Cove. And whilst supporting the prayer of the petition, I express the hope that he will have better luck than I did by receiving the report of the official sent up to make a survey a little earlier than that official reported in relation to my district. About three years ago the Department of Marine and Fisheries sent Mr. Fitzgerald, the official in charge of Marine Surveys, up to some important parts of my district, and surveys were made at some cost to the Colony and taxpayers, but the dredge never called there although she passed

by on several occasions on her way to St. Jacques and back to St. John's. And despite the fact that my colleagues and myself have for many years made strong pleas to this House to have the dredge go to different parts of the district to do valuable service, it was of no avail, so I do not predict that anything will be done in the near future, but if it is the intention to send the dredge to do any work at an early date, I demand that places where surveys were made as far back as three years ago should have the preference and that the dredge should be sent to Placentia Bay to perform the work that the surveys were made for before she is sent elsewhere. I, therefore, have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petitioners of Chappel's Cove.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—Mr. Speaker, while this dredge subject is on the floors, I would like to make a few observations regarding my own district. I think it is about two years ago when I made a request to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries asking for the services of the dredge at Little Bay Islands. This work I understand has been since attended to. However, there is one place in Twillingate District, namely, Twillingate Shoal Tickle, which needs to be dredged badly. While there are so many demands all at once claiming the attention of the Marine and Fisheries Department it is impossible to deal with them all this season. I know that it is difficult for the Priestman to operate at Twillingate Shoal Tickle with success, but I hope that the Department will find it possible to get a smaller dredge to deepen that Tickle this summer. It practically concerns all the south side of the district to Fortune Harbor. There are two doctors who have to serve all that part of the district, and they have to come in all sorts of weathers

to attend urgent calls, and owing to the condition of this Tickle they are very apt to injure their motor boats and so find they are delayed in getting back with the doctor, and often this is a matter of life and death.

I hope that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will try to attend to this matter in some way or other, as it is a matter which demands immediate attention.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—I think I detected in the remarks of the Honorable Minister who has just sat down the fact that he felt that some discrimination had been made with regard to the use of the dredge. The facts are simply these: At St. George's a 600 ton steamer was being completed on the stocks there; it afterwards turned out that the depth of water was insufficient to launch the vessel. I asked the Government to consider this matter and see if it could not receive the first consideration. The dredge was in use for five days only, and I think in view of the circumstances the work was most necessary. It struck me that the matter called for an explanation and I am very pleased to be able to explain the circumstances.

**MR. WALSH:**—I would like to assure Mr. Downey that I am in entire sympathy with his attitude on this matter to which he has just made reference, and I think that were I the Minister of Marine and Fisheries at the time, I would have been only too glad to have this work performed. I would suggest to the head of this Department that the dredge be used on the North Coast in Summer and the South Coast in Winter. Work could be performed on the South Coast in the Winter but could not possibly be performed on the North, and it is very important that all parts of the Colony should have an equal chance

of the services rendered by the dredge.

**MR. MORINE:**—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Summerville, Bonavista Bay, who ask for telegraph extensions from Plumbstone to Indian Arm. The name put forward by the petitioners would necessitate the alteration of the telegraph office at Plumbstone to a more convenient place for all concerned. The distance is not very great and would not entail very much telegraph wire, and the telegraph office being already at Plumbstone very little expense would be entailed in that score although the petitioners desire that it be removed to about a mile and a half, when it would be convenient for the people of both places.

In view of what has been said by the Honorable Member for Trinity, I am very hopeful that this petition will be acceded to as soon as it comes before the Executive for consideration.

**MR. ABBOTT:**—I would like to support the remarks of the Honorable Member who has just sat down, and sincerely hope the Government will grant the prayer of this petition.

**HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:**—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Manuels, Long Pond, and Topsail. The petition is largely and influentially signed and asks for \$1,000 to be devoted to opening up the gut through the beach leading to Manuels Pond and River. All along the South Shore from Portugal Cove to Holyrood there is no safe shelter in stormy weather for boats during the fishery season. This is a serious handicap especially since motor boats have come into general use and have enabled these people to extend their industries round Bell Island and Cape St. Francis and other parts of the Bay. Fishing in such a wide

area, however, would be attended with grave danger were no safe shelter provided. I have much pleasure in giving this petition my heartiest support and beg leave to present it for the attention of the Department to which it relates.

**MR. KENNEDY:**—I beg leave to second the remarks of the Honorable gentleman who has just sat down. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that I am well acquainted with that part of the coast and well appreciate the difficulty to which the Hon. gentleman has referred. The coast is very singular in the respect that it has no safe shelter at all, and I think \$1,000 is only a small item to pay for such a benefit as this would be to so many fishermen and I have much pleasure in supporting this petition.

**HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:**—In the absence of the Member for Port de Grave District, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Bareneed, Port de Grave District, who ask that \$150.00 be allocated to make a road to certain gardens and bog lands there. The bog land there is used as a fertiliser and the people feel that it will be a big benefit to them if the prayer of this petition was granted. I have much pleasure in supporting this petition and beg leave to present it to the Department to which it relates.

I also beg to present a petition, in the absence of the representative of St. Barbe, from the inhabitants of Grey Islands, asking that that place be made a port of call for one of the coastal steamers when navigation is open. The residents of those islands and those who prosecute the fishery there, undergo great hardship in the Spring and Fall of the year, in getting to and from those islands. The nearest place is Conche and in order to get to this place they undergo the greatest hardship, when they have to

transport their families and effects to and from. I sincerely hope that the Government will give this matter its immediate attention.

**MR. WALSH:**—I sincerely hope that the prayer of the last petition will be acceded to. The approach to the main harbor at that place is a very difficult one and the water is very shallow. This place has grown considerably in late years, and I think the Government should make arrangements to have every encouragement given to those people who engage in fishery pursuits there.

**THE HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:**—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Doting Cove, asking that a branch railway line be extended from Gambo to Clarendville, via Wesleyville. I hope the petition will receive the support of the whole House as it is a matter which demands the fullest consideration of the Government. I think every member present understands the difficulty which these persons experience in prosecuting the fishery. It is important that these persons should be able to ship their fish immediately as it often happens that the fish has to be left there until late in the season before they can transport it to St. John's. I shall not refer to this matter in greater detail as a petition bearing on the subject has already been presented by Mr. Morine. I give this petition my heartiest support and I beg leave to present it to the Department to which it relates.

**HON. THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present petitions from the inhabitants of Musgrave Harbour and Doting Cove, Fogo District, asking for railroad connection. These people suffer great inconvenience and loss through having to ship the products of the fishery by the first means of conveyance as soon



as the same is cured. They cannot hold their fish and oil for October shipment as the harbours are so rough it is almost impossible to charter schooners to go there to load freight after the month of August. The agricultural possibilities of the Strait Shore are great, also, and if the people there had any means of shipping the product of the land it would result in a greatly increased production, and would be a great encouragement to the people in this direction. Parts of the District through which the railway would run are also well wooded, and it would be an immense advantage to the people and to the country to have railway connection so that they could develop the lumbering industry. It would be impossible to speak in too strong terms in support of this petition, and I trust that when the matter of railway extension is taken up by the Government, a railway to Fogo District will be the first to be considered. As a member of the Government, I know the conditions that obtain at present in this country with regard to transportation and the condition of the main line of railway, and I would not say, therefore, that we could have this railway next summer. We have to take time and consider what we can do, but I maintain that the very first branch railway that is undertaken should be the one set forth in this petition, because in no other part of the country is it needed to such an extent. These people have no main road facilities, as obtain in the southern districts, just local roads, and the grant for these is not sufficient to keep them in repair practically. The people are all fishermen, and they therefore contribute largely to the revenue of the country, which depends on the products of the fishery; and from that point of view, it is a matter of plain justice to the people of that part of the country that they be given every

consideration, and, if we can possibly afford it, be given this facility. It is not only a matter of convenience to them, but it means greater revenue for the country in general. I have much pleasure in supporting these petitions, and hope that as soon as the matter of railroad extension comes up this petition will be given the consideration it merits.

I wish to present another petition from the inhabitants of Musgrave Harbour, in the District of Fogo, asking that the construction of a breakwater be undertaken immediately. As I have already pointed out, this matter of a breakwater was undertaken some years ago, but it did not give the satisfaction that it should have given. The petition is very largely signed, and I trust that when the Government takes up the matter of harbor construction, Musgrave Harbor will get the attention it deserves. I have much pleasure in supporting this petition also.

**HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:**—Mr. Chairman, I beg leave to present a petition from the people of Conception Bay, from Carbonear and Harbor Grace right around the shore to St. John's, asking for a long distance telephone system from Carbonear to St. John's. All the people in these places, and particularly the business people doing business with St. John's, feel the great want of such a telephone system, so that they may be in direct communication, as one might say, with the business people in the city. This is an important petition, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that all the representatives of the districts interested will give their hearty support to it. They probably know more about the matter than I do. I only know that it would be a great advantage to my district of Harbor Main to have direct communication with the city. Our local merchants and business people are increasing in

number from year to year. There are new men starting all the time in the mercantile business. They are all getting their share of the trade, and they are all anxious to have such a telephone system put through the District of Harbour Main. The matter has been brought to my notice from time to time and I have promised to do my best to encourage the plan and now that other districts have taken the matter up I think it ought to go right through without delay. I understand that the United Towns Electrical Company is prepared to extend the telephone system right through to St. John's provided we give them permission to do so, and I believe the scheme would pay. Each merchant or business man would, no doubt, contribute a small fee towards the up keep of the system, and in that way it would be self supporting. I have much pleasure in handing this petition over to the Department to which it relates.

**MR. KENNEDY:**—I have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in giving my hearty support to the petitions just presented by Mr. Woodford. As he has pointed out, it would be a great advantage to all the people right around the bay, particularly the business people, and I am surprised that with all the modern improvements we have to-day it has not been done years ago. The petitions are only asking for permission from the Government to have the system constructed at their own expense, and I do not see any reason why the Government should hinder by refusing permission. To have instant communication with St. John's would mean dollars in the pockets of the business people in these places, as it would enable them to keep in touch with the market, and I hope that when the matter comes before the proper department it will be attended to immediately.

**MR. PARSONS:**—I heartily sup-

port this petition, Mr. Speaker. At present we in Harbor Grace know very little of the benefits of the telephone, but if this system were installed I am sure it would be an advantage in numerous ways. It was only the other evening that a case came under my notice which illustrates the necessity of it. There was an important message to be sent, but the telegraph office was closed, and it was only through the courtesy of the company that the message did get through. If we had this telephone system, it would do away with any such thing as this. I am sure the system would be an immense advantage to the whole Bay, and I give my enthusiastic support to the petition.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of Public Schools under Methodist Boards, 1918.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries tabled annual Report of Marine and Fisheries Department for year 1918.

#### Notice of Question

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. the Finance Minister to lay on the table of the House (a) the number of ungranted applications for the Old Age Pension on file in the office of the accountant; (b) the name of each applicant; (c) the date of each application; (d) the district where each applicant resides.

**MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—In reply, Mr. Speaker, I beg to say that the information is being prepared, but if the Hon. member wishes to have the information tomorrow, he can obtain it by calling at the Department, where the accountant will provide him with all the information he asks.

**MR. WALSH:**—Cannot the information be sent up here? I will be too busy to call in.

**MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**

**TOMS:**—Yes, as soon as it is prepared.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn till Wednesday next at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, April 9th.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

**MR. GOODISON:**—I have three petitions to present, Mr. Speaker, from the town of Victoria. The first, sir, is for a well. There is no place in Victoria from which the people of this part of the settlement can get suitable water, and they ask that the sum of fifty dollars be granted to enable them to construct a well. The petition is signed by Michael Butt and a great many others. I have much pleasure in supporting this petition, and I hope that it will receive immediate attention.

The second petition is from the same place, and asks for the sum of two hundred dollars to construct a road. This road, sir, is very badly needed, to enable the people to get their logs to and from the only mill in that locality, and the petition has my hearty support.

The third petition is of more than ordinary importance. It is signed by practically every inhabitant of the town of Victoria, and asks for the erection of a post office. At the present time the post office is in the shop of one of the business men there, and the people object to this, as the work of the office has altogether outgrown the present facilities, and when we take into consideration the fact that in a town of twelve hundred people and that there is not a public building of any kind, and no officials except the postmaster, who has a salary of \$50 a year, I think this House will agree

that the request is not unreasonable. I have spoken to the Prime Minister about this matter, and from the encouragement he has given me I believe that when the matter is laid before the Government, they will accede to the request. I give this petition my earnest support, and hope that in the very near future, a suitable public building will be erected in this place for the postal and customs services.

**MR. MORINE:**—I beg to present a petition, Mr. Speaker, from the inhabitants of Salvage, and another from the inhabitants of Musgrave Town, both in the district of Bonavista. These petitions relate to the steamboat service in the bay, and are similar to others that I have presented here on the same subject. All that can be usefully said on this matter has been said. I understood the other day from the Prime Minister that it is the intention of the Government to see what can be done in this matter during the coming year, and to seriously consider if they cannot in some degree satisfy the demand for reform at once, and perhaps in a greater degree as soon as the number of steamers in the market makes it possible to extend a large service. The complaints made have already been so fully discussed that I will merely ask that these petitions be received and referred to the department of the Colonial Secretary for consideration.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—I beg to present a petition, Mr. Speaker, from the residents of South Branch. The petition is a very modest one, and asks for the sum of sixty dollars to cover the labor for the construction of a bridge. The petitioners undertake to furnish the timber gratuitously. I might say that when railroad connection was first made on the west coast there was no settlement within fifty miles of this important agricultural section of to-day, but there are now seventy five

families there, with large and fertile farms, and equipped with barns and everything necessary for the prosecution of agriculture. For the past nine or ten years these people have been shipping agricultural products in annually increasing quantities, and are largely instrumental in supplying Grand Falls, Millertown and the other lumbering districts along the line. They have even supplied St. John's with eggs and fresh meat. Now the settlement of South Branch is seriously handicapped by the fact that the Codroy river passes through the center of the settlement, and the people on one side can get their products to the railway station only by using improvised rafts, as there is not even a ferry. They are willing to find the timber if the Government will provide a sum of sixty dollars to cover at least a portion of the cost of construction. It is not fair that they should be so handicapped, and I think that in view of the value of their services to the country they are entitled to consideration. I have much pleasure in supporting the petition, and would ask that it be received and referred to the Department of Public Works.

**MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present petitions from the inhabitants of Little Heart's Ease, Heart's Delight, New Harbor and Whiteway on the subject of roads. The people of Little Heart's Ease ask for \$350, the people of New Harbor, \$50, Heart's Delight, \$350 and Whiteway \$300. The amounts asked for by the petitioners are absolutely necessary for the improvements which they desire and which in time must surely come. As a matter of fact, we are expecting to-day to keep up our roads, bridges and wharves with the same amount of money that we used twenty years ago. We need to-day a much larger grant, or our roads, bridges and wharves will

surely drop down and go out of existence altogether. Labor has gone up, material has gone up, and fifty dollars to-day is no better than fifteen dollars was four or five years ago. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary, if we wish to keep up our public works, to grant larger amounts. We cannot possibly keep up our roads with the insignificant amounts voted at the present time, especially as there is a great deal more traffic going over them than there was a few years back. Where a few years ago there would be an occasional hand cart or wheelbarrow, to-day every man has a little team of his own, and for that reason there is more traffic, and larger amounts must be spent to keep the roads in condition. I would request that these petitions be received and passed over to the department to which they relate.

**HON. MR. JENNINGS:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a number of petitions on various public matters in the district of Twillingate relating to the same matter which I presented a number of petitions a few days ago, and that is on the subject of railway extension. I trust that the day is not far distant when the conditions of the country will warrant the Government taking up this matter and grant conveniences for the far northern districts. There is only one question in asking for this matter and that is the question of ways and means.

I have also a petition from Herring Neck asking for a small sum of money for the erection of an iron railing leading to the public hall. It seems that it is very dangerous going over the hill at this place without an iron railing.

Another petition that I wish to present is from the inhabitants of Hedley's Harbour, Pilley's Island, asking for an annual grant for a main line road there. The repairing of main line roads in the northern districts

is a question some of us have to take up in the near future. I suppose the main lines in the southern districts are more properly attended to. That is they are older lines and probably get the early grants, but whether they are sufficient or not I am not prepared to say. However, in the district of Twillingate lots of new roads have been opened up lately, built on special grant, but having no annual grant thereon. That means that every now and again special grant will be asked for to repair the roads. These conditions will always remain until an annual grant for the upkeep of the roads is provided for.

I have also a petition from Bridgeport asking for a sum of money to make a public wharf there. Sometimes one will scratch his head and wonder where the money is coming from, at the same time these requests are no exaggerations of the needs of the people. They actually exist and in almost every case those people are doing without what some other locality are denying them the privilege of. I trust that the Government will consider favourably the request of those people.

I have also much pleasure in presenting another petition from the people of the district of Twillingate on an entirely different subject and dealing with the preservation of timber. I do not know very much how this matter affects other districts, but it is a vital question in the district I come from. A great amount of our timber resources has been used every year for coopering stock and other purposes and a large portion devastated by fire. In other words, about two-thirds of the timber around the coast have been destroyed. That means that only one-third of our timber areas is available and that is the reason why the preservation of our timber areas is all the more needful. There has been a lot of talk the past

few years about the cutting of pit props and one thing and the other. But what the petitioners are now dealing with and protesting against is the rinding of trees. It is stated that every year a number of trees, more or less, are cut down and perhaps from thirty or forty up to one hundred people are using these rinds. The practice has fallen off considerably during the past few years, but in the more southern districts fishermen make it a practice yet of rinding a large number of trees and this practice has resulted in denuding the coastline of any timber worth while. I know that there is about five thousand feet of timber rinded every year in the north alone and this rinding means an enormous amount of timber destroyed. These petitioners ask for the prohibition of the rinding and the sale of the rinds. Prohibition of the sale will meet the difficulty. I will support any measure that would prohibit the sale of rinds in the district of Twillingate. I ask that the petitions be received and referred to the department to which they relate.

**MR. WINSOR:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from Newtown, Templeman and Pinchard's Island asking that a light be erected on Penny's Rock on the South Side of Cape Freels. I think everybody who knows the place will admit that it is the worst place on this coast of the Island. If a light was erected there it would enable schooners to take their course from Gull Island. If a vessel is caught out there after dark and has not time to reach Shambler's Cove she has to spend the night in the Bay; whereas if a light was there she could put to an anchor. I hope that this petition receives the attention and consideration it deserves.

May I also present a petition, Mr. Speaker, from the inhabitants of Brookfield asking that the dredge be sent there sometime next summer.

The water is very shallow there and most of the schooners have to load aground. Last year Captain Kean just escaped an accident caused by loading a schooner aground. When half way across the Bay he discovered the rudder had started from the rudder case. If the dredge operated there for a short while schooners could then load without going aground. I would ask that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries give this matter his earnest attention.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**

—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of La Scie and Horse Islands. The petitioners ask that during the summer months some coastal steamer call there. I understand that during the summer season the Islands are quite a resort for fishermen. The petition is a most reasonable one and I would ask that the Honorable Colonial Secretary give this matter his best consideration.

**HON. MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES:**—Mr. Speaker, I have very much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition. On behalf of the petitioners, I may say that the Horse Islands is a place inhabited by a large number of our fishermen, who are deprived of the services of a mail boat. I think it would be only proper and right to have this benefit conferred upon the people there and it ought not be a difficult matter to have the "Earl of Devon" or any other steamer that may be plying on the White Bay service to, at least, make one call at the Horse Islands either going north or coming south, as it is only nine miles from La Scie and right in the road. I sincerely trust that the request will be acceded to.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Mr. Speaker, I have a petition, which is of more than ordinary interest, to present this afternoon and with which honorable mem-

bers are already somewhat familiar. You will remember that during the past week a public meeting of citizens was held and a series of Resolutions were passed and presented to His Excellency the Governor. They were to be presented to both branches of the Legislature and I have been entrusted to present them to this House. I shall ask the Clerk to read them.

"WHEREAS in the speech delivered at the opening of the present session of the Legislature the Government announced their intention of holding a General Election next month;

"AND WHEREAS no voters' lists have been taken for the purpose of holding a General Election as by law provided; ;

"AND WHEREAS the non-taking of the voters' lists and the holding of a General Election in the month of May owing to weather and climatic conditions will mean the disenfranchisement of thousands of electors of the country destroying the freedom of election and be subversive of one of the cardinal principles of democratic Government;

"AND WHEREAS the taking of a voters' list is absolutely essential to the right of the people to choose who shall represent them in the Government of the country;

"AND WHEREAS the very foundations of Government rest upon the freedom and purity of elections; "

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the citizens of St John's in public meeting assembled do strongly and in the most emphatic manner protest against the holding of a General Election next month, as the holding of same under conditions as now exist will mean the disenfranchisement of thousands of electors throughout the Island, thereby destroying the freedom of election so essential to the

proper Government of the country;

"BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of these Resolutions be presented to His Excellency the Governor and both branches of the Legislature;

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should it be necessary in the interest of the country that an election be holden in the month of May next, that His Excellency the Governor be asked to exercise the powers given him under the Election Act by which he is enabled to fix the date of nomination and that such date be not earlier than the 16th day of May next."

The substance of the petition, Sir, is to ask that the holding of the election be deferred till the fall; or failing that to fix the date of nomination not earlier than the 16th day of May in order to give the people of the country an opportunity of hearing the policies of the various opposing political parties, and to give them privilege of seeing who their representatives are likely to be.

The petitioners are the citizens of St. John's. So far as I can gather this is purely a spontaneous request on the part of the people. I have seen it stated that it has been the work of politicians; but as a politician and as one who would naturally be interested in such a petition I may say that personally, I know of no politicians who are behind this movement. This popular outcry has developed because of the extraordinary condition of affairs. The Government suddenly made up its mind that it was going to appeal to the country. With that position I do not know that I can quarrel. I have already stated my opinion here in this House, that should the Government think it was justified in appealing to the country I did not think there was any reason why that privilege should not be accorded. My objection to the election is that no

opportunity will be given to the people to give mature consideration to the issues to be placed before them or to weigh the qualifications of the candidates seeking their support. According to a statement made by the Hon. Mr. Ellis in the Upper Chamber yesterday afternoon it is the intention of the Government to have an election not later than the 8th of May. A day or two ago, if I understood correctly, the Prime Minister, stated here that no date had been set for the election and that the Government would delay the election to give the men who are overseas an opportunity to return home and cast their votes—that the Government did not propose disfranchising these men. Now, unless the Prime Minister is in possession of some information that is not yet public property, I do not see how these men are going to get an opportunity to vote, because as far as I can gather it is not possible for them to reach here by the 8th of May. A small number are now on the way; but there are twelve or fifteen hundred who will not be able to get home by the 8th of May. That is as I understand the position from the information I have been able to get. I think that is an important matter. These men have been good enough to go across the sea and take a great risk in a fight for our liberties, and it would be a shame if anything were done to deprive them of the privilege of expressing their opinion on public affairs. I raised that question the other day.

I also raised the question of candidates getting to their districts in sufficient time to see their constituents and put the issues fairly and squarely before them. There are districts in this country where this will not be possible. Take the District I have the honour to represent—the district of Burin. It is almost impossible to get around that District in one month, and

it is one of the easiest Districts on the south Coast, containing about forty or forty-five places. If you take one place each day you cannot cover it in the twenty-five or twenty-six working days in a month. The people will not have an opportunity of knowing what they are voting for; they will only know that they are voting for the party that is out against the party that is in, or vice versa. Now take a District like Burgeo and La-Poile or St. Barbe. It will be utterly impossible for a Candidate to canvass a District like that in a month. He will not even be able to meet the people, and if he is a new man they will have to take him on what they hear, for they will not even have the opportunity of seeing him. If they knew him they might not like his methods, but as it is they may have to vote for him because he represents the party that they favour. Now, I think that is unfair, and if the Government is so sure of coming back as it professes to be, there should be no possible objection to acceding to the request made here that the date of Nomination should not be earlier than the 16th of May. There is nothing against holding the election at the later date in May. As far as men from Conception Bay going to the Labrador they do not get away till the end of May or early in June. My honourable friend the Member from Harbour Main raised the point here the other day that the men from his district left for the Labrador early in May. I have been talking since then to one of the most prominent fish killers in that District and he told me that last year he did not leave till the 15th in June; and that most of the men do not leave till the end of May or the first of June.

**MR. WOODFORD:**—That used to be the custom; but the custom now is to get away as early as possible to secure good berths. I can mention

the name of one man who left on the 15th of May last year.

**MR. CURRIE:**—That may be. But it would be absurd to seriously contend that because one man left last year on the 15th of May to go to the Labrador that that would be an argument for holding the election during the first week in May, and why it should not be postponed till the 16th or 20th. I maintain, Sir, that the fishermen do not usually go down till the end of May or first week in June; and this year they will be even later on account of a backward Spring. There would be no disadvantage from delaying the date to that set by these Resolutions. Further there will be certain advantages, because if weather conditions are such as they are now it will be impossible to get to the polls at the earlier date. As far as my own District is concerned, I think there will be more people to vote at the later date. The Bank fishermen may be back from their first trip by that time. They will have spent a month on the Banks and be back outfitting for the second voyage; so that as far as Burin is concerned more people will get an opportunity of voting late in May than early in May.

It has always been the custom—except in the case of the Spring Election of 1909, and that was an exceptional election—to give at least five or six weeks notice of an election. Furthermore elections have always been held in the Fall and people have been aware months before that either during the last week in October or the first week in November an election would take place. In 1909 just twenty-eight days elapsed between the issue of the Proclamation and Polling Day. The Proclamation was issued on the 10th of April and Polling Day was on May 8th. But there were exceptional circumstances



that called for that election. There had been a General Election in the Fall of 1908 and the Government Party and the Opposition Party had each returned 18 men. Three efforts were made to meet this House and pass Supply, but it was impossible to elect a Speaker. An appeal to the constituencies was imperative; but the people knew what the appeal was about. There were no new policies and no new candidates. The issues were the same as in the Fall and the people knew what was taking place. At the present time the condition is entirely different. The country today does not know what the policy of my Right Honorable friend the Prime Minister is and they will not know; because it will be impossible in many cases for the mail even to reach distant sections of the country and take his Manifesto and show what his policy is. I submit that that is not a square deal and that my Right Honorable friend himself knows it is not a square deal, and I think if he had his own way about it he would allow lots of time—he would be willing to give this country sufficient time to hear what he has to say. Now the same applies to any party that may oppose the Government. The people will not have an opportunity of discussing any policy that may be placed before them.

These are a few of the reasons, Sir, why these Resolutions have emanated from the people, and surely the Government or whoever is responsible for fixing the date of the election is not going to cast aside a petition from such a number of people as does this petition which I have the honor to present this afternoon. I hope the Government will take cognizance of these Resolutions and give consideration of them. It is not often that the people express them-

selves in this way. We are always talking about this country having no spirit. We are always saying that the people have no public spirit. We are always saying that the people are indifferent—that they do not care, that they are satisfied to let things go on as they are. We are always claiming this, and yet when we find the people expressing their opinions and asking that they be heard their request is treated in some quarters with contempt. Now, if you want to encourage public opinion and public spirit in this country you must listen to requests like this. No harm can come to the Government by accepting the request of the petitioners. I have much pleasure in supporting the Resolutions.

**MR. MORINE:**—Mr. Speaker, I was not aware that this petition was to be presented this afternoon, therefore any remarks I make are dictated not by previous consideration but by impressions I have received this afternoon.

I think this petition calls for some observation. In the first place we must remember that it emanates from a public meeting of the citizens of St. John's, and in my opinion is the spontaneous outcome of public feeling, and is not merely the result of political manipulation. Therefore it is entitled to the utmost respect and consideration. The position which has now arisen, referred to by the Hon. introducer, is largely due to the change of party lines which has taken place during the past few years, resulting in the disorganised state of public opinion; so that today there is no regular organised party in opposition. I sympathise with the people who are moving in this matter rather than blame them. Such an exhibition of public feeling ought to have taken place long ago. That it has not is due to the fact that those who

should have assumed the role of leaders have not come forward and have not exercised the rights of leadership which were vested in them. Therefore the people felt that the time had come when they should act on their own initiative; and necessity compelling them to move in the matter, they adopted the expedient of public meeting; and these Resolutions were the spontaneous outcome of feelings long suppressed but now demanding vent. Therefore I say that this expression of their feelings is entitled to more than ordinary respect; and I feel it incumbent upon me to speak in its behalf although I have not had previous notice of its presentation.

There is one point that I consider I should dwell particularly upon, and that is in connection with what I consider is the mistake that has been made by those who have been moving in this matter. The mistake is a natural one for laymen to make, but one which constitutional lawyers would have set right at once. It is a mistake that hits at the root of democratic government, is altogether irreconcilable with the principles of liberal forms of administration, and is unfair to the gentleman who occupies for the time being the position of Governor of our Colony. Because the Election Act says that the Governor shall fix the day of the election and does not use the familiar expression "the Governor in Council," a belief has arisen in the minds of the public that in the exercise of this prerogative concerning elections the Governor in his personal capacity and as Governor can do as he pleases without the advice of his responsible Ministers. To accept such a position would be to run contrary to recognised constitutional law, and to violate one of the fundamental principles of democratic government,—a principle which the people of this country

four score years ago fought for under the name of representative government, and ten years later fought for under the name of responsible government. The fathers of the Liberal party, the fathers of the people of St. John's and throughout the country, who contended for representative government in 1843, and for responsible government a few years later, fought for the principle that in all things that concerned the affairs of this Colony, this Legislature elected by the people, and the Governor with a Council amenable to the will of this Legislature, should absolutely control all our affairs; and if we were now to concede that the Governor in his own proper person had the right to fix the days for the holding of an election, we would be giving up to that degree our system of representative and responsible government. I want to lay down here as a principle of democracy and of democratic government, a principle of liberal government, a principle for which I am prepared to fight and if necessary die, that in all that concerns this Colony, the Governor no matter who he may be must act under and in accordance with the advice of his Ministers; and if he does not so act, there is but one thing he can do, that is, to accept their resignation and appoint their successors, who in their turn may or may not accept responsibility for his dismissal of and his refusal to accept the advice of their predecessors. There is in constitutional doctrine, no moment of time, no interregnum, during which the Governor can act except upon the advice of the Ministers of the Crown. If, for instance, the Governor fixed a day for the election otherwise than upon the advice of his Ministers, and could not get an incoming Government to accept responsibility for his act, he would have to be recalled. That has been

recently laid down in a case in Tasmania, where the Secretary for State writing to the Governor in reference to an election, and having the subject brought up by an incoming administration, clearly enunciated the principle that the Governor of the country in all things must follow the advice of his constituted advisers. I speak thus for two reasons. Firstly, because it is only fair to the present Governor of this Colony that he should be freed from any sense of personal responsibility in this or any other like matter. He has no power, no authority to do otherwise than act as I have stated. I point this out in justice to him, and also in fairness to those gentlemen who approached him the other night, that His Excellency in whatever he did in the premises was acting not in his personal capacity but in the performance of his bounden duty—obeying the advice of his Ministerial advisers. Secondly, in the interests of liberal Government, in the interests of democracy and of responsible Government, in the interests of everything for which the fathers of this country fought eighty years ago, namely, that everything that concerns this Colony must be done by a Governor responsible to this Legislature through his Ministers. The present Government must accept full responsibility for what the Governor has done; and it is a mistake politically and tactically, to put the Governor in such a position—to allow the Government to say that he did it and not they. The Governor did not do it; the Government did it. Sir W. F. Lloyd as Prime Minister is the person most responsible; and I believe that that responsibility he will in no wise shirk. That is a constitutional doctrine, and I hope it will not be forgotten in this country that loves liberal principle and democratic free and responsible Government, by

the people, for the people and of the people.

As far as my district is concerned it does not make any difference what election date is set, as many of the people whom I represent will be at home early in May as in November. The real difference it will make, will be that the later the date the more time the candidates would have for visiting the various settlements. To enable that to be done would be very desirable; but as I said on the first day, and I want to repeat it now, the main objection to my mind is not because there will be lack of opportunity to vote. We have been given figures here that as far as the number of votes is concerned the 1908-9 elections show that just as many voted in May 1909 as in November 1908. But that is begging the question. What I contend is, not that the exercise of the franchise will be restricted, but that the people will be denied the opportunity of exercising the franchise intelligently. Some people think that it makes no difference how many meetings are held to discuss political matters, nor how widespread the canvassing may be, the electors will vote in any case. But that, in my opinion, is going on the assumption that the people are not intelligent. Now I hold that the electors of this country, although not in some instances highly educated, are highly intelligent, and I think some opportunity should be given them of hearing the arguments of candidates and a free discussion of public matters, so that they may arrive at an intelligent conclusion as to how they should vote on polling day. This is to my mind most important and in the interests of electors and candidates should not be overlooked.

On that ground I am opposed to a Spring election: not because one day

in May is set instead of another, because this is a matter of detail; not because of the fear that fewer votes will be cast; but because no opportunity is afforded the people of meeting and discussing the manner in which the affairs of the country have been administered, the problems that beset the country and the best way to meet them—discussions which should be based upon information laid before them; and I think that privilege will be denied them unless the election is held in the Fall. What happened in 1909 makes no difference.

The fact remains that physical conditions make it impossible for the candidates to get around amongst their constituents, particularly in the Northern districts, in preparation for a Spring election. My district requires at least six weeks' canvass. With a steamer and modern conveyances it is possible to do it fairly well in four weeks. In certain seasons of the year it is impossible to do it at all. I for one will not attempt to do it in what I would consider an adequate fashion unless the proper opportunity is given me. I would have to apologise to the people for my inability to get to them. It will be impossible to discuss the various phases of the campaign with them; and consequently they will not be enabled to exercise an intelligent franchise. There is another reason as well. The present Government has been in power a little over a year. How they have exercised that power has not been explained to us. We have seen various reports in the newspapers but we have had no information laid before us in this House. My Rt. Hon. friend the Prime Minister said "the people know us." I think what he means is that the people have been told a lot of things about them. The way the people should know them would be through

the authenticated accounts of their administration. It is unfortunate that neither in public nor in this House has there been an opportunity of discussing in this way the affairs of Government during the past twelve months. I heard a gentleman in the Upper House say he believed the Government deserved well of the people during the past twelve months. That may be so; but the fact remains that whether fortunately or unfortunately, the electors of this country, the people who own this country, the people who have the right to say the last word in the affairs of the country, the people who are to be the jury of last resort, have had no opportunity of intelligently discussing affairs that concern them most intimately. My Rt. Hon. friend says he is prepared to issue a manifesto to explain his policy. But what belief can be placed upon a manifesto? What opportunity will be given the people in public meeting to discuss that manifesto and hear the arguments for and against it? Take Green Bay, what opportunity will there be for the people around that Bay to hear such a manifesto discussed in an adequate fashion. He knows there will be none, and in that sense any election that takes place in May is a virtual disenfranchisement of the people in this district. I think it would have been better if that fact had been considered, and that fact would have been considered if that meeting had not been the spontaneous outburst of people who have had little political experience. The public ought to be sympathised with because those who ought to be leaders have not come forward as leaders in this matter.

I heard yesterday in the Upper House an argument which I had heard used in this House but had not taken much notice of, but I now suggest it to the Prime Minister. It is

with reference to the money bills which have to be passed. As I understand it, it is the intention of the Government to hold this election and open the House in June to pass the money bills. That is going to press matters very closely. I do not know what arrangements have been made, but I can see the possibility of disaster following a course like that. Suppose the election results as it did in 1908; what will then become of our financial position? Suppose the returns cannot be got in; suppose some of the returns are lost so that we cannot get the House together. These are not merely visionary, they are possibilities. I am sure we are all interested in having the financial position of this country maintained; and I would suggest that the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister introduce a Bill before we go away, which I feel sure will be passed unanimously by the House, as was the Election Act, giving him power to deal with the financial situation that faces us next June. Then no matter what the results may be, we need not be in fear and trembling as to unforeseen contingencies.

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:** — Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to unnecessarily delay the House, but I cannot let the opportunity pass without expressing my views on the resolution before the Chair. As a representative of a section of the City I may say that I have read reports of and have watched proceedings relative to the public meeting recently held, discussed this afternoon, and I have been aware of the attendance of a delegation from that meeting upon His Excellency the Governor the other night. I have been deeply interested and have noted what has taken place; and have come to the conclusion that those attending that meeting are entitled to consideration and sympathy. I would not be a fitt-

ing representative of the City if I did not in my representative capacity raise my voice in protest against disparaging these who have been actuated by proper and correct motives. I do not think it is to be desired, and I do not think the Government desired that people who exercise their rights as citizens should be in any way disparaged or in any way depreciated. A deputation consisting of citizens waited on His Excellency the other night. I saw the parade. I passed it on the street; and I was very much impressed with the numbers and representative capacity of those who composed it. They went as orderly citizens; I knew most of them; recognized many of them as friends and supporters of mine; and they were going to perform a duty which I think they had a perfect right and legitimate.

As to the response to the resolutions, I think the Government had a perfect right to use their own mind on the subject. As to an election this Spring, if I had the choice we would not have one. I would have been in favor of a Fall election. But as I am not a member of the executive, if I had had a voice in the decision I would have had said, if we can carry on till the Fall so much the better; for the reasons that it will give the Government a greater opportunity to lay the facts of their administration before the people, and the people themselves a greater opportunity to digest these facts and decide how they will act. However, the Government no doubt, are in possession of information which in their opinion makes an election in the Spring a necessity. I heard the Prime Minister explain the situation from the view point of the Government. I have heard the Finance Minister explain it from the view point of our financial position; and I am satisfied as to the sincerity of their explanation. As far as St. John's

West is concerned, I do not think it makes much difference what time the election takes place. It is just as easy and just as convenient to hold an election in May as it would be in October or November. Therefore personally or politically I am not affected by the date upon which the election will be held. A large number of my constituents have protested against an election being held as early in May as suggested, and asked that it be postponed from the 16th to 26th of May. I do not think it would make a difference to 10 voters in St. John's West whether the 16th or 26th of May is decided upon. I think the people would vote on the merits of the case on either date. Therefore I am as well prepared to go to an election the first of May as I would be on the end of May. Some of those who organized the recent demonstration did so for the purpose of exploiting their own political designs; but many of those who attended were representative citizens and were there exercising their rights of citizenship freely and fearlessly. They say they want the election postponed for other reasons. If so I do not know what these reasons are except that the petitioners are in sympathy with other parts of the country which perhaps are not in the same happy position as the districts of St. John's East and West. This House, particularly on this side, is representative of the distant parts of the country and the members who represent these Districts ought to know the wishes of their constituents. They have been elected by large majorities; and have given their assent to the holding of the election in the month of May.

That is their business and they as the people's representatives are the ones that should know last. If there was any serious objection or any attempt made that would seriously disenfranchise the people, of their re-

spective districts they will have to bear the responsibility. Now, Mr. Speaker, the political situation in this Country to-day is peculiar. The political situation in this country for the last few years has been a peculiar one.

In 1913 we went to the country under the leadership of Sir E. P. Morris on the one hand, and the Leadership of Sir Robert Bond on the other, and the Government of Sir E. P. Morris was returned to office.

The following year the great war broke out, Newfoundland in common with every other part of the Empire had early realized that she had to take her part in the struggle. In the early days of the war, if you remember, the first thing was to call out the Naval Reservists, then steps were taken to organize volunteer corps to the credit of the young manhood of the country, be it said, they flocked to the colours in such numbers and beyond all expectation that instead of the 500 men called for it was no time before we had 2000. It is not necessary for me to repeat here this evening the record and fame they brought on this country. Not alone the men of the regiment, but the men of the Royal Naval Reserve, in the dark days of war, Newfoundland in common with every other part of the Empire was faced with a tremendous and serious responsibility. As a sea-faring and maritime people, we were subject to the great onslaught of the German submarine that struck terror into the whole commercial world. Isolated as we were. Cut off from the main land. This, in my opinion, was the most serious and terrorising menace of the whole struggle.

In those early days not alone did we respond with men. Not alone did we respond with soldiers and sailors but we depleted ourselves and our fine fleet of ships. We depleted ourselves of our sealing fleet, and of every pos-

sible ton of tonnage that could be supplied to give our Allies assistance for carrying on the war. Sufficient stress has not been laid on that feature of the country's war work. This country did strip itself for the Allies, because we were loyal. Because we wanted our Empire and the Allies to succeed. In stripping ourselves, we made ourselves poor indeed. Isolated as we were, it is not easy to contemplate how a country could have got over the difficulty that had to be faced. First the Bruce went, then the Lintrose, two splendid modern and well appointed and furnished ships, ice-breakers, used for the carrying of our mails and passengers between this and the main land. Then the Nascopie, Beothic and Adventure were all given up. Our Government felt it their duty not to hamper their transfer. No other part of the Empire could produce them. No other part of the Empire had the vessels that were so badly needed in the White Sea, to bring munitions and supplies to Russia. Newfoundland gave all she had and that left her poor indeed. The submarine menace came and I remember, how in the dark days of 1917 when this country was faced with a frightful situation. In March 1917 I was in the position of knowing how things stood. I occupied the office of Colonial Secretary and in the absence of the Prime Minister I was acting in his stead, and from what I saw and from what I know, I realized that this Country was faced with a frightful situation and the Government of to-day felt itself burdened with responsibility. In the early days of April when the Prime Minister returned, I advised him that the best thing to be done would be to form a Coalition Government. They had formed a Coalition Government in Great Britain and the time had come for this country to consider the same question. It was not done for any ul-

terior purpose but for the safety and welfare of the country. That all parties might work together for the one end. We might all pull together in the one boat, to get the country over the disasters that threatened her on every side.

At that time there was not a ton of salt in the country. Not a single steamer available. I might be asked how the Coalition Government would remedy that. It may not remedy that. I submit but if we put our case so strongly before the British Authorities, I argue the case was made very much stronger if we were unanimously going to carry on the Government during the war. The prospect of no salt arriving here and the prospect of our fishermen being unable to prosecute their voyage and the prospect of even if they did get their salt, not having tonnage to remove their fish made such more imperative.

Coal was dealt out by the bucket full. People had to go down to the Government Engineer's office and get an order for a quarter ton of coal (the proverbial pauper's dole) but nothing better could be done, safety had to be preserved at all cost. These were some of the problems that had to be faced in the early days of 1917. Eventually Sir E. P. Morris, now Lord Morris and the then leader of the opposition Sir Wm. Lloyd formed a Coalition Government. A Coalition that was subscribed to by every member of this house, and up to the Fall of the year Sir Edward Morris was the leader. After his subsequent resignation the present leader of the Government took charge.

I have no desire to stay in political life one hour longer than the people of this country or the people of this town want me to, but while I am here, and while I occupy a position of responsibility, I will endeavour to do my duty, and when I am relieved of

my duty, I will be quite satisfied. I will endeavour to do my duty to my country and the people of my country. I have yet to know any occasion that I ever went back on that principle. This House is composed of representatives who at the last election were practically at each others throats, and it reflected very much to their credit that these men were big enough to come together and put their shoulders to the wheel, to tide the country over a period of trial and distress.

People are too ready to take the individual as an instance of the Government. It doesn't matter to the country as long as we have in charge of its affairs business-like legislators. Talk about policies, talk about manifestoes, talk about individuals. The concern of the country today is its future, and how its future is going to be conserved. It is all very well with the prosperity that has been ours for the past two years to say that everything is going well and consider we are on the pig's back. It is all very well to live in a fool's paradise, but they have got to go back and consider the other side of the story.

There is no country that has continuous prosperity, there is no country that has had uninterrupted good times. There are countries that have had prosperity away beyond what we have had today, who have had the sunshine of heaven pouring on them, but who are today in the sloughs of despair, poverty and want. I don't mean to prophesy that that is going to happen in this country, and I don't think it will happen in this country, because I believe that we will always be prosperous or at least fairly so. But we must remember, Mr. Speaker, that for the past year or so we have had enormous prices for our products, never equalled before in the history of the country, and it

is unquestionably a fact that these prices cannot continue. The earning power of our people will be reduced, if the price of our product is reduced, and the question that strikes the thinking man is this: have our people been conserving their money, have they saved and provided for the rainy day, or have they spent up to the limit. These are the questions that the thinking man of today is asking himself, and he is wondering what is going to be the upshot.

You will remember that the Minister of Finance said the other day that the amount that will be required during the coming year for war purposes will amount to nearly \$5,000,000.00. Five millions of dollars will have to be spent during the coming year for the purpose of paying off our soldiers. These claims will have to be met, and in addition to that, we are piling up a pension roll on account of the war that will go on for years and years, of at least \$750,000 per annum. \$750,000 is looked upon as a capitalisation of \$15,000,000. In addition to that is the increased interest on our public debt, which has unavoidably and rapidly increased since the war broke out. The public debt of this Colony will be increased by at least 30% over what it was before the war. Then the pay of those in the public service has been increased, and the cost of maintaining all the public institutions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are problems that have to be solved, these are problems that have to be adjusted, and adjusted very quickly. The Government during the past year or two has turned many sharp corners. We in this country have been most fortunate, more I believe than any other part of the British Empire or even the civilised world, in our war experience. People do not realise or know what has happened in other



parts of the world in connection with the war. We have not suffered from any shortage of food or clothing, and that in view of the fact that we live on an island, away from the main land, where transportation is difficult, and where it looked at one time as if we would be cut off entirely from all supplies. Those who have had to look after the shipping problems of this country have, I consider, accomplished a great work, which will rebound to their credit in years to come. The merchants on Water St., with all their combined influence, were absolutely impotent, absolutely unable to handle the situation, absolutely unable to get over the difficulty. They had to come to the Government and ask the Government to help them out. They had to put themselves in the hands of the Government, not alone so that they would be able to get their salt and their supplies, but in order that they would be able to get their fish to market; and as I said before, we have great cause for thankfulness that we have come out of this war so well. Outside of the suffering and the loss and the anxiety suffered by the mothers and fathers, of the sons who have fought and died, our people have not suffered anything like those in other places. In Great Britain the people (and not alone the "common" people, so often referred to, but all the people) have sacrificed every comfort, have sacrificed their homes, have sacrificed their pleasure, have sacrificed their luxuries, and have lived in a way that it was not anticipated they could exist, in order to try and help out the country and the Empire in the time of stress. Now, Mr. Speaker, we are faced in this country with some of the after war problems, we are faced in this country with a situation that is not acute yet, but will be acute; and I have no doubt that when the pensions for our sol-

diers have got to be found, and when our staple may be tumbling down in price, then the time will come that the statesman and the representatives of the people will have to show that they are able to handle the situation; and I say, with all respect to the men on both sides of the House, that I hope when the new House meets here, we will have, not alone representatives of the mercantile people, not alone representatives of the fishermen, but also representatives of the laboring classes of the country. I see, in the district of St. John's West, hundreds and hundreds of men pouring out of the dock, out of the factories, out of the machine shops and out of the stores, men earning their bread by the sweat of their brow, and following on the principle being advocated by Mr. Coaker, that the fishermen should have representation in this House, a principle with which I have been thoroughly in accord from the first day the representatives of the fishermen have come into this House, on which occasion I stated that I was proud to see them come into this House as representatives of that great body of men, I think every class should have representation here. I think this country needs a co-ordination of interests, so that one interest will be looked after as well as another.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that it will be a fortunate thing, when the next session of this Legislature meets, that we will see representatives of the labor interest on the floor of the House. We know there will be problems. The question of capital and labor is one that will require early and close attention, and many difficulties are going to arise in relation to same. I was very much struck with the idea that a bureau of labor, or council of labor, should be founded, to handle all matters relating to questions of labor. The Prime Minis-

ter suggested a department of labor, better again, so that the workingman may have some organisation which will go far in preventing those ruinous strikes that so often bring loss and trouble on both employer and employee.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to have it understood that I am saying this for election purposes. I don't care whether it has any effect or not. I am sincere in my desire to serve the future interests of the people of the country, and now is the time to do something to obviate trouble in days to come. Problems—the future is bristling with them, and it is time that the people realised that fact and got away from the pettiness that is so often a feature of the press of the country. Why, it is disheartening when one goes abroad, and persons will say, "What's wrong with your press? they are doing your country more harm than good." (hear! hear!) Your country is suffering today through the misrepresentations and unfair criticisms of your public men and others, who are desirous and willing to work in the interests of your country." It is deplorable, and I only hope that the time is coming when the larger issues will be given the requisite attention and petty, personal matters and petty, party politics occupy an obscure place in our local press.

We want to live in this country, we want our children to live in this country and made decent citizens and fit men to carry on the business and public life of the country. I think it is an unfortunate and deplorable situation to see some of our public men slandered and abused and vilified by the press; I am not referring to any particular section of the press, but speaking generally. We should remember that there are grave issues at stake and great problems that have

to be met and solved. The future welfare of our soldiers and sailors, their re-establishment in civil life, the building up of industries and the placing of these men so that their lot may be better than they had been before. It will be too late when the men are in need and when the men are walking the streets unemployed, and it will be too late when the men leave the country to make a living in some foreign land to make that land richer and us poorer by their absence.

Whether we are going to have an election this Spring or whether we are going to have an election this Fall, or whether it is going to be held on the 1st of May or on the 20th or on the 30th of May, it is a matter of indifference to me. The only thing I hope is that the Government have decided well and right and that they have decided in the best interests of the country. But I hope that the electorate will realise that it is the business and duty of every man and the prerogative and right of every man to go to the polls and vote fearlessly and fairly and mark his ballot for those whom he thinks best capable and suitable to govern the affairs of this country. As to the outcome, it is not a question of party or side so long as this country is looked after by the best men and the best organization. The same principle that applies to a government applies to a private business. When a man opens a new business in the community, he does not pick up every man that offers for his manager, but he goes and gets the best he can so that his business is properly safeguarded and he takes advantage of every opportunity to make his business prosperous. And it is the business of the people of this country to-day to wake up to the fact that they have to choose their Managers for the next four years.

The honourable member for Bonavista, Mr. Morine, made some references about the policy of the Government. The policy of the National Government was to carry on the war. That is true. We, Sir, did not sink our political convictions. We merely formed up as a Government to carry on the War. That Government has carried on the war and evidently the people were satisfied to let them continue, but the members of the National Government proposed to go to the polls before dealing with some of the war problems that have to be solved. I do not see whether there is any great issue at stake. There may be some personal objections to some individuals of the Government occupying prominent positions or they might be some objections to certain individuals predominating the Government. As a member of the National Government the past two and a half years, I have not seen any attempt by any individual or any one part to predominate the other part of it. It may have existed since I left the Executive Council, but when I was a member of that body I never saw any individual trying to control it. If there ever was any attempt to do so I do not think it would be tolerated for one moment. Therefore, I say, Mr. Speaker, that this country will have an opportunity of deciding who shall govern them. I am glad that Mr. Morine this afternoon laid down the principle that His Excellency the Governor has not the power to veto or the right to fix the date of the election. I think if that was conceded it would be retrogressive step as far as our independence is concerned. However much we might respect His Excellency, I do not think such power should rest with him. The tendency of the day is for the Dominions to have more independence, to manage their own affairs and that tendency is encouraged by the greatest British Statesmen of the

day. Surely then we have intelligence enough, and citizenship sufficient in this community for the people to pick out those whom they should have to govern them, whether they belong to one party or the other, or whether the Government is national in its character or co-operative. It will be unfortunate unless one side or the other comes back from the polls without a substantial majority, as a strong government will be most desirable. I regret I am unable to take issue with the Government on their decision with regard to the holding of the election. I believe that they have decided this question according to their judgment in the best interests of the country and I hope that when the time comes for the election that the best men will win.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**

—Mr. Speaker, I would not wish it to be imagined for one moment that any disrespect was shown to any petition presented to this House or presented to His Excellency the Governor or the Government. This petition came from electors who are part and parcel of the Government of the Colony, therefore, it would be highly improper, as expressed in the petition, if it did not receive the utmost, fairest and fullest consideration. But Sir at the same time, whilst fair and full consideration should be given to the petition of these citizens and whilst the very prayer of the petition itself means consideration and having reviewed all the circumstances, I wish to point out that the matter was considered and considered fully by the Government and by it the Governor was fully advised. The Governor was fully advised that the policy of the Government was to go to the country in the Spring immediately this House was closed. This matter was discussed by this Legislature twelve months ago. It was then the desire and the expressed wish of the Opposition that

this Assembly should be extended up to the 30th day of this month and they now have to live up to it. What further notice should be given to any political party or body of men than that an election would be forthcoming immediately after the closing of this session of this Legislature. And it was not our own action that this House should extend the life of the present Government only up to April 30th. and our intention was not carried out but we were forced to the position of accepting a term ending on the 30th of April. Now, Sir, that Act gave notice to the country of a Spring election. At that time, as I say, the War was raging in all its fury, indeed the most desperate straits of the war existed and continued to exist for a considerable time. When five months afterward the war came to an end and an Armistice was signed and we had no desire to come into this House and risk another refusal for an extension of the term of the Legislature from the Upper Chamber of the Legislature. I, for one, was not prepared to advise the Government or Governor to risk a second refusal and risk the taunt that we were trying to keep ourselves in office for another six months because we were afraid of an election in the Spring. We are ready now, Sir, and we are seeking the earliest opportunity of giving those who do not agree with us the first chance of voting against us. Yet we are censured for according that opportunity to them. I, Sir, am not craving for a long political life: I am not anxious to sit in this place for an indefinite time or to continue bearing the burden of Government, for, Sir, it is a burden which is by no means attractive, and I predict that whoever undertakes that duty, will have a most onerous task during the next few years. It is not a duty that any person can undertake with a light heart. I, for one, did not undertake

it with a light heart, and I will be glad to be relieved of it; but, Sir, I will be relieved of it in a proper way. I will be relieved by the votes of this House or those who sent or can send members to this House. I have been given the confidence of this House and those who gave that confidence can take it away, and until that confidence is taken away, no matter what I feel about the difficulties of the situation or about the onerous task before me, I am prepared as a citizen of Newfoundland and as a member of this Empire to do my duty; but immediately an opportunity is afforded me of being relieved of responsibility and the duties I now undertake, I shall be glad of the chance. There is no member of this Government who does not know my sentiments. I have often expressed them. The task of conducting this administration in these times, or any administration which will follow, is an exceedingly difficult one, and no man can lightly take it up, nor having taken it up can he lightly lay it down. There is a proper way of taking it up and a proper way of laying it down, and I am prepared for either.

Now, Sir, it has been said in connection with this petition which I said has received our fullest sympathy and fullest consideration that we are anxious to get a snap verdict right away. No, Sir, we are not. We are anxious to do our duty. The whole trouble, Sir, is this: There are certain gentlemen rightly or wrongly who want to turn us out. They have been asleep for twelve months. They have never organised a party and even today they have not found a leader and so want this indefinite time to organise a party and find a leader. That is their default, not ours. If the country does not know our record for the past two years, it has the record of those who

went before us for the four years previous. My friend, the member for St. John's West, the Minister of Militia, already referred to the Coalition Government. Many reasons were put up to me as Leader of the Opposition by those who wanted to keep me from joining the then Administration—political reasons and party reasons—why I should not be a consenting party to any such Coalition Government. Why, they said I was very foolish to take on the burdens and sins and shortcomings of the Administration of the past eight years. They said, You are going to risk your political future. I said, Yes I am, but I do not care. At the present time we are engaged in a war that causes all kinds of extraordinary difficulties for Newfoundland, and the difficulties are becoming greater and greater every day. Our Empire is in a most critical position, and it is a pretty poor spirited public man who puts personal considerations first in these dark days and cannot sink his politics and take his chance of doing good. I said I am prepared to take these risks and if they overburden me I shall go down, but I shall go down not for want of trying to do my duty to the land of my adoption and trying to do my duty to my King and Country.

We formed a Coalition. The Government we joined had come into existence in 1913. It had been in existence for about four years. It had been in existence eight years altogether, but under the last mandate it had been in existence about four years and it was time to go to the country and secure a fresh mandate, but, Sir, times of great stress and great difficulties came along, and in view of these conditions it was decided not to go to the Country but to carry on—to adopt the motto of the Navy and carry on—no matter what happened. That we tried to do and that we did do. We felt

that no matter what the consequences were we would carry on and do our duty as far as our lights led. We would have gone to the country this time last year and it was arranged to go to the country this time last year. We wanted a mandate from the country. We wanted to give the country a chance of saying if it thought we had done right in forming this Coalition Government. If the country could get better men or thought they could get better men, then they could give them the Government. But, Sir, as I have already intimated, this time last year was a very critical time, the time of the darkest days of the War. About that time I went over to England and in daily consultations with those in authority and I am able to tell you what the feeling was there in those days only twelve months ago. The Imperial Military Staff were in the utmost concern whether either the British or French could hold out till the fall or whether they would not be separated and one of them smashed. The British could not give another inch and they were in danger of annihilation by the large German Army under Prince Rupprecht. They had been driven back a little earlier, and, as they were too near the sea coast, they had now to make a stand. As I have already intimated the workshops and mines and every industry where men could be found had been combed out and every possible man put into the Army and every possible means of transportation was being utilised to try and get the Americans over. The great question of the Military Staff at that time was to so shape their policy as to end the war as soon as possible. It was thought impossible to end the war in 1918 and it was doubtful if we could get a favourable decision in 1919. The general impression was the war would not end till 1920. It may be imagined, Sir, with what surprise the collapse of the ene-

my was received five months ago and what a momentous change it brought about, and, Sir, that change affected us. We, as a Government, could not come to the Legislature to ask, because of the War raging, for an extension of Parliament. The War has been over five months and we do not now ask for an extension, we prefer to face the electorate at once, as we cannot allow this Legislature to go out of existence on April 30th unless we are prepared to put another legislature there to carry on its work and that is what we purpose to do and that is what we must do under the decision of the Legislature and that cannot be a surprise to anybody because everybody in the country has had twelve months notice to that effect.

If the electors think we have not been doing right, then they will have the chance of saying so and effectuating the remedy. The evidence we are going to be judged by is not some paper document; we are not a new party; our record is not unknown to them; and we are going to be either returned or put out on the record of what we have done the war period. Now, Sir, I have tried to lay before the House the advice that was tendered to His Excellency the Governor by myself and my colleagues. If it meets with the dissatisfaction of any of the electors, well, we have tried to give them the first opportunity and the earliest chance of disapproving of it by casting their vote against us.

**MR. WALSH:**—Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of making any lengthy reference to the petition before the House, as I think I have already made my position before the House clear upon this subject; but I notice that the prayer of the petitioners has not received that serious attention from the last two speakers particularly, to which in my opinion it is entitled. The Minister of Militia has delivered

what to my mind is his political funeral oration. It is very rarely that that mournful duty is performed by the corpse; but I think it has been fittingly rendered in this case, and rounded off very appropriately the ceremonies in connection with his obsequies-to-be.

The Hon. member for Bonavista, Mr. Morine, has stated that in his opinion the Governor, from the constitutional standpoint could do nothing else than what he did with reference to the resolutions submitted to him by the public meeting the other night; and that His Excellency in all matters of that sort had to be guided absolutely by the advice of his responsible ministers. That is as it should be; and with those remarks I entirely concur. But I do not think that the present Government as constituted, represents what is meant by the term "responsible ministers". With all due respect to the Leader of the House, he was not elected Prime Minister by the voice of the people; the present Government was not put in power by the mandate of the people. He and they occupy their positions in this House by what I consider a piece of political jobbery. The Hon. Member for St. John's West said that the amalgamation or coalition took place with the unanimous consent of the House. I disagree with that statement; it did not receive my consent. For the few months that I sat on the other side under the leadership of Dr. Lloyd, he was only acting leader. I always understood that Sir Edward Morris would return and assume the leadership; and it was only in January 1917 that I and the public learned of the disgraceful deal which had taken place by which the Government of the country was handed over to a group of men not elected to that position by the will of the people. In connection with the response made by His Excellency to the petition presented to him the other evening, I would

like to say, with all deference to His Excellency, that in my opinion his position should be made more secure; that he should be so circumstanced that he would not be even thought to be dependent on the friendship or sympathy of any section of our country or Government; and one way in which to bring about that state of affairs would be to have his salary paid by the Imperial authorities. For instance I have been told that His Excellency participated in the recent increase of salary given to the civil service and has had his salary raised to \$16,000. I do not know whether that is so; but I would ask the Rt. Hon. the Premier if it is correct.

**RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER:**—I do not know. You had better ask the question in the usual way.

**MR. WALSH:**—That is rather evasive. You say you do not know; yet you also say that the affairs of the Government are well known to the country. In my opinion they are a closed book. Why are not the accounts tabled? Why does not this House know of the condition of affairs? Take one instance: it is a notorious fact that for the last year or two the means of transportation in this country have been allowed to go down until now, in the words of the Hon. Col. Secy. "transportation over the Reid Nfld. Co's railway is neither safe for life or property". Has any protest been entered by the Government in this matter? I have heard of none. During the past couple of years a certain section of the public press has criticised the Reid Nfld. Co. for the indifference shown the public; but since that section of the press has linked up with the present Government its criticism has ceased.

As regards a Spring election, I am in hearty accord with the suggestion. The Government is mistaken if they think they have taken me by surprise.

But I do not think the same thing applies to other sections of the country. With the principle that because some of the larger constituencies of the country desire a Spring election, we should therefore have one, I disagree. The gentlemen who speak that way are representatives of some of the larger Northern districts; but they are more. They are in fact the representatives of a large corporation or political organization, with councils in which for the past twelve months the political machinery has been working night and day; and it is not fair to the other sections of the country to take these districts to go before their constituents unprepared and unprovided with data from the public accounts and records of the Government. And it is not fair to their constituents to expect them to pass on a political issue without having all the evidence from which to form an intelligent decision before them. I think if the Government is sincere in its desire to take the public into its confidence, the first thing it should do is to table the public accounts for the past year. Never mind getting on the floor of this House and giving a flowery speech bubbling over with expressions of patriotism, 'love of Empire and devotion to the cause of the people. That is what has been done. We have heard a lot about our returned soldiers. But what are they going to do to back up their statements. We have heard of the promises that have been made returned soldiers; the re-establishment schemes that are going to place them in comfort and usefulness the rest of their days; and the broad programme that was to be arranged for the care and sustenance of the dependents of those who have paid the Supreme Sacrifice. But what has actually happened? Have these promises been carried out. I know of instances where treatment was accorded returned soldiers and dependents of soldiers who died on ac-

tive service, not alone not in keeping with these much-heralded protestations of sympathy and concern, but positively disgraceful. That is not the kind of return these men want or deserve. They do not want flowery speeches about love of country and its defenders nor richly adorned descriptions about trips abroad. But what they do want is common British justice and fair play, and nothing more. Whatever little sympathy the Government can expect from the electorate can only be obtained by taking the public into its confidence. The petition before the House this afternoon emanates from the people. It was not engineered by politicians. Personally I had nothing to do with the meeting. It is true I saw the parade, and if I was interested it was only from the desire to obtain some information about it. The request for deferring the election comes from three thousand free and independent electors; and their desire is entitled to the utmost consideration—far more than has been by the Hon. gentlemen who have put forward the Government's view of the matter. Personally again, I am willing to have a Spring election; in fact I want a Spring election. I wanted an election after I had been four years in this House. When petitions were being forwarded by the F.P.U. calling for an election I thought it was only right to have one to carry out the principle that at least every four years the public should have the right of exercising their franchise. In 1913 the public knows that I was prepared for an election; and in 1919 I am similarly well prepared. As far as I am concerned I do not care if polling day were to-morrow; I am ready for it.

Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in giving the resolution presented this afternoon, my hearty support.

**HON. MR. COAKER:**—Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on the subject discussed this afternoon.

First I would like to point out that if there are to be any sufferers through the holding of a Spring election, it will be the extreme Northern districts—Twillingate, Fogo, and a portion of Bonavista Bay. St. Barbe has already been provided for by allowing polling day for that district to be held at a later date than the other districts. But in the main the Northern Districts are the ones most likely to suffer from an early election. Yet like my friend from Placentia who says he has been ready for an election the past two years, I would like to say that in Twillingate we also have been ready and waiting for an election; and we are as ready to fight to-morrow as we would be next November. We want to give the people a chance of saying whether they want to keep us in power or put us out—and to give them that chance without delay. That is why we in Twillingate want to have an election early in May. Twillingate sends a large fleet of vessels to the Straits and the French Shore; and the fleet leaves just as soon as ice conditions permit. I have known a fleet of 100 vessels to leave the South Side of Twillingate as early as the first of May. In 1909 if the election had taken place on the 15th instead of on the 8th of May 500 men in Twillingate would have been unable to vote. Now there is no reason why we should not have an election early in May—at all events in Twillingate. If the ballot boxes and other material for the elections are to be distributed around the North Side of the Bay, it will require at least two weeks to do so, as it must be done over the mail routes. If the election is set for the 26th. May it will be impossible to have the material sent by steamer because of ice conditions. The only safe way would be to send it over land; but if a late day in May is chosen that route will not be available. Therefore the only time within which to have it done would be



some time within the next two or three weeks. At the present time you can travel quite easily around Green Bay by dog team—just as well as you could in February; and much the same applies to Fogo District.

Mr. Speaker, objections have been raised to a Spring election on the score that the Government want to obtain a snap verdict. The public of St. John's cannot know, do not know, the great difficulties that will be experienced if the election is postponed to the end of May. The Legislature must meet this Spring to take up tremendous responsibilities. Great work has to be done the coming year; and the difficulties we have overcome in connection with the war will be nothing compared to what has to be overcome in 1919. The public of St. John's do not realize the importance of having the price of fish kept up. They do not depend so much on the price of fish as the people in the outports. In St. John's labour is more or less plentiful; but the same thing does not apply to the Northern Districts. If we want our people to be happy and contented we must get as much for our fishery products as possible. There will be serious difficulties in the way of marketing our fish this year. When we know that the other day a steamer was sent from here to Greece with a large cargo of fish; that when she arrived in Greece you could not get a dollar a quintal for the fish, that in fact the steamer was ordered away; that that cargo of fish had to be sent up the Adriatic to Roumania; and that the shippers had to take Roumanian bonds in payment; we will I think realize the difficulties we are up against. And to grapple with these difficulties we want to have a strong Government in power—put there by the people and with the confidence of the people. We have been dealing with serious matters during the past two years; and those who

know of our work and how we performed our duty, realize how well we succeeded in grappling with these problems. It is easy enough to criticize; but it is not easy to sit up late in the night facing problems such as we faced in 1918. The people have abused the Minister of Shipping,—a man with whom I had my difficulties in this House; but we know that that man by himself in 1917 and 1918 did as much for Newfoundland as the rest of Newfoundland put together. Lots of people want to know why I am content to sit side by side with the men I once opposed. It is because I know them and they know me; and because I realised that in the interests of the country an amalgamation was necessary.

The Premier has said that it would be a pleasure to be defeated and so have the burdens of office lifted from his shoulders. I say the same thing. Nothing would suit me better than to be defeated. I dread the responsibilities of the next four years. There will be tremendous tasks to be performed; and only men with the most experience, with the most ability; men who best understand the people; and men with the most courage can hope to cope with these tasks. The Hon. Member for Placentia has spoken this afternoon about the condition of the railway. For the past two years we have spoken about the railway and have been doing our best to remedy matters; but we have been surrounded by tremendous difficulties. We have not sat down and allowed things to go from bad to worse without attempting to remedy them and make them right. These things have not been overlooked; we know they require immediate attention; yet there are people who now desire us to postpone an election for another six months, which will mean that these important matters

will not be dealt with until the Fall. These are matters that must be dealt with as soon as the election is over. As soon as we go to the polls we must ask the people how these matters are to be dealt with. It is of vital importance to the whole country; which is one reason why there should be an early election. Within the next month the people must determine how these matters are to be dealt with. The Premier has already told you the position he takes in regard to an election and how he views his responsibilities of office; and we are all of the same opinion.

The country is going to be faced with conditions that it never saw before. The past four years will not be anything compared to the coming years. There will be great problems of reconstruction to take up; great constructive measures will have to be introduced if we want to keep our people employed and at home. Not because you are able to float a loan of millions of dollars that you make conditions any better. It is only by raising loans and giving your people employment in building up your country that you can hope to succeed. I believe in loans; a public debt if contracted for useful purposes is the best thing for a country. Australia and New Zealand have millions of dollars of debt; but they have raised the loans for purposes of public utility, and so have benefited from them. I would not hesitate to raise ten millions of dollars in addition to our present debt if I do something beneficial for our country.

The only reason I remain in power is that I consider it would be cowardly to throw the burden on some one else's shoulders until such time as the people determine it would be better to have some other party undertake the conduct of affairs. But it would benefit me to throw down

the responsibility of office tomorrow. I have tremendous responsibilities to look after; and with these interests calling for my attention it is not an easy matter to come here day after day and suffer blame and criticism for nothing. The interests of the country are at stake, and someone must govern it, and govern it in the interests of the people. I can tell those critics that as far as the public accounts are concerned that during the past 2 years nothing has been done that we are ashamed of. I am satisfied for every account to be placed on the Table and sent broadcast throughout the country. Whatever happened in days gone by has not happened since we assumed office. During the past two years I do not know of any friend of the Government receiving one acre of land. If we are to stay here for another week and have the election postponed till the 26th of May, I am satisfied to have every account discussed to the utmost satisfaction of the members of the Opposition.

Mr. Bennett has said that he saw no instance of any undue influence by any section of the Government. Now, you know we have been accused of being cunning and scheming for control. The people of St. John's think we have nothing else to do than to grind our axe at their expense. That is a very foolish impression. If they only knew what has transpired during the past two years they would realise that I have done nothing to injure St. John's. I have voted for hospitals and asylums in St. John's, to which vote I could instead have objected as an outport member; but I saw the reasonableness of the request and voted accordingly. Let anyone point out to me anything I have done at the expense of the people of St. John's and I will resign my seat. I have attended only two meet-

ings of the Executive since last May. But if I had been anxious to see what they were doing, anxious to use my influence in favor of the outports, I could have been there to see that St. John's got nothing more than belonged to it. I have trusted my colleagues and I know they have done their duty. I know of their labors day and night to help the Colony through the crisis that confronted us since the outbreak of war. I am now prepared to go to any district in the Island where I have a right to go and submit my record to the electorate, and if they want to defeat me that will be their opportunity. And the District to which I am prepared to go will not be Twillingate or Bonavista or any Union District either. If they want any more than that they will not get it from human nature. I do not want to delay the House any longer. The time has come for adjournment; but I want the electorate of St. John's to understand that as far as I am concerned they can have an election the first of June if the public interests do not suffer. Important matters will have to be dealt with this Spring, and in an election the Northern Districts must have a chance of voting. St. John's will not be disfranchised at any time. For my part I am satisfied to see an Opposition organised under a recognised leader. That should have been done long ago. I believe in a strong Opposition. The Hon. Member for Placentia says we are organised through our Councils. That is so; but if we had been asleep we would not have been organised. We are prepared for the fight. There are Districts where we have no organisation; but when the election come around we will be. In these Districts we are in the same position as the Opposition, and if our candidates go there they will have to stand on the record of the Govern-

ment and the Manifesto of the Premier. In our own districts we cannot be beaten. I feel just as sure of being elected as Mr. Walsh does. The men know what the Union has done for them; have seen the prosperity it has brought them; and they have had more to eat and drink and are more happy the past four years than ever before.

Newfoundland need not be ashamed of its connection with the war. It has done its duty well. It has not been as hard hit in certain respects as other parts of the Empire. We never had the same stringent food restrictions as they had in London and as they have to put up with in Italy today, where sugar is a rarity and butter and beef allowed only on certain occasions.

I would desire the whole Island to have plenty of time to thrash out our record, and I am only too sorry that we have not time to lay all our accounts on the Table and let them be published broadcast throughout the country. I am perfectly satisfied as to what the verdict will be. I do not know what is going to happen in St. John's, but I know what the North is going to do. The Opposition can take what action they like, can twist and turn things to suit themselves; but they cannot prevent five or six Northern Districts from returning a dozen Union Members for this House.

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:** — Mr. Speaker, I beg to present on your behalf a petition from Bauline and other places in your district praying that telephone communication be established between St. John's and these places. The petition is largely and influentially signed. At present these places are practically isolated and if the prayer of the petitioners were acceded to it would be of untold benefit to them. I give the petition my hearty support and sympathy; and I trust it will re-

ceive the favorable consideration of the Government. There are two or three places in my district similarly circumstanced, and I hope the time is not far distant when the telephone service will not only be extended to all these places; but the City service remodelled and reorganized. The present system is disgraceful and altogether inadequate to meet the requirements of the trade. I ask that the petition be referred to the Department to which it relates.

The Honourable Colonial Secretary tabled the Annual Report of the Savings Bank.

The Honourable Colonial Secretary tabled Resolution under the provision of the Postal Telegraphs Act.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until to-morrow, Thursday, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, April 10th, 1919.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. Speaker intimated that he would leave the Chair until five thirty of the clock this day.

**THE RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**—I have an important announcement to make to this House. I understand that the election bill is practically through, but it has been thrown up to us, that we as a party and as a Government are anxious to have a Spring election in this country, and in view of what has been said the Government has made an important decision and I wish to ask per mission to give notice of a bill to extend the present session of the Legislature and to move its first reading. We shall take advantage of the present as far as the voters list is concerned, but we have decided not

to take advantage of it in May. We intended to make this a regular session of the Legislature, table all accounts and brings in all legislation necessary, to place our hands fully on the table and go to the country in the Fall. Therefore, we shall first ask this House to pass an extension bill, if that is necessary. I do not think it is necessary, but it may be. The House can have the extension bill of such date and arrangements will be set forth by which an election can be held in the Fall.

I advise this course because I wish to show the country that as far as this Government is concerned, we are in earnest in this work and that we have no desire for any snap verdict.

As far as I am concerned when the country does not want my services, I shall be glad to be relieved of my responsibilities. I want the country to know that I am fully desirous of letting it know to the fullest extent the work of the Government good or bad. They will have ample time to discuss these matters and if any opposition party wish to organise, they will have sufficient time to do so, and if the country decides to place them in power, I shall be glad, but I do not fear that, because I am confident that the country will appreciate the efforts of the National Government to carry on under difficult circumstances, and I think we shall be able to convince the country at the Hustings of our efforts and their value. The people will be given the fullest opportunity to understand the situation.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Mr. Speaker, this is a very important announcement that the Premier made this afternoon. I hardly know what to say in face of such an extraordinary *Volte Face*. One day we are told with the greatest emphasis that we are going to have an election in the Spring;

an election act is brought in and passed; and then suddenly we have this extraordinary denouement, and it is difficult to understand what the Government means. I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister is quite sure of his position now, and that he will not change it again. He says that this action is not due to any pressure from the Opposition. I think that probably we shall find that the Premier has had to bow to pressure if not outside then within the Government and that there is something very serious underlying this extraordinary change.

I am not prepared to quarrel with the change myself. I was just as ready to face an election in the Spring as in November. I do not think there is any more possibility of the Government being returned in the Fall than in the Spring. I presume we will now go on with the regular business of the session. There is one statement by the Prime Minister which I hope is correct. He just said that all information that we desired would be tabled to the fullest extent. I hope this will be done, and that the questions we shall ask will be fully answered.

The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister with the unanimous consent of the House introduced the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Extend the Term of the Present Legislature," which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

**MR. WALSH:**—Before this House closes, I would like to refer to a very important matter. I have received the following telegram just an hour ago from Placentia signed by Messrs. Power, Hynes and Lake. I made inquiries over the telephone at the Reid Nfd. Company and I found the Argyle had gone on its Western route. I would like to refer this matter to

the Colonial Secretary in order that it might receive the necessary attention.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn till tomorrow, Friday, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, April 11th.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

Mr. Speaker intimated that he had received the following correspondence from His Excellency the Governor which he then read to the House:

The Governor has the honor to communicate to the Honorable House of Assembly the appointment of the Commission of Internal Economy of the Legislature in accordance with the provisions of the Statute 61 Victoria Cap. 1, as set forth in the accompanying certified copy of a minute of the Honorable Executive Council approved by the Governor of the 8th instant.

C. ALEXANDER HARRIS,  
Governor.

9th April, 1919.

Certified copy of minute of the Honorable Executive Council approved by His Excellency the Governor on the 8th April, 1919.

April 7th, 1919.

Under the provisions of Section 4, Cap. 1, 61 Vic., it was ordered that the following persons constitute the Commission of Internal Economy of the Legislature, namely:

Hon. Sir P. T. McGrath, K.B.E.,  
Pres. Legislative Council.

Hon. R. K. Bishop.

Hon. W. J. Ellis.

Hon. W. J. Higgins, K.C., Speaker  
House of Assembly.

Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. F. Lloyd, P.C.,  
K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. C. Crosbie.

Hon. W. F. Coaker.

Certified true copy,

ARTHUR MEWS,

Deputy Colonial Secretary.

Second reading of Bill to Extend Life of Parliament.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**

—Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the announcement I made yesterday that the Government had decided to postpone the election until the Fall, and as the life of this Assembly terminates on April 30, under the Extension Bill passed last year, it becomes necessary to further extend the life of this Assembly. Yesterday the Bill was introduced and read a first time, and I now propose that the Bill be read a second time, to extend the life of Parliament until the 30th of September.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Extend the Term of the Present Legislature" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises, it adjourn until Tuesday next, the 15th instant, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

—:—  
TUESDAY, April 15, 1919.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

Petitions:

**MR. JENNINGS:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from \_\_\_\_\_ in the District of Twillingate asking for a grant for a road. The petitioners point out that the present grant is not sufficient to keep the road in repair and they ask for an increased grant.

I also beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Cottle's Island ask-

ing for a sum of money to help finish a road partly made between that place and Somerton.

The petitioners also ask for the sum of \$100 to repair a bridge on the local road.

I ask that these petitions be referred to the Departments to which they relate.

**MR. PICCOTT:**—Mr. Speaker: I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of \_\_\_\_\_, South Side of Harbor Grace and Riverhead in connection with a railway station at the latter place. There is now a small way station there and the people have derived great benefit from it; but it is not a regular station. The inhabitants of these places took this matter up with the Assistant Superintendent of the R. N. C.; and he wrote them to the effect that the Company does not contemplate erecting any buildings this year. This will entail great inconvenience on the people; and I ask the Government to intercede with the Company on behalf of the petitioners. I may say that at present there is a small building there but no agent; and if a real station were allotted to this place it would be of the greatest service to the people and not unprofitable to the Company. There are about 500 or 600 people in \_\_\_\_\_ and about 250 or 300 people on the South Side, and Riverhead is well populated; and if a station were placed there these people would be spared the inconvenience of having to go to Harbor Grace for their shipments and having to cart it then to Riverhead and South Side. If it were placed at Riverhead it would be very convenient and save about three miles of a journey. I ask that this petition be submitted to the Department of the Colonial Secretary and bespeak for it the sympathetic consideration to which it is entitled.

I also beg to present another petition from the inhabitants of Shears-

town asking for a new road. The petition is largely signed by the inhabitants of this place, and asks for a sum of money to make a road from the Salvation Army burying ground to Shearstown, and also to widen the main road leading through Shearstown. Years ago a road was made through Bay Roberts and called the Central Road. Before that time there was a road passing through Shearstown called Fresh Pond Road; and it seems that the representatives of Harbor Grace when Central Pond was being built instead of getting a grant for that road, they divided the grant between the two roads. I think the grant was \$500. There are about 30 miles of road to be kept in repair for this \$500; and that is \$250 for each road. When I had the pleasure of sitting on the Government side of the House I brought this matter up on several occasions; and sometimes I would get a little money; but could never make the Government understand that when these roads were being built the grant was just sufficient to build them but entirely insufficient to keep each in repair. I think this is a mistake that all Governments make. I am sure we made it. Now I hope the mistakes we made will not be made by the National Government and they will not fall into the same error as we did. I would ask that the Government give this petition their earnest consideration; and let me have \$500 or \$600. to have this work done.

**MR. PARSONS:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg to support the petition presented by Mr. Piccott; and I would say that the railway station referred to was one that the people opposed very much eight or ten years ago. If the prayer of the petition were acceded it would convenience not only the people of Island Cove but those at River Head, South Side and places between there and Spaniard's Bay, who now are compelled to get their freight from Har-

bor Grace proper. The present way station is altogether too small. There is no agent there. In a great many instances perishable goods have to be left outside; and to the general inconvenience is added the loss resulting from the injury to the goods. I give the petition my hearty support and believe that it will be of great advantage to the people.

I also heartily support the petition from Shearstown; and I trust this also will meet with the careful consideration of the Government.

**MR. GRIMES:**—Mr. Speaker, I beg present a petition from the inhabitants of Brigus in relation to the deepening of the gut leading into the harbor pond. The petition is largely signed and carefully sets out the reasons on which the petitioners base their request. About twenty five years ago a sum of money was appropriated for this purpose; but although the work was done, conditions became just as bad after four or five years, and the gut filling up with silt and sand and blocking the Channel again. A sum of money is now asked for the opening of the channel, and I trust the Government will give due consideration the prayer of the petitioners; and I ask that it be referred to the Department to which it relates.

#### Order of the Day.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Mr. Speaker, on April 4th, I asked the Minister of Militia certain questions relative to soldiers' pensions; the Minister of Public Works re the cost of the Empire Wood Factory; and the Minister of Finance re an amount paid the Newfoundland Produce Co., but so far have not received the answers.

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:**—I gave the Clerk the necessary information for you.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave

notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act respecting Documentary Evidence and Extra Judicial Oaths."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 61, Victoria (1898) Chapter 18, entitled "An Act respecting the Department of Justice."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend the Act 10, Edward VII, (1910), Chapter 29 entitled "An Act respecting the Constitution and Establishment of the Game and Inland Fisheries Board."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to prevent the introduction of Rabies into Newfoundland."

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, (Second Series entitled "Of the Keeping of Dogs."

Mr. Jennings gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act respecting Bay Fishery Boards."

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that on to-morrow he would ask leave to move the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions respecting the raising of a Loan for Naval, Military and other purposes.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that on to-morrow he would move that Supply be granted to His Majesty.

Mr. Piccott gave notice of question.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled

"An Act Further to Extend the Term of the Present Legislature.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion this Report was received and adopted and by unanimous consent of the House the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Extend the Term of the Present Legislature," was read a third time and passed and it was ordered that the Bill be engrossed being entitled as above and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that body in its provisions.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled a Statement of Estimated Revenue and Expenditure of the Municipal Council for the year 1919.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of the Department of Agriculture and Mines 1917-1918.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises, it adjourn until Monday April 21st, at three of the o'clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, April 21st, 1919.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Documentary Evidence and Extra Judicial Oaths," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill "An Act to Amend 61 Victoria (1898) Chapter 18



entitled "An Act respecting the Department of Justice," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled "Of the Keeping of Dogs," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted, and on motion of Mr. Jennings, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Bay Fishery Boards," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions respecting the raising of a Loan for Naval, Military and other purposes.

**RT. HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—In moving these resolutions asking for the sum of Six million dollars, I wish to point out to the House that Five million of this amount is to pay off a loan raised three years ago and due on the 30th of June, 1919. That loan of Five million was for the purpose of defraying war and railway expenses. If you will remember three years ago a bill for that purpose was passed in this House. Two million was to pay off the temporary loan in connection with the railway and three million was, as you know, for war purposes. A short loan raised in the United States of America at 5%. Now in these resolutions before the House to-day you ask for an additional sum of One million as the five million will go to pay off the five million that is due on June 30th. The increased expenditure will only amount to the increase of interest on that loan added to the probate

debt of the Colony. To-day you ask only for One million in addition to the debt of the Colony, the other is only to pay off the debt borrowed three years ago. The loan of one million named in the bill is for war expenditures and also for improvements to public buildings. As you are aware, the Government at the present time has decided to build a wing to the Lunatic Asylum. This was decided last session. This wing will cost at least Two hundred and fifty thousand, that we propose to take by loan. Fifty thousand is for the addition to the Fever Hospital, provided for in this loan. There is a sum of Fifty thousand for the annex to the Board of Works and the Court House, which job was finished last year. There is also provision for Fifty thousand for the Empire building. Part of which is Hospital and part barracks for the men. At the present time I think there are forty or fifty men under treatment, and there is fifty thousand dollars for the addition to the Sanitarium at Bowcock's Farm. Representation was made to the Government last January that a number of soldiers would be returning and that provision should be made for the men, that at least Two hundred and fifty men were coming back with Tuberculosis and it was necessary that provision should be made immediately. Quite a number of the men have arrived already and some of them are under treatment at Escasoni. Twenty or thirty people there. Now within a month or six weeks we expect to have the balance of the draft back. The intention is to provide temporary accommodation until Bowcock's Sanatarium is put in good shape. We will notice that the rate of interest is placed at 5%. The loan of Five million raised in the United States three years ago was at the rate of 5%, but as you all know, the money market has gone up since and the loan that was raised last year we paid 6½%

upon, but, with the war over and the money market coming back to normal, it is proposed that we shall raise this loan at 5½% at least. This is the amount paid by the Canadian Government in the last loan raised in Canada. I would like to point out also what was done with the loan of last year. Up to the 1st of January of the present year, we had to the credit of the war loan Four million five hundred thousand and when making up the figures of the loan asked for in those resolutions, we first asked the Militia Department what was required to pay off the soldiers for the current year. The Minister of Militia gave me a statement pointing out that he hoped to have all the soldiers demobilised and paid off, and an estimate of Four million seven hundred and fifty-two thousand five hundred dollars was asked for.

I think that in that estimate the Minister has covered all liabilities we will be called upon to pay, and we found that we had about \$4,500,000 in the bank to our credit. In fact, we found our position better than we thought we would, and that it would only be necessary to find another \$200,000 to be able to meet the estimates handed in by the Minister of Militia. But to be on the safe side, we are asking in these resolutions for six millions of dollars—five millions to pay off the American loan—one-half roughly for public improvements, and the other half to meet any outstanding liabilities from the Militia Department. I would also like to point out to the Committee that the total amount of our war bill to date is something in the vicinity of fourteen millions of dollars. In 1916 we raised this American loan, and appropriated three millions for war purposes. Last year, 1918, we raised a loan in Canada and Newfoundland totalling seven and a half millions, and between 1916 and 1918 we bor-

rowed from the British Government \$1,866,666, or four hundred thousand pounds. That amount we received from the British Government at five per cent. interest, and there was no time specified in which it should be repaid. It was only a matter of arrangement, and it would not be worth while to raise money at 5½ per cent. to pay it back. We spent in surplus \$889,401.05. This makes a total of \$13,309,467.91, and with the half million dollars now asked for for war purposes, makes the total something like \$14,000,000. In the estimate handed in by the Minister of Militia, which is \$4,472,500, he includes all the liabilities of his department, right up to the end of demobilisation. He has also handed in an estimate of pensions to be paid from the first revenue in the future, the total of which is something like \$650,000 annually. So in the estimates for this year when they are brought down you will find that the House will be asked for \$650,000 to pay the pensions of the soldiers and sailors.

I may also state to the House that I have no fear of raising the loan, from the indications we have had, and I believe that the loan will be taken up promptly as soon as the necessary legislation is passed, and that the Government will find itself at the end of June in position to pay off the present loan of \$5,000,000 at the current rate of interest, and I don't think we will have anything to worry us in that direction.

With this short explanation, Mr. Chairman, I move that the resolutions be passed.

**MR. CURRIE:** — Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two points on which I would like to have some information. I think the country is to be congratulated on finding itself in a better position than was anticipated. Most of us thought that the loan

would be a large one, and I don't think we anticipated that there would be so much money left over to meet the demobilization expenses. Now, with regard to the amount of \$1,866,666 borrowed from the British Government. If my memory serves me that amount was supposed to have been paid back out of last year's loan. If it is not paid back, it makes an addition to what has already been raised, and the House has not yet given the Minister authority to raise this additional amount.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**—The authority covers the additional amount raised by the Government, but does not cover the other. The amount borrowed from the British Government has not yet been sanctioned.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:** It was not stated in this House that this amount must be paid back out of last year's loan. The British Government loaned us that amount indefinitely, and as I pointed out before, it would not be a wise policy to raise this amount at 5 1-2 per cent to pay it back to the British Government, from whom we are getting it at 5 per cent for an indefinite time. That was one of the principal reasons why we did not pay it off.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I am not referring to that point, but to the point of authority to raise this additional amount. There is no question of the propriety of raising the amount, or the advisability of not paying it back at present, but the Minister has no authority in the matter, and I think he should protect himself.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—I am sufficiently protected, I have the money

**MR. CURRIE:**—But suppose a new Minister comes in and repudiates it?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—That is none of my business.

**MR. CURRIE:**—It is the business of the country though.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—With me it is a case of sitting content. I have the money, and if anybody is to do any worrying, it is the British Government.

**MR. CURRIE:**—That is all very well, but it won't satisfy the House, and I think we should see that it is done properly, and I am glad of the Prime Minister's assurance that the proper authority will be given.

Now, the Minister goes on to say that he has no fear of raising the loan. Are we to infer from that it is already arranged? Is part of the loan to be raised locally. The Minister has not given us any idea as to his intentions.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—It would be much cheaper to raise the money in the United States than either in Canada or Newfoundland, even at the same price, because the rate of exchange is now at least two and three-eighths. Therefore, we will not raise any more than one million in Newfoundland.

**MR. CURRIE:**—What terms has the Minister been offered?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—I have not made any arrangement, but will ask for tenders both in Canada and the United States for the loan of five millions. Of course we have had offers.

**MR. CURRIE:**—There is another matter I would like to have information about, and that is in connection with the expenditure for public buildings, \$50,000. That I suppose includes repairs heating, etc.?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—It includes the fitting up of the hospital inside and the instruments imported

by the doctors in charge of the hospital.

**MR. CURRIE:**—It seems to me a large amount.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:** — But we had to pay \$12,000 for the building, before we made any improvement whatever.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I think it would have been much better to have built a wing on the General Hospital. The building down there is not suitable for a hospital, it is not light or airy and is damp, or at least would be damp but for the fires that are kept going there. The accommodation at the General Hospital is far from sufficient. There are at present about eighty patients awaiting admission there, and I think it would have been much wiser on the part of the Government to have improved and enlarged the General Hospital.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—One of the principal reasons why the Government purchased that property is the fact that it is right next to some of the principal places on Water St., where the importation of the Colony is done, and it is the intention in the future to turn it into a bond store. We are at present cramped for room.

**MR. CURRIE:** — Fifty thousand dollars is rather a large amount to spend for making a place ready for a bond store.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Fifty thousand dollars to-day is not what it was twenty years ago.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I know that, but when the Empire Building was bought for twelve thousand dollars, an additional expenditure of four or five thousand dollars would have been sufficient to fit the place up, instead of spending fifty thousand. There was twenty or thirty thousand dollars wasted.

**MR. CURRIE:**—From what I can gather it is not strong enough to suit

the purpose the Minister intends to use it for.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—The instruments and equipment generally for the hospital, I understand, cost between twelve and fifteen thousand dollars.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Do you think that a much better purpose would be served if this amount was used towards enlarging the General Hospital? I think it would be well and interesting for an explanation from the Minister of Militia. I asked some time ago for a statement of the expenditure incurred on the Empire Building, but the only information I have received to date is that the purchase price was twelve thousand dollars; eight thousand dollars to Mr. Ellis, the contractor, and three thousand four hundred and fifty dollars to Moore & Company for heating and plumbing. There is still in the neighborhood of over twenty-five thousand dollars unaccounted for. I would like to have, if possible, the details from the Minister of Militia.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Of course, that is only an estimate of fifty thousand dollars as well as we have estimated that it will cost four million dollars to cover the work of demobilisation.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Does that include the Navy as well as the Army?

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Yes. Right up to the end of demobilisation.

**MR. CURRIE:**—As far as the Hospital equipment is concerned I believe the Government could have been better advised. In making this statement I am open for correction.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—You must remember that part of that building is being occupied as a barracks. On arrival of men from time to time they are housed there and within the next six weeks there will

be between 1800 and 2000 men arrive here. And if you had any interest in the place you wouldn't be asking such questions.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I did not get much time to see it, as I work all night and sleep at day time.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Well then you should not be fault-finding.

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:**—Mr. Speaker, I am not responsible for the estimate of \$50,000. I have no knowledge of it. It was arranged entirely by the Government. The Empire building was purchased by the Government last fall after a very strict enquiry and search made for suitable housing of the men for the winter, as it was found that the rinks were impracticable for the men as winter barracks. In company with the District Commanding Officer, Major Montgomerie, I visited every likely place in the city, for the purpose of making a temporary barracks. Each place that we considered had its disadvantages. Eventually the Empire building was offered to the Government. The purchase price was \$12,000. The Superintendent of Public Works was asked to visit the place and report as to its suitability. His report and the report of others, including doctors and military men of authority, pronounced it suitable for the purpose intended. At that time the intention was to use it as a barracks for the winter, as the anticipations were that the war would last much longer and that the men would be in barracks for many months to come. Preparations were then got under way to fit it up, but as the place was not considered adequate to meet the requirements at the time, it was decided to build an annex sufficiently large to meet all future requirements. This annex was built and before completion the Armistice came, and there was no further necessity of considering it from the standpoint of a bar-

racks. The question then of hospital accommodation became acute. It was decided to fit up the annex entirely as an hospital to cope with the situation. Accordingly, the Government entered into a contract with Contractor Ellis to have the place fitted up as an hospital capable of accommodating seventy-five patients. Considerable delay was experienced in getting the necessary medical appliances here, but the hospital when fitted up and finished will contain all the appliances of an up-to-date hospital for the treatment of returned soldiers who are incapacitated. There is no accommodation at present available at the General Hospital, while at the Empire building we have ample accommodation for all the surgical and hospital cases. However, there are a number of cases that really require treatment at the Hospital and sanatorium treatment, but the difficulty is to get the men to go there. We cannot force the men and the only way we have of penalizing them for refusing treatment is to reduce their pensions. I have sufficient information from the other side to show that a large number of men will be coming home within the next month or two, and we must be prepared to accommodate them when they arrive. I have no knowledge what the cost of the building is, or what it is likely to cost when it is completed. The building is being fitted up by the Public Works Department under the direction of Major Parsons. The cost of the electrical apparatus and massage instruments, etc., was \$4,000. The building will be useful after the military matters are finished and even if kept there to be used in case of emergency. Every member of the House is aware of the epidemic of influenza that broke out last fall, and the Seamen's Institute had to be acquired. However, I do not know whether the Government intends using

it as an emergency hospital later on or not.

**MR. CURRIE:**—In answer to a question asked by me the Minister of Public Works informed me that the place was controlled entirely by the Department of Militia.

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:**—Yes, we are paying the bill, but the work of erecting the building is being done under the superintendence of the Public Works Department.

**MR. CURRIE:**—What do you know about the contract with Mr. Ellis?

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:**—I have no knowledge of any contract. In fact, the matter was not brought forward in detail before my Department at all. I was instructed by the Government that Contractor Ellis had been engaged to do the work.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER:**—I would like to point out to the honourable gentleman that the provision for the application of the loan is perfectly general. There is no specific purpose as to any loan from the British Government.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I was not speaking as to the loan. It is the authority about which I am speaking.

**THE PRIME MINISTER:**—I must point out the authority is contained in the text.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I understand that but that only applies to the loan for One Million and not to the loan for One Million Six Hundred Thousand. I do not understand the taking by this House the authority for the raising of this one.

**THE PRIME MINISTER:**—But that covers them both.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Are you taking authority on that? I really cannot see it. You have also taken authority to deal with the Eight Hundred Thousand. You have borrowed an amount for which the Government or at least the Colony is not legally re-

sponsible. Why the Government may repudiate it. The British Government gives the loan but you take the authority to raise it.

**THE PRIME MINISTER:**—The principle is really just and the British Government is a sufficient protection. We are fully satisfied and the British Government is not troubled at all about it. This House finds itself in a position to raise this loan at five per cent. It would be unwise to go elsewhere with the markets as high as they are. If the British Government wished us to do so they would say so.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I think the Prime ought to see that the principle is wrong. The Government is raising the money wrongly.

**THE PRIME MINISTER:**—Why is this Honourable Gentleman so much concerned when both the parties are satisfied. A part of the money is borrowed for war purposes and I understand that it would be paid some time and the Legislature is behind it. It seems to me to be putting the British Government in a wrong position.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Let us hope they are to be paid. That is not the proper way of doing business. Is not your power from a common-sense point of view and your principle wrong? The Governor in Council could borrow only with the Legislature's authority.

**MR. CURRIE:**—May I ask a question about that sum fifty thousand dollars? What is that supposed to cover?

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:**—That covers educational and vocational training and the support of these men who are undergoing training.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed the Resolutions without amendment and recommended that a Bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

On motion this Report was received and adopted and the Bill entitled "An Act to Authorise the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval, Military and other Purposes" was then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, Supply was granted to His Majesty.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House all correspondence received or sent out by his department in connection with the dismissal of Captain William Bartlett of the dredge Priestman and all correspondence containing any complaints against the said Capt. Bartlett received by his department.

Mr. Piccott asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the Table of the House all correspondence received or sent out by his department in connection with the dismissal of Capt. William Bartlett of the dredge Priestman and all correspondence containing any complaints against the said Capt. Bartlett received by his department.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the House into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises, it adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, April 22nd.

The House opened at 3.30, pursuant to adjournment.

**MR. TARGETT:**—I beg to present a petition, Mr. Speaker, from the people of Whiteway to Dildo in the District of Trinity, asking that Whistle Boys be placed on Hant's Harbor

Rock and on Salvage Rock. These rocks are very dangerous to motor boats. Formerly they were not so great a danger, because the schooners could keep a few miles off from land, but the motor boats, which come close to the land, find these very dangerous, especially in foggy weather. The petition is signed by about 400 electors, and I trust the Government will see its way clear to place these bpoys there. I would ask that the petition be referred to the Department to which it relates.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—I beg to present a petition from the people in the vicinity of Bay of Islands, asking for the sum of \$200, to complete a branch road which was started about three years ago. The people of this locality go in very largely for farming, and practically all the land available at present is under cultivation. The people require an extension to the road system, and as the request is a most reasonable one, I trust the Government will see that it is attended to. Also a petition from the certain residents in the vicinity of Codroy, asking for the sum of \$250 to complete a road to Northwest Cove. This is a peculiar petition, or rather, it has peculiar characteristics. The people have in the past all been farmers, but on account of the difficulty in marketing their products and the high tariff they have been forced to give up farming and revert to the fishery. Some of those who have signed this petition have worked forty and fifty acre farms, but have reverted to the fishery and have a couple of traps in the water during the past two seasons. This coast is sadly deficient in natural harbors, and Northwest Cove is about the only shelter near there. The people are asking for a road to this Northwest Cove, and I trust that the Government will see its way clear to grant their request. I would ask that these petitions be received

and referred to the Department of Public Works.

**MR. WINSOR:**—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Gambo, asking for a branch railway from Gambo to the Straits Shore. Also a petition from the inhabitants of Valleyfield and Flat Islands regarding the Bay steamer service. Also a petition from the people of Alexander Bay asking that a Government surveyor be sent there to settle a boundary dispute. I would ask that these petitions be received and referred to the departments to which they relate.

His Honor the Speaker informed the House that he had received a message from the Legislative Council acquainting the House of Assembly that they had passed the Bill sent up entitled "An Act Defraying the Expenses of the General Election to be Held Dupring the Present Year."

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Mr. Piccott gave notice of question.

The Honorable Minister of Finance and Customs tabled a statement of the current account for year ended June 30th, 1918, statement of Public Debt to June 30th, 1918, Surplus Trust Account, 1918, and Death Duties Account, 1917-1918.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs the House then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of the Committee.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**— Mr. Chairman, On the desk of each Honorable Member is a copy of the booklet of the Estimates for the coming fiscal year, and I will deal with it, page by page.

By reference to the summary on page 3, it will be seen that the total estimates for 1919-20 amount to, roughly, \$6,987,975. or in round fig-

ures, seven million dollars, against \$5,397,519, or say, roundly, \$5,400,000 for the current fiscal year. This represents an addition of \$1,600,000 in the expenditure for the coming year.

The most important items therein are, an increase of, say \$650,000 for War Pensions; an increase of about \$400,000 in the pay of the civil servants, as a result of the decision of the Government last autumn to increase the same as from the first of July last; an increase of \$100,000 for education; an increase of \$80,000 for interest on the new loan; and the other increases represent the additional cost of maintenance of public institutions, etc.

On page 4 will be found the statement of the various items of the Public Debt of the Colony and the Interest thereon. We have to make provision this year for an additional \$25,000, being one half per cent. on the five millions that would be raised in New York to pay off the Morris loan of three years ago, and of \$55,000, being 5½ per cent. on the extra million we are raising now, a total of \$80,000 altogether.

On page 5 will be found the summary of the several heads included under Civil Government, the details of which come on subsequent pages. Glancing down these it will be seen that the increases are those which result from the Government's decision to add a bonus to the salaries of the various public officials included therein.

The only noteworthy departure from the general increase, by percentages, is in relation to the judges of the Supreme Court. They presented a memorial to the Government recently pointing out that in all the Oversea possessions of the British Crown, the Nfld. judiciary was the poorest paid. They set out the figures of the salaries given to Federal



and Provincial judges in Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and this showed that nowhere were the salaries less than \$7,000 for a chief justice, and \$6,000 for an assistant judge. Accordingly, the Government, in view of this fact, felt constrained to depart in this particular from the general principle, and put their salaries at the same rate as those of corresponding officials elsewhere.

The first item to which I would direct attention, under the heading of Civil Government, is that of High Commissioner on page 9. During the year the Government decided to create a High Commissioner in London and was fortunate enough to induce Sir Edgar Bowring to accept the office, he undertaking it on condition that there should be no salary attached to it. We had, however, to provide him with a proper staff; and the officials named therein, and the salaries set opposite to them, are those which he himself suggested, and which are considered to be only reasonable in view of the cost of living in London at the present time.

The next item is that of the Board of Pension Commissioners. The staff therein provided is that recommended by the Auditor General as being essential for the proper carrying out of the work, which is of a peculiarly detailed and complicated character, and will involve the creation and maintenance of records of every man and woman who went overseas in the army, navy and auxiliary forces, and that may have to be under constant reference for the next fifty or sixty years.

On the ensuing pages there are some trifling additions for sundries, but nothing important enough to call for detailed explanation, until we come to page 12, where it will be seen that provision is made for the office

expenses of the High Commissioner's Department, \$2,250; an increase in the cost of fuel and light for public buildings of about \$8,000; and an increase in the item of insurance and keepers of public buildings of, say \$4,000, due to additional insurance having to be provided.

On page 14 and 15, under the heading of Pensions, it will be seen that we have retired some nine officials of various grades, whose total allowances will amount to about \$3,600, but pensions dropped during the past year somewhat exceeded that amount, so there will be, on this heading, an actual decrease of \$964.

On page 17 it will be seen that we have provided an additional clerk in the Supreme Court, in the person of Mr. Robert Alsopp, a returned soldier, who had been attached to the Court for many years until he volunteered, after which he returned severely wounded. The other increases on this page are due to the bonuses and to minor additions for subsidiary services, as will be seen by reference to the detailed figures on that page. In the Department of Deeds and Companies, we have provided a typist at \$600, this being the only change on that page, except that arising from the bonuses. It is the same on pages 19 and 20, except that there are some additions to the votes for the various subsidiary services. The same explanation applies to the Fire Department, on page 21, increase to the men and additions for the maintenance and upkeep, representing \$20,000 in excess of last year.

The only item under the head of Penitentiary that appears to call for reference, is that relating to material for brooms, etc., increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000, an addition due to the greater cost of materials abroad, from which the brooms have to be made.

Regarding Court Houses and jails, local constables, and miscellaneous, the explanation is the same.

The vote for legislation is unchanged, except that there is a small addition to the salary of the Librarian, and one also for the keeper of the building.

For education we have provided an addition of practically \$100,000, which is being distributed in the form of grants to Boards, to sparsely populated localities, to Higher Education, to augmentation of teachers' salaries, to colleges, and to inspection.

We next turn to Public Charities. The salaries have been increased in the same proportion as in other instances, and the maintenance of the public institutions, too, has called for an increase owing to the high cost of all the requirements essential therein. Thus, the relief of the poor vote has gone up from \$268,000 to \$315,000; the Lunatic Asylum from \$84,000 to 103,000; the General Hospital from \$105,000 to \$135,000; the Poor Asylum from \$28,000 to \$35,000; Public Health service, city and outports, from \$63,000 to \$79,000; and the Fever Hospital by \$3,000.

The vote for the lighthouse service on page 40, shows an increase of roughly, \$30,000, \$17,000 being represented by the addition to the salaries due to the recent bonus, and \$12,000 to the increase in maintenance of all these institutions around our seaboard.

The Department of Agriculture and Mines shows an increase of \$7,600, \$2,000 being represented by the increased cost of supplies for the surveying parties during the summer months; \$1,500 for expenses under the Forest Fire Act, \$1,400 for inspectors under the Logging Act and \$5,000 for the fire patrol committee.

Under the heading of Marine and

Fisheries on page 54, there are some small additions to salaries. I might explain that the figures at the foot of the first column are typographical errors.

On page 55, Roads and Bridges, there is an increase of about a thousand dollars in the provision for main line roads, \$300 in salaries, and \$11,000 for ferries.

We next come to Postal and Telegraphs, page 63. The Postal Department shows an increase of \$60,000 in round figures, largely represented by the bonus to officials, \$15,000 however being additional for courier routes, all of which were done by contract, and \$4,000 for provision of uniforms for the officials.

For steam subsidies we provide an increase of \$145,000. The details of the increased provision for steam subsidies will be found on page 94, and, in the main, is self-explanatory.

On page 95 will be found the figures for the Telegraph Department. They show increases in the Saint John's office of \$10,000; for operators outside St. John's say \$20,000; office allowance \$1,000; maintenance \$1,000, telephones \$4,000, to provide for additional telephones in various outports, and \$35,000 special improvement of western lines relates to a proposed substantial addition to the telegraph system to cover the Burin Peninsula section.

We next come to the Customs Department, page 104, showing an increase of \$52,000 altogether. A large portion of this is represented by the increased salaries of officials in the city and the outports, with an extra \$1,000 for contingencies in St. John's, and the same for contingencies in the outports, while the percentage on duties, which forms part of the pay of the outport officials, is increased

by \$3,400. Similarly, the preventive service shows an increase of \$1,200; miscellaneous, an increase of \$5,000; and refunds an increase of \$3,000.

On page 133 will be found the detail of the new service war pensions, representing in all \$656,000.

On page 114 is an item of additional estimates, representing \$41,000 for the Lighthouse Department, this applying to special work which it is proposed to undertake to some 28 stations altogether, and part of which we propose to pay out of the proposed new loan.

If there are any additional particulars desired by Hon. gentlemen, I shall be very glad to furnish the same at our next sitting, and as the committee has only had these papers for an hour or so, I would move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again Thursday.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had made some progress and asked leave to sit again on tomorrow.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

#### Notice of Question.

Mr. Currie asked the Minister of Militia to lay on the Table of the House a statement of expenditures under the heading of Re-establishment to date, including salaries paid to Vocational Officer and other officials.

**HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY:**—This informaton is being prepared.

#### Order of the Day.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Documentary Evidence and Extra Judicial Oaths" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a

Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 61 Victoria (1898) Chapter 18, entitled, 'An Act Respecting the Department of Justice,'" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (second series) entitled 'Of the Keeping of Dogs'" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Bay Fishery Boards" was deferred until tomorrow.

"An Act to Authorize the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval Military and other Purposes."

**MR. CURRIE:**—I would like to point out that Section 2 of this Bill gives the Government practically unlimited authority in its expenditure. A loan bill is supposed to point out for what purpose the money is to be raised, but there is no such statement here. It merely states in a general way that the money is for naval and military uses and for public works, and that would cover anything the Government might like to do with it. Now the custom has always been to definitely state the purpose and the amount, and I think the Minister ought to be more particular in specifying just what this money is to be used for.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**—It is quite clear that at least five millions is for a definite purpose. As a matter of fact, it will take something more than five millions to clear off the debt due in New York on the 30th of June. I have no objection to state more clearly just

what works the other money is for, but I don't think it is desirable to state the exact amount that we should have for military and naval purposes, nor do I think it necessary to go into great detail regarding any of these expenditures. We have had loans for telegraph purposes, but not for specific telegraphs, and we have had loans for lighthouses, but not for any specific lighthouses. However, I think the Minister is quite willing to meet as far as possible the point raised by the Honorable Member.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—I think I made it pretty clear yesterday as to what exact purposes this money is to be used for. We have sufficient money on hand to pay our war loan, minus \$196,000, or roughly \$200,000. Well, take from the million \$500,000 for war purposes and this \$200,000 which we are short, and add to that the amount we will be short in raising the loan in New York at par. The exchange will be at least 2 per cent., perhaps three or three and a half. Add to this \$50,000 for the proposed wing to the Lunatic Asylum, \$50,000 for building the new barracks and hospital in the East End, \$50,000 for a new wing to the Fever Hospital, \$50,000 for Beaucock's Farm and \$50,000 for the annex to the Board of Works and Court House, and I think the million dollars is pretty well accounted for. In fact, I think that we are running it rather fine.

**MR. CURRIE:**—If the Minister will look up the previous accounts for example, he will find that one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was voted for the new poor house, which was never built. I think the Minister ought to be in a position to come in here and specify exactly what he wants the money for. As the section is now, he has unlimited power to spend these monies for any purpose

whatever. I think the Minister ought to know what he wants and exactly what he wants it for.

**THE RT. HON. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—But you have the estimates; that is enough.

On motion of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary tabled the report of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The House then adjourned until tomorrow at 3 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, April 23rd.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

**HON. MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES:**—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of New Chelsea in the district of Trinity in connection with railway extension. I have presented a number of petitions already on this same subject and it is not necessary for me to enter any further into the matter. I also wish to present a petition from the inhabitants of Snook's Harbour asking that telephone connection be given them. The petitioners ask that Snook's Harbour, Elliott's Cove and Foster's Point be connected by telegraph with Lady Cove.

The petition is a reasonable one and contains the signatures of a number of people living in that settlement. I hope the government will see its way clear to grant the request of the petitioners, as the petition is largely signed and includes the signatures of Rev. Edward Darby, B. L. Loder and others. I also ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Heart's Content on the subject of a road. The sum of \$200 is asked to be devoted for this purpose. I give the petition my

hearty support and I shall now ask that it be handed over to the department to which it relates.

**MR. WALSH:**—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Oderin in Placentia Bay on the subject matter of telegraph communication. Oderin is an Island and a very important settlement in the district of Placentia and one of the largest fishing settlements on the western side of Placentia Bay. It is an important centre inasmuch as it has a Magistracy, Sub-Collector and a Parish Priest stationed there. It is not only an important fishing settlement but a great centre for bait and if telegraph connection was established for four or five miles it would be money well spent. After all the expenditure of public moneys increases the earning power of the people and develops our industries and any government knows that. I might also point out that this is not the first time that this matter has been petitioned about in this House. As far back as 1912 and 1913 the Government of the day at that time promised telegraph connection to Oderin as well as to other settlements. Since then nothing was done from year to year, so this year the people concerned are petitioning for either telegraph or telephone communication. There are about twenty settlements that require this communication and are suffering considerable inconvenience by being without it. The people on that side of the Bay around Rushoon have been clamouring for telegraph connection, and I think that the erection of a telephone at Baine Harbour would fill the bill for that place. St. Joseph's and Paradise Sound also need such facilities. Paradise Sound is one of the greatest bait centres in the Island. Almost at any season of the year bait fishes can be secured there, but owing to lack of telegraph communication the country has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. I

have seen a great amount of bankers from the South West Coast, from Fortune Bay, Grand Bank and Burin district, at times when bait was not to be had and with no assurance where it could be had, trying to get into communication with the particular place mentioned, but owing to lack of communication it was impossible to get information.

The indraft at Paradise Sound is a long one and very often bankers find on arrival there that they are detained for three or four weeks at a loss of hundreds of dollars to the revenue of the Colony. I think that the Government would be spending money well if they took into consideration the question of telegraph erection at these settlements. Arnold's Cove is another important settlement in need of telegraph communication. A couple of years ago the people there actually cut the poles themselves at their own expense and promised to give assistance at their erection to any men who would be sent from the Telegraph Department; but up to now the Government have not taken the matter seriously. The poles that were cut were left on the ground until they decayed and rendered unfit for the purpose they were intended for; they were taken away and used as firewood.

Another important settlement is Long Harbor, the people of which place are again asking for communication. A year ago I submitted a communication to the Government anent this matter and an estimate was made by the Postmaster General and Superintendent Stott that the work would cost \$1,000 and that the matter was up for tender. I understand that nothing was done after by the Government. Long Harbor, like Paradise Sound, is an important bait centre and during the last year or two the Gorton Pew Company opened a branch there for packing herring. Almost at any sea-

son of the year bait is to be had there, but owing to lack of telegraph communication, the Fall fishery is hampered and the revenue loses a considerable amount.

Along the Cape Shore, a distance of about forty miles, there are eight or ten fishing settlements without telegraph communication and people have to travel a distance of twenty-eight miles very often to Placentia if they want to have any telegraphing done for them. I have been advocating from time to time that telephone and telegraph extension could be easily established at a minimum of cost apart from the advantages and valuable information derived by the fishermen from time to time. During the while I have had the honour to represent the District of Placentia in this House many cases have come under my notice in which valuable losses could have been saved to the country if we had telegraph communication established at the places above mentioned. I have in my mind's eye now cases in which serious accidents occurred with fatal results. I remember one case distinctly where death could have been avoided if a medical man could be communicated with.

Also in St. Mary's Bay several places have been clamouring for a considerable time for telegraph connection. Petitions have been frequently presented to this House year in and year out on the same subject matter, but there the matter ended. I think that these twenty important settlements in the District that I have the honor to represent are entitled to have telephone connection, and I think that possibly from twenty to thirty thousand dollars would be sufficient to cover the work involved. They require fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of these offices. I think the Government would be fully justified and open to much less

criticism if an expenditure of fifty thousand was provided for in the Estimates for the improvement of the telegraph service. Then two hundred and fifty thousand dollars would cover the whole Island. I do not think there is any room for serious criticism. I trust, not like several other petitions, they will receive the careful consideration of the Colonial Secretary and the matter will be taken up seriously and the Government will make provision for good connections either by telegraph or telephone. I, therefore, have much pleasure in presenting this petition.

**MR. PICCOTT:**—I have much pleasure in endorsing the petition so ably put by my honorable friend, Mr. Walsh, and I am sure it shall meet with approval. I have seen him plead with the Government on whose side there is a member who proclaims himself to be the Fishermen's Friend. I have recollections of that member who sat in the same seat which I myself occupy today. He was always associated with anything that was being done for the fishermen. He must see to the petitions which come from the fishermen of this Bay. I know what Mr. Walsh is speaking about. I have been up this Bay considerably any many fishermen of this part of the Island have been laboring under difficulties which other parts of the Island have not had to face. Some time ago the Gorton Pew Fisheries Company started a factory for the Scotch cure of herring at Long Harbor. Then I brought the matter before the members of the District and requested them to get a telegraph office in that place which we needed. And I have been pleading with those in authority ever since, especially the Postmaster General. The result was that we found it impossible to do business there. I think we spent something like seventy-five thousand

dollars in cold cash when we started out there. This meant quite an income to the fishermen of that place who catch fish there.

I had to withdraw our business because of the impossibility to do business owing to telegraphic communications. I received letters from our people in Gloucester commenting upon the inconvenience of telegraphic communication of no kind being at Long Harbour and the utter impossibility of carrying on our business. They gave me instructions to make preparations for the taking away of our plant. We cannot afford to lose seventy-five thousand dollars and we cannot afford to do so just for the want of the facilities for carrying on business. We did our best to inform the Government of the conditions of things and I went further and communicated with the Post Master General and he wrote back putting up a proposition saying if I would pay the cost of the poles and the messages afterwards something would be done. If a Government cannot afford to do that there is not much encouragement. And I am sure the Hon. Mr. Walsh has been doing his best for his fishermen and if this petition is acceded to, I will be able to clap him on the back. It is impossible for Mr. Walsh to do everything, and if the Government makes a move in the right direction we will see what good there can be done as will also others, who do not know the needs of the fishermen of this country. I support the petition.

**MR. MOORE:**—I have a petition from the fishermen of Renew's in the District of Ferryland. They ask for the allocation of a sum of money to be expended on the construction of a road from the south side to the railway station. Quite frequently they have to come over from the south

side and if this road is built they will be helped out considerably. I would ask to have this petition sent to the Minister of Public Works and trust he will do all in his power to have something done before the Fall.

Mr. Piccott gave notice of question.

Mr. Grimes gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act.

On motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the Bill "An Act Further to Amend the Act 10 Edward VII. (1910) Chapter 29, entitled 'An Act respecting the Constitution and Establishment of the Game and Inland Fisheries Board,'" was stricken from the order paper.

Mr. Currie asked Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the Table of the House a statement in detail showing the services rendered by Sir P. T. McGrath for the amount of one thousand dollars paid him during the past year on account of investigating fishery problems, 1914-1915.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS:**—Four years ago there was a commission appointed from each branch of the Legislature to inquire into the fisheries of the Colony, and Mr. McGrath was appointed Secretary of the Commission. He kept all the records and was in charge of the meetings and convened them all. I think Mr. Piccott was Minister of Marine and Fisheries at that time, and he will bear me out.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Why was the amount not paid in 1915?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Because it was not asked for.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Was there any amount previously paid?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—No, this is the total.

**MR. PICCOTT:**—As the Honourable Minister has brought my name into

the matter, I would like to say a few words regarding it. I was Minister at the time, but I was not in the country when Sir Patrick, then Mr. McGrath was appointed to this Commission, nor was I in the country when the Commission was sitting. After I came back I found that the Department of Marine & Fisheries had been ignored in the matter. I spoke to the Prime Minister, and I spoke also to the Minister of Finance & Customs, and I was informed on inquiry that Mr. McGrath had been paid something like \$600 on account, and that it should have gone on until now without the balance having been paid is something mysterious.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—I don't think it is usual to go out and look for people to take money that may be due them. I think it is enough to pay them when they look for it. I have seen payments made after three years.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the cost of raising the loan of \$7,543,400.00 of last year and the price at which it was floated.

Mr. Piccott asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for details of the expenditure of \$49,395.80 listed in the report of the Auditor General under Section 33 (b) of the Audit Act under heading of Marine and Fisheries for S.S. Fiona.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Documentary Evidence and Extra-Judicial Oaths."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 61 Victoria (1898) Chapter 18, entitled 'An Act respecting the Department of Justice'."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said Bill be read a thir time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled 'Of the Keeping of Dogs'."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Committee of the Whole on Bill regarding the Keeping of Dogs.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—Mr. Chairman, while this matter is before the House, I thought I might mention something that has a bearing on it, and which was brought to my notice just a little before I came along here. Under the Local Affairs Act, outport districts have the right to make regulations regarding the keeping of dogs, but it has been found on inquiry by the people of Twillingate, that when it gets right down to a fine point, while they can make regulations they have no power to enforce them or no authority to enforce them. The road board made



certain regulations and when these were broken they found they had no authority to inflict a fine. Now the people of Twillingate are not satisfied with the regulations under the old Statutes, and would like to make their own regulations. I don't know if it is possible to do anything for them in the matter, but I have been speaking to the Deputy Minister of Justice, and he is of opinion that the laws as they stand are practically unworkable, and unless something was done there would be no remedy for present conditions. It is quite certain that the Act as it stands at present is of no service whatever, unless the people abide by the regulations that they make. If the regulations are broken they have no authority whatever to punish the offender.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**

—Although the Honorable Member of Twillingate has not brought this matter to my attention, it has been brought to my attention by the Department of Justice, and also by Mr. Winsor, the Member for Bonavista. Under the Local Affairs Act and under that power no express provision is made that the road board shall enact penalties, and it is a moot point in law, whether a local board having power to make regulations can enact penalties without express power, such as a Magistrate can take notice of. The text books on this point are very perplexing. Some claim that where a local board has power to make regulations, reasonable penalties can be made, and other text books laid down a contrary principal that no local board can, in the absence of express provisions, giving them power to lay down penalties, have the right to enact these penalties. Under these circumstances, the Department of Justice is taking the matter up to consider carefully the course that they will follow, but that does not

affect this bill. It is very probable that later on we will propose an amendment to the Local Affairs Act, but I do not think that the present time is suited for such a step. This House will have to let the Department of Justice move slowly. Persons experienced in law making know that local regulations as to penalties may not work out wisely or well, and it may lead to confusion worse confounded. Great consideration must be given before actual legislation is introduced in such a matter. I may say that it is my intention to go further in this matter, and I think that the Member for Twillingate can rest assured that the matter will not be lost sight of.

The Committee then rose, reporting having passed the Bill without amendment.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Authorise the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval, Military and other Purposes."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I would like to know what the actual works are that the Government at present is contemplating.

**THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—I am not prepared to go into them at present. They are considerable.

**MR. CURRIE:**—It is an extraordinary thing that you cannot.

**THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—We cannot give you every detail. We do not know. Take the Lunatic Asylum. We ask for one hundred and fifty thousand, and it may cost three hundred thousand. We give you all the information as far as we can. We cannot go down to the dollar and cent.

**MR. CURRIE:**—But has the Minister any other objects in view?

**THE RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**—On this point I would cite the instance of Grand Bank. It is certain that we shall have to devote some money to the matter of the pier there. The matter is urgent and may have to be taken up immediately. The people there cannot carry on their business owing to the dangerous position the Government pier is in. It is matters such as this that we have in mind.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I am very pleased that the Minister arranged this point because last night I received a communication asking me to find out what the Government was doing in this matter. Everybody knows the condition of that wharf. Grand Bank does the largest business of any other outport in the country. It has been shamefully treated in the past. I do not mean to say by this Government, but by previous Governments.

**THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—There was just as much done there as in any other part of the Island.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I do not know that the Government is altogether to blame, perhaps, because I have said to these people, why do you build your harbor here at such an unsuitable place; but seeing that it is there where it is, then it is up to the Government to see that it is properly protected. The object would be in-

finitely more beneficial than those on which a great deal of Government money has been squandered. Not alone is it beneficial to Grand Bank, but to the whole of the West Coast. It is impossible for the coastal steamer to make calls there and a great deal of business inconvenience results. During my absence last Fall the committee from Grand Bank came up here and interviewed the Government and went home feeling satisfied that the Government would undertake something on their behalf. Plans were being made and every preliminary step was being taken and I am very glad to hear that the Government really intends to go on with this work.

**THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—But you know that Five thousand was spent on the wharf last year.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Yes. On temporary repairs; but that was only thrown away. In this case it is throwing money into the sea. The matter has reached a climax now, and something permanent must be put there.

**MR. PICCOTT:**—A month ago I received a communication from the Board asking me if I would support the prayer of their petition sent to the Government some time ago. They also stated that they had called upon the Government and found the Government very reasonable. I know that already about Five thousand dollars has been spent there. I must say however, that I do not agree with Mr. Currie, that it is money thrown into the sea. I have passed a great deal of time at Grand Bank and have had a great deal of experience during my tenure of office, and have had a great deal of experience for nine years in the Marine and Fisheries Department with the Board and I do not consider that any money

that has ever been allocated to them by the Government was thrown away indeed on any occasion that the sum of money granted was that small the Board usually put the money by until it had enough to go ahead and it is my opinion there are no people in the Island who know more about spending that money than the people of Grand Bank themselves.

I have seen the vessels run ashore there, and the men get ashore in their dories and see their vessel go to pieces. Now these men don't mind what they go through out in deep water, but when they come in with a trip of fish and want to land it and get out again, they want a harbor. Mr. Currie has remarked that he has often asked the people why they have settled down there. They had no choice in the matter, because their forefathers settled there long ago, but at the same time I think they settled in one of the finest harbors on the West Coast, although it is rough. They can dry fish there when it cannot be dried anywhere else, and it seems as if the will of the Almighty is with them. When the weather is bad in Burin and other places, and there is nothing but fog, fog, fog, the beaches in Grand Bank are full of fish and the sun is shining down. I have often thought the reason for their good luck is that they are a law abiding people and don't have much to do with St. Pierre. They deserve anything that can be done for them, and I take it for granted now that your intentions are all right, and that Grand Bank is going to get a share of this loan. I know that when the Minister says a thing is going to be done, it is as good as done.

**MR. WALSH:**—Mr. Chairman, I have also received a request upon this matter, to ascertain what the Government intends doing regarding the improvements to Grand Bank Harbor. I know a little about the conditions there, and I think there is every justi-

fication for any assistance the Government can render the fishermen of this place; and while I don't intend to delay the Committee, I just want to say that the voting of sufficient money to make the necessary improvements will have my hearty support. While on my feet I would like to remind the Committee that a few days ago I presented a similar request on a much smaller scale from Branch. I asked for a small amount of money to erect a breakwater there, and I stated that the people of Branch are in a somewhat similar position to those of Grand Bank. They have no harbor, and every southerly and S. S. W. wind blows in there and makes it dangerous to prosecute the fishery. My petition was very heartily supported by the Honorable Member for Twillingate, who went a little further than I did, and thought that the amount asked for was quite insufficient, and was willing that it should be made more. For this I thank him very much, and I am sure that when the people of the District read the debates and know that he has supported their petition so well, they will properly appreciate it. I hope that when this money is being distributed, Branch will be also taken into consideration, and a sufficient amount allocated to make the necessary improvements.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Can the Minister give me any assurance that this matter will be attended to?

**THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—No, they will have to take their chance.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Then I take it that the Government has no intention of having those improvements made in Grand Bank.

**THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—You heard the Prime Minister.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Yes, I heard him

say it might be necessary to use some of the loan for harbor improvements at Grand Bank, but he gave us no assurance. He said it is one of the matters that will come up, but that is not saying it will be done.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**—I said that the object of that loan is to take into consideration such things as the harbor improvements at Grand Bank.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Yes, to take them into consideration, but can you give us any assurance that these improvements will be made?

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**—Not at the present time.

**MR. CURRIE:**—May I ask at what rate this loan was raised. It was apparently raised at 95. Is that correct?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Yes.

**MR. CURRIE:**—And the Newfoundland portion of the loan was apparently raised at 98½. This seems to indicate that to the man who took a certain amount got a better price, or in other words that the man with the money had the greater advantage, and it doesn't seem fair play to make fish of one and flesh of another.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—You may make what you like of it.

**MR. CURRIE:**—It is easy enough to make that statement, but when a man who buys \$45,000 of bonds has got to pay par and the man who buys another \$5,000 can get the discount, it seems as if the point of view of the Minister is that all he cares is to get the money, and the public be hanged.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—We must draw the line somewhere. Perhaps you will tell us what you would have done yourself?

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the Bill with some amendments.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Your position is this. You are prepared to find fault, but you would not get the money.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Your position is that you have not played fair with the small investor, who simply has to pool his amount, as you say that all amounts up to \$50,000 gets 2%.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—That was not unknown to us, because we were prepared to get people to go around the Colony and drum the thing up. Anyway, we're not expecting anything else from you, but to find fault. That is your business.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I am here to criticise.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Prevent the Introduction of Rabies into Newfoundland" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**—Mr. Chairman, in introducing this Bill I might point out that the object is to give power to the Governor-in-Council to make rules and regulations from time to time prohibiting the importation of dogs into the Colony.

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until tomorrow Thursday at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House the adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, April 24th.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon, pursuant to adjournment.

**MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES:**—I beg leave to present a

petition from the residents of Heart's Content relating to repairs to the public wharf. Some years ago it was erected at a cost of five thousand dollars, but at the present time is in a dilapidated condition and the petitioners request that the necessary repairs be effected. A large number of petitioners have signed, including the Rev. J. R. Saint and Rev. J. E. Richards. I hope, however, that the Government will see its way clear to grant the request of the petitioners.

I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Apsey Brook asking that the sum of \$150 be granted for the purpose of making some necessary repairs to a road. Also a petition from the inhabitants of St. Jones Within, Random, asking for the sum of \$500 to construct a road. I hope, however, that the Government will see its way clear to grant the request of the petitioners. I give these petitions my hearty support, and ask that they be received and referred to the Departments to which they relate.

**MR. TARGETT:**—I beg to support these petitions, Mr Speaker, and trust that the Government will give them consideration.

**MR. GRIMES:**—I ask leave, Mr. Speaker, to present a petition from the residents of Cupids and Burnt Head, on the subject of building a new road in place of that portion running over what is known as Connelley's Hill. This hill has a steep incline and lends itself to washouts every time a heavy rainstorm takes place, which means an expenditure of public monies every Spring and Fall for repairs, at the expense of other roads in the settlement. Worst of all this expenditure provides no permanent repair, on account of its location. This can well be avoided, as the petitioners point out, by having the road diverted over a more level section. To do so will require an expenditure of one

thousand dollars, which, though looking large, will be the means of saving future unnecessary expenditure, for the reason that this amount will have to be spent on the hill within three or four years, and see nothing substantial afterward. I trust the Government will seriously consider the petition in the interests of the people and in the interest of economy.

I also have a petition from the residents of North River on the question of the building of a bridge in the upper section of that settlement. wing to the road being low, the rivulet running by its side overflows it every time a heavy rain storm takes place, and many times makes it impassable. Sometimes the homes of residents nearby are filled with water. I have called the attention of the Government to this before, for two reasons, first, because the health of families is threatened by the flow of water in their homes, second, because it is a road over which there is considerable traffic, and should be given better attention, not only for the sake of the residents of North River, but also for the nearby localities, who are obliged to use it as well. Only two hundred dollars are required to raise the bridge and road, a small sum when the health and convenience of the people are to be considered. This ought to satisfy the Government and the appropriation should be made.

Hon. the Minister of Finance tabled the Public Accounts 1918-1919.

Mr. Piccott gave notice of question.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received a message from the Legislative Council acquainting the House of Assembly that they had passed the Bill sent up entitled "An Act Further to Extend the Term of the Present Legislature" with some amendments in which they requested

the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendments were read a first time.

By unanimous consent of the House the said amendments were read a second time and passed, and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that Body that the House of Assembly had passed the said amendments without amendment.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Mr. Grimes, the Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs for a detailed statement of the expenditure of \$10,979.72 listed under the head of Customs in the Auditor General's Report for "Miscellaneous."

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House details of the expenditure of \$80,200.00 listed in the report of the Auditor General under Postal Telegraphs for the North East Coast.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary for any correspondence that came before the Government relating to the changing of the Bay steamship service of Bonavista and Notre Dame Bays and making Port Union headquarters; also a copy of Minute of Council authorising same.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary, in view of the statement made in his letter to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries dated July 10th, 1918, relating to the dismissal of Captain Bartlett from the dredge "Priestman" that "various complaints had been brought forward" against the said Captain Bartlett: (a) to lay on the Table of the House a copy of any letter or letters received by his

Department or by any Department of the Government containing any complaints against the said Captain Bartlett; (b) if said complaints were made verbally to him, as Colonial Secretary, for the consideration of the Government to state the name or names of the party or parties making such verbal complaints against Captain Bartlett.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Documentary Evidence and Extra-Judicial Oaths" was read a third time and passed, and it was ordered that it be engrossed, being entitled as above, and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that body in its provisions.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend 61 Victoria (1898) Chapter 18, entitled 'An Act respecting the Department of Justice'" was read a third time and passed, and it was ordered that it be engrossed, being entitled as above, and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that Body in its provisions.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled 'Of the Keeping of Dogs,'" was read a third time and passed and it was ordered that it be engrossed, being entitled as above, and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that Body in its provisions.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the Bill entitled "An Act to Authorize the Raising of a Sum of

Money by Loan for Naval, Military and other Purposes" was read a third time and passed, and it was ordered that it be engrossed being entitled as above and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that Body in its provisions.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Prevent the Introduction of Rabies in Newfoundland."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred and had passed the said Bill without amendment.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the said Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

The remaining Orders of the Day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises, it adjourn until tomorrow Friday at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, April 25th, 1919.

The House met at three of the clock, pursuant to adjournment.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—I ask leave, Mr. Speaker, to present a number of petitions on different subjects. First, petitions from Grand Falls, Bishop's Falls, Botwood and other places in the District of Twillingate, asking that Botwood be made a port of call by the Bowring Coastal steamers.

The next is from Long Island, asking for the same service, that is that Long Island also be made a port of call by the Bowring Coastal steamers. Another petition from Long Island

deals with the matter of railway extension to Hall's Bay, and is similar to other petitions I have brought in on this matter.

I have a petition also from Lewisporte and Campbellton. This petition is presented to the House, but really belongs to the Agriculture and Mines Department, asking for a timber survey on the south side of the Bay. I give these petitions my hearty support, Mr. Speaker, and would ask that they be received and referred to the Departments to which they relate.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Mr. Walsh gave notice of question.

**HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—No amount has been paid the Prime Minister except the small amount of his expenses going across, for which there are not any details. It is not customary to give details in a matter of this kind.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER**—As has already been mentioned in information tabled, I was paid two amounts—one when I went as a delegate to the Imperial War Cabinet, and the other when I went to the Peace Conference. The balance unexpended was \$1,500, which has been refunded. There are no details, nor is it customary to furnish details.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House the report of the Auditor General on the investigation held by him re the shortages in the Cashier's Department of the Customs House during 1918.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a statement of all monies paid by all departments of the Government to Moore & Co. for work performed since January 1st, 1913.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a statement of all

monies paid to Mr. P. T. McGrath and Sir P. T. McGrath either as salaries, expenses or commissions since January 1st, 1913.

Mr. Piccott asked the Minister of Militia to lay on the Table of the House any correspondence that passed between himself and Majors Montgomerie, Paterson, Macpherson and Parsons with regard to the hospital accommodation in and fitting up the Empire Wood Working building and the disciplining of the above officers.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the expenses incurred by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister during his absence from this Colony attending the Peace Conference.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Prevent the Introduction of Rabies into Newfoundland" was read a third time and passed and it was ordered that it be engrossed, being entitled as above, and that it be sent to the Legislative Council with a message requesting the concurrence of that Body in its provisions.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to delay the House very long in discussing the estimates. I notice in reading through the Auditor General's report that he states on two or three occasions the absolute uselessness for him to protest against certain Government tactics and that such protest is a mere waste of time. If this gentleman finds it a waste of time, I do not see any possible object in this side of the House making any lengthy re-

marks. Anything that we say will be regarded as coming from the opposition. Yet I think there are two or three things that are worthy of note. The first thing is the tremendous increase we are asked to vote this year. The estimates tabled last year were roughly \$5,400,000, and the estimate given this year is \$7,000,000, an increase of \$1,600,000. A permanent charge on the country. As far as I can see there is never any hope of this country having a less sum than that on the estimate from now on. It is natural to expect as years go on, that this country will have some difficulty to keep itself running, but I would submit that while this is so, we are reaching a condition where our estimates are becoming not mere burdens but positively immense. The growth of this country is not commensurate with the growth of its annual expenditure. We have only to go back 30, 40 or 50 years ago to realize what a frightful menace our estimates are becoming. Of course, we have had hard times in the past. There have been occasions when we thought there was nothing before us but bankruptcy, then fortunately the powers of the country have been so great, that the bad times we were expecting did not occur and instead thereof we only had better prosperity, but those were the days when the expenses were small. Up to eight years ago the cost of running this country was only 50 per cent of what it is to-day, then we had budget of three and a half million, and to-day we ask for seven and everybody knows that the estimate does not cover the full expense of the year, in fact these only do us up to November the 28th, and during March, April, May and June we are overdrawn, which is not a business-like way of doing this. Too small a pro-



vision is made for each item, and it really means that these estimates are about half or one million short. The Auditor General points this out in his report, but he says that his protests serve no useful purpose, as the policy of this Government is to underestimate the expenditure for the year. You put down the votes year after year, knowing quite well that these are utterly inadequate, yet you persist, for what particular reason I cannot understand, as far as the estimates are concerned it may be possible that the country can afford it if the Government exercises sufficient economy. The Minister of Finance last year pointed that we were reaching a state where it was necessary to use caution, because we were finding ourselves up against positions which the country had never met before. In reading, however, the Auditor General's report, it is obvious that the Government has not exercised during the last year the caution which the Minister thought necessary, and I think the time is now come when a new policy must be adopted. We have a very small population of two hundred and sixty thousand and it is impossible for us to keep up with the increasing demands of the public services and the increasing burden of taxation. There is very little reason to quarrel with the amendments that have been made, as, as far as the general expenditure is concerned it is practically the same as last year. The chief increase is the large pension which has been made necessary, because of the war, and we have to find \$700,000 for our soldiers. Well we are prepared to make sacrifices for the men who went forth to fight for us. We are, I think, prepared to stand any expense that this country has to meet because of the war. The only regret that I have is that the amount paid the soldiers is not ade-

quate. With regard to the public services, everyone knows the officials of this country are badly paid and their incomes have not increased in proportion to the cost of living. Some of the men who are giving their services are receiving only a starving wage, but I think there are two or three details where the principle is wrong. Unto him that hath shall be given, etc. That is the policy which the Government has adopted. The salaries all might have been raised 25 per cent and the judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice receive an extra \$2,000.00. The sum given for the latter is because no judges in any other part of the Empire have been paid such a small amount, but I submit that that is no reason. You do not expect a man to manage a large business on nothing. It is impossible and this is a very small country, not a big country. "We must cut our garments according to our cloth" as Lord Morris used to say. Six or seven thousand in this country is a large salary and only a small proportion of the country earn anything like that. The increase is not a reasonable. Last year we increased Mr. Hall's salary and this year he gets an extra 15 per cent. Is there any need for that? Was not the increase given last year sufficient? During the past two years his salary has been doubled. The secretary of the High Commissioner receives \$2400.00. It is absurd that the Government should devote to a clerk in a London office such a large salary.

It is ridiculous that a man in the position of the Colonial Secretary or the Minister of Finance and Customs can work for twelve months, with all the responsibility and burden of the affairs of the Colony on his shoulders, for \$2,400, and then deliberately sit down and vote a clerk in the High Commissioner's office 50% more than

he is getting himself. It is more than ridiculous, it is beyond comprehension. Of course it is absurd that a man in the position of the Minister should work for such an amount, but as I said before, we have to cut our garments according to our cloth.

There is an absence of economy in our estimates for this year, and there is more than an absence of economy, there is an extraordinary violation of the railway contract in connection with the large subsidies now being paid the Reid Newfoundland Co. We find on referring to these amounts that the subsidy for the Notre Dame Bay Steam Service has been doubled—from \$2,600 to \$5,200. This amount has been increased so largely, not to serve the public interest, but to suit the convenience of the honorable member for Twillingate, Mr. Coaker. He has established a business at Port Union, and Port Union has therefore been made a port of call for these steamers, and for that the Colony has to pay \$2,600 extra, without benefiting the people of Notre Dame Bay or Bonavista Bay in any way. Not alone has this change been of no benefit, but it has been a positive injury. We have had this session a large number of petitions from both sides of the House, calling attention to the wretched condition of the steamship service in those bays. One well remembers the wretched conditions regarding this service last year, when people in Notre Dame Bay sent telegram after telegram protesting against the way they were being served, and as the Minister intimated the other day he has no intention of going back to the old system. All things being equal, nobody would object to Port Union being made a port of call, but when it is made a port of call at the expense of other people, it is grossly unfair, and so far as I am concerned, I raise my voice in protest, principally because of the fact that other parts of the bay, which

for the past twenty years have been served by these steamers, are now cut off from that service.

There are two or three other things one notices in going through the Estimates. Why is the Department of Shipping omitted. There is no provision made here for either the Minister of his Department. Last year, if I remember correctly, the Department was created and the vote was made, but this year there is nothing in the Estimates to show that such a department exists. There is no provision for the salary of the Minister or the expenses of his department. On the other hand, we have here a Board of Pensions Commission, practically a department, in control of a chairman and two members, each of whom is paid very respectable salaries. That, it seems to me calls for a remedy, unless it is the intention of the Government to drop the Department of Shipping altogether.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—We don't wish to make any definite statement, but the abolition of the department is under consideration. Under those circumstances it seems unwise to put this department in here. All the work is done by the Government Engineer's Department. There is only one salary being paid that is not in the Estimates, but we will put that in the additional estimates. All the other salaries are under the Government Engineer's Dept.

**MR. CURRIE:**—There is no increase in the salaries of the Government Engineer's Dept. Are the staff doing the work of the Dept. of Shipping?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Yes, except for one or two messengers.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Are they doing it for the same money?

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—I can't answer that right now, the Minister is not here, but I think it is only temporary anyhow.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I think we ought to

have a report from the Minister tabled, and I think the question has already been asked. I also notice that there is no provision made here for the Minister of Militia. I think this is wrong in principle. This is a regular department of the Crown, and we should have the position in the regular Estimates instead of under war expenditure, because it means that we are raising the money on capital account, instead of taking it out of the revenue. We are increasing our capital account year after year, and are piling up a big burden for those who are to follow us. There are several other amounts to which I shall make reference as we go through. Take for instance the matter of legislation. This vote is year after year over-expended. It is absolutely impossible for the work of the Legislature to be carried on for the amount which is voted here.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—We are going to cut down the printing this year.

**MR. CURRIE:**—That doesn't interest me, but I think as a matter of fact that you will have to make larger provision for printing this year. Materials and wages have increased at least 50 per cent. this past couple of years, and you will find, that this work, as well as everything else, has gone up considerably.

These are matters to which I would draw the attention of the Minister, not that I expect it will be much use, but it is time to handle these things in a proper and workmanlike way. Year after year we are voting Supplemental Supply, but I think that so far as possible the Government should make proper provision for the conduct of public affairs of the Colony, without this annual farce, for it is nothing more of bringing in additional estimates to cover matters that should have been provided for in the regular Estimates.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—

Mr. Chairman, there are just one or two remarks I would like to make in reply to the honorable gentleman who has just sat down. He refers to the Auditor General's Report, which was tabled here a couple of days ago, and draws attention to the fact that the Auditor General told the Government that they should not spend any more money than is voted by the Legislature. Well, now, no man in this House knows better than the honorable gentleman himself that that cannot be adhered to. We must take into consideration the period we have just gone through, and the fact that each day has brought new changes and new problems. I don't remember during my experience in this House any Receiver General coming down here with correct estimates for the future year, and I don't think there has been a time in the memory of this House that any Receiver General has come down here without bringing in Supplemental Supply. The honorable gentleman himself, who was a colleague of mine on this side of the House, sat here three years without a word of protest about Supplemental Supply. I do not blame him. I knew that he was confident that he was doing what was right. He is only up here this afternoon trying to make an argument. I expect that and I look for that. The honorable Mr. Currie came here this afternoon only for the purpose of making a speech criticising the Estimates before the House, and to my mind he has not done himself justice. I remember quite well as far back as 1914 when the war broke out. The position of the Colony then was looking very very dark. One of the first meetings then held by the Government was to consider what assistance could be given to the Old Country, and when it was proposed to send some five hundred men across the sea

some wiseacres held up their hands in holy horror as to where we were going to get the money.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I am not one of these; you will have to look to the other side for them.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—I know, and I find you did not take much interest in the war.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I took as much interest as you did.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE** — Well if you did you did not show it. Now here's the position. After sending these five hundred men across we made an appeal for money and we succeeded. These five hundred men broke the ice. Now it's ancient history what happened since. Today the war is over. Our expenditure amounted up year after year. The honorable gentleman quotes back to fifteen years and compares it with what is happening at the present time. I think it is idiotic for any person in this House to put side by side the position of the Colony 20 years ago to what it is at the present time. Is it because that 20 years ago the revenue of the Colony was 1½ million, whereas the Estimates today show 8 millions, that we are facing blue ruin? What is the correct position now to what it was 20 years ago? Go to the banks 20 years ago and you would not find more than 2 millions of dollars there. Today there are 20 millions of dollars belonging to the fishermen of this Colony in these banks and is not that a fair answer to Mr. Currie. The honorable Member for Burin quotes blue ruin for the future of Newfoundland. Go back to the days of the crash in '94 when all the monies in the banks in Newfoundland were taken and spent by other people. What happened? Did not the country survive it and upright itself then? Compare then and now. Today we have 20 millions in the banks besides what are in the homes in the stockings.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Do you intend to take that too?

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**— We are going to take that if we want it. If we had thought it was absolutely necessary to take that money to carry on the war and meet the expenses of the Colony of those who had gone across to fight we were going to take it. But I might inform the honorable member that we are in the happy position that we do not want to take it. We are recognised and have been recognised in the money markets abroad as well as our sister Colonies are, although we are small to them. It is really tiresome to sit here and listen to such arguments put up. To me, though, it is not very tiresome, as I have been listening to such for the past 26 or 27 years and it is like water on a ducks back.

At a quarter past four of the clock the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod appeared at the Bar of the House with a Message from His Excellency the Governor commanding the attendance of the House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker and the House attended His Excellency in the Council Chamber.

And Mr. Speaker and the House being at the Bar of the Council Chamber His Excellency the Governor was pleased to assent to the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Extend the Term of the Present Legislature."

**MR. CURRIE:**—I object to the basis on which it was done. Because other countries pay an enormous amount you do it. The same principle applies as when a shop-keeper on New Gower Street cannot expect to derive as much profit from his business as would a man doing business on Water St. Newfoundland is a country of only two hundred and fifty thousand people, and is not to be compared to other countries.

**THE HONOURABLE THE MINIS-**

**TER OF FINANCE:**—It is to the interest of Newfoundland that the Judges be paid well and that is a sufficient reason. In the Supreme Court we have and need the best brains the country can give us. We have our young lawyers going there pleading their cases before these men. Their duties are very important and we must pay them. If these gentlemen of the Supreme Court were out practising their profession they would earn ten thousand dollars easily. Now as for the salary of Mr. Hall, he stands in the same place in my opinion. It is to Mr. Hall, the Government Engineer, we have got to look in the building of railroads and in the carrying out of railroad contracts. We have got to look to Mr. Hall as we have to the Auditor General. It was stated in this House last year that Sir Robert Bond stipulated with Mr. Hall that after a certain number of years his salary would be raised to a certain limit. When Mr. Hall came to this country there were less than six hundred miles of railroad in the Colony, and so his work must have doubled them in that period. As far as economy is referred to, there has been no absence of it. The Auditor General himself has looked for an increase of salary and he has received it. He is the person who can repay this Colony over and over again for the increase he has received. It is only proper that he should get it. Then we come to the High Commissioner at London. Sir Edgar Bowring has undertaken to fulfill this position without salary. His secretary receives a salary which he approves of. The deputy must be able to handle his work in his absence, and you must admit that whatever his title is, secretary or clerk or anything you like, he must be able to do the work of the High Commissioner in his absence, and he must therefore have

sufficient means to live on and to keep up the dignity of that position. And living in London today is a different matter from what it was ten years ago. Do you think that for a man in such a position \$3500.00 is an enormous salary?

**MR. CURRIE:**—No, but it is absurd for a clerk in a Department to get a larger salary than the Ministers of the Crown.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—He is a deputy, not a clerk, and when the High Commissioner has to go elsewhere, he must take his place. This shows the shallowness of your argument. We have also heard this afternoon a criticism of the fact that the salary of the Minister of Shipping, and the salary of the Minister of Militia, is not in the Estimates. My answer is that both of those Departments may be out of existence in a short time, and that being so, there is no necessity to vote the salaries in the Estimates; and I think you will agree with me, Sir, that the salary of the Minister of Militia should properly be charged to War Account. I don't see why it should be voted out of the current revenue of the Colony. If there is any information that the House requires from time to time as we go through the Estimates, I shall be only too happy to furnish it if I can.

**MR. MOULTON:**—I notice, Sir, in going through the Estimates that all the Civil Servants have got an increase, except the pensioners. Now, it costs them just as much more to live as anybody else, and I think they are as much entitled to an increase as anybody else. I think they should get an increase, and I hope the Government will look into it.

**MR. CURRIE:**—There are just one or two words, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to say in reply to the Honorable Minister of Finance and

Customs. In the first place I must say that he has been pleased to put a wrong construction on almost every thing I said. It is no use quarrelling, and I have no wish to delay the Committee, but there are some statements which he has made that I cannot agree with. He justifies the increase in the railway subsidy on the grounds of the great difference in the cost of operation between now and ten or twenty years ago. Now, on the face of it, that sounds reasonable, but the Honorable Minister has forgotten or failed to notice that not alone has the subsidy been increased, but the contractors have enormously increased their freight and passenger tariff. If permission was given them to make this increase, to enable them to recoup their losses, what was the necessity of breaking the contract made by the Colony to increase the subsidy as well? It is not reasonable.

In connection with the extension in the Bay Steamship Service, there is one thing to which I strongly object. When the House was in session last year, the question was asked as to whether or not it was the intention of the Government to make Port Union a port of call, and the reply was that the matter was under consideration, but that nothing definite had been decided. Yet, three days after the House closed this matter was attended to, and without Executive responsibility. The Minister knew that this matter would be dealt with, and why not have had it done legally?

The Minister has referred a great deal to my expression regarding Confederation. The position I took was this (and I submit that it is sound) that so long as we have an increasing public debt, with no development in our industries, and therefore no possible increase in our earning power, these large expenditures are a serious menace to the country, because if we

can't earn we can't pay. For the past three or four years we have had an enormous increase in our cod fishery, an increase of 300%, but these conditions cannot last. In 1914 we were wonderfully prosperous, when suddenly the war came, and our surplus became instead a deficit. Now we have only the same population as we had fifteen or sixteen years ago, or rather we have less than we had then, as we have lost several hundred of our gallant boys. The conditions that face us to-day are not by any means so bright as those with which we were faced in 1914, and if we have a poor fishery next year (I say "if" and I hope we shan't have it) where is the Minister going to be? He has either to make provision for enormously increased taxation, or be faced next year with a big deficit. I recognise at the same time that the increases granted this year are reasonable, and I wish we could do better as regards the Civil Service salaries. There are still men in this country who are keeping a post office for a salary of a hundred or a hundred and fifty dollars a year, and they can't possibly live on it.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:—**These are side issues.

**MR. CURRIE:—**In some cases they are not. The same thing applies to ferries. It is true that they tender for it, but that does not alter the position. Then there is the question of the old age pensions. If \$50 was sufficient to enable them to keep alive four or five years ago, it is far from sufficient today. The same argument holds goods for them as for the men who keep the post offices and run the ferries.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:—**These are side issues.

**MR. CURRIE:—**I do not agree with that. I know people in my district who have no other support, beyond

what they might hope to get from charitable neighbors.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—The poor we will always have with us.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I know that, and that we will always have to put our hands in our pockets and help those people out, but if the argument of the increased cost of living justifies an increase in one case it also holds good in the other.

Now, one word more and I am finished. With regard to Supplemental Supply, the Minister has pointed out that for years we have had to vote this, but never to such an enormous extent as today. We have got to come in here this year and vote over a million dollars for additional estimates, and last year we had to vote over seven hundred thousand. We ought to be able to get nearer to it than that. I have already pointed out that the vote for Legislation alone is over-spent year after year, and it cannot be otherwise while we continue to vote an amount that we know is not sufficient. I notice that Mr. S. D. Blandford is given an amount of \$120 as sessional pay. This gentleman has no business to sit in the House, and I think a note ought to be sent demanding this amount back. It seems to me an outrage. The honorable gentleman has resigned his seat, and has, therefore, no business in this House, but still he draws \$120 as sessional pay. Now, I don't think that sort of thing is just what ought to be tolerated. I have nothing personally against Mr. Blandford. For years he and I sat together in this House and had the same political affiliations, but that doesn't justify his getting \$120 for nothing. There will probably be some other matters to which I shall take occasion to refer as we go through the Estimates.

**MR. COAKER:** — Mr. Chairman,

there are one or two remarks I would like to make in reply to the honorable gentleman, regarding the rates on the Bowring steam service contract. When he states that Bowrings' rates were not increased, and that Reids' rates were increased, he does not know the facts. He must remember that the boat in question was on the New York route for some months, and would not have been able to make two ends meet if this increase had not been given. Now, the whole thing is this. If the Government had not done something regarding the Reid service last year, we would have had no service at all. How can you expect this service to be carried on at the same figure last year as was given years ago, when expenses have increased to three times what they were formerly?

**MR. CURRIE:**—The freight rates were doubled and in some cases trebled.

**MR. COAKER:**—I beg your pardon. I tell you that last year the freight rates were 100% lower than the year before, and I defy you to contradict this statement. The passenger rates were 50% lower, and the mails were carried free. Take instances like a certain time last Winter when men only paid \$8.00 for a four days' trip. Supposing the Reid Nfld. Company said that they would break their contract, what would we do then, supposing they refused to run their services.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Whom did they say that to?

**MR. COAKER:**—I did not say that they said it to anybody. I said supposing they said it. In spite of an increase of 25% in the passengers the Reid Newfoundland Company last year made a loss in the operation of the railway of \$346,000. The year before—1917—the loss was only \$41,000, and from June last year

or from the 1st of July rather up to the present time the loss has been \$31,000; \$31,000 in seven months. That is the position we are up against. If the Reid Nfld. Company left the first thing they would do would be to take their steamers. What would the Government do then? Where would we be then? /

**MR. CURRIE:**—You will probably be down in Port Union.

**MR. COAKER:**—I presume that it is a matter of indifference to the honorable gentleman where I am. I do spend a great deal of time down there. One's business necessitates a certain amount of attention. I presume the honorable gentleman who runs a newspaper has found the same necessity. The branch railway to which the honorable member referred was not put down there for the Union Trading Company alone, because that service has been in operation twenty years ago, but it is just that the gentleman's attitude towards the Union Trading Company changed. The time has come when the outports shall get their full share of Government benefit. A very large business has been built up at Port Union and indeed last year that business paid \$40,000 in freight to the Reid Nfld. Company. The F. P. U. has paid in freights in the Bay service over \$12,000. We have paid the Government for telegrams and so on over \$5,000. I think the amount of business we have done down there more than justifies the Government in having these improvements there. All the time we have been doing business we have been subjected to attacks in newspapers. Attacks whose only object can be the hindering of the country's business. But in the face of this operation these are our results. All I want is fair play. The way this country has been treated by the Opposition papers does not amount to

criticism. It is destructive criticism, and last year everything was done that could be done to decry this company in that section of the press. All we want is a square deal, and that we are going to fight for.

With regard to the gentleman's criticism of the salary paid the clerk in the High Commissioner's office in London, the man in question is a lawyer who had a good practice in Canada. He went to the war and came back wounded and Sir Edgar Bowring selected him for this position; \$2,600 is not too much for it. The honorable gentleman ought to know how expensive living in London is, besides the remuneration was fixed by Sir Edgar Bowring and it would not have been decent for us to reduce it, and I think we got a very cheap man. For myself, I think that we will have to have a man on the other side of the Atlantic to look after the interests of the F. P. U. and I am prepared to pay him \$10,000 a year. If you want to get a man to work for you, you will have to pay him. It has always been a matter a surprise to me that the business men of this country do not make this a practice. We want about half a dozen men over there to look after the trade of this country. And with regard to Mr. Currie's remarks with reference to Port Union, I may say as far as the National Government is concerned, these things were all settled by the old Government before it went out of office.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I would like to make just a few remarks. It is an unexpected thing that we should find Mr. Coaker becoming the apologist of the Reid Nfld. Company. How times change, but I suppose everything depends upon which side of the house you are in.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:**—You sound very bitter this afternoon.



**MR. CURRIE:**—Bitter, oh no. With regard to Messrs. Bowring selling their ships and taking them out of the local service, I understand that these ships were taken out during the summer at the time when Bowring's reap a harvest around this coast. The Portia and Prospero are always overfilled with freight and passengers and I think the Government taking them from the regular route and putting them on a more expensive route to New York was that questionable policy. With regard to the Port Union terminus the Honourable Member says that this was arranged during the Morris administration. I may say that, this is news to me because I am sure that the spur line was built last year.

**MR. COAKER:**—The year before.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Well in 1917, but the idea because a business was established in that particular place that this was a sufficient justification, is not a reasonable argument. If the Reid Nfld. Company received \$40,000 in their freights, why didn't they put their branch down on their own account.

If that principle is going to apply it will mean that we will have to alter the steamship service and build railway spurs at the expense of the Colony for every outport business that is started. I submit that the principle is not right nor fair, and when I speak this way, I do not speak against Port Union or the F. P. U. I have never said a word against the industries of that institution, but as a political factor I am against it. I say now that that railway spur was built for the convenience of Port Union alone, and the same with regard to the alteration in the bay steamship service. If Port Union had not been there it would never have been done. There are a great number of ports in these Bays to-day without steamship service, and last year the Government had to put a motor boat there as a substitute. It

means that the people of these places can't get to their homes except at certain times.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—They can always get there every week.

**MR. COAKER:**—They have the same service that they had before, except that Goose Bay is cut off.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Then what is the meaning of all the petitions that have come into this House regarding this steamship service?

One other point and I finish again. The honorable member pleaded for the same treatment for Port Union as St. John's was getting. They have always had it. The steamers have always called at Catalina. The same conditions applied there as to St. John's. They got the same facilities. On the other hand, I know of a man who last year could not buy fish in Bonavista Bay because there was no means of taking it.

**MR. WALSH:**—Mr. Chairman, I have a few words to say regarding the Estimates, and as my hearing is defective, and I may not be able to follow the different votes, I will make my remarks general. Before entering into the subject, I would like to say that this session reminds me of olden times, of the sessions of two or three years ago. The only difference is that the Honourable Finance Minister and the Honourable Member for Twillingate District have discovered the good points in each other, or rather forgotten the bad ones. Now I think it is a good thing that this condition should prevail, and if we could all see only the good points in each other, and try to forget the bad ones, it would be a better world to live in, and we would have better Governments and better Oppositions.

Now, the first item that I intend to refer to, is the new votes we are asked to pass for the High Commissioner's Department and the Board

of Pensions Commission. I notice that the votes for the High Commissioner's Department total \$19,000. I understand that the High Commissioner has offered his services, which I am sure will be of great value to the country, free, and this is very fortunate, as we could not expect him to work for less than \$10,000, which would largely increase the vote. I understand his secretary is Mr. Gordon, whom I have not the pleasure of knowing, but who is a soldier, a man who has given his services in the present war, and I think I can safely congratulate the Government on making such an appointment. The salary, however, strikes me as being rather large, and I imagine that the Government could have got a good many members of the Newfoundland Regiment, who are amply qualified to fill such a position, for a thousand dollars less. The other clerk gets \$2,000 a year I understand, and he is a member of the Newfoundland Regiment also.

The total amount voted for the Board of Pensions Department is \$14,710, and I notice that the Chairman of the Board is Sir Patrick McGrath. Well, I think it is unfortunate that one of the splendid gentlemen who officered the Newfoundland Regiment is not filling this position. I think many of them are just as capable, and able to give more sympathy than Sir Patrick McGrath. Major Carty or Major March, or some other of these men who acquitted themselves so well and brought such honor to the country, should have been singled out to fill this position. Capt. Parsons, I am glad to see, is on the Commission. He is a man who offered his all, and is fully entitled to consideration, and I think he is the proper man for the position. The other gentleman, Mr. Clift, has taken an active part in everything pertain-

ing to the war, and as he is a man whose manner is dignified and sympathetic, I believe he will handle the various matters coming before his department in an efficient manner. With this I haven't any quarrel.

The next item I notice is an increase in the salaries for the Administration of Justice. The salary of the Chief Justice has been increased from five to seven thousand dollars. The salary of Justice Kent has been increased \$2,000, and the salary of Justice Johnson the same; and whilst I agree with the Hon. Minister of Finance that they are very capable men, and that men in such positions should be above reproach and should be given sufficient salaries to enable them to live independently, so that they may not be under a compliment to anybody; still I think that before I would personally be justified in giving my consent to these large increases there should be something more done towards granting pensions to our fishermen who have got too old to earn anything for themselves.

Now I had occasion last year to ask if sufficient money was placed in the Estimates to grant old age pensions to all the fishermen who had made application to the Government for the paltry fifty dollars a year which is being given them, and I was informed by the honorable Finance Minister at that time that there was sufficient money voted to give pensions to all the old gentlemen who had made application. During the first few days that we were in session this year I put a question on the order paper asking the number of applications down in the office of the clerk in charge of this particular work, which had not been granted, and I have here the reply. I find that in the district of Harbor Main there are about forty applications ungranted, in Port de Grave about twenty, in Harbor Grace Dis-

trict about thirty, in Carbonar District about eleven, in Bay de Verde District two, in Trinity District about fifteen, in Bonavista District about fourteen, in Twillingate District about thirty, in St. Barbe District about seven, in St. George's District three, in Burgeo and LaPoile District three, in Fortune District seven, in Placentia & St. Mary's District forty six.

In all we have 251 pensions granted by the Government to old worn out fishermen. When a man applies for a pension the very application ought to be sufficient justification for him getting it, whether he requires it badly or not. Since this House closed last year I have been in communication with practically all those gentlemen from my district who made application and some of them who did not get the pension could not understand why they didn't.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:—** We know all about those. They got bank books.

**MR. WALSH:—**I do not know them. They are not in my district.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:—** You ought to know them.

**MR. WALSH:—**It is very likely that the Judges who are getting their salaries increased also have bank accounts and very much larger than the 251 old fishermen who are getting a paltry \$50 a year. And whether these fishermen have bank books or not I think they are entitled to better treatment from any Government and I do now enter my solemn protest against the vote for \$6,540, increases to the salaries of the four Judges, unless you are prepared to give consideration to the old age pensioners. If you increase the stipends of the latter from \$50 to \$75, then you have my approval to increase the other salaries.

The next vote I would like to refer to is the vote for Public Charities,

and I am glad to notice that this vote is increased \$120. I notice also, though, that the officials in this department here in the city have all had their salaries increased while a number of commissioners scattered all over the country, the men who have to perform the work, and the heaviest portion of the work, and the men who have to bear the brunt of the criticism that is handed out to the different outports, have been ignored.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:—** They are planters.

**MR. WALSH:—**Whether they are planters or whatever might be their occupations, \$80 a year is the highest we are paying them. And if the position is interesting enough for them and important enough to be stated in the Estimates, I think they are justly entitled to have their salaries increased. While on this point I would like to support the Honorable Member for Burgeo, Mr. Moulton, in his advocacy for an increase for the regular pensioners. At the time these pensions were given to these men, who gave the best years of their life to the public service of the country, the cost of living was much less than it is today. A barrel of flour cost about \$5 then. Today it is three times five and all the other necessaries of life have increased likewise. Hence I think that some consideration in the way of increases should be given this deserving class of people. I am glad to see an additional vote for Education. The vote is \$100,000, and I feel sure that the Reverend gentlemen and others in charge of our educational system will see that this money will be judiciously spent.

The next vote that I would like to make reference to is that of the Marine and Fisheries Department. The Department of Marine and Fisheries is about our most important Depart-

ment, seeing that it has the handling of our staple industry, and I trust that when the next Government comes back to power—and I know I am going to be a member of that Government and I hope the present Minister of Marine will be one also—that the Minister will hold a seat in the Executive Council whereby he can espouse the rights of the fishermen of the country at all times. The present holder of that office has done great service. I think it is an absurdity that, according to the way things have been going on, the Minister has to keep friendly with certain members of the Executive Council if he wants to get the least thing done in the nature of improvements to public matters connected with his department. I notice in reading down the list that provision has been made for the erection of eight new lighthouses. Most of these were erected on the North coast. No doubt there was sufficient recommendation and lots of justification for the erection of these lights. I think, though, that some consideration should be given to other important sections of the country where lights and alarms are badly needed. We know that the South Coast is a very treacherous coast and there is not a season of the year scarcely that one does not pick up a paper and read of a wreck along there, sometimes accompanied by serious loss of life and always with serious loss of property. In view of the fact that we are here today voting additional Estimates of \$1,600,000, larger than ever before in the history of the country, that some consideration should be given to these very important matters that I complain of. There is nothing more important to any fishing country than to give all assistance and aid possible to the mariner, who had to undergo the treacheries and dangers of the deep following his avocation. One

very important section of the South Coast that I would like to refer to especially is the dangerous and treacherous coast in St. Mary's Bay. Practically all the shipping traffic that comes out of the Gulf has to pass by Point La Haye in St. Mary's Bay, where there is no fog alarm. On several occasions wrecks have happened in consequence and very narrow escapes have occurred. Last year when tonnage was scarce two large steamers with valuable cargoes drove ashore there and had close calls from total destruction. Time and again the matter has been brought up in this House and the importance of having a fog alarm at this particular place pointed out. The cost would not be very great and if by its erection one life would be saved it would be money well spent. While referring to this matter I feel, however, that the Government will not at this late date have an alarm erected there. The west side of Placentia Bay is another place that has asked this House frequently by petition and otherwise for similar alarms to be placed somewhere there. Some few years ago five men in a fishing boat while running across St. Mary's Bay were caught out in a strong south wind and while trying to make a harbor were lost with all hands. Some of the gentlemen sitting in the House now know the case I refer to. Some five or six hundred fishing boats fish on the grounds between Cape Pine and Cape St. Mary's and when southerly winds approach they have to run for shelter and with thick weather it is impossible to make Placentia Roads or any other harbor in the Bay. Sometimes there is no course left but to run before the gale and face the wild rugged and treacherous shore. Unfortunately, in the case that I refer to, there was no aid to navigation, the boat was driven on the rocks and

the crew were all lost. Whereas if a fog alarm had been erected there these gentlemen would be saved to this country for twenty years to follow their calling.

The next grant I wish to refer to is that of Public Works, Roads and Bridges. I notice no increase in the local road grants or main line grants. When these votes were originally passed here you could get men to work for \$1.00 per day and \$1.25 five or six years ago. At the present time you cannot expect to get men to work for \$2.00 a day, in view of the high cost of living, and I do not think that the amounts voted are sufficient, for even if these amounts are sufficient to keep up the different roads, you will not get men in the Outports to work for two dollars per day. Why should they? I think 10% more money ought to be granted if the Public Department is going to have the main line of roads attended to. And while on the question, I would like to point out to the House the great necessity of the main line roads. There is a number of these roads all over the country. The same thing is found in every District. We have in the District I have the honor to represent, ten or twelve main line roads for which there is no grant at all. A special grant is necessary to maintain a District for any length of time. In fact, it is impossible to expect that you can keep up a main line road without a special grant from time to time. Always something important crops up, such as wash-outs, broken bridges, etc., and without a special grant the amount allocated is all together insufficient to keep these roads in a passable condition. There is a very important section of road from Peter's River to St. Shott's and something must be allowed for this place as it is practically unfit for travelling. Then there is an important

road between Ville Marie Station and Fox Harbor. In 1912 before I had the honor to represent the District of Placentia and St. Mary's Bay, three or four hundred dollars was allocated. That amount was spent on this line but notwithstanding the road was not fit for traffic. By having this road in a safe condition a great convenience would be afforded to the people of the settlement of Fox Harbor. Then there is another important road known as the Western Shore Road. It is three hundred miles in length and the small sum of fifty dollars was the amount allocated to keep this thoroughfare in operation, which is not enough. What could be expected to be done on a road of three hundred miles in length on fifty dollars.

In connection with ferries I wish to make a few remarks. There are some very important ferries in Placentia and St. Mary's which have been sadly neglected by the Government during the past Summer. There used to be a ferry at Fox Harbor and it is the only means of connection with the train at Ville Marie. I know a ferry man who, as the cost of living increased, found it impossible to retain his position on the insignificant amount he was receiving and the consequence was that he threw up the job. As regards Fox Harbor, as a consequence of this ferry not being run, the people there have to go round a distance of five or six miles and in some instances wade through rivers to connect with the railway. I have made several recommendations to the Minister of Public Works to have the ferry salaries increased, but they have been completely ignored. There has been no ferry at Fox Harbor now for some years. I have made the strongest kind of recommendations to the Government but they have not considered them and the people have to get to the railway as best they can.

On one or two occasions I have asked doctors to go to sick people and they absolutely refused as there were no means of getting to them. This is a serious matter and may mean the loss of some valuable lives. I trust that the Government will take this matter into consideration and there is yet time to have something done to improve the ferry service for the coming summer. A provision ought to be made in the Estimates. The Department of Public Works ought to get in touch with the parties interested in these communities. I trust the whole system will be remedied.

In speaking on ferries I may say the ferry service in the bottom of the Bay needs attention. I have a letter, a request from Rev. Butt, of Sound Island, re ferries. I merely mention it now as I am speaking on the question. The inhabitants down there have been totally depending upon the ferry service to get in touch with the railway, and I ask that something be done before any serious matter occurs. I know that some time ago a clergyman during the Winter was nearly drowned owing to the fact that there was no ferry at North Harbor. He was badly frostbitten and very nearly lost his limbs and had to come on to St. John's to the General Hospital to recuperate. I ask the Government not to wait till the election is over, but to vote a larger amount than we had last season and they will be justified in doing so owing to the very large number of people.

I have not the least objection to offer if any part of the Island has been served by any increase as regards ferries, and while I am a member of this House any request from any part of the Island if pointed out to me to be beneficial will have my support. I offer no criticisms to any subsidy, I do not care what it is, if the general good results. But I, as a representa-

tive of such an important District as I have the honour to represent ask that there be an increase in the vote and that something be done for such a large section of Placentia and St. Mary's Bay, which has not at any time been served by any coastal boat. I think that a year ago a petition was presented from a large number of people living in Trepassey and Placentia asking that the coastal steam service be established at these points. The petition was signed by twelve hundred electors and also by such gentlemen as Rev'd. O'Flaherty of Trepassey, Rev'd. O'Driscoll, Rev'd. Rawlins and Rev'd. Ryan of St. Brides. It was send down to me when I presented it to the House. It is time that the Government should do something in the matter.

Of course if there was railway connection with St. Mary's it would not be so necessary to have this service established, but there does not at present seem to be any reasonable hope that this railway connection will be made for some time to come, and therefore I think a serious effort should be made to have this steam service established. I trust the Government will take this matter into their serious consideration and try to do something regarding it during the coming summer to have some kind of coastal steam service established. We are not unreasonable, and don't expect anything that is not in reason, but we are convinced that if we can get the sympathy of the Government a means will be found to provide this most necessary facility for the people of Placentia and St. Mary's Bay.

I notice that there is a vote of \$30,000 for Postal Telegraph Extension and repair to the Western line, which I presume means the line running up the north side of Placentia Bay, Fortune Bay, etc. Well, I take

it that this amount is only for repairs, and I think it is a pity that some more money cannot be found to open some new offices. There are places right along the section where this line runs that have no telegraph offices. I have presented petitions on this matter, and it would take but very little more money to open a few offices in these places. I merely suggest this to the Government with the hope that they will give it consideration and have something done while the time is opportune.

The last vote on which I wish to make comment is the vote for pensions for soldiers and sailors. This vote at least has my most hearty support, and I am glad of having the opportunity of coming in here and supporting any vote or anything that can possibly be done for the men who have rendered their services and suffered so much for the honor of the country. Some of them have suffered loss of limb, some have suffered loss of health, and all have suffered the loss of something, if not in health, at least in money and opportunity. We all know that while these brave fellows were fighting in France and Belgium very many of the men who remained behind had the opportunity of accumulating large amounts of money and that opportunity might have been participated in by a large number of those who went across if they had remained at home. So I only trust that when the Department is in full working order, justice will be done to all of our soldiers and sailors. I hope there will be absolutely no discrimination, and I hope that no regard will be paid as to what particular section of the country a man will belong, or to what family, but only the one consideration, and that is that the gentleman in question is a member of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and that the same treat-

ment will be handed out to the man who has sprung from humble parentage as to the man who has blue blood in his veins.

These are the only criticisms, if you wish to call them such, that I wish to offer. As we go through the Estimates there may be something said loud enough to enable me to catch it, or I may discover something else to which I will take occasion to refer.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Why did you not pass a straight vote for \$4,000, which is the cost of printing the debates etc., of this House will cost. It is absurd to put this down at such a small figure.

**MR. CASHIN:**—But we may not use \$4,000.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Well, put it up to \$3,000, it will be that anyway, and I see according to the Auditor General's report that the officials of both houses of the legislature are having an increase granted. Does that include the Supervisor of debates?

**MR. CASHIN:**—A sergeant at arms getting the same vote as last year and the supervisor, but these are matters for the additional estimates. It is only giving the House additional trouble to find fault with this policy.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks with regard to a question tabled by the member for Placentia. My reason for making them now is, that I shall probably be absent from the House for a few days and I shall not be here to answer any questions that the Honourable member may put. Two years ago I was unfortunately taken ill and I had to go to the Hospital in the Spring, and it was nearly the end of August that I was able to return home. On account of this I lost my whole summer at the fishery. I am a fisherman and I depend entirely upon the fishery for my livelihood. Later on in the season the Minister of Marine and

Fisheries who was aware of my position, very kindly offered me the chance to take the position of Inspector of Herring. I was very grateful to him and I accepted the position with pleasure. For three months I was in the employ of the department of the Marine and Fisheries, part of that time I was getting information for the department and part of the time I was engaged in the inspecting of herring. I calculate roughly that I inspected about 6000 barrels of herring during the time I was in the department. The value of that work would be over \$600.00. Had I anticipated that this Honourable member was going to take such a keen interest in this matter I would have kept a copy of everything I did. I could have then tabled an exact statement of my expenses and the amount of compensation I received for that work. Unfortunately I am at the present time dependent upon my memory and cannot give the figures exactly. The entire amount which I received did not exceed \$200.00 and the value of my work can be estimated at \$600.00. I may say incidentally that an Inspector does not collect any amounts. These are paid to the department. My expenses were paid and I am not at all afraid to have an itemized statement put before the country, and I think that when the statement is published it will show just as good value for services performed as the Honourable Gentleman can show for the \$1000 he received for the services of the Fiona. I never bother my head about what these gentlemen do for their money. Last year the Honourable gentleman for Placentia made a very serious charge. I do not know that he referred to me, but he said that men on this side of the House had been paid to support the conscription bill. He said that men were sitting in this house with their commissions in their pockets.

**MR. WALSH:**—This statement was correct.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—I was wondering whether this statement referred to me. As far as jobs are concerned, I have given the Government full value for everything I have ever done.

**MR. WALSH:**—Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would make a few remarks. My only regret is that the Honourable Gentleman did not base his services on a higher basis. Such an important position is worthy a great deal more than the sum Mr. Jennings received. Had he only followed in the foot steps of some of the Honourable Gentlemen he might have done better for himself.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—I was paid the same as other inspectors.

**MR. WALSH:**—With regard to the conscription act stating what I have said in this House, I will not take it back. I have never made a statement in this House that I regret making. I am prepared to stand by my assertions. I merely asked Mr. Jennings a question, if whether he received \$60.00 or \$6.00, the country has a right to know. I did not suppose the Honourable Gentleman would take offence. A question can be asked to any Honourable Gentleman in this House and it is only correct that they should be asked. I did not assume that the Honourable Gentleman was trying to conceal anything. It was appraised in the matter. The question was asked in the regular way.

**MR. JENNINGS:**—I would like the Honourable Member to remember that I made this explanation to-day because I would be absent from the House when the answer to his questions will be tabled.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the peculiar circumstances it is proposed that the clerk do not publish this question in the paper to-morrow.

**MR. WALSH:**—I consent.



Second reading of Bill entitled "An Act respecting Bay Fishery Boards. Deferred.

Second reading of Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act. Deferred.

**MR. PICCOTT:**—I would like to make a few remarks with reference to a question asked by me a few days ago about an amount paid to Sir Patrick McGrath. It is by no means an unusual thing to have these questions asked, and when I occupied the position of Minister of Marine and Fisheries I was always glad to answer those questions as fully as I was able.

I don't think I mentioned Sir Patrick McGrath's name in any disrespectful way. I simply asked the question and when it was answered that was all I thought about it. The next evening Mr. McGrath comes out with a piece in his paper (fortunately he owns a paper and can say what he likes in it) headed "Patriotic Piccott" (and I may say that I think as much of that title as he does of all the honors bestowed on him by the King.) "Did He Get \$1200 Himself?" I did get \$1200 myself, but not for what he says. He goes on to say: "We observe that Mr. Piccott, M.H.A. for Harbor Grace, took the floor yesterday in the Assembly with some criticisms (I did not criticise this payment) respecting a payment to the editor of The Herald for services in connection with the Fisheries Commission some years ago, and posed as a super-patriot (I don't think I posed as a super-patriot, and I ask this House for a ruling on it) who got nothing himself. There is, however, a story current which if true puts a very different face on the matter. It is that Mr. Piccott on the day the Morris Government resigned in July 1917, to give place to the Coalition, was paid the sum of \$1200 as Chair-

man of the Home Defense Committee appointed by the Executive Council and consisting of cabinet ministers and deputies to deal with domestic defense problems and who were supposed to give their services gratuitously as many others were doing. The story regarding this alleged payment is that Mr. Piccott when the Coalition was being made between the Government and the Opposition at that time was being dropped from his position of Fisheries Minister and that he held up Sir Edward Morris, and refused to resign his portfolio unless he was paid \$1200 for this service, and that Sir Edward Morris, rather than have any friction in getting rid of Mr. Piccott, agreed to pay him this \$1200 and avoid the necessity of summarily dispensing with his services. Perhaps Mr. Piccott will kindly this afternoon say whether he got this amount, and if so under what circumstances, or if he is too modest to make a statement himself perhaps Mr. Currie will put a question on the order paper and ascertain the truth of the matter. As for Mr. Piccott's statement regarding ourself and our appointment being made over the head of the Fisheries Department, the truth of the matter is that when the Fisheries Commission was appointed Mr. Piccott wanted to be put at the head of it and paid for the work, but Sir Edward Morris and the other members of the Government were of opinion that he was unfitted for this particular task, and the writer was asked to take the secretaryship, and give it the close attention which it demanded. This probably explains Mr. Piccott's soreness in regard to the matter. As for his recollection that we got \$600 more for this work previously, we would simply advise him not to trust too much to his memory."

I contradict that statement here, Mr. Speaker, and I will tell this House how I came to get that \$1200. On the

19th day of July, 1914, I received a telephone call from His Excellency the Governor. It was on a Sunday morning. His Excellency asked me if I could come to Government House immediately. A couple of minutes afterwards I received another call from Sir Edward Morris with the same request, and when I arrived at Government House and looked at the three gentlemen I saw there, I was forced to the conclusion that they had either seen a ghost or that the Germans had frightened the life out of them. His Excellency then handed me a cablegram which he had received from abroad saying that three German submarines had been fitted out and were then on the east coast of Norway, and from that would come to Labrador and try to make Grey Islands and Lewisporte their place of observation. There was a tender to the three submarines supposed to be on the Atlantic coast from the United States. I said in a off-hand way: "That looks as if we are going to have a visit from them," and His Excellency said: "Piccott, what are we going to do?" I thought that the military authorities were the proper men to get in touch with, but he said that Major Montgomerie and in fact all the military authorities were spending the week end at Topsail. He said: "Something has got to be done," and I said: "If you telephone for Commander McDermott I have no doubt he will advise you what to do, he being a military and naval man. In the meantime I will see the Reid Newfoundland Company and try to make arrangements regarding a boat to be outfitted, and you might get hold of somebody in connection with the Regiment and send him down there on the train that is going out today." The Home and the were then sent down there, and His Excellency got hold of my deputy, who was a bit

of a military man, and asked him to look around and see what others he could get. When Commander McDermott came down he said he would do all he possibly could, and we proceeded from Government House to the Briton. The Petrel was lying off the dock at the time, and we put a gun aboard of her and started to get her ready, and it was not very long before we got things going. Mr. J. J. McKay and Mr. Tom McNeil looked after this, and did all they possibly could, and they were two good men, having been officers of the city brigades. I then volunteered my services to take command, that is to go down and see if there were any submarines there. I did not ask for pay.

On Monday night I left in charge of the Fogota, with 120 soldiers, fully equipped with all necessary appurtenances to repel any submarine or any men that would attempt to land on the Island. On Tuesday I arrived there and landed these men, and I made all possible search and talked with the fishermen, explaining the matter to them and advising them to keep a good watch for any possible landing. A naval officer came on board the Fogota, and told me that he had everything arranged all right. I then went around of the different places until the Petrel arrived, with Commander Mcermott on board. We stayed there quite a while, and the Fogota was fitted with a gun on deck. Commander McDermott took charge of one section and I took charge of the eastern section of Labrador. We put in a long while there and I came back with him the last of October or November, and the next year I was employed here to look after the harbor night and day, and at the same time was chairman of that committee. I never asked payment for this work all this time. I was also on the recruiting committee, and was

going around this country recruiting winter time, from one end to the other, when Sir Parick McGrath was having a very good time. However, Sir, that was none of my business, and I went on doing the work, and I am proud to say that we accomplished as much as any recruiting party that went out. For three weeks work we sent in to St. John's ninety-six recruits. I have been at it all the time the war was on. The next year I was in charge of the Port Saunders and the Argyle, and in fact I was on all calls. I did not expect any payment, and I did not want any payment, but I remember when the Minister of Militia was asked what he got his money for, he got up and pointed out to this House, and satisfied this House that he was being paid for giving his services after hours, and another gentleman who was on that patrol work, Capt. ———, was paid for his services. In view of these facts I brought the matter before my friend, Mr. Cashin, and I said to him "These fellows are being paid for extra work done, what about me?" He said "Send in your bill and we will do our best." I sent in my bill for patrol work, not for being Chairman of the Committee, and if the Government did not think I had earned that money it was up to them not to give it to me. They gave it to me and I thank them for it, and I may say that it has not rusted in the bank. His statement that I held up Sir Edward Morris for his money is another falsehood.

Regarding the Fishery Commission, when this was appointed I was not in the country. I was in British Columbia at the time, and when I came back the Commission was sitting. I never spoke to Sir Edward Morris on the matter, and I knew nothing about it until my friend Mr. Cashin

and myself talked it over afterwards. I said, "Why didn't he have me on that Commission." There were men on that Commission, Mr. Speaker, that did not know if there was a cover to a cod trap as well as a bottom, and as a Newfoundlander and an outport boy I would not need to know much to know that.

Now, if I had been in the country when that Commission was appointed, I would have been on it, whether Sir Edward Morris liked it or not, but I was not here, and I made no objection, nor did I hold Sir Edward Morris up for anything for myself. I think the gentlemen here in this House will remember that when the coalition Government was talked of, I was one of the men who said "I will remain with this party, and if any member wants a job I won't leave until it is settled." I wanted nothing myself. Two years before that when coalition was talked of I asked Sir Edward Morris about it, and he said "there are some of you fellows that I have got to look after." He mentioned three or four, and he said "I will not go in with these fellows until I see that you get those positions." I said "Look after yourself, my dear man, and don't worry about a job for me. I can get one all right, if not in this country then in some other."

If Sir Edward Morris thought me unfit to be Minister of Marine and Fisheries, he had lots of time to tell me that I was no good, but I was independent of Sir Edward Morris or anyone else. When I joined up with them I brought along a three man district that had not been broken for 24 years, and if I went back to that district for Coaker, Cashin or anyone else that would lead the Government, I still will. If Sir Edward Morris made that remark, he made it when I was out of the country, and if Sir Edward Morris was in the country to-

day, I know he would be only too glad to get Piccott, because Piccott can deliver the goods every time. When we were eighteen to eighteen \$1,000.00 was laid for me to sign the papers and go out of the Narrows, but I would not do that; I was not built that way. If you were a member, Mr. Speaker, when the Coalition Government was settled up, Sir Edward Morris eulogised me for what I had done. Here is a letter that he wrote on the 15th of June. There is enough Irish in me to resent being stabbed in the back. I do not want to say one thing on the floors of this House that will affect any man here, and there is not one member in this House that I ever spoke disrespectfully of. That is not my bringing up. Sir Patrick McGrath's attack is in every way unworthy of him. The services I gave for the \$1200 were cheap at that price. If the Government think it is too little, they can have it back.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed certain resolutions and asked leave to sit again on tomorrow.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises, it adjourn until Monday, the 28th inst., at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

#### MONDAY, April 28th.

The House met at three of the clock in the afternoon, pursuant to adjournment.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister tabled the Return of Fire Insurance Losses, 1918.

..MR. ABBOTT:—I beg leave to pre-

sent a petition from the electors of Bayly's Cove, Bonavista, asking that the sum of \$40.00 be given to build a road in that locality. Also a petition from the inhabitants of Tickle Cove, B.B., asking for \$100.00 to build a road to agricultural land in that place. Also a petition from a portion of the electors of Bonavista which asks for the sum of \$150 to make improvement to a fishing gulch known as Old Cove on the Cape Shore. The condition of this Cove at the present time is very bad owing to a great many boulders there which handicap the fishermen of that place in hauling and saving their fishing boats and other property that is used in connection with the prosecution of the fishery. Also another petition from the electors of King's Cove, B.B., who request that a light house be erected on Flat Island. This petition is identical to others presented earlier at the 1919 session of the Legislature. These petitions are largely signed and I hope the Government will give them due consideration, and I beg leave to refer them to the several Departments to which they relate.

MR. LeFEUVRE:—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Little Bay who ask that \$1,000 be allocated to complete a road which has never been finished there.

MR. CURRIE:—I beg leave to second that.

MR. STONE:—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Norman's Cove, Trinity Bay, which asks that a telegraph office be erected at that place. This settlement is situate fifteen miles from any place whatever. It is an important matter, as it not only will effect this particular settlement but also the inhabitants of Long Beach and Chattle Hr. This petition is largely signed and I have much pleasure in supporting the

prayer thereof, and I beg leave to present it to the Department to which it relates.

**MR. TARGETT:**—I beg leave to second that.

**MR. MOULTON:**—In the early part of the Winter I got a letter from the inhabitants of Isle aux Morts, who ask that that place be made a port of call. I advised them to draw up a petition and send it in to the Government or Colonial Secretary. What they particularly desire is, that a steamer call there in the Winter time. I later learned from the Colonial Secretary that the Government decided that this could not be done, as some captain had said that it was impossible to call at that harbor. I do not know that the Government is aware that Isle aux Morts is one of the chief fishing ports on the West Coast. Even when Port aux Basques is blocked with ice Isle aux Morts is open and the schooners fish there almost uninterruptedly all through the Winter. Just two or three years ago I made a proposal to the Government. (Lord Morris was then Premier) to make this place a port of call, but it was decided that it could not be done without discarding some other port, but there are several harbors along the coast whilth it is not necessary that steamers should call, and in view of the trade of this place and the amount it contributes to the revenue, I sincerely hope the Government will take up this matter and give it consideration and do what is right for these people.

**MR. LeFEUVRE:**—I would like to second the remarks made by the Honorable Member for Burgeo. The place is a very important one and its trade extends all along the coast. I have much pleasure of giving this petition my support.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—Being personally familiar with the conditions of this

very important locality, I feel that I cannot let this opportunity slip by without expressing a few opinions which arise from my own knowledge of the conditions there prevalent.

Isle aux Morts is one of the few places which prosecutes the fishery the whole year round, and one can hardly realize how arduous the weather conditions at that place are. I myself, am the applicant on behalf of my district for two ports of call and I think it is quite time that a slight alteration should be made in the present schedule. The last alteration which was made in the schedule when the Bowring boats no longer called at ———, reduced the distance the steamer had to travel from 140 to 130 miles, and the new port of call added, only increased the traveling distance 20 miles. I sincerely hope that the Government will consider the advisability of having a few ports of call added to the list and I think that in view of the shortening of route to which I have just referred, Bowrings ought to have no possible objection to adding a few ports of call to their present schedule.

**MR. LeFEUVRE:**—While we are discussing ports of call, I would like to say, as one familiar with the people directly interested that we are losing a great deal of trade in Newfoundland which would otherwise remain here. A great deal of business which should be done in St. John's is done with Halifax by people on the West coast owing to the lack of communication which exists between St. John's and the places in Canada. Companies without the assistance of the Government have found it worthwhile to have their own steamers, and they find that the freight and passengers amply repay them. I think

that it is time the Government gave this matter serious consideration and tried to regain the trade which is at present being given to Canadian Towns.

**MR. MOULTON:**—While presenting my petition this afternoon, I omitted to remark that the Captain to which the Colonial Secretary had referred stating that Isle aux Morts was not a fit place for a steamer to call. I do not think that there is any better part along the coast. The water is deep. There are no shoals. There are no rocks there. There is nothing that can be seen. Almost any steamer could go in there without any difficulty.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—I would like to corroborate that statement. I may say that, I myself, as perfectly familiar with these conditions, am entirely of the opinion of the Honourable Member who has just sat down.

**MINISTER OF SHIPPING:**—I ask leave, Mr. Speaker to present petition from Ochre Pit Cove, asking for the sum of five hundred dollars for some public works.

Also a petition from Northern Bay, asking for the sum of five hundred dollars for some marine works.

Also a petition from Old Perlican, asking that the sum of five hundred dollars be granted in connection with the construction of a road from that settlement to the railway.

Also a petition from Old Perlican, asking that a public building be erected there for a telegraph office and post office.

Also a petition from the residents of Western Bay asking that the sum of five hundred dollars be granted to repair the public wharf on the southside.

I would ask that these petitions be received and referred to the department to which they relate.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—I would say, Mr. Chairman, that I am personally familiar with the locality referred to in the petition just presented, and I cannot let the opportunity, afforded by its presentation, slip without saying a word in favor of the object sought to be attained by the residents of Isle aux Morts.

I may say that I am intimately acquainted with the locality, and with its people, as I for some years had a branch of a fresh fish business at Isle aux Morts.

Very few people on our side of the Island can realise the hardships and the generally arduous weather conditions under which the people of Isle aux Morts and many other places on the West Coast labor in the making of a living. Isle aux Morts is one of the few places which prosecute the winter codfishery, and any community whose men are engaged therein are entitled to any consideration that this Legislature can extend to them. There are really no navigation difficulties to debar the western boat from making Isle aux Morts a port of call if it can be arranged that it be included in the steamer's schedule.

I would also say at the present time that I am myself an applicant on behalf of the District of St. George for two ports of call under the new contract, and I think I have already established to the satisfaction of this House that the request is justifiably made.

The placing of two ports in St. George's District will not be in any respect the conferring of a favor thereon, but will simply be an act to, is a measure at least, make atonement for the injustice that was done the district when two of the three ports of call that it had some years back were cut, or rather stolen, if I

would use the proper designation, from the steamer's schedule. The District lost two of its ports of call solely in the interest of the Bowring Company, who thereby saved a steaming distance of over 100 miles on each round trip and for which almost a negligible sine qua non was given the country in the shape of two ports in another district that were included in the steamer's list of ports at our expense.

I am taking it for granted that the Government will make the necessary provision under the new contract to restore to us two ports in lieu of those so taken, and that they will also be enabled to make provision for the addition to the schedule of Isle aux Morts.

**MR. DOWNEY:**—I ask leave to-day, Mr. Speaker, to present two petitions from the District of St. George.

The first is from residents of Codroy Harbour, where there is a population of over 600, and the conditions surrounding this petition are somewhat involved. Some eight years since, I presented the first petition from this locality asking for the services of the dredge for Codroy Harbor. At one time, some 60 years back, Codroy Harbor was capable of giving accommodation to large craft. It was in those days a portion of the so-called French Shore and even French barques of quite large tonnage, engaged in the Bank fishery, used to winter there. Owing to some submarine convulsion in the Gulf, which diverted the natural set of the current and caused it to set directly through Codroy Harbor—which has two entrances, respectively at its north and south ends—this change in the current has had the effect of silting-up the harbor, so that to-day it furnishes accommodation in the harbor proper for only very small craft, tho' in the roadstead there is

an abundance of water, but the roadstead is not a safe anchorage during bad weather periods. Owing to the altered conditions, the residents of Codroy are now debarred from using in the prosecution of fishery operations boats larger than of such size as can be hauled up above the reach of the sea in stormy weather, and it is not at all flattering to the good judgment or the degree of humanity shown by any Government that will expect the fishermen of this Country to labor for a living under the conditions that are to be met with in the prosecution of the winter codfishery which the people of Codroy engage in when this fishery has to be prosecuted in ordinary dories, as is the case at present.

Upon the acquisition by the Country of the Dredge, the people of Codroy petitioned the Legislature to permit of its services being utilised in the dredging of Codroy Harbor, so that they might be enabled to procure boats of sufficient size to enable them to prosecute the all-year-round codfishery with the reasonable measure of safety that should surround all human avocations.

In response to this petition, or rather, to the two or three similar petitions presented, the Government Engineer was instructed to make a survey in connection with the work asked for and he reported that it would be useless to dredge Codroy Harbor until a breakwater, some 600 feet in length, was first erected, so as to again divert the current to its original course, otherwise that the harbor would be certain to re-silt, and the benefits of the dredging work be lost. Altho' this report of the Government Engineer was made some five years back, and tho' the matter has on two or three occasions engaged the serious attention of the Executive, nothing practical has re-

sulted and the people have at last become skeptical that the Government intends to live up to the promise given through me that this breakwater would be constructed, and the present petition asks that the Government allocate to Codroy the sum of \$200.00 to be devoted to deepening the gut leading to a small cove, known as North West Cove, adjacent to Codroy proper, and that the residents will, in consideration of this grant being made by the Legislature, give an equivalent value in labor towards the realisation of this project, which they believe will enable them to acquire skiffs and safely harbor them in bad weather in the North West Cove.

In the Winter just past, incredible as it may appear, the fishermen of Codroy caught three million pounds of fish in ordinary 11 feet dories that no other fishermen the world over would have trusted their lives to amidst the conditions of gales and snowstorms that were the constant accompaniment of their labors in the securing of this large quantity of fish, and I would consider it not alone ungenerous but absolutely unjust on the part of any Government whose indifference to the prayer of the many petitions presented from Codroy will continue to longer subject those fishermen to the vicissitudes that have so far been inseparable from their labors.

I would here remind the Government that the Government Engineer's estimate in connection with the break water was that it could be constructed for a very moderate outlay, and the necessary dredging to complete the work could be done under the ordinary grant for dredging work, so that there is really nothing whatever to debar non-attention to this work for any longer period.

The second petition is from the

residents of Searstown and Grand River asking that the ferry there be equipped with a motor engine. The Grand River, upon which Searstown lies, is one of our largest rivers, being very nearly a mile wide at its mouth and slightly over half a mile wide seven miles up from salt water. Owing to this large river discharging through a rather narrow gut, the current sets both in and out, during different stages of the tide, with very great velocity, and as the route of the ferry crosses the river near the gut, and as this ferry carries passengers and tows a large scow that conveys teams loaded with agricultural products on their way to the railway station for transshipment—it frequently gets caught in the current and is carried at great velocity either in or out of the gut and at the imminent risk of human lives as well as of the animals and the loads of agricultural products.

The petitioners have reasonably contended that were the ferry boat equipped with a small gasoline engine, absolute safety from accidents would be afforded. The boat could then afford to make a slight detour to get beyond the vortex of the current, and safety in crossing would be assured.

In connection with the difficulties under which agricultural work is prosecuted in St. George's District, I would take advantage of the present occasion to read to the House a letter that I today received from a Mr. Robert Shears, of Middle Barachois. The letter is as follows:

Dear Sir:—It is, I think, useless for me to begin to explain to you the need of the road I now ask money for to make it passable for carts, as I have done so so many times, and you know by your travels around here the inconvenience we little farmers are put to, and hardship as well, for



lack of roads. I now have 25 barrels of potatoes up the river, and will have to pack them on my back for over a mile, and on my horse. This is not an easy job, but what can one do? This road is for the farmers of Middle Barchoix and leads from the railway up the river. A little money has already been spent on it, as you know, and the Chairman of the Road Board at Crabbes knows and asks as well as myself for the sum of \$200 for this purpose. I see that the present Government speaks strongly on the need of roads, and I think it is time to be up and doing.

Trusting to your kind consideration and that of the Board of Works to get this amount,

I remain, yours truly,

(Sgd.) ROBERT SHEARS.

I may say that there are scores of cases in St. George's District situated as Mr. Shears is.

In response to the appeals issued by the Agricultural Board in the past four years, asking that the country make increased efforts to produce all the foodstuffs possible, many residents of St. George's went beyond the limits of their road system to effect additional clearings, and today the crops grown from these can only be marketed by those owning them carrying potatoes, turnips and other products upon their backs to whatever distance intervenes their clearings and the end of the road system, and then carting them the further distance of from 3 or 4 to as many as perhaps 8 or 10 miles to the nearest railway station.

I am convinced that were the Government personally familiar with the difficulties under which the various industries are prosecuted in St. George's District, that they would not hesitate to make the necessary grants towards providing the facilities that would enable its people to make the

required effort to develop its very great potential wealth and thus, in turn, enable them, through their increased earning powers, to be larger contributors to the country's revenue than they are even at the present moment.

I ask that these petitions be referred to the different Departments to which they pertain.

**MINISTER OF MILITIA:**—In reply to the question of the Hon. Member question of the Honourable Member for Harbour Grace, Mr. Piccott,—asking the Minister of Militia to lay on the table of the House any correspondence that passed between himself and Majors Montgomerie, Paterson, Macpherson and Parsons with regard to the hospital accommodation in and fitting up the Empire Wood Working Building and the disciplining of the above officers—with your permission, and the permission of the House, I desire to make a statement in this connection.

During the latter part of last year the matter of sufficient hospital accommodation for returned and returning invalided soldiers occasioned considerable anxiety to all concerned. Every effort possible was made to secure necessary additional accommodation, but without avail as no suitable building in the city could be secured for the purpose, excepting the Seamen's Institute, but it was not considered advisable to take this building over owing to its being required for other necessary purposes.

With a view of coming to some definite understanding in the matter, I called a meeting in my office on December 23rd, at which were present Sir Michael Cashin, Acting Prime Minister, representing the Government; representatives of the Civil Re-establishment Committee, and the Pension Commissioners; Dr. Mac-

pherson, Director of Medical Services; Dr. Paterson, Deputy Director of Medical Services; Major Montgomerie, District Officer Commanding; and myself.

After considering the whole situation, it was determined that something should be done with the least possible delay. After hearing the opinions of the Medical Officers and others concerned it was suggested by Sir Michael Cashin that the Annex, recently attached to the Empire Barracks, might be converted into a suitable convalescent hospital. This suggestion was agreed upon, and it was arranged that the Acting Prime Minister, the Medical Officers—Doctors Macpherson and Parsons, the District Officer Commanding—Major Montgomerie, and myself would visit the place the following morning at ten o'clock, which was accordingly done.

We spent some time in going over the Building, and after thoroughly inspecting it, the Medical Men were asked if the place was capable of being made suitable as a convalescent hospital. Dr. Parsons replied that he was agreeably surprised to find the place so well suited for the purpose. Dr. Macpherson said that it was not ideal, but with certain alterations and improvements it could be made suitable. After discussing some of the details—such as sanitary requirements, kitchen and dining rooms, etc., I felt satisfied that we had reached a solution of the difficulty which confronted us. I accordingly called Sir Michael Cashin aside and asked him if he were satisfied that the building could be made suitable, if so, had I the authority of the Government to proceed with the necessary work so that the place might be fitted up without delay. To these enquiries his answer to both was "yes." During

the course of this conversation we had walked slowly through the building, we then halted for a minute or two, but the others had evidently remained in the portion of the building where we had left them. I concluded the Doctors and Major Montgomerie were further discussing the matter of detail. Sir Michael Cashin informed me that he was busy and had to get back to his office, and asked me if I were going up and offered me a lift in the cab which was waiting for him. Thinking the others would naturally follow, I immediately proceeded to the Militia Office, and upon my arrival there, several people were awaiting me, and whilst I was engaged with one of them, the Military Secretary, Captain Byrne said the Committee were waiting to see me. As I was engaged I asked him to tell them that everything was alright as I had arranged matters with the Acting Prime Minister. It being my full intention as soon as I got through the matters requiring immediate attention, to write the Director of Medical Services, Major Macpherson; and the District Officer Commanding, Major Montgomerie, that I had the authority of the Government to proceed with the work of fitting up the Annex as a hospital, and to request them to make the necessary preparations to have the work put in hand immediately.

Much to my surprise, before one o'clock I received a communication signed by Majors Montgomerie, Macpherson and Parsons. The contents of this communication left no other course open to me but to ask for their resignations—excepting Major Parsons, who was not an officer on the staff. These resignations were accordingly handed in, and I forwarded them to the Governor in Council for such final action as he considered

necessary in the premises. At the same time I asked that an enquiry be held into all the happenings by some competent and impartial tribunal, whose findings would be satisfactory to all concerned.

In the meantime the work of these Officers was being performed as usual, and our personal relations were not in the least affected, as the whole episode was purely of an official character.

In the course of a few days it became apparent that some misunderstanding had led up to this incident, and, by mutual consent, a conference was held in my office and all the circumstances were fully gone into, when it was agreed that a misunderstanding had occurred. The Officers concerned were prepared to write me to that effect and withdraw their communication. At the same time I agreed to withdraw the one asking for their resignations.

I now, therefore, Mr. Speaker, beg to lay copies of these two communications on the table of the House, hoping that the House will accept this explanation of mine as a correct one of an incident that was regretted by me, and I feel too by all the Officers concerned.

I can only add that since that time each of these Officers continues to act in his respective capacity, and I feel that the work has not been in the least affected by this regrettable incident.

My reasons for making this statement at this juncture are that, unfortunately, a warped and prejudiced report of the circumstances appeared in certain sections of the press. I was vilified and assailed, and charged with perpetrating an injustice to those officials which was quite contrary to the facts. I only did what I considered my duty as head of the Department, and I would be long sorry to, in any way, knowingly injure any officer or

official in the Department of Militia where I have had such loyal and efficient co-operation.

[Copy.]

Jan. 10th, 1919.

Sir:—With reference to our communication of December 24th 1918 re hospital matters, and your reply thereto of December 26th 1918.

We have since had an opportunity of discussing with you the matters in dispute and as a result of such conference are satisfied that there has been a misunderstanding.

We therefore withdraw our letter of December 24th 1919.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

A. MONTGOMERIE, Major,

D. O. C., Nfld.

W. H. PARSONS,

Pensions Com.

CLUNY MACPHERSON, Major

D. M. S.

J. R. Bennett, Esq.,  
Minister of Militia.

[Copy.]

Jan. 10th, 1919.

Major C. Macpherson, D.M.S.,

Major A. Montgomerie, D.O.C.,

Major W. Parsons, Bd. of Pen. Com.

Sirs:—In furtherance of my communication of December 26th replying to yours of December 24th, re: Hospital matters, I desire to say that, as a result of a conference since held with you, it was mutually agreed that the incidents which occasioned the above communication were due to a misunderstanding. Therefore, I withdraw my letter to you of the 28th December, 1918.

I have the honour to be,

Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) J. R. BENNETT,

Minister of Militia.

Copy sent to Major A. Montgomerie, D.O.C.; Major W. Parsons, B. of Pen. Com.

Committee of the Whole on Supply.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Mr. Chairman, before the vote for Public Charities passes I would like to make a few observations and would like to call the attention of the Minister to the fact that the Relieving Officers have not received any increases to the fact that the Relieving Officers have not received any increases to their salaries and the Sergeants have. I do not see why the distinction should be made. I notice that the District Sergeants for Plarentia, Burgeo and Channel, etc. have received the increases and the Relieving Officers of those places have not.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Because they are not policemen.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I know they are not, but I know that they have to do a great deal of work and I think that they are entitled to the increases given to Sergeants. Also I would like to know if the Government is considering another ambush, again, what about the Hospital or what action is being taken in regard to patients coming from outports and having to wait for six to eight weeks before accommodation can be found for them. I know that recently the Government have attempted to do something by making it compulsory for outport doctors to examine people carefully before they are sent on and to notify Mr. Bartlett, who is in charge of this department. And even if action has been taken, I am afraid it is not going to remedy matters, and people will insist on coming in, because they think that if they wait that they will never get there. The doctors here in St. John's fill up the various wards. At the present time there are some fifty or sixty patients awaiting admission in there. I have one case in my district waiting to get

there. This young lady has spent weeks here. I tried my best with the assistance of the Colonial Secretary, who was good enough to interest himself in the case, but found that accommodation could not be given here. One solution of the present problem would be for the Government to utilize some other place another town that would be suitable for the purpose. It is unfair to have people who are suffering from any serious disease put up and accommodated in an ordinary boarding house, where the accommodation is not very desirable. They are living under conditions which are anything but good and which they could not be expected to live under. I can quite see the position that the Government cannot offer to pay high board for them, as you cannot get any boarding house to take in people for less than 75 or 80 cents a day. The matter has reached such an acute stage that something must be done. I do not know whether or not the Government are considering the matter of outport hospital accommodation. At Grand Bank there is one doing good work, but it has not been able to carry it on, owing to the grant being not sufficient. The Government could erect a ward at the General Hospital through paying patients. There are patients in the hospital to-day who are not paying but are well able to pay and should be made pay. That would relieve the situation. Another circumstance is that there are one or two wards at the General Hospital at present used by soldiers. Is there not sufficient accommodation at the Empire Building to treat the soldiers there? If there was it would help to relieve the situation. These are matters that are deserving of immediate attention and the Government should see to it.

There is one more point in connection with the expenditure under Public Charities that I would like to refer to and that is the provision of medical

attendance for outports. When a telegram is sent to the Government from some out of the way place asking for immediate aid a doctor has got to be sent from St. John's or else all sorts ine that the Government can find a of accusations are made, as they imagine doctor for them when they want them. Would it not be possible to employ a doctor for that particular purpose? Their charge while called on these special missions are enormous. I understand that some doctors went so far as to charge a high a \$100 a day for their services. I know that they got \$50 a day. I think that if some arrangement could be made whereby a doctor could be attached here to the Public Health Department it would save the country considerable expense. As far as Hospital accommodation is concerned I would like to know what the Government have in view for the purpose of relieving the strain at the present time when there are from fifty to sixty patients awaiting admission there. I think the official, Mr. Bartlett, who is looking after patients coming in, is a most competent and painstaking official, but is practically helpless while the present state of affairs exist. Under present conditions it must be costing the Government an enormous sum and I think that that amount could be reduced if the Government would utilize some other place in the city as a hospital.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**

—Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few observations with reference to the matters alluded to by Mr. Currie. I think it is apparent to the Committee that there is some grounds as to the usefulness of the General Hospital here and the Government is under the impression that this General Hospital is reaching that limit that there is work of a serious character to do.

The Government is inclined to meet the proposition in another way by taking up the matter seriously and if the

Outports are inclined to help themselves then there will be something done to reach a step so that they may get hospital accommodation. At present there are two propositions before the Government. First, the Government is prepared to aid the general support of a hospital at Twillingate on the basis that the patients pay so much per bed. The other proposition is that of the erection of a hospital at Harbour Grace. The people there have before them the opportunity of having a hospital at Harbour Grace, and the Government is prepared to aid them by paying an annual amount on the basis of the number of beds. This I hope will at any rate be a beginning and we are even prepared to give them an additional grant having regard to the number of beds to the Grenfell Association Hospital. I hope this will be a serious beginning and will relieve the situation. All this is dependent upon the fact that the respective inhabitants do something for themselves. This is the moral. If this principle is once established they will necessarily be called upon to pay. As for Doctors, I may say that I have never come across a Doctor who has asked one hundred dollars per day. All things are possible but I have never come across this. I have come across those who have asked fifty dollars per day and expenses, and I have been instrumental in turning them down. There are some exceptional cases where it is absolutely necessary to pay them big amounts. I think the ordinary fee is about twenty five dollars per day, but as I have said the Government is sometimes forced to pay more. From time to time there have been requests from all parts of the Island for a Doctor to be sent. Some of these wants have been supplied but it is impossible to supply all. The matter of having a doctor to act permanently for the Government is having our serious consideration.

**MR. CURRIE:**— Mr. Chairman, I desire to thank the Prime Minister for the information given. I ask that the matter be taken up. The Government is in a position to help those who are unable to help themselves. There are numbers of persons who come to St. John's year after year who should be given to understand that they must pay for their medical attention. There are many persons who can well afford to pay for Doctors and if they get seriously ill and come on to St. John's or have doctors sent them, they should pay for it. As soon as this stand is taken by the Government and the Outport people are shown what is expected of them the sooner they will begin to help themselves. May I ask when is Doctor Brehm expected and is he going to take up duties with the Military authorities?

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**—He is expected on the Digby. I sent a communication to Dr. Brehm and I received a reply a few weeks ago saying that he did not receive it for six weeks although it was sent to Brighton where he was all the time. The communication was relative to his return.

**MR. CURRIE:**—Is the report current true that another official is to be appointed to the Public Health Department?

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**—No.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I would like to ask why such large salaries are paid to some lighthouse keepers.

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:**—Some pay their own man.

**MR. PICCOTT:**—Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Minister of Agriculture and Mines is not taking his seat. Is he sick? I always understood that during Sir Edward Morris's time that when these estimates were going through the Minister of Agriculture and Mines would be present. At present there is a live Minister, and

since I have been here, which is not very long, he has not made an appearance on the platform of this House to give satisfaction about his Department. It would do both himself and this House credit if he would put in an appearance. I would like to have these Estimates deferred since he is not here. I would like him to take his place here as he is one of these smart gentlemen who was always ready to criticise the Morris Government. There must be some good reason or other why he absents himself. So I ask that the Estimates be deferred until we have the Minister here and besides he has not tabled his reports. If he is healthy and nothing serious wrong with him there is no reason why he should not come here.

**RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER:**—I am not in a position to defer the Estimates on those grounds because the Minister of Agriculture and Mines has already accepted a position, which prevents him from sitting in this House. He has accepted the position of Commissioner of Pensions. He will be appointed as a matter of course and under the present circumstances he cannot be compelled to come here. There is no statute on the subject.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I thought there was an Act passed which made it necessary that every minister should attend this House unless there was a special provision made.

I think that the Minister of Agriculture and Mines ought to be here. I think he ought be allowed to take his seat in the House. Dealing with the vote for Forest Fire Protection I may say that I do not quite understand the situation, and I would ask for some explanation thereof. With reference to the Marine & Fisheries vote, I notice in the report of the Hon. Minister that he makes reference to the fisheries of the Country; and urges upon the Government the necessity of adopting a new method of cure. He

goes on to state that unless a change is made in the method of handling our fish, we will not be able to compete satisfactorily with our competitors. I would like to ask if it is intended to make any change in the Marine & Fisheries Dept. so that an Expert might be brought here to deal with these matters? I notice that on last Saturday the Board of Trade held a meeting; and suggested that a small export tax on fish be levied, so as to defray the expenses of some satisfactory Expert, who would be brought here to deal with matters of that sort. I think that this is a matter that deserves great consideration, and I think the Minister realises that fact. We have got to adopt new methods to meet the new conditions that are arising. We have got to adopt new methods if we want to hold our market. I do not blame the fishermen altogether for the bad cure. I think the people responsible are the fish buyers. They are satisfied to take all sorts of fish without question. One gentleman speaking at the Board of Trade Meeting on Saturday last said that some of the fish that was bought this year was unfit for human consumption; but he said it was bought on the principle that anything would be accepted so long as there was a chance to make money. That is a very pernicious principle to go upon. During the past four or five years we have had a magnificent opportunity with practically a monopoly of the fish markets of the world wherein we might have been able to install ourselves without fear of successful competition. Instead of doing so we have been dumping any kind of fish in there; destroying our future chances; and, in a sense, killing the goose that lays the Golden egg. The Government should give this matter immediate and earnest consideration, and meet the suggestion that has been offered by the Board of Trade. I think that some rules or regulations

should be made with reference to a standard cure, so that there will be some guarantee as to the quality of fish that we export. No person should be allowed to export fish that is likely to cause damage to our market. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries may be able to say whether or not anything is contemplated by the Government in reference to the present situation.

**MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES:**—Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member for Burin, I might say, that the Report which I have tabled I am prepared to substantiate in every way. I think the Government should at once direct its attention to making provision for the standardization of the cure of codfish and introduce remedial measures dealing with the present situation. Our cure may be classed under 3 heads: No. 1, 2 and 3, and each cure should have its separate brand. The fishermen know how to make fish now just as well as they ever did, but the great trouble is not with the fishermen altogether; it is with the buyers who are responsible. There is absolutely no encouragement given the fishermen to make any particular kind of fish—for instance, the man who has a bad cargo gets as much as the man who has good.

I think the time has now arrived when we should have an expert here, who would go into the whole matter from a scientific view-point, so that we might be in a position to intelligently discuss all phases in connection with our fisheries. Unfortunately in the past we have been too lax in the matter of cure, therefore great damage has been done to our markets by the errors which have been made in this respect. We should have legislation compelling the buyers who buy fish to see that it is properly cured in every respect, and inspectors should be appointed to in-

spect the fish and see that no fish leaves the country that does not meet the requirements of a standardized cure. In this way we would receive for ourselves a reputation in the various markets which we ship our fish to, and avoid the dangers incidental to the present haphazard methods. I believe if the merchants would work in harmony with the Marine and Fisheries Department, the Government and the fishermen, conditions in my opinion would be materially improved.

The meeting referred to by the Hon. Member for Burin, held in the Board of Trade Rooms, unfortunately I was prevented from attending. While I had an invitation to be present, owing to pressure of business I was unable to do so. I understand the business of the meeting was for the purpose of taking up with the Government the matter in relation to a scientist, who might come here to thoroughly investigate conditions relative to our fisheries.

You will agree with me, that there are many matters in connection with our staple industry that we know very little of. For instance, we know nothing in relation to taking, say the temperature of the water. We do not know whether the small tom-cod which is usually around the wharves in May and June, is a tom-cod species or whether they become codfish. We do not know how long it takes these little fish referred to to grow—whether it takes one month, a year, or five. I am informed that very little fish of any kind can be found in Hudson Bay. Furthermore, we do not know too much about the habits of our seals. In fact, there is a great deal yet in my opinion which all of us could learn from a scientific standpoint. There is no question but that our knowledge of the fisheries of the country is limited. If we had the ad-

vice of a scientific man to depend upon in these matters, great advantage would accrue to the country. We would be enabled to augment the value of our fisheries and with a little care would safe-guard our markets; we cannot possibly allow conditions to go on as they are at present, otherwise we shall be driven from the markets altogether.

During the past three or four years we have had the fish markets of the world practically within our control, but I am sorry to say that we misused the advantage that should have accrued to us in that respect. I have heard of cases where fish about to be shipped, was taken up through the main hatch, and just a bucket or two of water thrown over it, and put into the aft hatch, brought on to St. John's without even seeing the sun. There is no question of doubt but what it would be impossible even in a temperate climate to keep it in good condition, more especially when it had not sufficient salt. When we realise the climatic conditions of the market to which fish of that kind was being shipped, we can hardly wonder that the fish arrived there in a condition unfit for human consumption. The greatest care and attention should be paid to the cure of not only codfish, but salmon, herring, turbot, lobsters and any other fish we might put up.

In relation to our herring, the past year or two we no doubt had the New York and Chicago markets all to ourselves. But since the war is closed off, competitors have come in and consequently the prices in these markets have decreased considerably. And not alone that, but owing to the unexpected conclusion of hostilities, contracts for the purchase of large shipments of herring which have been entered into particularly with Jewish buyers of these places at high prices, we find that owing to the in-



rush from other centres, default has been made in carrying out these contracts, as the people are willing to take the Alaska fish at a lower price than give the big price for our Newfoundland fish.

Our method of inspection is not at the present time perfect, nor up to the standard which should be in vogue; but we are continually improving and within a short time we hope to have a system whereby it will be impossible to get a bad package of herring out of the country. It is absolutely impossible under present conditions to carry on a rigid inspection, as inspectors cannot inspect fish properly when out under the weather. I would suggest that the Government provide a warehouse, something like Prowse's premises on the South Side, which would be an ideal place if we could hire it. In this way we would be enabled to thoroughly inspect our fish before it left our shores. I claim that such a scheme would not cost the Government anything, it could be self-supporting from fees collected for storage, etc. Our herring fishery today costs the Government nothing, as we collect fees enough to cover all expenses in connection therewith. And I trust that in the future the Government will consider the recommendations made by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. It is a busy Department where there is no room for anybody not anxious to work.

At the present time there is a vast increase in the number of licenses issued and the amount of Scotch herring exported. For instance, when I came into this Department in 1917 there were only about 100 licenses issued and the number of barrels of herring exported was about 17,000, the value of which was on or about \$470,000. But last year there were about 500 licenses issued and the

value of the herring fishery had gone up to \$2,000,000 or more.

When the buyers of Scotch pack herring were in this country I had several of them visit the Department of Marine and Fisheries in connection with this fishery. I gave them to distinctly understand that we were prepared to do everything possible in order to give them a good pack—good quality as well as good package. I told them that we wanted their trade and were fully prepared to do the right thing, and any complaints in connection with the fish at any time, I would be only too willing to investigate and try to make right. Now there are some parties who are not doing the right thing in connection with carrying out our inspectors' ideas in relation to the rules and regulations. Last year we collected between \$700 and \$800 in fines. Only a few days ago we discovered some herring badly packed at Barr's premises—we traced the packers in Placentia Bay. After finding the parties responsible for putting inferior herring in the centre of the barrel we ordered them to town and I had them meet me in my office in order to discuss the matter with them and our Herring Inspectors. After leaving this office I am inclined to think that these parties will never again put up a bad package of fish. And furthermore, as long as I am in the Department I am going to do my best to see that this valuable industry is protected, both as to quality and the kind of package to be used.

I might point out to the Hon. Members present that at one time pork shipped to this country in barrels had wooden hoops thereon. but the manufacturers discovered that the wooden hoops were likely in knocking around to come off, which would cause the package to become leaky, therefore, they decided to improve the package

by placing one iron hoop on each end of the barrel. After a while they found that they had to discontinue this method and place iron or galvanized hoops upon the package; today we have all our pork and beef come to this country in iron bound packages, which I am sure is all that can be desired. I am pleased to state that I am of the opinion, that next year and before we export any more herring we shall adopt an iron bound package.

This Spring I sent Mr. Coyell, our Chief Inspector, to New York to investigate some complaints I received in connection with Scotch Pack Herring. While he was there I sent two sample barrels of herring which were iron bound, so as he could put them on the market. The result was that the trade were delighted when they saw the packages and the fish they contained in such perfect condition. In fact, I feel sure that the trade there will take nothing else but an iron bound package.

In the meantime we must endeavour to carry out our Rules and Regulations in the best possible manner and enforce a rigid inspection. I am of the opinion that this industry should turn in annually to this country not less than \$5,000,000 if properly conducted.

The Marine and Fisheries Department to my mind has never yet received the consideration it should from the Government, but the time is not far distant when the Government will have to change their views in this connection, and the sooner they realise this the better. Time and again I have made recommendations through my Department relative to matters pertaining to the general welfare of the country, and more especially with regard to aids to navigation, and I am sorry to say in a great many cases my recommenda-

tions have gone under. The Government should realize that this is a maritime country and practically everybody here depends wholly and solely upon the fisheries for their existence.

I have repeatedly recommended that a good ocean-going tug be put at the disposal of my Department in order that a boat may be always in readiness for any emergency that may arise. Not only could this boat be used for the purpose of going to the assistance of vessels in distress, but in the summer time we could use her in carrying supplies to our various Light and Fog Alarm Stations. At the present time we are absolutely dependent upon some small schooner or other to convey these supplies, and in many cases we are disappointed through non-delivery.

For the information of the House, I might say our Refined Cod Liver Oil has been brought up to the standard of perfection. Reports which I have received places our Oil in the same grade as the Norwegian which have been so much talked of in the past. This system was inaugurated by my predecessor in office and for which he deserves the greatest credit. The past year I issued a notice that prizes were to be offered to parties who manufactured the best Cod Liver Oil. There were six prizes in all, 3 for the N. E. coast and three for the S. W. coast, viz: \$50, \$30 and \$20 in gold in each case, which proved a great encouragement to the manufacturers and assisted in bringing the Oil up to the standard which it has reached.

Letter which I have in my possession from Prof. Dunsten of the Imperial Institute, London, and from Father John's Medicine Co., of Lowell, Mass., and which I will now read for the information of the Hon. gentlemen present, are an indication of the standard of our oil.

The amount provided to carry on this industry has to my mind been well spent. In fact at the present time it is almost like the herring fishery, which I have already referred to, self-supporting.

Therefore, I have every reason to say that the Government should always consider the requirements of the Marine and Fisheries Department, which expends on or nearly half a million annually, before considering a Department which expends not more than \$150,000.

You might say it is not good politics for a member of the Government to express himself in this way, but circumstances alter cases, and as long as I am in the Department of Marine and Fisheries, I want the Government to distinctly understand that I am prepared to do the right thing. I have not been able to do as much as I would like to in the past, because I have been handicapped and through no fault of my own. I find it is always better to be outspoken and to the point, regardless of what the Government may think.

**MR. PICCOTT:**—Mr. Chairman, I rise to endorse what the previous speaker has outlined, and in doing so I thank him very much for the compliments he paid me, and I see that things have not got any better since I was there, but that the same old routine is being carried on. I might say that in 1912 I visited the old country, and during my stay there I visited the Scotch packing places in Aberdeen, and found out how the people in Aberdeen pack the herring that were so much talked of in the American market and in fact all over the world. I saw how careful they were in handling these fish, and how hard they found it to procure the fish, and I said to myself "How much money in Newfoundland losing by not taking over this industry, where we haven't got to fit out trawlers and go to sea to

find the fish, but instead the fish come to our door." I came back here and talked the matter over with Sir Edward Morris, who was then the Prime Minister, and I suppose he thought that many of the things I told him about the herring were real fish stories, but anyway he was so much interested in the matter that he asked the Scotch board to let us have one of their inspectors. That man arrived in the country, and we sent a man with him around the coast. He was a very intelligent man so far as fish were concerned, especially herring. He travelled the coast right around, and after he came back we got him some herring from Labrador, and he found that they were a different species of herring from what we were getting in Green Bay and White Bay. During the next year I visited New York, and spent the most of my time on the East Side, among the Jews, where our herring had been marketed, and I am sorry to say that in quite a number of cases the herring packed in Newfoundland were not fit for human food. I also found that Nova Scotia was in the market, and that they had been shipping herring from there marked 1 Labrador herring. I told them that these herring had never been caught on the Labrador, and asked who it was that was sending them. When I came back I introduced a bill to inaugurate the Board which my friend the Minister has spoken about, and I agree with him that if we can get clear of party politics, we have every chance of making this industry one of the greatest assets of the country. Mr. Duff's estimate was twenty five millions. I came down to ten, and I still contend that our herring fishery, if carried on in a proper way, and the marketing done in a proper manner, should be worth fifteen millions. The industry has grown enormously since I left the Department. The fishermen of almost every bay in the country are interest-

ed in this industry, and the reason of this is that they have seen the possibilities in this industry which had almost failed. But as the Minister has stated, he is up against party politics and religion. Those things play an important part and go hand in hand in this country, and the quicker we get rid of them the better. It is all right to have religion if we keep it where it belongs, and politics the same. If a friend of mine wants to start in the herring business and he sends in to me for a license, even though I know he has no factory and is not able to pack any more than ten or twenty barrels in a season, I will get the license for him, fearing I will lose his vote. The consequence is that the herring are not put up right, and a permanent injury is done to the industry.

If we want to change those conditions and make the industry of some real benefit to the country, we will have to throw in our lot together, and assist the Minister in every way possible. He also goes on to speak of the cod fishery, and it is a well known fact that our cod fishery instead of improving in quality is going backward all the time. Our cure today is not as good as it was forty years ago, and last year in the Board of Trade I expressed my opinion on this matter. I don't blame the fisherman, but I blame the buyer. The fisherman has got the article and comes here to sell it, or goes to some other place in Newfoundland to sell it, and he unloads his catch, and the boss comes down and looks at it. He knows it is not a good article, and not the article he wants, but he also knows that if he doesn't buy it, the man a little further on will buy it. That is where we are at the present time, and that is the whole cause of the deterioration in the quality of our cure. We have had meeting after meeting in the Board of Trade and the merchants

of Water Street have talked hours and hours on this matter, and agreed that something must be done, and that they have come away and nothing has been done. And why? Because the merchants can't agree. While they are in the Board of Trade they can agree all right, but as soon as they come out they forget that they ever had a meeting, and until they can trust each other better and agree to certain rules regarding the cure of fish, I don't think there will be any remedy. Until the merchants combine against fish that is not cured right, we will not have any fish cured right, and it is in the hands of the merchants, and only in their hands, that the remedy lies.

Now in reference to the Marine and Fisheries Department as at whole. This Department was inaugurated some years ago and has been growing ever since, but the Government, not this Government, but any future Government, should realise that this is one of the best and most important Departments in the civil service and deserves the very best attention possible that the Government can give it. The Minister who is head of that Department has been doing his very best, but he should not be hampered in his efforts by not having sufficient authority to carry on his work. When I was Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the present Prime Minister was in the Opposition, one of the chief things he put up as an argument was that the Government were spending money. Of course they did. I do not know the Government that did not spend. Dr. Lloyd used to advocate the necessity of a sea-going tug for the purpose of saving life and property. I agree with him. The present Government have been in office now for two years and have done nothing yet in that direction. I do not see in going over the Estimates this year

any provision made for the purchase of a tug or to have one built. When a vessel leaves St. John's and as soon as she gets clear of Cape Spear she is in the Atlantic Ocean. Also the majority of our fishermen all round the Island have to travel by water and are constantly encountering great risks and dangers. We have two obsolete tugs in this port, the "Ingraham" and "John Green," which are 16 and 22 years old, respectively. At best they are only fit for harbor duty. If an accident occurs outside of St. John's and immediate assistance is required, there is no steamer fit to go to the rescue. Look at the "Florizel" disaster. I am sure that if we had a tug capable of doing 15 knots and equipped with wireless to pick up the message that morning when it was sent out, and instead of waiting until the next day, that tug would reach there about five o'clock that evening, and even if conditions were such that she could not get alongside the stricken ship, at least she would be able to stand off to sea in sight of those people who were standing on the deck of the doomed steamer, and that would give them new life, new energy and new spirit until such time as they could be taken off. We can vote money for almost any other thing that we talk about and I often wonder that we do not realise the position that we are in and the position that the people of our districts are in. There should be a steamer ready at all times and at all calls for emergency cases. After some years we have a large number of lights and lighthouses and fog alarms, as aids to navigation, erected around the Island. Year after year that vote is increased. What is necessary now is to have a small steamer built to carry freight around to these lighthouses. Last year it cost the Department of Marine something

like \$12,000 to get the freight brought around the Island and then the work was not done satisfactory. But then something had to be done. I know of cases in which oil was sent from here, but by the time it reached its destination half of it was missing owing to the knocking about that it got. Therefore, I would recommend that this matter be given the very best consideration of the Government. And while talking about this rescue boat, I would suggest that she be equipped with all life-saving appliances, including buoy, whistle and a tow line to throw a good distance. If such were on hand at the time of the Florizel disaster, quite a number of those men could be taken off very easily and without having to wait all the time they did. I spent two years on Sable Island and where such appliances were used and where we saved some lives by having out over one hundred fathoms of line to bring them in. There are many places around this Island where it is necessary to have automatic whistle buoys. And while speaking on this subject, I understand that petitions are coming here from Conception Bay and other places asking for aids to navigation opposite the place where the Florizel disaster occurred. I have been thinking myself that the very best thing would be a lightship. I do not know what anybody thinks. You could place the lightship at a certain latitude and longitude where it would be a guide to men going up and down. I think that she could be fitted with gasoline engines at very little cost. We have lots to learn and lots to deny ourselves of. I think it would be more beneficial for us for the safety of human life to devote more time to things which we are inclined to regard too lightly.

I was one of the committee to have drafted a set of Resolutions in the

Board of Trade and handed into the Government. Mr. Davies, the Government Analyst, made some observations of our herring and cod fisheries so as to find out their ages. It may be remembered that Dr. Yhort, of Norway, who was brought here by the Government a few years ago and who has spent a lifetime at deep sea researching, spent some time at this work in Newfoundland. The climatic conditions in Newfoundland are much the same as in Norway, but the latter has forged ahead faster than we have in the conduct of their fisheries. When we cure our fish properly it markets itself. When war broke, the Canadian Government engaged the services of Dr. Yhort to do researching for them, and he got them underway so as to have a department on the same lines as they have in Norway.

I think it is two years now that the Board of Trade here have been forming petitions which they intend to present to this House during the present session to commence work on a small scale and to pay for the expenses of the research work they are going to ask the Government to place a duty on export fishes of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to 1 cent. I think one of the finest institutions in the country is going to ruin. Take the Labrador coast, five or six hundred miles long with all its bays and inlets and fjords. There is practically nobody there that knows anything about its fishery possibilities and the banks that stand off the coast until some American or other comes there and takes the matter up. Very often our men wire the Marine and Fisheries asking the Government to bring them to their homes, as they are unable to get all the fish they want, but frequently inability to get a supply of baiting is the cause of their abandoning the voyage, and this is the business,

the question of bait, that the Board of Trade intend to start on the Labrador coast this year. Last year there were eighty or ninety boats fishing out of St. John's for me, but the main problem was the scarcity of bait. This applied particularly in the Fall of the year when squid were not so plentiful. Squid, however, were plentiful around other sections of the country where we could not reach. I made application to one cold storage plant here for a supply of bait. While on this point I would like to ask if the material for cold storage plants is allowed into St. John's duty free?

**HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE:—**Yes, all machinery for new industries is duty free.

**MR. PICCOTT:—**I could not get the bait I was looking for and was told by the cold storage company that they only had enough for themselves. Afterwards I was informed by my fishermen that they could get all the bait they wanted from these same people if they would leave me. Now is not that a monopoly? I then applied to the Reid Nfld. Company's plant. They said they did not have any to sell me at first, but later they offered it at  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent more than what they were selling it to others, but if these fishermen had been operating for this plant they would get the bait at a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent cheaper than I did. These are matters that I would like the Government to take up. However, as far as I am concerned personally, I am prepared to pay the price for bait so long as the fish is going and it is required by the fishermen. I think now that we have cold storage plants enough in St. John's to supply bait enough.

I think this is about all I have to say at present with reference to the Marine and Fisheries Department in reply to the speech which Minister Stone has made.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few remarks on Newfoundland's possibility in the herring industry which has come to stay. I know of places down North from which last year two hundred thousand barrels of herring were shipped that were not good. Down the shore herring could be purchased at twelve and a half dollars per barrel from the net. At Bay of Islands the price was from five to six dollars per barrel from the net. At this figure our vessels could take away as much as we could pack and we would spend in the neighborhood of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars. Our people have not got money to throw away and if they have it, they are not going to buy herring from people who charge twelve dollars per barrel. The consequence was that these vessels could not get sufficient amount of herring at a reasonable figure and our factories at Bay of Islands closed and the herring dropped.

Owing to the condition and the high price of herring last year the enormous number of two hundred thousand barrels were left on hand throughout the country. Herring came from Vancouver, Alaska, Seattle, and were sent on to New York and delivered there at the price of sixteen to seventeen dollars per barrel. Our herring down North cost us eighteen dollars per barrel and it was impossible for us to compete with outsiders. This is a matter for the Marine and Fisheries Department. The Scotch Cure Herring is the best on the market. I had a letter from a friend of mine in Boston saying that the Newfoundland Scotch Cure was the best on the market. The cost of putting up the Scotch Cure was something enormous, Cooperage cost us three and a half dollars; one dollar for freight; six dollars for salt; and the wages ran from sixty to seventy dollars per month. The fisher-

men last year as they could not sell their herring catch, kept it and it got bad owing to the heat of the sun and weather conditions. When the new herring came they took off the heads and put in fresh herring on top. Now this is a fact and no wonder the Jews in New York think we are trying to jew them. And until our fishermen understand that they must put up an article for food and not for commerce, these conditions will continue.

When they realise this, they will look after it and see that it is a proper article to be put on the market. I know of a story which may be worth while relating. A business man who had purchased some herring from Labrador sent them off to a man in Chicago and requested him to send him back pork and beef in return. The herring arrived at Chicago and when the man to whom they were sent, took off the head of a certain barrel, he to his surprise, found an Eskimo dog in it. He was going to get back on the man who sent it, and in shipping the pork and beef put the dog in one of the barrels of beef. When the beef arrived here in St. John's the business man found the Eskimo dog; he had not put the dog in the herring barrel but the man down on Labrador; so he was determined to get even with him and when he came for his supply for the fishery he gave him the barrel of beef which contained the Eskimo dog. In time the barrel arrived at its destination and the man who ordered the supply, one day opened the barrel and found the dog, exclaiming, "Oh, my God, here is my dog."

I agree with everything as said by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. And as I have said, the quicker the people realise that the fish and herring they put up is an article for food and not for commerce, the sooner Newfoundland will get its just re-

ward. I have much pleasure in endorsing the speech of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I do not always expect to be on the Opposition. I will ever be ready to back up any proposition which will improve the herring industry and its methods of cure.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I have listened with interest to Mr. Piccott during his speech on the Herring Industry. As everybody knows the Colony totally depends upon the fishing industry. Like other countries, reconstruction is necessary. This country is not in a settled state. Other countries are devoting their attention to reconstruction and here in Newfoundland we have to do the same thing. The principal matter needing attention is the fishery. We have heard nothing of reconstruction in this country, whatever. We have heard nothing of any new movements. We do not know of anything being done. We ought to make an effort to do something. It seems most important that this matter of our fishery should be seriously gone into, as everything depends on it. This industry is a stupendous one. In the interests of the people and the country it must have immediate attention. Whatever is done for the improvement of the fishery, you get returns for it. To have good fishery developments may entail an expenditure of money, but it is money spent in a good investment and the Government ought to give it its earliest attention.

I also wish to say a few words in connection with the dredge. I must confess that the District of Burin is badly in need of the dredge. There are one or two places near St. Lawrence which are very important trade centres. Burin, which is one, is under a great inconvenience as the water by the side of the public wharf is very shallow. Last year a vessel called

there to load fish and nearly capsized and the cargo was in danger of being ruined. It is only a mud bank which has filled up by the side of the public wharf, and it is most important that the dredge should go there and relieve the situation. I wish the Minister of Marine and Fisheries would give the matter his attention. A petition was presented last year and he promised to do so. The proposition of meeting the needs of the country with one dredge is a difficult one, and while there is only one to call upon, the work required to be done will be very slowly accomplished. I make a special appeal for St. Lawrence because the people are very much handicapped in the fishing industry there.

**HON. MINISTER MARINE & FISHERIES:**—Mr. Speaker, I might say, for the information of the Hon. Member for Burin, that the dredge "Priestman" has been working at North Arm, Holyrood, and will finish there tomorrow—after which she will come to St. John's to be refitted. She will then proceed to Grand Bank and Fortune. On her way from the latter place if we find it possible we will have her call at St. Lawrence in order to perform the necessary work to be done there. We have only one dredge at our disposal, therefore it is impossible to meet the wishes of the whole country from time to time. However, I hope to be able to accede to Mr. Currie's request, and after his District is served, I trust he will not do as an Hon. Member whom I have in mind who forgot that the dredge had visited his District and performed the necessary work.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I can assure the Hon. Minister of Marine & Fisheries that both the people of the District of Burin and the Representative appreciate very much the work that has been done by the Dredge.

**MR. WALSH:**—On behalf of the



District that I have the honour to represent, namely, Placentia and St. Mary's, I have to draw the attention of the House to the neglected manner in which that District has been treated in connection with the operations of the dredge. There are sections of my district badly in need of the service of this boat; and I have time and time again drawn the attention of their needs to the notice of the authorities, but apparently without any effort being made to meet the requests that I have preferred on behalf of my Constituents. I have known the dredge to pass by that district, having performed work at places below it, and go on to undertake dredging operations for instance at St. Lawrence; and that in spite of the fact that I have repeatedly urged the necessity for sending the dredge to my district. We do not desire to monopolize the operations of the dredge, but we do think that consideration should be shown us, and, in our turn, we should receive the benefit of having this boat placed at our disposal for at least a limited period. I would now like to draw the attention of the Minister of Marine & Fisheries to the fact that Mr. Fitzgerald, Marine Surveyor, some time ago was sent to the district of Placentia & St. Mary's; and as a result of his investigations there made recommendations to the effect that the dredge should be sent up there; but these recommendations were never carried out.

I appreciate the fact that there is a lot of work for this boat to do around the Island; and whilst I have no objection, to the dredge being sent to Burn and other places, I do not think it is fair to have my district passed over in the way it has been. I did not intend to take part in the debate this afternoon; and if this question had not arisen I would not have done so. In connection with the speech which the Minister of Marine & Fisheries has just made I would like to extend to

him on behalf of myself and my Constituents congratulations on his very able address. I sympathize with him on account of the difficulty he finds confronting him; and I do not think that he has received from the Government that consideration to which he is entitled. I think that as Minister of Marine & Fisheries he should occupy a seat on the Executive Council. In view of the importance of his office and the responsibilities that he has to perform in the interests of the country generally; and if I have the Honor of being returned to this House at the next election I intend to recommend that the Dept. of Marine & Fisheries be represented in the Executive Government. There is one matter that I would like to draw the Minister's attention to, a matter which recently came under my notice. I was passing through Placentia some time ago; and I saw a fairly large shipment of oil passing through, going, I believe, to Point Verde. I noticed there was a considerable leakage from the package; and when I spoke to the man in charge and drew his attention to it, he told me that it was quite a common occurrence.

#### MINISTER MARINE & FISHERIES

—Was the oil in casks or cases?

MR. WALSH:—In cases. I examined and found there were some 20 cases—4 gallons in each case—50% of which were empty. I do not point this out in a critical fashion, but do so in the interests of those who ship commodities of this sort, and those to whom they are sent; and in the interests of the trade generally. I have no doubt that what happens in Placentia, happens in other parts of the country as well; and consequently there is a serious loss going on at all times, a loss which under different circumstances might be curtailed or remedied completely.

#### MINISTER MARINE & FISHERIES

—I might say that I have this matter

under consideration, and think that I will be successful in evolving a remedy therefor.

**MR. WALSH:**—I might say that is what I expected. The name of the man who was in charge of that oil was "Mr. Croucher," a competent and reliable man; and he, no doubt, will be able to give the Minister of Marine and Fisheries all the information he desires.

#### **MINISTER MARINE & FISHERIES**

—Unfortunately this has been going on for some time. It is very hard to avoid. I am now trying to get the trade to utilise steel barrels instead of wooden barrels. This would I think materially improve conditions.

**MR. WALSH:**—I did not know it was the intention of the Committee to take up the vote for bridges and ferries; but now that I see that vote is going to be entered upon I would like to make a few observations. As I pointed out to the House on several occasions, and I now wish to emphasize, there is not sufficient money voted to serve the 10 or 12 main line grants for the District of Placentia and St. Mary's. On several occasions these votes have, it is true, been increased by special grant; but no provision has been made to have a yearly amount voted to keep these lines in repair; and the consequence is that now they have become quite dilapidated, and we have nothing with which to place them in good condition beyond the regular vote for general purposes. As a consequence of the disrepair of these roads the people living in these particular sections of the country are put to great hardship and inconvenience; and this might be easily avoided if the consideration to which they are entitled had been extended to them. The vote is insufficient for another reason and that is that labor today is 100% dearer than what it was two or three years ago;

and \$500.00 was only sufficient to repair a road when labor could be purchased at \$1.25 or \$1.50 per day. It is an utter impossibility to attempt to keep up roads or bridges in the different sections of the country today unless the vote is increased to meet the rise in the price of labor. With reference to the vote for ferries, I would like to point out that several sections of the district that I have the honor to represent have been badly treated in this respect, particularly during the last year or two. Some time over a year ago provision was made for a motor ferry to ply over to Salmonier in St. Mary's Bay, and a portion of our special grant was deflected for that purpose. I understand that service has been discontinued, although it served a very useful purpose, and inconvenienced a large section of the District. There was another ferry service from Fox Harbor, a place frequented by a large portion of the travelling public for the past 25 or 30 years. A ferry service has been in operation there across what is now known as "Placentia Sound" at a place where the people from Fox Harbor had to cross the Sound to connect with the railway. Last year the man who was in charge of the service applied for an increase in wages and notified the Department it would be impossible for him to carry out the work unless his remuneration was increased. No attempt was made by the Department to meet this demand and when the man left no one was put in his place, so that the result has been that the service has been discontinued, and great inconvenience has been suffered by the people in consequence. I made several recommendations to the Board of Works by letter, telegram and verbally, but up to the present time, although two years have now elapsed since the service has been discontinu-

ed, I have not been notified that anything has been done in the matter, although I was informed by Mr. Harris that a recommendation had been made to the Government in connection therewith, but that no reply had been received. I can only conclude that the matter has been neglected by lack of interest on the part of those responsible. I do not mean to say that any discrimination has been shown, but that perhaps the seriousness of the situation and the importance of the needs of the people in this respect have been overlooked. To continue the services it will require more money than heretofore because the cost of everything has gone up, but its importance is quite sufficient, in my opinion, to warrant the Government continuing it. The people are now compelled to go over and join the railway line at Villa Marie, an inconvenience that might very well be obviated if this service were renewed.

I do not think any provision has been made, but I hope these conditions will be remedied. One of the most important Ferry's in St. Mary's Bay is run by an old Gentleman who is 82 years old. I would personally think that this man ought to be on the pension list. He has been in the public service for over 20 years. These matters need adjustment. The different Ferry's do not seem to have much attention. The Government regards them as being a matter of contract. A man does the job for \$120 or \$130, but I think we will soon be faced with the difficulty of finding men who will accept these jobs for such a small amount and I think everything in reason should be done rather than let the service be discontinued. While on this point I would like to make reference to 2 or 3 railway connecting roads, which are not at the present time receiving any regular grant. I want to thank the Government for the

consideration they have shown about 2 or 3 similar matters I have brought in this House. Three or four other roads leading from the South Side of Placentia Bay to Flemish Cove and other places have not received much attention and although there are very few families the amount of traffic on these roads would warrant an outlay of \$100 or \$200 and it would make this road a great convenience to a large number of people in different sections of Placentia Bay. There is also the road from Colinet to Placentia which is a very important road, and representations have been made from time to time by influential people to have this road opened up. His Grace the Archbishop asked me to have something done in this direction, and I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant this additional sum. The Motor Association is willing, I understand, to contribute a generous proportion as they desire to use that road. I need not point out the beautiful scenery along that road, but it is well known to be one of the prettiest parts of the country. I sincerely hope the Government will give this matter its attention and see their way clear to adopt the suggestions I have put forward.

**MR. CURRIE:**—While on this point I would like to know the name of the Sub-collector at Port Union and why he is paid such a large salary.

**MR. CASHIN:**—He is paid a large salary because he does such a large amount of work.

**HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY:**—His name is Bishop.

The committee then rose and asked leave to sit again on to-morrow.

Weights and Measures.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed certain Resolutions and asked leave to sit again on tomorrow.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Mr. Grimes the Bill entitled "An Act for the Temporary Suspension of the Weights and Measures Act, 1918," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**MR. GRIMES:**—Mr. Speaker, the reason this Bill is being introduced is because last year there was an act passed that required that hoops be made a certain size and there should also be the names of the makers on each bundle. A large number of people in Port de Grave District not being sure whether the weights and measures act in 1919 applied to them or not, did not sell their hoops and it is in order to allow them to sell those hoops that this Bill is passed. The store-keepers refused to purchase hoops, as they were not sure whether the \$500.00 fine for every bundle of hoops they bought was collected under the provisions of that act or not, and this Bill is passed in order to have a temporary suspension of the act until the 30th day of June. There is no desire on their part to violate regulations. They have no desire to sell hoops under the correct size, and I do not think that the matter could have any lengthy comment. The Bill speaks for itself.

**MR. CURRIE:**—I was wondering whether the section was drafted to meet that situation. I understand perfectly what the Honorable Member means, but the Bill is capable of interpretation.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the amount of \$73,622.08 paid to the Reid Newfoundland Company

during 1917-1918 for construction work on railway.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the sum of \$1,044.65 listed in the Finance Department Contingencies as Public Works balance of Sheep Act.

Mr. Walsh asked the Minister of Militia to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of his expenses while on his trip to England and France; also the amount he has received as salary for acting as Deputy Chief Censor during 1918 and 1919.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. Minister of Public Works to lay on the Table of the House a detailed account showing the cost of constructing the bridge over Romain's Bridge in the District of St. George's, and all expenses in connection therewith.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the following amounts which were paid in 1917-1918, Public Accounts: Sir E. P. Morris \$3,000 for services; Sir P. T. McGrath \$750.00 for services; Tonnage Committee \$1,000 for expenses.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. the Finance Minister to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the amount of money paid to the Newfoundland Produce Company for the use of the steamer Cabot for the years 1917 and 1918, giving the nature of the work performed by said steamer and length of time employed.

Mr. Piccott asked the Minister of Shipping to lay on the Table of the House a copy of all correspondence between the Government of this Colony and the Coal Companies at North Sydney relative to the importation of Coal into this Colony for the year 1918.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Minister of Shipping to lay on the Table of the House (a) copy of all corres-

pondence between the Department of Shipping and the owners of the s.s. Eskasoni relative to the purchase of the said steamer; (b) a detailed statement of the earnings and expenses of the said s.s. Eskasoni; (c) if the said s.s. Eskasoni is today the property of the Government, if not who her present owners are, and the price paid for her purchase.

Mr. Piccott asked the Hon. Minister of Shipping to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of his Department from the commencement of that office to date.

Mr. Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain Resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Public Debt and Manage-	
ment . . . . .	\$ 12,000.00
Civil Government . . . . .	465,617.53
Pensions . . . . .	3,591.42
Administration of Justice..	284,397.45
Legislation . . . . .	36,376.25
Education . . . . .	5,300.00

The said Resolutions being read a

second time it was moved and seconded that the House concur with the Committee therein and the said Resolutions were agreed to.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the sum of \$4,061 paid to Mr. T. A. Hall the Government Engineer during 1917-1918 for vote and sundries.

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of Newfoundland Agricultural Board for year ended Dec. 31st, 1918.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until tomorrow Tuesday at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

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## ELEVENTH BUDGET SPEECH

### of the Minister of Finance, Sir M. P. Cashin

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[NOTE.—No official copy of Assembly debates subsequent to April 28th could be secured. The following speech of the Finance Minister was copied from the newspaper reports.]

Mr. Chairman,—I am fortunate today in being able to present my eleventh successive Budget in this Chamber, and I rejoice that I can

not alone congratulate the Colony on having another surplus to its credit as an outcome of the operations of the past fiscal year, but also am en-

abled to announce that for the current fiscal year, of which ten months have now elapsed, the prospect is for a surplus unapproached in the previous history of the Colony, a surplus which I estimate will reach, in round figures, \$1,900,000, or nearly \$800,000 more than last year's surplus, which really was \$1,170,628, while the surplus for the previous year was \$651,756.

It will, I am sure, be a source of profound gratification to every member of this House to know that this Colony has made such a rapid and striking recovery from the effects of the depression which overspread the world in 1913, and the commercial chaos that attended the opening period of the war in 1914-15, and that we have had a gradually increasing surplus each year since, as seen by the following figures:

1915-16	\$ 489,386
1916-17	651,756
1917-18	1,170,628
1918-19 (estimated)	1,900,000

In accordance with the usual custom, I will now proceed to deal with the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the three fiscal years embraced in a Budget statement—the years that has passed, the current year, and the year to come.

The Revenue for the past fiscal year, that ending on the 30th of June, 1918, was \$6,540,082.67, being an increase of \$1,333,435.14 over the revenue for 1916-17. The principal increases were \$452,859 for Customs, mainly due to the prosperity of the Colony as a result of the enhanced value of its products, whereby its people were enabled to purchase in greater quantities goods of high cost, paying an advalorem duty, but the new export duty on fish and oil contributed in part to its augmentation; \$48,688 for Postal and Telegraphs, this being an abnormal increase, the

result of the new postage and telegraph rates, and a substantial increase in the commission on money orders; \$90,189, from the Western Union and Direct U. S. Cable Companies, being payment of the tax imposed on cables landed in this country by them; \$70,905 for estate duties collected from the estates of parties throughout the country who died during the year; \$640,461 from the Excess Profits Tax effective for 1917, and \$49,882 from Income Tax effective for the same period; \$15,380 for Inland Revenue stamps, due to increased sales under the Stamp Act, \$12,150 for the increased sale of brooms at the higher prices prevailing; and \$9,089 profit on the issue of coin. Decreases are to be noted under three heads: a total of \$54,158 under Miscellaneous General, which is a fluctuating source of Revenue; \$4,536 from liquor licenses, this source of Revenue no longer existing; and \$6,463 from Crown Lands the rentals from which have been declining for some years past, due to the lack of activity in this regard during war time.

The Expenditure under the Public Service Act for the year 1917-18 amounted to \$5,369,454.73, being an increase of \$814,564.15 over the previous year, the total of dropped balances surrendered to the Treasury being \$156,216.06.

As inevitable under war conditions and with an economic situation such as has prevailed for the past four years, the expenditure under all heads of the Public Service, except civil pensions, roads and bridges, and Audit Act (Section 33 B) has increased, notably for Interest on Public Debt, Civil Government, Administration of Justice, Education, Public Charities, and Postal and Telegraphs.

The details of the various items of additional expenditure are embodied

in the Auditor General's report already laid on the table of the House, so that it will be unnecessary for me to deal with them in detail here.

The result of the fiscal operations of the Colony for that year, therefore, with a Revenue of \$6,640,082.67 and an Expenditure of \$5,369,564.73, was to produce a Surplus of \$1,170,627.94, the largest thus far, as I have already said in our financial history, exceeding that of the previous year, until then the largest, by \$518,871. I might say here that, out of this surplus, the Government in the autumn of last year paid to the Reid Newfoundland Company the sum of \$316,960.99, for the purchase of the lands granted to the Reid Co. for the operation of the branch railways, paying for the same at the rate of 28 cents an acre and \$132,546.94, as a payment on account of work under said contract, these amounts being certified by the Government Engineer.

The disposition of the remaining Surplus, of roughly, \$720,000, I shall deal with later.

For the current fiscal year, 1918-19, expiring on the 30th of next month, I estimate a total Revenue of \$8,568,000, the actual Revenue to the 31st of March having been \$5,520,000, a close estimate for April being \$760,000 and the estimate for May and June being \$2,288,000. Against that I estimate that the Expenditure will amount to \$6,675,000, that is to say, the Estimates voted at last session, roundly, \$5,400,000, and Supplementary Supply voted last week of \$1,373,000, less dropped balances of, say \$100,00, leaving a total expenditure, as already stated, of \$6,675,000, against a Revenue of \$8,568,000, so that we may expect a Surplus Revenue for this year of approximately \$1,900,000. In connection with this very acceptable outcome of the year's transactions, which I am sure not

alone every member, but the country at large will hear with great pleasure I would like to point out that last year I estimated a revenue of \$400,000 from the Excess Profits Tax, which had been put through the Legislature at the previous session, and which was met then with the criticism that it would not pay the cost of the machinery to carry it out; but now, as the House will already have grasped, the receipts from this source not alone reached the \$400,000, but actually overtopped that figure by \$250,000 more, besides which we secured \$50,000 from the Income Tax Law of last session. This, I think, is not alone a justification for the policy which the Government adopted in this regard, but is also a most conclusive evidence of the substantial prosperity of all classes within this country, and of the very great profits made out of its staple industries in recent years, a condition which I sincerely trust will continue for a long period.

For the coming fiscal year I do not propose to estimate too closely, in view of the fact that this country, like the rest of the Empire, and indeed, the whole world at large, is in a transition period at present, the outcome of the process of returning from a war basis to a peace basis. Therefore, I propose to put forward a provisional estimate of about the same Revenue as that for the present year, eight and a half million dollars in round figures, and an expenditure of about seven and a half million dollars, made up of the seven millions voted by the House last week in main Estimates, and a generous provision for additional estimates to be made for the inevitable Supplemental Supply through over-expenditures, as well as leaving a margin for a Surplus when another fiscal year is expiring. I might say, in this connection, that I have described this esti-

mate as a provisional one, because it will be necessary, for a variety of reasons, to have the next session of the Legislature open in the early days of 1920, to enact various important measures, such as the Municipal Charter for the city of St. John's and a new Crown Lands Act, which has been promised for a year or two; a complete revision of the Customs Act; and measures of similar character; and then, if circumstances require it, the necessary rectifications can be made with regard to the fiscal position, if it should be found that events in the meantime will have modified this estimate in any essential particulars.

I will anticipate the criticism that a continuance of the present conditions of unexampled prosperity cannot be expected during the next year, by pointing out that, from all that can be seen and read of the world at large, the prices of foodstuffs and other necessary commodities, are showing little, if any abatement, and that therefore it is only reasonable to assume that our fish and oils, will maintain approximately their present value, while similar products in other countries do so; and accordingly, that it is a mistake to look on the black side of things during the next six or eight months. The reserve purchasing power of our people must also be taken into account, and, as I have already said, there will be ample time, after the New Year, to make provision for any contingencies at present unforeseen.

Similarly if progress is to be maintained by the great industrial concerns of the Empire, iron and steel will be in perhaps larger demand than ever before and consequently we may look to a continuance of operations at the Bell Island Iron Mines on a steadily increasing scale; and as the British Empire has suffered the last year or two from a very

serious reduction in its supplied of paper, the mills at Grand Falls are preparing not alone to resume work on the former scale but are planning extensions, which will increase their capacity by one-third, while other enterprises of the same kind are also being projected and will likely take shape in the very near future.

The recuperative power of this country has never been so clearly shown as during the last twelve months or so. Never have its products realized such figures, never have its business men shown greater enterprise; and while it would be a mistake to say that the financial sky is unclouded, yet we may reasonably hope that the good judgment displayed heretofore in connection with the handling and marketing of the staple products of the country will be justified in the results that will be achieved in regard thereto.

As the war is now virtually ended, hostilities having ceased in November, the peace treaty being in process of signing as I make this statement, and the final drafts of our soldiers and sailors being scheduled to return here within the next month or so, it seems an appropriate time to review the cost of Newfoundland's first great Imperial enterprise, its participation in the war the past four years. For that effort it enlisted 6277 soldiers, 2053 Naval Reservists, and 498 Foresters, in all a total of 8,828 men, who undertook various forms of war endeavour.

Through their efforts by sea and land our island home won undying glory, but I regret to say that it was purchased at a heavy loss, the death roll of the regiment being 1239, or about one-fourth of the total number sent across the ocean, and that of the Naval Reserve being 168, while the Foresters experienced three fatalities. The casualty record of the Regiment shows 2134 entries of men



wounded, and the Naval Reserve suffered its share of the same, but as its records are compiled by the naval authorities in the Old Country the numbers are not available.

To maintain our forces overseas, to provide for the allowances which the Government has undertaken to make to them on their return, and to embrace the exigencies of home defense and subsidiary services, the Colony has had to undertake a liability which up to the end of the present calendar year, will amount to about \$14,000,000. This expenditure is made up as follows:—

Fiscal year	1914-15.....	\$ 435,000
" "	1915-16.....	705,000
" "	1915-16.....	1,648,000
" "	1917-18.....	1,650,000
" "	1918-19 (9 mts.)	3,529,000
Up to December 31.....		
1919, estimated .....		6,000,000

The very largely increased outlays during the past twelve months have been due (1) to the augmentation of the pay, allowances, etc., of the men of the various services; (b) to the growing cost of pensions necessitated by the war; and (c) to the demobilization expenses associated with the return of the men from overseas.

In a statement recently furnished by the Minister of Militia, he shows that the requirements of his Department for the present year, 1919, will be as follows:—

Up to the end of June.....\$2,850,000  
For latter half of year....

July 1st to Dec. 31st..... 1,902,500  
—making a total requirement to the end of December of \$4,752,500.

During the year the London office will, it is expected, spend about half a million dollars for the pay, allowances and other expenses in connection with our men on service overseas and for their repatriation, \$400,000 of this amount up to the end of June

and \$100,000 during the latter half of the year. The reduction in expenditure during that period will of course be due to the fact that most of our soldiers will, it is hoped, have returned here before the end of June, those remaining being merely the men in hospital whose convalescence will not have advanced sufficiently to justify being sent out.

On account of the Regiment the local disbursements are estimated to be \$2,000,000 up to the end of June and \$1,400,000 for the latter half of the year, the conditions being somewhat similar; that is to say, the men of the Regiment being gradually got home and demobilized and the outlay in connection with this process being gradually reduced as the months go by.

For the Naval Reserve the estimate is for \$450,000 for the first half of the year and \$400,000 for the latter half, the proportionately large amount for the second half of the year being due to the greater delay in getting back our naval men.

The end of December should see the disembodiment to a very large extent of our naval and military forces.

It may be interesting, in connection with our war expenditure, if I furnish some of the figures of Canada's outlay in that direction. They are taken from a statement made by Sir Thomas White, the Canadian Minister of Finance, in the House of Commons at Ottawa on April 10th and show that to the 31st March, 1919, (the Canadian fiscal year ending on the 30th June like our own) the entire war outlay was \$1,225,098,122, and that up to the 30th June, the total amount was estimated at \$1,277,273,000. I figure that, proportionately, Canada's War Bill is three times as great as ours, because Canada pays

the whole cost of maintaining her own men in the field.

Under these circumstances the Committee will, I think, agree with me that it is undesirable, in view of the conditions which exist in the Colony, and the prospect for the next six or eight months, to attempt any changes in the Tariff, and therefore I propose in regard thereto to merely provide certain minor rectifications, the need for which has been urged upon us. They are as follows:—

- (a) Certain modifications in the duty respecting materials for the manufacture of soap in order to give the local manufacturing industry a greater measure of protection than is possible under the present regulations, the alternative to this being that the local enterprise might have to go out of business.
- (b) A change in the duty on partly manufactured leather with a similar object, of assisting the local tanneries to compete on a more equal footing with the imported article;
- (c) Upon every parcel received by Parcels Post in this Colony and originally despatched from the United Kingdom upon which Customs duty is payable, there shall be levied and collected, in addition to the said Customs duty, a duty or tax of five cents.

Resolutions to give effect to these proposals I now table.

The surplus of roundly \$720,000 which was realized on account of 1916-17 we propose to apply as follows: \$500,000 for public and marine works with the object of building up the outport roads, bridges, wharves, breakwaters, launchways and similar utilities whereby our fisherfolk are enabled to more efficiently conduct

the main industry of the Colony, and the balance of \$220,000 towards offsetting the reduction of the amount in the \$6,000,000 we propose to seek in a few days, and which may accrue through the fact that our bonds may have to be sold at a discount, the extent of which we cannot estimate, because we are offering the outside portion of the loan, \$5,000,000, for subscription by tender and what figure we shall receive therefor cannot be known until the tenders are received.

The estimated surplus of \$1,900,000 on account of the present fiscal year we propose to place to the credit of the Surplus Trust Fund for use as a reserve or nest-egg in case any emergency arises in the near or remote future, when it could be applied to coping with such a condition.

I think in this connection that we must count ourselves very fortunate in Newfoundland that we are in such a favorable position financially at the end of the war as we are in comparison with other countries. Hon. members will have observed from the British budget speech, a summary of which was cabled here last week, that the financial position of the Mother Country is such that it has to finance an obligation seven to eight times as great as before the war, and that the Finance Minister there has before him the problem that the sources of taxation in sight will only realize about two-thirds of the sum he requires, and he must find the remainder by new sources of taxation. In Canada again, though the budget speech has not been delivered, the opinion of financial critics is that the obligations of the country will call for a revenue of at least \$450,000,000 to meet the same, and that the existing sources of revenue will only about suffice for the

same as England, namely two-thirds of the amount required, necessitating therefore new forms of taxation to realize the remainder. In the neighboring province of Nova Scotia, too, 1915 . . . . . 31,454,678 1916 . . . . . 34,489,655 1917 . . . . . 34,489,762 I might observe that the Provincial budget tabled there last week showed a deficit for the year 1916 of \$219,000 and the utmost expectation of the Provincial treasurer was that he would be able this year to make two ends meet. Our position accordingly, I think it will be agreed, is one that gives us cause for every satisfaction.

Seeing that the War may be regarded as over, it has occurred to me that it might be of interest to supply the Committee with a statement showing the progress of the country during the five years comprehended by the period of hostilities and the pending negotiations for Peace.

I will first deal with our local Trade, using the year 1913-14 as a standard, and by reference to the figures it will be observed that the

Total Trade has increased from \$30,000,000 in 1913-14 to \$57,000,000, in 1917-18, with the prospect, as far as can be learned from the Customs figures to date, of the total exceeding \$60,000,000 for the current fiscal year, the augmentation in the past 12 months being greatly due to enhanced prices paid for our fishery products. The figures are:—

Year ending	June 30th,	Import	Export	Total Trade
1914	15,893,726	15,134,543	30,328,369	
1915	12,350,786	13,136,880	25,487,666	
1916	16,427,336	18,969,493	35,396,829	
1917	29,318,310	22,381,762	43,700,072	
1918	26,892,946	30,153,517	57,046,466	
1919	(Figures not yet available.)			

The trend of our trade developments, as a result of the War-time elements of disturbance introduced therein, is illustrated in broad outline by the figures showing the Imports and Exports to the various countries, notably Britain, Canada and the United States. The figures for the past five years will be interesting, in this connection:—

**IMPORTS FROM**

Year	Britain	Canada	United States	Elsewhere	Total
1913-14 . . . . .	3,826,529	4,681,047	5,796,906	889,244	15,193,726
1914-15 . . . . .	2,311,945	4,509,827	4,943,752	585,262	12,350,786
1915-16 . . . . .	2,579,614	5,870,456	7,097,779	879,487	16,427,336
1916-17 . . . . .	2,620,033	7,412,300	10,233,899	1,052,078	21,318,310
1917-18 . . . . .	2,248,781	11,107,642	12,244,946	1,291,577	26,892,946

**EXPORTS TO**

Year	Britain	Canada	United States	Elsewhere	Total
1913-14 . . . . .	3,256,446	1,971,809	1,679,362	8,226,926	15,134,543
1914-15 . . . . .	3,196,353	1,394,663	1,537,385	7,008,429	13,136,830
1915-16 . . . . .	4,582,379	2,021,772	2,540,606	9,824,736	18,969,493
1916-17 . . . . .	4,836,074	2,042,117	4,047,842	11,455,729	22,381,762
1917-18 . . . . .	3,822,931	2,750,990	7,110,322	16,449,274	30,153,517

It will be noted that there has been a very remarkable increase in the imports from and exports to the

neighboring countries of Canada and the United States, especially in the past two years, a circumstance due in

part to the difficulties in obtaining goods from the British Isles owing to war-time conditions, but it is to be hoped that there will be a speedy and substantial resumption of trade between Newfoundland and the Mother Country, and a restoration to the largest possible extent of the commercial intercourse which was so prominent a feature in the economic life of this Island prior to the war.

It is gratifying to know, moreover, that the commercial relations of Newfoundland with the outside world have been maintained in such satisfactory fashion, especially in the latter period of the war when shortage of shipping proved a very serious handicap. It will be remembered that prior to the war we had the advantage of the Black Diamond steamers running from Montreal, the Furness steamers running from Halifax, the Bowring steamers from New York, and the Allan and Furness lines from England, besides occasional steamers from various places; but gradually all these lines were eliminated until only the Furness boats remained operating between Liverpool, St. John's, and Halifax; and the Bowring Company giving a New York service which was seriously hampered when the "Stephano" was torpedoed and which became still more crippled by the tragic loss of the "Florizel" 15 months ago.

Looking back now on the difficulties that had to be faced, I think the Committee will agree with me that it is little short of marvellous how we were able to maintain our trade relations with the outside world, bring in the necessaries required, and send away our produce under the circumstances which had to be experienced during all this period. This has been rendered possible, in a large measure, by the close co-operation promoted between the Commercial Community

and the Government by the Ministry of Shipping, an association which has resulted in enabling some of the most difficult problems presenting themselves to us to be successfully solved.

In this endeavour, too, Newfoundland's merchant shipping was materially increased, and the fleet of foreign-going sailing vessels at the beginning of 1919 was the largest on record, numbering over 131 bottoms of varying sizes with an aggregate tonnage of 30,000, being sufficiently large to take away the whole of our fishery harvest in three round trips. As every member of this House knows, sailing crafts were being gradually displaced by steamers before the war began and the large flotillas of smaller wooden vessels engaged in our trade were being eliminated so that in 1913 nearly all our incoming and outgoing cargoes were carried in steamers. The shipping boom of the war period has resulted in reviving the important shipbuilding industry of this country and it is to be hoped that it will be found possible to maintain it hereafter on at least as substantial a scale as at present.

The interest-bearing deposits in the Canadian Banks established in the Colony amounted on the 31st December last to \$15,289,011 and to this amount must be added the deposits in the Government Savings Bank, amounting to \$2,215,764, making a total altogether of \$17,504,775. The Canadian Banks had the previous year \$13,536,607 in deposits, so that they increased their holdings by \$1,732,404, but the Government Savings Bank had \$2,494,049, so that this year's figures are a reduction of \$278,685 as compared with 1917. On the other hand, however, at the time of the Victory Loan last summer there were withdrawals from the latter Bank of over \$400,000 for investment therein, so that under ordinary circumstances this Bank would have had an addition

to its deposits of over \$100,000. How much was withdrawn from the Canadian Banks here for the same purpose is not ascertainable but the aggregate must have been very large. The above figures indicate a nett increase in the Savings Bank deposits of our people of \$1,474,119 or say, one and a half million dollars, and three and a half more were invested in our Victory Loan, which may be described 1918, so that it is hardly an exaggeration to claim that they are better off by five million dollars through savings deposits and the purchase of Governments bonds during the past year than they were 12 months previously. I am sure all will be glad to know that the prospects for a successful flotation of the loan we are proposing to offer shortly are in the highest degree favorable, both at home and abroad.

Further evidence of the welfare of our people is seen in the fact that the total value of Life Insurance policies in force at the 30th June, 1917, was \$9,023,465 and on the same date 1918 was \$10,264,098, being an increase of \$1,241,442 in face value of the policies. The premiums received from policy-holders on the former date amounted to \$384,994, and on the latter date \$440,419, showing an increase of \$55,424; and the Adjusted Reserve on the former date was \$2,149,154 as compared with \$2,373,683 for the latter or an increase of \$224,629.

The Postmaster General, in his annual report, bears similar testimony of the growth in the prosperity of the people, by showing that the turnover of the Money Order business for the fiscal year 1917-18 was over \$3,000,000 as against little more than a million ten years previously; that the Registration of Letters increased in the same period from 17,000 to 225,000; that the growth in the Parcel Post Branch was phenomenal, totalling 239,707 parcels, an increase of 11,282

for the year; that despite the drawbacks in the way of developing Parcel Post business between America and this country, the duties collected on American parcels had increased nearly 375 per cent. in ten years, and the growth of the domestic Parcel Post business was becoming so great that it could hardly be handled; that the Customs duties collected on parcels last year amounted to \$72,793 against \$16,796 ten years before, while the increase over the previous year was \$22,901 or more than twice that of any previous year in the history of the Department.

Testimony to the favorable condition of the Colony's affairs is borne Report, observes as follows:—

Trade, which in its tenth Annual in the first place by our own Board of

"The remarkable figures (of the growth of our imports and exports) clearly demonstrate that the trade of the Colony as for the past fiscal year has been phenomenally successful. The excess of imports over exports is eminently satisfactory for the year's trading, showing as it does that the balance of trade was largely in our favor, a factor generally regarded as most important to the commercial welfare of any community. This unprecedented position in the trade of the Dominion is due largely, if not wholly to war conditions. We are essentially a country producing food and raw material that have been in great demand under the conditions of war prevailing on the European continent and our prosperity is largely attributable to the interference these conditions have had on the operations of our principal competitors."

The Annual Report of the Bank of Montreal recites as follows:—

"With the high prices obtained for fish and oils, the people generally are prosperous. Interest bearing

deposits in Banks show an increase of \$2,400,00 last year, notwithstanding a domestic war loan floated in June last which met with good response. The issue was in the shape of ten-year 6½ per cent. bonds. A portion of the same loan was sold in Canada on favorable terms."

The Annual Report of the Bank of Nova Scotia for the past year contains the following statement:—

"Newfoundland has had another prosperous year. The catch of codfish was less than that of the record year 1917, but unprecedented prices gave a return to the fishermen estimated at \$21,000,000 or more than for any other year. . . .

What with the tonnage of its own construction and purchases abroad, generally in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland has now the finest fleet of foreign going vessels in her history, which at high freights have been proving very acceptable investments. The Pulp and Paper mills have had a good year. Lumbering has been for domestic supply only and therefore only comparatively limited in volume. Other manufactories have been very fully employed. . . . Notwithstanding drawbacks, the principal of which was the shortage of tonnage, Newfoundland has enjoyed a period of marked prosperity as a result of war prices for its products. Sooner or later prices must work back to a normal basis but the Island is in a strong position to face the period of readjustment."

**Our Obligations and Public Debt.**

It next becomes desirable to examine as to our obligations and our public debt. The statement of our revenue and expenditure for the war period is as follows:

Year	Ending Revenue	Expen.	Surplus
1915 ..	3,950,790	4,008,623	.....

1916 ..	4,600,272	4,110,855	489,417
1917 ..	5,206,648	4,554,891	951,757
1918 ..	6,540,083	5,369,455	1,170,628
1919 Es.	8,568,000	6,675,000	1,900,000

It will be seen from the above that save for the first year of the war, when trade conditions everywhere were dislocated and we ran about \$60,000 behind, we had had a surplus each season, nearly half a million dollars four years ago, and nearly two million doolars now.

The record of public debt for the same period is as follows:

**Public Debt.**

1914 .. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	30,450,765
1915 .. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	30,450,765
1916 .. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	31,454,678
1917 .. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	34,623,455
1918 .. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	34,489,955
1919 (April 30) .. . . . . . . . . . .	42,023,455

From the gross funded Public Debt as shown at the end of 1917-18, namely, \$34,489,955, there must be deducted an amount of \$1,429,631 due by the St. John's Municipal Council, and \$13,700 script of the Harbour Grace Water Company, held by the Government and paid off under the operation of the Sinking Fund Act of 1895, leaving the nett Public Debt at the end of that year \$32,099,261.

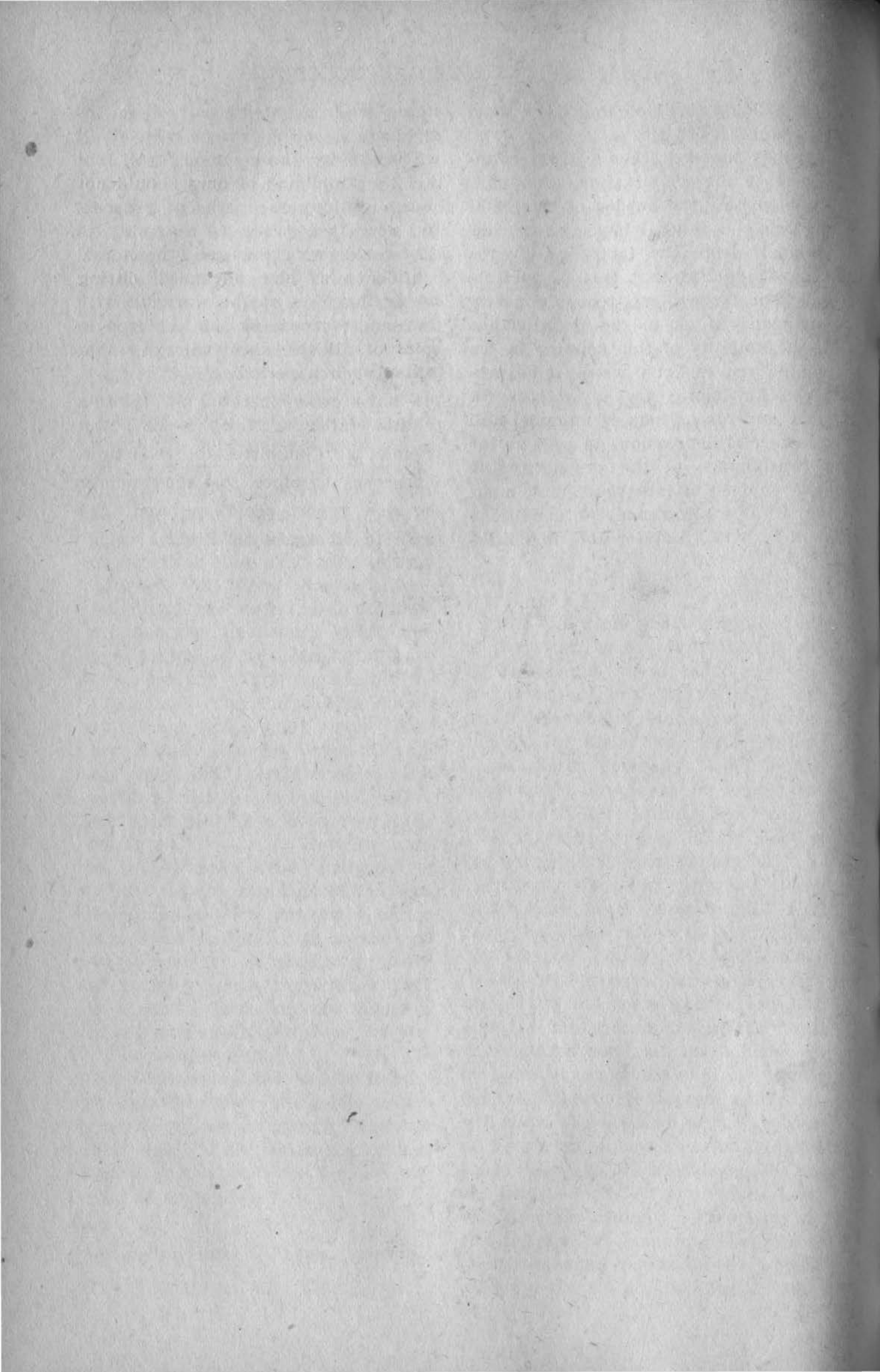
Properly speaking, however, there ought have been charged into that year the Loan raised by the Colony last summer, namely, \$7,453,401 mainly for war purposes, but as the transaction was not completed on the 30th June, it does not figure in the fiscal transactions for that 12 months. It is, however, an addition to the Public Debt for the current year, and there will have to be added to it \$1,000,000 of new Loan under the Act passed a few days ago, the remaining \$5,000,000 being to pay off a previous Loan of a similar amount. Therefore, assuming that we complete the raising of this amount before the 30th June, as we hope to do, the Public Debt

of the Colony will on that date stand at about \$43,000,000.

It may be asked, then, can the country meet these obligations and continue to bear the burden of this Public Debt? I think I have shown conclusively from the facts and figures I have adduced that this is possible and that there is no reason for serious concern as to the maintenance of the stability of this country in the coming years. True, we must be prepared for lean years as well as fat ones, and for periods of financial and commercial depression, as well as for a continuance of the prosperity we have enjoyed of late years, but, making all due allowance for conditions as they arise, and for the difficulties

which beset countries as well as individuals, I see no reason why, if all will unite for the common weal, that this Newfoundland of ours should not continue along the paths of prosperity, now that peace is returning to the world, with the same hope and confidence as she advanced during the trying days of the war and with the same success as she achieved in spite of all the disadvantages that attend such a period.

I have other material in relation to this statement which I shall not trouble the Committee to read now. I propose, therefore, that the Committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Friday.





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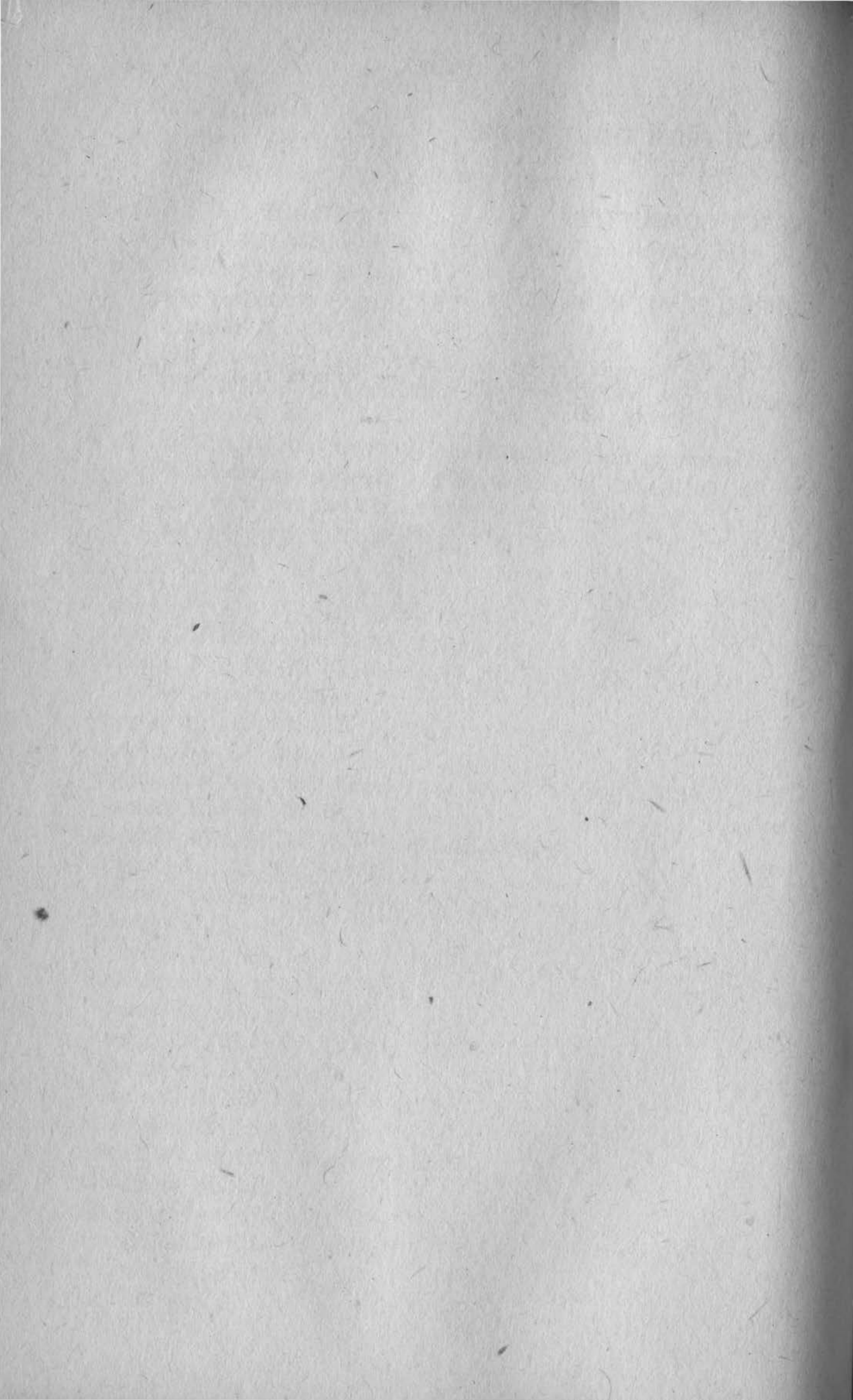
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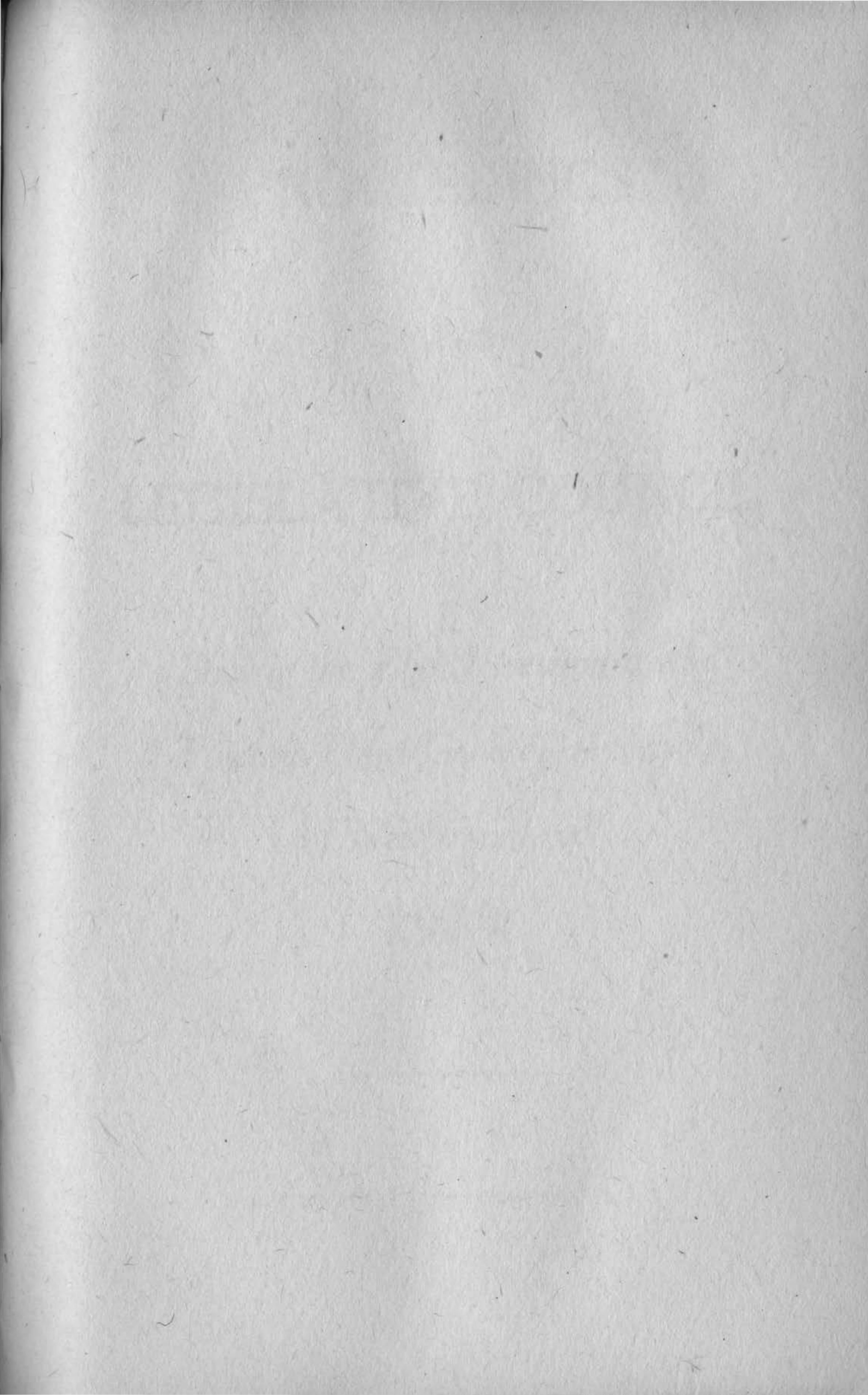
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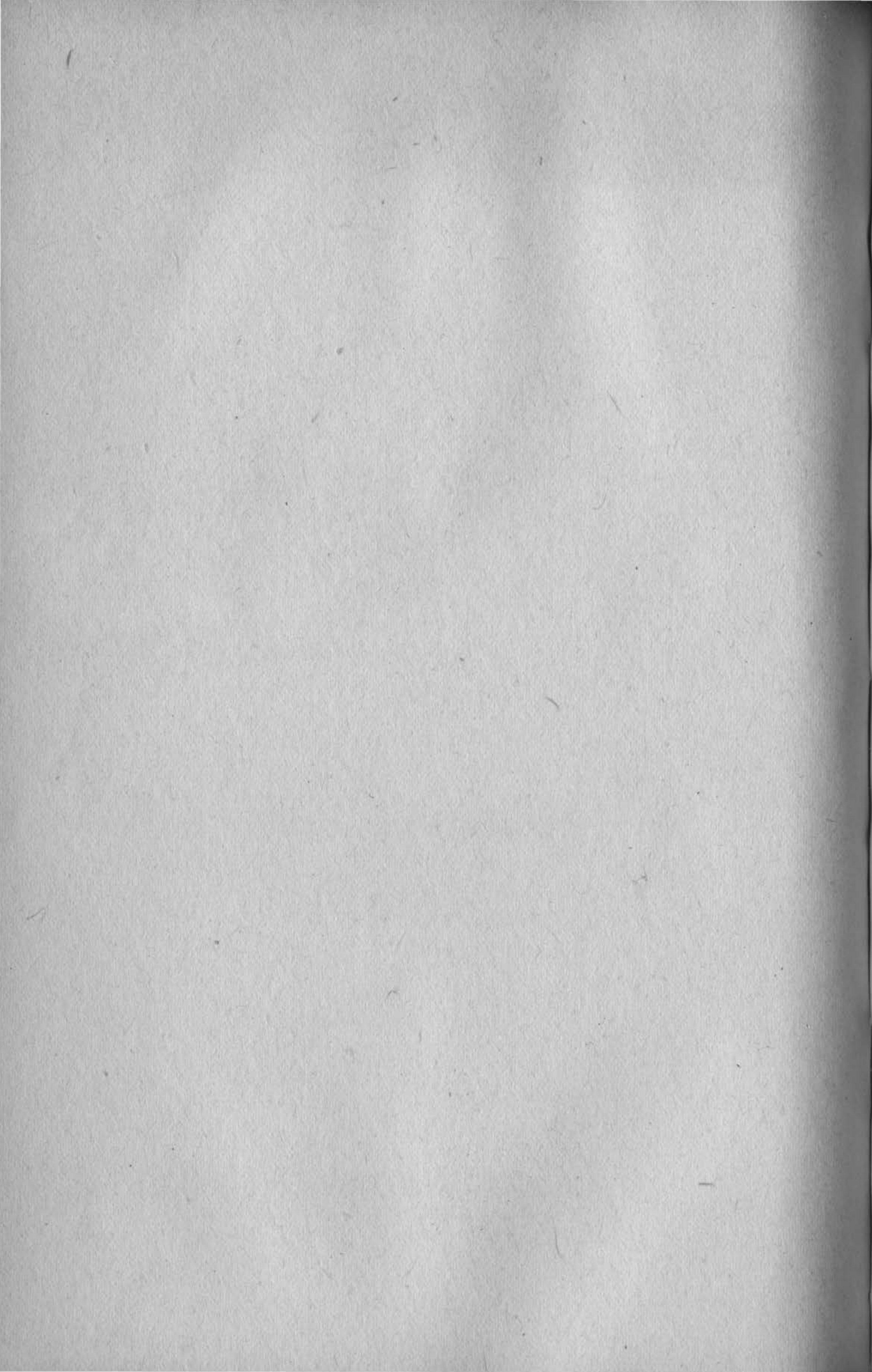
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# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*During the Eighth Session of the  
Twenty-Third General Assembly  
of Newfoundland*

*1919.*

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UNION PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

During the Eighty-Second Session of the

County-Third General Assembly

of Newfoundland

1919

—

ST. JOHN'S

# Proceedings

## OF THE

# Legislative Council of Newfoundland

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## SESSION 1919

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WEDNESDAY, April 2nd, 1919.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature.

At five minutes to three o'clock p.m. the Council met.

At three o'clock p.m. His Excellency the Governor, Sir C. Alexander Harris K.C.M.G., etc., having arrived at the Council Chamber and being seated on the Throne, the Hon. the President

commanded the Gentlemen Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the Commons House of Assembly and inform the Speaker and Members thereof that it is His Excellency's will and pleasure that they attend at the Bar of this House; and they being come thereto, His Excellency was pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature, with the following speech to both Houses:

**Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:**

**Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:**

It is with mingled sentiments of pride and thankfulness that I greet you to-day; pride in the wonderful success of the Allied arms in the Great World War which ended in November last; and thankfulness at the termination of a conflict which has caused untold miseries to the greater portion of the human race. I trust that from the wreck and devastation of the War, better, more enduring and happier conditions may arise, ushering in a new era of peace and contentment, which will in some measure justify and atone for the great sacrifices of blood and treasure which have been poured forth so freely and unselfishly upon the altar of Liberty.

At the time of the last session of this Legislature it will be remembered that the fortunes of the Allies were most critical, and the War situation was of the utmost gravity. Under those circumstances a Bill was introduced to postpone for a second time the General Election, and the Legislature then determined that the term of the present Assembly should be limited to April 30th., 1919.

Thanks under God, however, to the almost superhuman exertions

made by the Allies, the tenacity and sustained gallantry of the soldiers, and the continued pressure of the Navy, the situation underwent such a change during the latter part of the summer and autumn that armistices have been signed with the enemies. The victory for which we have been hoping and praying has been achieved. The Peace Conference, which followed the conclusion of hostilities, has been in session some months. Problems of international significance and far reaching importance, which may call for legislative action and approval, are in course of settlement at the Conference and my Ministers feel that the Government must be in a position to call the Assembly together whenever necessary without any undue delay.

There are many problems of first-class importance connected with the demobilization of our soldiers and sailors, their re-establishment in civil life, the making or provision for War debts and obligations as well as questions of transportation by land and sea, which call for a new mandate from the country, and a newly elected and full House of Assembly to deal with them. These problems are urgent

The object for which the Legislature is now called together is to make provision for that immediate appeal to the electorate which the legislation of last Session necessitates, and to enable the use of the last voters' lists, which was taken over twelve months ago.

The work of completing another list would throw unnecessary expense on the country, and cause delay in appealing to the electorate.

Your consideration will be invited, therefore, to proposals for amending the Election Act, in order to legalize the use in the forthcoming General Election of the Voters' List taken in 1917. Care will be had to ensure that the electoral qualifications of Newfoundlanders who have been serving in His Majesty's Naval and Military forces shall in no way be affected by their absence abroad on active service during the period of the War, and you will be asked to approve an amendment to the Act to this effect.

You will be asked also to extend the franchise to Newfoundland sailors and soldiers, under the age of 21 years, who have been overseas with His Majesty's Forces.

**Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:**

I am happy to be in a position to inform you that there was a substantial excess of Revenue over Expenditure to the amount of One Million, One Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-seven Dollars and Ninety-four Cents, for the past fiscal year, and it is gratifying to know that a surplus of revenue over expenditure

for the current fiscal year may also be anticipated as the Customs' Revenue for the eight months ending on February 28th shows an increase of One Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-four Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-three Dollars over the receipts for the same period last year.

You will be invited to vote the necessary funds to defray the expenses of the forthcoming General Election.

**Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:**

**Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:**

The tidings of the death of Prince John stirred the sympathetic feelings of Their Majesties' devoted subjects throughout the Dominion. It was my sad duty to convey to the Royal Household an expression of sorrow and sympathy of our people in their affliction, which has knit even closer together the ties of love and loyalty which bind us to the Throne.

In response to a summons from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Prime Minister attended during the summer the sittings of the Imperial War Cabinet, and represented the Dominion in the discussion and determination of vital issues connected with the conduct of the War. He also participated in the deliberations of the Imperial Conference which dealt with varied and complex problems affecting the present and future policy of the Empire.

In November last following upon the signing of the armistice, the Prime Minister was recalled to London by the British Government to take his place in the Imperial War Cabinet in connection with the discussion and formulation of terms of Peace. Later he proceeded to Paris with the British Empire delegation and took part in the Peace Conference there, actively interesting himself in all matters affecting or likely to affect the Dominion. Before returning home he represented Newfoundland's position to the Imperial authorities and received an assurance that our interests would be very carefully safeguarded.

My Ministers decided to endeavour to raise locally and in Canada the moneys required for the continued prosecution of the War and issued a Victory War Loan. Their faith in the patriotism and public spirit of the people was fully justified by the magnificent result achieved, the amount of the issue being considerably oversubscribed within a very short period. This response is most gratifying as an

evidence of the confidence of our people in the resources and possibilities of the country.

The continual growth and expansion of our trade and commerce of late years, combined with the increasing importance of our relations with the Mother Country, having emphasized the necessity of adequate representation there, my Ministers arranged for the appointment of a High Commissioner in London to look after the trade and commercial interests of the Dominion.

I avail of this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome home to our soldiers and sailors who have represented Newfoundland so valiantly and well during the past four years amid the changing fortunes and bitter hardships of War. Mere words cannot express our feelings of appreciation and admiration of their wonderful work. Their deeds are eloquent and pass to judgment before them. On land and sea and in the air their worth has been proven and their fame has spread far and wide. Those who have died for the Right have bequeathed us a precious legacy—the undying memory of duty performed even to the death, and the eternal fragrance of that love which exceeds all others—that a man lay down his life for his friends. Their loss to the country can never fully be estimated, because it is impossible to compute the value of the chivalry, honour, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty which these men possessed in the highest degree. We can only endeavour to prove worthy of the glorious heritage which they have purchased for us at such a price.

In taking leave of you I trust that your deliberations may conduce to the further welfare and prosperity of Newfoundland and that Divine Providence may guide you in the performance of your duties.

The commission appointing Capt. R. H. Tait, M.C., to be Clerk of the Legislative Council was read, and the oath of office administered by the President.

The commissions of Hon. Walter Baine Grieve and Hon. Jesse White-way were read by the Clerk.

The Clerk then read a copy of the speech from the Throne.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE**—Mr. President, I rise to move the appointment of a Select Committee to draft an Address in Reply to the gracious Speech from the Throne which we have just heard with such pleasure, and following the

precedent long established I am privileged to make some comments on certain paragraphs of the speech. This document varies somewhat from those usually delivered on similar occasions in so far as there is little new legislation foreshadowed in it beyond that necessary to render legal the use of the voters' lists taken in 1917, for use in the forthcoming general election. It is rather a valedictory of the Government now in power to the people to whom they are again about to appeal for the support of which they desire to enable them to deal with the great problems now

facing the country. This being so I shall limit my observations to one or two points only. The outstanding feature of the Speech from the Throne and the matter which engages our close attention at the present juncture is that reference to the finances of the country. It is very gratifying to note in His Excellency's speech that during the past fiscal year there has been a substantial increase of revenue over expenditure and that an increase may be anticipated for the current year of a similar nature. We must not, however, allow ourselves to be influenced by these figures in dealing with the future policies of the country because our taxation being on an ad valorem basis, our revenue has increased with the prices of the articles we have imported, while the revenue from taxes increased then with the upward trend of prices so must they drop when prices go back to normal. This is a matter which must on no account be lost sight of. Furthermore, this Colony, like all the other dependencies of the British Empire, has need to face a reaction and the possibilities arising from such a reaction are now engaging the attention of the brightest intellects on both sides of the water. You cannot have a sudden change without feeling the effects of the consequent reaction and this principle applies here as strongly as it does elsewhere. People will, of course, jump to the conclusion that the conditions enjoyed during the past few years are permanent because they do not look for the underlying channels which have been responsible for our present prosperity. The time is approaching, however, when conditions must undergo an unmistakable change and we must be ready to adapt ourselves to the new order of things in common with all the other countries of the Empire. It

is quite possible that when the decrease comes, when the people who now enjoy a prosperity which was never dreamed of a few years ago begin to experience the change of conditions you can understand, Mr. President, what the attitude of those who do not look for the real cause, is likely to be. We will need wise legislators, then, to point out to the people why the prosperity of the past few years is not permanent but rather that it has been controlled by the inexorable law of supply and demand. That brings me, Mr. President, to one of the vital issues before this country—the necessity of educating the people in the proper manner of prosecuting their daily avocations—the fisheries—which are the main source of the country's wealth. The slovenly and indifferent manner of handling our fish and the lack of scientific means of cure are being rapidly taken advantage of by France, Norway, Iceland and other countries, and if conditions in this respect are not altered we shall find ourselves ousted from the markets and deprived of our very birthright. The cure of our fish is of vital importance and now that the war is at an end other fish producing countries are ready to take our place if we do not endeavor to raise the standard of our product. Already we find merchants of this country trying to turn into money the high priced commodities which they purchased last year and in order to solve the difficulty the trade of Newfoundland for the first time in the business history of the country has come together. Instead of undervaluing or over-estimating the ability of any one individual, all are bound together for the common good. Thanks to the Minister of Shipping and those associated with him, but particularly to the Minister himself, whose foresight and indefatigable en-

deavors have resulted in so much general good to the country, we can look back with satisfaction on the manner in which we have been enabled to carry on our trade the past few years. It is impossible to put a valuation upon the benefit of the Department of Shipping which has been rendered so much more productive of beneficial results because it has been backed by the knowledge and assistance of our most experienced business men. Thanks to the active co-operation of His Excellency the Governor and the extreme worthiness of the man who was relegated to the office of head of the Department of Shipping the benefit accruing has been inestimable. The speech of His Excellency today makes reference to the men of the Navy and Army or rather to the men who went forth from Newfoundland to uphold the principles so dear to the hearts of all of us. I think no mere words can adequately express what we feel in gratitude to them. They have placed us under an obligation we can never hope to repay. Now that they are back, however, it is our duty to see that we are willing to in some small measure recompense them or show how deeply we feel the obligation. They do not ask charity but just a little aid to be reinstated in civil life which they so willingly gave up when they were needed to fight the battles of the Empire. As to those who have passed, their memory shall ever remain with us. It is not an occasion upon which we would wish to dwell. All of us have suffered more or less and we are bound by a bond of sympathy stronger than any other tie which could unite the people of this country. We no longer want to take issue on the order of the day and the Government to father them. If in the administration of vital business of a vital policy we

could only meet together on the broad platform and discuss our differences, I think that we might hope that the future of this country might be a brighter and happier one, and that the evolution of serious issues might be eclipsed with greater good to the people of this country. I have expressed my views freely, and I have limited them to as few matters as possible. I have just spoken particularly in the way of generalities, and if my views are those of Honorable gentlemen, and they are willing to co-operate with citizens generally in every good Government to improve the people, then any such legislation as might be agreed upon would not prove unworthy to this country and its people.

**HON. ALEX. W. MEWS** seconded the motion, in the following speech:

In rising to second the motion for an address in Reply to His Excellency's speech, I am sensible of the fact that my share of the task is considerably lessened by the fact that I have been preceded by one who, out of the wealth of his experience has fittingly, eloquently and comprehensively covered most of the ground upon which I have to speak. There may be different viewpoints taken at a time like this, in a country like this, at a period when we have just come through the fires of torture and suffering caused by the war, and when it perhaps would seem the natural thing to rest and be satisfied, and gratefully so, with peace. But, sir, just as the waters of the ocean, or of a pond would become stagnant if they remained at rest, just so human nature if not constantly stirring and reaching out, dies, literally. And at this period of unrest, of uncertainty, it seems to me that the menace if that perhaps we shall not take hold of these conditions and understanding them, make them conform to the idea of a brighter fut-



ure, for, without hope we are dead.

I shall not dwell upon the fulfilment of the hopes which we had last session that we should meet this year in an Empire of peace. The day of the Armistice between the Allies and the Central Powers, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month 1918, is still fresh in our memories. Since then the Peace Table has been the arena, where Justice, if there can be absolute justice on this earth, is, we hope, the guiding Star. At that table it was Newfoundland's proud privilege to have a representative, and on those Committees deliberating on the various questions of world-interest, we have had Sir William Lloyd, the Premier, and as a result of the presentation of our case the Imperial authorities have given an assurance that our interests will be respected. In this land, sir, we have had, and properly so, political peace during the most anxious time of the Empire's struggle. There are, after all, bigger things than Newfoundland partisan politics, and it will be a thought for which we can ever be thankful that a National Party kept straight on and did its duty in the essential matters; Newfoundland did its share and has no reason to be ashamed of the part she played in bringing about the triumph of the Allied Forces and the resulting peace.

Now, Mr. President, that duty performed, Newfoundland can turn to her own affairs, and in order to bring peace in our own country, we must start with a war, a political war however, that can be fought and bring us political peace in a month. Last year this House accepted an amendment offered, I think by Hon. Mr. Milley, to the Extension Bill by which this Parliament should end by April 30th. In following out this, the Government have decided to appeal to the country without delay. Without detailing in any way the arguments of some members

of this Chamber as to the desirability of an election last year, I may safely conclude that they will accept the situation, lose no time in debate, but get their armour on for the sharp and quick contest. The amendments to the Election Act regarding the use of the present voters' lists, and the qualifications of members of the Naval and Military Forces will not, I am sure, sir, find any objectors.

It is particularly gratifying to note that the Government intend to give those of the Navy and Regiment who have been overseas and who are under the legal age of 21, the vote. It is fitting if they were prepared to fight our battles that we should give them a "say" in their country's affairs.

The necessity for a new Assembly is upon us. With our energies released from the active participation in the Great War we must return to our own affairs, and for the reconstructive period which is upon the whole world we must be prepared. The war has been a revealing war. It has pointed out with a burning, scorching and glaring finger all the defects of our national life. We cannot expect to return to old conditions. Much of the ground of our national life has been torn up just as the war has rent the soil of France. And it is up to us, it is up to the Government that will be returned to power next month, it is up to the Opposition, whoever they may be, it is up to this Council that we sow in that ground, that we do not allow rank and poisonous weeds to grow there, but that we shall sow such seeds as will firmly establish this old Colony on the only solid basis, that of a happy, a prosperous and contented people.

I believe in a future for this Dominion, I believe in a greater extension of her industries, and I believe in keeping our best brains for whatever work may be done in the future instead of so lavishly giving them to

other countries. The real wealth of the country is its human product, and while there are hands to work there can be no bankruptcy for any country. Let industry stop and we may look to the future with gloomy faces, but while industries flourish, while we bend our energies on expanding our human and material resources, while we meet squarely the complaints of the worker and honestly consider them there can be no fear for our future. That is the spirit in which we must tackle the problems, and despite the gloomy forebodings that I suspect will be voiced by members of this House opposed to the present Government, I submit that we owe it to the men who have fought so gloriously for us in France, we owe it to the men of the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve and the men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, that the least we can do, to match if we can their gallant conduct, is to make Newfoundland, not only a country worth dying for, but a country worth living for, and living in. The political party of to-day must forget petty politics for real work for the country. Any other party is doomed. And for this great task that is looming before this country, we need the best traditions of every party. The Re-establishment of Returned men, the practical monument of a Normal School whereby our teachers shall be fitted to give the boys and girls the education that they need best. Hospital facilities for the Outports, and adequate means of transportation, are some of the means by which we can emphasise the "preparedness" we should always have in view in peace or war. Looking to the future, we begin with our account in good shape.

To the 30th June, 1918, we had a surplus of over a million dollars, and to the end of June of the present year it is expected that a substantial surplus approaching a similar amount will be realised. The enormous jump

in the volume of trade as shown by the imports and exports in a decade is interesting. In the year 1910 the total trade of Nfld. was about \$25,000,000—last year the total trade amounted to \$57,000,000.

The following are the figures:

**For the Year ended 30th June, 1918.**

Imports . . . . .	\$26,892,946
Exports . . . . .	30,153,517

Total Trade . . . . .	\$57,046,463
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Customs Revenue for year \$4,923,396.31

#### EXPORTS CLASSIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

Products of the Fisheries . . . . .	\$25,547,334
"    "    "    Agriculture. . . . .	16,704
"    "    "    Forest . . . . .	320,609
"    "    "    Mine . . . . .	972,203
Manufacturers (local) . . . . .	3,045,893

#### PRODUCTS OF THE FISHERIES IN DETAIL.

##### Export:

Dry Cod . . . . .	1,821,206 qtls	\$18,829,560
Pickled . . . . .	195,218 "	1,023,426
Herring . . . . .	216,048 brls	2,067,897
Cod . . . . .	7,350 tuns	1,768,724
Refined C.L. . . . .	321,969 glls	674,093
Seal . . . . .	910 tuns	195,052
Whale . . . . .	80 "	16,851

It is also interesting to learn that the Income and Profits tax payable at the end of last year is expected to approach between eight and nine hundred thousand dollars. The response to the Victory Loan last summer was a gratifying revelation of a new spirit of confidence in the country, and it is to be hoped that when the time comes to float another Loan a similar result will be attained, thus paving the way for a greater community of interest in the general welfare of the country.

In finance, transportation, and taking care of imports and exports during the war, I think we can congratulate ourselves that during the two trying years that are past, the Govern-

ment have done well. If this has been accomplished in war, it is equally to be expected that similar important work can be accomplished in peace. In all the great work of the future, and those are the days when great action will be required, timidity is fatal. The foundations of the era upon which we have entered have been well and truly laid by heroic men and women in the past four years. When so much precious marble has been already built in the fabric, we must see that we do not finish it with shoddy material. We must so build, as Lloyd-George has said so well, that when we are forgotten dust, ages to come, men will look back at what was done during the last four and a half years, and what will be done during the next four and a half years, and say of men and women of this generation—"They builded well."

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I desire to extend congratulations to both the honorable gentlemen who have to-day for the first time taken their seats in the Council. I feel sure that the deliberations of this Assembly will be greatly helped by their presence amongst us. Both of the honorable gentlemen have had considerable experience in the commercial, industrial and political life of this country, and their knowledge will be of material help and assistance to us.

The honorable gentleman who moved the address in reply was struck by the fact that the speech differed from that delivered on previous occasions. I know of the sense of humor of the honorable gentleman and I am not on that account surprised that he did discover a striking difference in the speech. I am sure that he realized how it would be looked upon by the people of this country. In after generations it will, like the mummies of ancient Egypt, be looked upon by our citizens with curiosity and surprise.

In common with His Excellency and

the greater part of the civilized world I desire to express the pleasure with which we have witnessed the successful termination of the great war which has for the past four and a half years devastated Europe and the greater part of the world.

When this Legislature was opened nearly a year ago the fairest portions of the earth were being drenched in the blood of the youth of the world. The forces of destruction and desolation were strewing Europe and many parts of Asia with the mangled and bleeding corpses of armed men who went forth at duty's call to do battle for what they deemed was just and right. In this cause, in this Armageddon of the world, the youth of the Empire and our Allies offered up their young lives in order that the institutions of democracy might be lasting and enduring. Theirs was the greatest sacrifice that they could make in defence of their countries, and the willingness with which they made the sacrifice is best attested by the millions of dead and maimed as the result of this awful carnage of blood. Never before in the world's history was the brain and ingenuity of man more deeply devoted more assiduously employed in dealing death and destruction to one another and in levelling the fairest portions of the earth's surface. But a few short years ago we prided ourselves upon what we delighted to call the advance of civilization. We thought that we had made such strides along the path of progress and reform that a brighter and better century had never dawned upon the earth. But how suddenly was the scene changed to a Golgotha which the world never before witnessed. This delusion of progress and civilization we hugged to our bosoms. And it was a delusion, because beneath it all there was commercial greed and rank materialism. Toiling millions were denied the fruits of their toil, the right to live a well ordered

Christian life, because industrial magnates employers of labor, were bending their energies in the accumulation of wealth to the impoverishment and degradation of those who toil. The very nation that we accuse of being the cause of this awful holocaust, its institutions and its literature were eulogized by those who were afterwards forced to denounce it.

To-day we meet under different circumstances. Auspicious victory has crowned the arms of the nations fighting side by side with the Empire, the genius of Foch, the man who is called the Grey Man of Christ, because of the purity of his life, the model christian, the man who forgot not the teachings he received at his mother's knee, has broken and crushed the armies of the Central Powers.

"Today no storming vanguard leaps  
To leave its share of slain,  
At dawn on rolling thunder sweeps  
From Flanders to Lorraine;  
The white year breaks against the sky  
Beyond the last red flare,  
Save where ten million ghosts drift  
by,  
Who neither know nor care."

In this strife of armed nations, the sons of Newfoundland have done a noble part. By their valor, courage, and endurance, they have written the name of Newfoundland in the annals of the war records. Their dauntless courage and unflinching heroism in distant lands, by the shores of the Aegean Sea, on the crimsoned fields of France and Flanders, will be pointed to by future generations as one of the proudest and noblest heritages of this country and of the Empire. Many hundreds of them we so proudly saw marching away are not now with us. They lie mouldering on the glorious fields where they lived all their young lives in one tremendous hour and died with their songs unspoken and their

deeds un-lived. Little white crosses mark where many of our boys have paid in full the price of liberty. Others have been sent home to us maimed, others with health seriously impaired, hundreds of them unfitted and unable because of their wounds to go back to the occupations they left, while to others the opportunity is denied. The thousands who sailed from our shores did so in the hope that a brighter and happier dawn might be ushered in; a different kind of civilization from that which preceded their going; a civilization which would rid the world of the curse of militarism; a civilization in which secret diplomacy should no longer oppress and barter away the lives of the people and their countries; a civilization which would end forever the secret treaty making in which a few disposed of the lives and fortunes of millions; a civilization in which the people shall be neither oppressed nor governed against their will; a civilization under which small nationalities shall be able to work out their futures in accordance with democratic ideals; a civilization in which the worker shall no longer be underpaid and forced to live in unhealthy and unsanitary surroundings.

"They did not die for a selfish peace,  
nor fight for a coin or gold;  
They did not die for a stretch of land  
or things that are bought and sold,  
And now that the cannonade is done  
and the chains of the tyrant break,  
The vision they saw on the battlefield  
we must write in the peace we  
make."

Words will not suffice, we must show by our deeds that we are worthy to be the countrymen of these brave lads.

It is for us to see that the brave lads of the Empire have not died in vain; that the ideals and the principles for which they made the Su-

preme Sacrifice, shall not be cast aside in the limbo of forgotten hopes, when the terms of peace shall be finally settled. No peace that is not founded upon the eternal principles of justice can be lasting.

We must take care that the materialism which is rampant throughout the world today is not permitted to throttle the high hopes that we have formed. History has taught us that in the past our friend and ally of today was our enemy of tomorrow; that alliances founded upon self interest, were very quickly sundered when opportunity offered. It was but yesterday when Briton and German fought together against French domination; today Briton and Frenchman have united to crush German tyranny. In one hundred and twenty five years Great Britain has been three times the ally of Germany against France, twice the ally of Austria against France, twice the ally of Russia against France and has upon one occasion stood by and permitted France to be humiliated by Germany. During the same period British has been once the ally of France against Russia and once the ally of Russia and France against Germany and Austria. In one hundred years France has fought Russia three times and been her ally once. These facts tend to show how unstable are the relations of governments with one another; that the foreign policies of the nations of Europe, based as they were upon the illusory doctrine of the balance of power, were built upon quicksands, and shifted from time to time at the dictates of self-interest. Such a state of affairs does not make for permanent peace. Our boys did not fight for a continuance of the unstable equilibrium that was forever disturbing the peace of the world; they fought for a peace of justice, under which the nations of the world

great and small, would be free to work out their own destinies without outside interference

If we let our minds go back the past four and a half years, what do we find? Conditions that were then looked upon as permanent and unchangeable have been almost entirely swept away. One after another thrones have been overturned, empires and kingdoms swept away. Disorder has broken loose, and unless some power greater than the forces of anarchy prevails, civilisation will be swept away. True, the great war is over, but he who fancies universal peace will be ushered in, may be rudely awakened, because the greater part of Europe is in the throes of a revolution. How far it may extend, none can tell. Unless justice begins her rightful reign, there cannot be an enduring peace. It was for justice that humanity fought, and humanity will be ready to engage in a still more sanguinary struggle unless justice holds full sway. Diplomacy which failed to secure the peace of the world will not succeed alone in bringing it back unless its cardinal principles be justice. The law of justice must be honestly applied to all. It must not be made a cloak to hide indefensible selfish purposes, and to be dispensed according as the governments who have the brute force at their command may observe or ignore it at their pleasure.

They stood knee deep in the trenches'  
mire for freedom from brutal  
kings,

They died for the right of all men to  
live and share in life's joyous  
things;

They died for justice to great and  
low, for laughter and rest at night,  
And these we must carefully guard  
today in the terms of the peace  
we write.

The world of honest truthful men is waiting for the answer. To quote President Wilson when addressing the Peace Conference: "The select masses of mankind are no longer the governors of mankind. The fortunes of mankind are now in the hands of the plain people of the whole world. Satisfy them and you have justified their confidence not only but have established peace. Fail to satisfy them, and no arrangement you can make will either set up or steady the peace of the world. We have no choice but to obey the mandate. We would not dare to compromise on any matters as the champion of this thing this peace of the world, this attitude of justice, this principle that we are the masters of no people but are here to see that every people in the world shall prove its own masters and govern its own destinies not as we wish but as they wish."

This distinguished man has laid the foundation and upon it the structure of peace must be built. The extract contains the seed of a peace of justice, and unless it fructifies and grows to a mighty tree, under whose branches democracy may find shelter from wrong and injustice, this war will have been fought in vain.

Turning to matters locally, I cannot help having compassion for the Honorable Gentlemen on the task which they have set themselves. We have entered upon a period of reconstruction after the most momentous war in the history of the world. Problems are arising every day to solve which will require the aid of the best intelligence amongst us.

In the Speech from the Throne the Legislature has a right to see foreshadowed the policies by which the problems confronting the country will be solved, but I regret to say that it would seem that political expediency is of more importance to

the Government than the serious consideration of these matters. I agree with the mover of the Address in Reply in the urgency and the necessity of a speedy solution of these problems. But this fact seems to be entirely lost sight of by the Government. The only thing that they have thought worthy of consideration is to take advantage of the present condition of affairs to secure their hold on place and power. It reminds me of the story of the young lady who was inquiring of her old nurse, the widow of a pensioner, how she got along. "Badly enough, darling, only the Government intends to do something for us." "And what is the Government, Nora?" "It's joking you are miss; sure every child knows what's the Government. It's a half dozen gentlemen, and the likes may be, that meets and thinks what's best for themselves, and then says, 'That's best for us,' and that's the Government."

I submit, Mr. President, that never before in the history of this country was there greater need of intellect and experience in the guidance of our affairs. Never before in the history of this country was the trained intellect the unselfish man, the man of vision more needed. The man who will have the ability and the will to resolutely face the many difficult problems industrially, economically, and financially, that confront us. Men who are prepared to brave slander and misrepresentation, have their motives misunderstood, and the hireling press and its literary assassins attempt to becloud the issues. If the men whom the public look upon as leaders of public thought do not do their duty in this crisis, those with revolutionary ideas may hold the stage, and the drama enacted may be fraught with disaster to the people and the country.

In the public press of this country

only the other day a public man openly avowed his sympathy with the rule of the Bolsheviks in Russia, a rule that rests on rapine and murder, destruction and desolation, the overturning of law and order, religion and morality. Have those to whom we look up in this crisis, done their duty by a public disavowal of the rule of assassins? Have they pointed out the consequences that result in these revolutionary doctrines? I fear not. Some may shrug their shoulders and say: "It is only a few who openly espouse a cause of this character." But let us not forget that the germs of revolutionary thought are stealthily sown and when the harvest is ripe there will be found some leader who will crystallize into action the thoughts and theories which he assiduously disseminated. Others may say that the promulgators of theories of this kind are dreamers and visionaries. So it was in Russia, so it is to-day in many parts of Europe, even in Great Britain, but nevertheless the theories took root and the greatest problems that confront society to-day are their repudiation and the healing of the wounds caused by them. Let us remember that this school of thought is not confined to Europe, it has crossed the water, it is here in our midst, if we may judge of the writing referred to, and it must be confronted, not by empty words or promises but by action. Action by measures which will allay discontent, give employment to the unemployed.

Many men have returned from Europe with the scars of battle on their persons. They are walking the streets of this city and other parts of the country unemployed. True, money has been given to them, but they want something more than that. What they want is employment in some honorable occupation and an honest livelihood and not State Charity. When these men responded to duty's call, there were glowing promises made to them.

They went forth to do battle believing in the honesty of our professions. Now, that they have returned, many of them found that the promises were not sincere and they carry resentment in their bosoms, because they feel that they deserve better at the hands of their countrymen.

Many millions of dollars are being paid out, but if a portion of these moneys paid were devoted to schemes whereby these men may be given an opportunity to work at lucrative employment congenial to their tastes and their technical knowledge the country would be the gainer. We have many parts of this country where the soil is as fertile as parts of Cape Breton or Nova Scotia, but through lack of roads, railroad facilities, it is of no benefit whatever to the country. We import hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. If a million or two of dollars were spent in building roads and homes, and clearing land for settlement for the returned war veterans, the money which now goes out of the country would be kept in it, and we would be the gainers thereby.

It is regrettable that there are to-day men who have been elected to the Legislature who are in no way fitted for the important functions which they have to discharge. If we require the adjustment of a piece of delicate machinery, we call in the skilled mechanic, who is specially adapted for that work. So should it be with the science of government; for of all tasks that is one which requires in an eminent degree the qualities of training and experience.

The state of the railway to-day is a disgrace to the country; it is a risk to travel upon it. Instead of a honest effort being made to improve matters, the Government has allowed the incompetence and mismanagement of those in charge to bring the road to its present condition.

It is most noticeable that the speech-

makes no mention of the very large financial responsibilities which we have to shoulder. Should not the Legislature, and indeed the whole country be made aware of the vast obligations to which the Government have committed us? The country is faced at the present moment with a debt of about \$44,000,000. In those days that is not a large sum for a country with an ever-increasing population. In this country, however, we have to depend upon the natural increase in population, as there is no immigration of any account. There is now an interest charge of about \$2,200,000 yearly, while in addition a sum of about \$800,000 has to be paid out in pensions. For these items alone there has to be met yearly a sum of \$3,000,000. Before the war our revenue was under \$4,000,000; and out of our present revenue of \$7,000,000 this sum will have to be paid annually. When we consider that in addition the expense of conducting the government will have to be met and necessary public improvements provided for, we are faced with the question: Where are we going to get the money? The present income and excess profits tax bear very heavily on the trade. Are you at a time when there is an urgent need of capital for expansion of industry going to increase taxes to such an extent as to mean a virtual confiscation of capital. If you do so, it will mean the ruin of the industrial and commercial life of the country.

Moreover, with the cessation of hostilities, large profits have ceased to be made. What is the condition of the market in Italy to-day. Our staple product there at the present moment is a drug on the market. We have been forced to sell \$1,250,000 worth of fish to the Roumanian Government and to accept in payment thereof Roumanian bonds, which at the present moment are of dubious value.

We are to-day face to face with an

expenditure of \$7,500,000 in 1920. Is it possible for the Government to collect \$33 next year from every man, woman and child in the country? That is the position to which we are reduced. And how are we going to do it, with the purchasing power of the people considerably reduced? True, there has been a certain amount of temporary prosperity due to the war; but even now there are hundreds of families in this city unable to earn sufficient to purchase the necessaries of life. It is therefore of paramount importance to the people of this country that the Government should have outlined fairly and squarely the pressing nature of the problem and the means by which they intend to grapple with it.

The government now say that they want a mandate from the people. Could they not have gotten it last year? In February 1918 when they thought that no opposition was to be expected, they were prepared to spring an election on the country, but they suddenly changed their plans.

We are now told that on the score of economy the government wishes to go to the country on the old voters list. This is indeed comic opera in its richest form; it is a burlesque of the most fantastic type. I do not need to remind honorable gentlemen of the extravagance that is going on in all departments of the government.

It was only a short time ago that the government decided on a spring election; but they could only do so by amending the Election Act which you will remember was before the Legislature some years ago and which at the time engaged the best brains and ability of members in its drafting. The effect of the proposed amendment will be to disenfranchise thousands. In the twelve months just past the Government had ample opportunity to prepare a new list. But to effectuate their own purposes they pro-



pose to meddle with a most important section of the Act which may rightly be regarded as an important safeguard of our liberties. The Act requires that the election lists must be taken at least 12 months before an election. Are you prepared to acquiesce in this violation of a fundamental principle of law? Are you prepared to permit the government to force an election on the people through motives of political expediency and to permit them to place their own selfish interests before the interests of our country and our people? One of the principles for which this war was fought was to uphold the rights of democracy. Free elections and the free exercise of the franchise are the foundations of these. When we enunciated this principle did we mean it as a delusion and a snare, wherein to entrap the unwary? Are we then going to see it thus flagrantly violated?

**HON. R. A. SQUIRES:**—Mr. President, I regret that the severe cold from which I have been suffering for some days causes the effort of speech to be so painful to myself, and, I am sure, distressing to my hearers, that it is impossible for me to address the Council at this moment. I desire, however, to avail of this opportunity in which to express hearty congratulations to the Hon. Walter Baine Grieve, whose commission as a Legislative Councillor has just been issued. The Hon. Mr. Grieve is one of Newfoundland's leaders in matters of finance. Of all men in this Colony, few are more expert than he in matters relating to its trade and commerce. Some years ago he occupied a seat in this Chamber, retiring therefrom to enter the more aggressive field of public life represented by the House of Assembly. From the older members present the welcome is consequently one of renewed Council associations. The splendid address with which he moved for the appoint-

ment of the committee is itself proof that Mr. Grieve's addition to the Council is a great acquisition, both in its debating power and in its deliberate wisdom.

I would also extend hearty congratulations to the Hon. Jesse Whiteway, who has taken his seat in this Council this afternoon for the first time. Mr. Whiteway has had many years of public experience in Newfoundland's affairs. For years he occupied a seat in the House of Assembly as representative of an important constituency, and during these years served his constituency faithfully and well. As a business man he has himself achieved success in the enterprises which he undertook many years ago, and as a public man of considerable experience and weight his presence is a worthy addition to this legislative hall.

A word of congratulation is well merited by the Hon. Mr. Mews, who seconded the motion made by the Hon. Mr. Grieve for the appointment of a committee. The address which Mr. Mews gave in our hearing this afternoon showed careful preparation and deliberate thought. The opening addresses of the Hon. Mr. Grieve and the Hon. Mr. Mews on this occasion have set a high standard for this session's debates.

I regret exceedingly that the act of speaking is so laborious for myself and, I am quite sure, unpleasant to the members, that I am prevented from dealing at this moment with the contents of the Speech from the Throne. There are but two matters of practical legislation referred to therein, an amendment to the election law so as to enable the Government to hold an election early this Spring, and the necessary supplies to defray election expenses. As both these matters will be the subject of bills they will in the ordinary course

come before this Chamber, at which time I hope to be able to address the Chamber with more acceptance than it is possible for me to do on this occasion.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Mr. President, before the motion goes thru I should like to make a few observations. I heartily congratulate the two gentlemen who have today taken their seats in this House—Hon. Mr. Grieve and Hon. Mr. Whiteway. I also join in congratulations to the new clerk who has just taken the oath of office. I am sure we have all heard with a great deal of pleasure the able speech of Hon. Mr. Grieve, and I entirely agree with everything he has said. With regard to the first section of the Speech from the Throne, I am sure we all join with His Excellency the Governor in the expression of gratitude for the success of the Allied arms and for the blessing of peace. This country has suffered proportionately more than any other country in the British Empire and those of us who have felt the terrible effects of the conflict will fervently say, "Thank God, the war is over."

The second paragraph of His Excellency's Speech refers to the fact that the life of the present administration is limited to the end of the present month. I am not going to say what time an election should be held, but I do say that our first duty is to see that arrangements are made for getting our brave boys back here before anything else is even thought of. The war has been over since the 11th of November but there are still hundreds of our soldiers and sailors overseas. In the Old Country Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and in fact every part of the Empire, the problems of dealing with the soldiers have been occupying the whole attention of governments and people and

all know where these countries stand as a result of the war. Here however, the Government has been working like some secret society and has not taken the people into its confidence. It is the duty of the Government to put before the public a statement showing our debits and credits so that we may know just where we stand.

Now, Mr. President, I am not opposed to the politics of this or any other Government, but I should like to see things done in an honest, business-like manner. Paragraph four to the Speech refers to the problems of demobilisation and re-establishment in civil life of our soldiers and sailors. Large numbers of our men have already returned and why have we not done something before this to help them to get back to civil life. I wish, Mr. President, that those of our boys who have come back could be shown that the country is grateful to them. They have had four years of the horrors of war and they are coming back to take up life where they left it off here to do their part as men. It is the duty of the Government to do all in its power to assist in the re-establishment of these men. They should have done it long ago.

With regard to paragraph six of His Excellency's speech, I would not say whether the election should be held in the spring or fall, but I think, sir, that the reason given for the rushing of the election at an early date, and the using of voters' list taken in 1917, is too thin. Whether the cost be \$50,000 or \$100,000 the amount should be forthcoming and the election held in a proper manner. The Speech from the Throne boasts of an increase of revenue for the eight months ending February 28th, of one million four hundred and fifty four thousand, six hundred and thirty-three dollars, over the correspond-

ing period last year. Yet in the face of this the Government is about to use the voters' list of two years ago and so disenfranchise many voters. I think that beats Banagher, anyhow it beats me.

I do not know if the ladies are to vote or not. If they are, have the age limit 15 and not 30. You will be surprised how many of them are under thirty!

Section 9 refers to the death of Prince John. We were deeply sympathise with the King and Queen in their loss.

Section 10 told us the Prime Minister was at the Imperial Conference. We all knew that. But they have not told us what he did there. We are told he visited Paris and London. Now I think His Excellency's speech should have detailed his movements in the interest of the people.

Section 12 referred to the Victory War Loan. Now, Honorable gentlemen of this House, I am delighted that the Government raised that loan, but the Government made a mistake by fixing the interest at 6½ per cent. It is too high, and I believe if the Government of the country is any good, had the confidence of the people, it could raise money at bank interest, and even at five per cent. But it is the old story. "If you have a poor jigger you must use bait."

The next section is a welcome home to our soldier and sailor boys. Yes. There is no place for the soldiers and sailors that have been thru battle's din and roar, sweeter than Home, Sweet Home, and I hope the next time everything will assist in giving them a good welcome.

Now, Mr. President, I come to the most serious question of reconstruction, and the problems that face this country now, whether it be under Prime Minister Lloyd or Prime Minister somebody else; and we have to

face them, or those that are immediately intrusted will face them. And the first I submit is education. I am not going to say whether we should have a university here or not. There is plenty of room even for that in this city. There is great scope, though, in this country for an educational advance, and I hope it will be of such a nature that it will benefit not only the soldiers but those of the boys seeking advancement in other branches of education, but of a technical nature.

The next point I would refer to is the soldiers and sailors. I hope the soldiers who are coming home and those who will come home will take life seriously and get back to work. I endorse the plan adopted by the Government of paying them the \$60 of \$70 they have been getting per month, but they do not seem to be able to live up to the confidence placed in them, for, unfortunately, I am sorry to learn, they just live along on this money and dont settle down to work, but come back at the end of the month for the rent instalments. This is extremely unfortunate and the great problem arising from it for the Government is to teach them to settle down squarely to civil life and get to work seriously.

The next problem that has to be immediately solved is that of health. Now that is a very serious problem. I heard the other day with a great deal of disgust, a great deal of shame, that the Deputy Mayor had stated at a public meeting: "I am ashamed to be in the Council because we have no money to clean the streets." If I were a Councillor and made that statement, I would not be one tomorrow, because I would either find the money or resign. It can be done. I know it can. But the money is frittered away. It is a case of discounted notes, value not received. We have

no revenue. No money. There is a problem of reconstruction. Revenue against expense in City Government.

The next is a serious problem, and a very complex one, but one which in my opinion should be dealt with before the dissolution of this House. I refer to houses and rents. In 1915 the British Government tackled the problem and appointed a chairman and commission to arbitrate the prices of houses and rents during the war. The details of the work of this commission have not yet become known, but sufficient is known to say that when the question was put before Prime Minister Lloyd George, that tenants were being put out of houses unless they were prepared to buy them, a stop was put to it. These rents were fixed up to a certain standard and by Act of Parliament none could be put out which he continued to pay rent as formerly.

Now, sir, that sort of thing is being done in St. John's today, and I say, Mr. President, with all seriousness, that this problem has to be settled before the House adjourns. Now these are problems before us. The British Government, the Canadian Government, the U. S. Government, the New Zealand Government, and all the governments of civilised countries are dealing with this problem, but our Government does not attempt to do so. The question has to be grappled with, for I know houses in this town where 6, 7, 8 or 10 people are herded in houses where you would not put your dog. I have visited these houses, houses in comparison to which your garages are palaces. And your brothers and sisters are dying because you don't give them half a chance to live. This is all too true.

The Speech itself, Mr. President, does not foreshadow anything in the way of business. There is no suggestion that any constructive busi-

ness is to be attempted. It simply is a speech apologising for the Government, who are crying like the Macedonians: "Come over and help us." As far as I am concerned if it is one of those actions by which men are on one side today and another tomorrow and if the active politician in this House or the other House is satisfied that spring is the best time to have an election, I have no objection. Now, Mr. President, there is a great deal of material for thought here which could form the subject for a debate of this kind for a fortnight. It is not a question of the speech which the Governor has read us, for that is as barren as the South Side hills. But they say this is just the beginning. Wait until you see our manifesto. You will jump at the opportunity of voting for us. As sure as the sun will rise tomorrow we will see then the huge splurge the Government will make.

Mr. President, the Hon. Mr. Grieve put his finger on the keynote when he said that our prosperity has been due to duties collected on abnormal values. Now the Government is no more responsible for the abnormal revenues than you or I are. They are due entirely to the high prices caused by the war. When we figure out the ad valorem duties of 40 per cent. upon one article the cost of which in 1912-1914 was 30 pence, or 2|3, and to day costs 15| to 20| we can see how the revenue has benefitted. But all these goods must soon drop, and when they do our revenue must drop accordingly. There is nothing in any other argument. Why only a day or so ago I heard that fresh fish was sold in Canada at less than pre-war prices. That is interesting. It foreshadows cheap commodities; whether food or otherwise, all will become cheaper.

When the war broke out on Aug-

ust 4th, 1914, in order to keep trade going the British Government, thru the Bank of England, issued 10| and 20| paper notes to preserve the gold supply. And we know, Mr. President, that these notes that have been issued during the war will continue in circulation as long as the British Empire lasts, and will never be redeemed. That is the way in which finances are bolstered up. My friend referred to fish. I do not know whether the figures are correct or not. I noticed a reference in yesterday's paper that a cargo had been sold to Rumania and paid for in Rumanian Government Bonds. Now the sooner we get these bills endorsed by the British Government the better. But it will be a great relief to know that this fish has been sold and the notes for them turned into gold, and that the cargo will turn out in good condition.

However, Mr. President, these are the problems confronting the country, and it is further stated that there is an increased surplus during the 8 months of 1½ million dollars. Now I am afraid that the one and a half million dollars will be like water in one's hand, i.e., it will not stay long. Nothing would have given me greater pleasure, even supposing it took me a week to do it, than to unravel the financial condition of this country at the present moment. I suppose we'll get it by and by, but I am afraid we will not get at any of the details for a long while yet.

In closing, I do not know whether my Hon. friend the doctor, or Mr. Harvey is Leader of the Government, but I hope, Mr. President, if you are the Leader of the Government, or whoever is Leader of the Government in this House, will call attention of the Government to the question of housing before this session closes. I do not care one single rap if there are

any agents or rent collectors here or not, but I tell you I know of increases in rent from \$5.00 to \$12.00 of houses where you would not put your cat to have kittens. I have wondered why we have not had a pestilence, for if the flu had broken out in these hovels it must have happened. I hope, therefore, Mr. President, you will present my compliments to the Government and ask them to do that in the real interest of the people. I say that, sir, because we have no representation of any in St. John's. I am speaking as spokesman for 6,000 men, for every union and every man of labor in this city, and I hope the reporter has made a point of making my remarks clear on this point. If I can succeed in doing nothing else tomorrow than get erected decent houses in this city, I shall be satisfied. It will be the saving of this city.

I am not for one moment going to dwell upon the morality of this town at the present time, but I can tell you that a great deal of what exists is due to home conditions. And if you make their home life poor, if you allow them to live in rooms not fit for animals, then you must take what comes. We have organisations and laboring men with no representatives to appeal to. As far as the Council goes, they are as poor as Lazarus. They have no representative in St. John's East. They are all dead or have been promoted or in the pay of the Government. The same condition applies to St. John's West, and all through lack of interest, and I can assure you the seed thus planted is beginning to bear fruit, and the best way to get it remedied is to push the housing problem to its limit. And I hope with your interest to make the scheme a success. We have endeavored to work the Housing Scheme, but we have had no assistance from the press. No editorials,

no original matters have appeared in the press to help us, and we have had to work independently. They are all writing, though, in support of a Maternity Home. Why every home should be a maternity home. Every home well built would improve conditions wonderfully, but the press has supported this scheme because of the denominational aspect of it. What we want is better homes for our people. They are prepared to pay good rent, but the good homes are not to be had. These are the problems. Honorable gentlemen present do not know the conditions under which people have to live, otherwise they would take it up in a more serious manner, and I therefore appeal to you, and to the Government, which ever party it will be that will be returned, in their interests; I appeal on behalf of people generally but more especially on behalf of those who will be thrown into the street at an early date. The question is one of great moment, and this Legislature certainly ought not to dissolve without first going fully into this matter.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously, and the President named the following Committee: Hons. Mr. Grieve, Mr. Mews, Mr. Whiteway, Mr. Knowling, and Mr. J. D. Ryan.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—Before the House adjourns, I am sure it is the wish of yourself and the House that cognizance should be taken of the loss of one of our members. We have sustained a number of losses during recent years, and the last of our members to be called away is the Honorable James Angel. He was a man of the highest and noblest type of character; a man of most lovable personality. Nearly all of us knew him who for a very great number of years took his place in this House.

He was a warm friend of most of the members of this House and his life experience and ability was as marked as his character. His usefulness and value on many questions that arose here were again and again proven, and he was always listened to with interest and deference, his ripe counsel proved constantly of the greatest value. I therefore beg to submit the following—and I feel we should not rise on this first occasion of our meeting without recording our sense of loss in the death of Hon. James Angel. It might chance that if the regular Leader of the Government was here he would as Leader move this resolution, but in his absence I do not think we should rise without having such a resolution put. I therefore beg to move:

“That this House record its great sorrow over the death of the late Hon. James Angel, whose decease creates a void in this Council, with which he was so actively acquainted, as well as the country at large.

“Resolved—That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of the late Hon. James Angel, expressing the sympathy of the Council with him in their great sorrow.”

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Mr. President, I am sure the Chamber appreciates the action of the Hon. Mr. Harvey on behalf of the Government in the absence of the Hon. W. J. Ellis, Leader of the Government in this Chamber, in moving that a resolution of sympathy be placed upon our records and conveyed to the relatives of the late Hon. James Angel, who for many years served his country as an honored member of the Council. The Hon. Mr. Angel was a man of great strength of character, one whose life and business records harmonise with the title of “Honorable” which he bore by virtue of his seat in this Chamber. He was one of the pioneers

of industry in Newfoundland. Without many of the advantages in his youth which abound to the youth of today, he won success for himself and his associates and created an enterprise of no small importance to the community. He belonged to the class of older men upon the strength of whose pioneer efforts the successful development of Newfoundland's trade and commerce has been built. As a legislator he gave years of valued service to this Chamber and to his country, and in many matters of public importance the value of his rich experience and wise counsel was highly appreciated. I beg to second the motion.

Said resolution was then passed unanimously.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—When we last met here the late clerk of the Council Mr. Hugh Carter was active amongst us, and now that he has passed away, I think it only fitting that this House should place on record its regret at his passing. If I mistake not he was for upwards of forty years connected with this Council Chamber. In fact we may say he was a part of it, and a more able, or courteous, or gentlemanly official it would not be possible to have. His mind was a regular storehouse of information and was always available to Honorable gentlemen in this Chamber to the advantage of the deliberations and discussions that from time to time took place. In view of his long and active services I trust that some substantial recognition of his forty years services will be made. I therefore beg to move the following:

“That this House records its deep regret for the death of Mr. Hugh Hoyles Carter, who for a great number of years filled the position of Clerk of this House.”

**HON. DR. SKELTON:**—I had the pleasure of the acquaintance of Mr. Carter for many years, some thirty I

think, and I found him always ready and obliging to give advice, and he always performed his duties here most satisfactorily. I beg to second the resolution.

Said resolution then passed unanimously.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave notice of question.

Hon. Mr. Squires gave notice of question.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Grieve the House then adjourned until Friday next at four of the clock p.m.

FRIDAY, April 4th.

House opened at 4 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Questions deferred until tomorrow in the absence of Leader of Government.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—Mr. President, I beg to submit the report of the Select Committee appointed to draft Address in Reply, and move that it be read a first and second time.

The Address was then read a first and second time, after which it passed and was ordered to be engrossed, and presented to the Governor by a Committee of the Whole House.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Might I ask the Hon. President if this procedure is in order. I notice we did not go into Committee.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—For the benefit of the Hon. member, I may say that the House does not now go into Committee on the Address in Reply. It is read a first and second time and engrossed. That procedure has been adopted for some time past.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave notice of question.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Grieve the House adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, at 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, April 5th.

The House met at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs asked the Honorable the Leader of the Government to lay upon the Table of this House a statement showing the amounts expended under Order in Council during 1917-18 not passed by the Auditor General and chargeable to Current Revenue; also, to lay on the Table of this House a statement showing amounts expended during the last financial half of 1918 and to March 30th, 1919, under Orders in Council not passed by the Auditor-General, for 1917-18.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—The information asked for is in course of preparation.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I think, Mr. President, that sufficient time has elapsed since this information was asked for to have it prepared and laid upon the Table of this Chamber, and I very strongly protest against such unnecessary delay. The same rule prevailed here during the last session, the House being repeatedly put off on some such pretext whenever information was asked for. While I do not blame the Leader of the Government for not being in a position to make the answer to this question, I see no good reason why this information could have been prepared before this. If Honorable members of this House are content to sit in their seats and allow such conduct to go on without protest, then all I can say is that we are not doing our duty to the public and as members of this Chamber. I say we have a right to protest very strongly. Here is information asked for several days ago; there is practically no business in the Lower House and there is no reason whatever why it should not be forthcoming now.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I entirely with what the honorable gentleman opposite has said with regard to this matter. I fail to see why we should

have to ask for such information at all. It is something we should know without the necessity of asking for it. Every day some matter of vital importance is occurring but the public are kept in entire ignorance and as I have before said, the Government carries on its work like some secret society. I am not speaking as a political partisan; I am speaking as a member of this House whose duty it is to protest vigorously against such neglect to comply with a request for information which should be possible to prepare in a few hours. If you asked such a question of any book-keeper in a commercial house he would have the answer for you in half an hour. I say, Sir, that such treatment is not good enough. We are called upon to deal with certain Legislation and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to facilitate its passage thru this House. I have no desire to hamper the Government in its work. It is necessary to have an election this spring but I think it should be remembered that the members of this House are possessed of common intelligence and as such are entitled to more consideration than has thus far been manifested.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Mr. President, I quite agree with the honorable gentleman in their remarks with regard to this matter. I see no reason why this information, which has been asked for by this House, should not be furnished within a reasonable time. Such delays are quite unnecessary and as a member of this Legislature I strongly protest against them.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I regret exceedingly that owing probably to my absence from the House on the opening days of the session the information asked for is not tabled. I had laid my plans to get here in time for the opening of the session



but unavoidable delays prevented me doing so. On my arrival here I went around to the different departments to have the information prepared and some of it was promised for to-day. On enquiry I find that it was sent here but later sent from here to my house and so was overlooked. I left Sydney with the hope of getting here for the opening of the session, but found on my arrival that the House was opened and nearly ready to close again.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—This question was laying over several days and I consider the explanation of the honorable gentleman a very superficial apology for the Government's gross dereliction of duty. He must bear in mind that the members of this House are men of large commercial experience and are not going to be treated as children. The question has been asked long enough for an answer to be forthcoming. I agree with the honorable gentleman as to the delay in his getting here being unavoidable, but that in itself is no excuse. I think every honorable member here will agree with me that something must be wrong. Surely the accounts of the department are kept up to date. I repeat, Mr. President, that such treatment is not good enough.

Hon. Mr. Squires asked the Honorable the Leader of the Government to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the number of officials and employees of the Department of Militia as at the following dates:—(a) July 1st, 1917; (b) July 1st, 1918; (c) April 1st, 1919; together with particulars as to the salaries paid to each official and employee at these several dates. Also, what has been the total cost to the Colony of the Department of Militia since its creation? Also, to lay on Table of the House a copy of each Order of Minute in Council assenti g

to or authorising the increase in freight and passenger rates on the railway system and steamship service of the Reid-Newfoundland Company, together with copies of freight and passenger rate schedules before and after each increase in rates assented to, authorised, or made by the Reid-Newfoundland Company since January 1918.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—The answer to this question was also to have been here. It will be tabled, however, on Monday.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs asked the Honorable the Leader of the Government to lay on the table of the House a statement showing in detail the amounts collected by the Food Control Board; also to ask under what authority the Board collected the amounts.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—I may say with regard to that information that as head of the Department in question I have given instructions to the staff to have the answer prepared.

Hon. the President announced that messages had been received from the Assembly that they had passed the bills entitled respectively: "An Act Respecting Election in the Present Year," and "An Act to Provide for defraying the Expenses of an Election this year," in which they requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these bills were then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned at 4.55 p.m. to meet again at 3.15 of the clock on to-morrow.

MONDAY, April 7.

The House met at 3.15 p.m. pursuant to adjournment, when a deputation of the whole House waited upon His Excellency at Government House with the Address in Reply.

On returning to the Council Chamber, Hon. Mr. President informed the House that His Excellency the Governor had been graciously pleased to receive the delegation with the Reply to the Address with which His Excellency had opened the present Session.

Hon. Mr. Ellis laid upon the table portion of certain information asked for by Hons. Messrs. Gibbs and Squires at the last sitting of the House.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—I beg leave to present a copy of Resolutions passed at a largely attended meeting of the citizens of St. John's held at the Casino Theatre on the 4th April, and ask that they be read to the House. There is nothing contained in them that could be objected to by anybody, nor is politics associated with them, but they are the outcome of an agitation on the part of the citizens of St. John's to have the pending general election postponed to the 16th May. There should be no objection, I think, to these Resolutions, and it is pleasing to see that there are still people here in Newfoundland who take some little interest in politics, not for what they get out of it, but simply for the regard, which as citizens, they entertain for their native country. I trust that this feeling will spread thruout the country. This citizens meeting was held for the purpose of putting into power a Government which might have the confidence of the people. I hope the Resolutions will appeal to His Excellency the Governor to use the power he possesses, and trust he will see fit to grant the request contained in them, and that this appeal of the voters of this City will be heard and acted upon by the people throughout the Colony so that they may recognize the country is now in such a state that every man no matter what his position, and whether a voter or otherwise, may be called upon to do his duty and use his influence to elect

a Government in which the Colony has some confidence.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—The petition which has just been presented by the Hon. Mr. Goodridge should receive the earnest consideration of this Chamber. I understand that duplicate of the petition is being presented at the House of Assembly this afternoon. I am also informed that a triplicate is being presented to His Excellency the Governor at a meeting which has been arranged between the citizens of St. John's and the Governor at Government House.

The petition asks that, if practicable, the general election be deferred until the autumn. It is not practicable that a general election should be deferred until the autumn unless an Act were passed extending the life of Parliament, because the term of the present Legislature expired on the 30th day of this month of April unless it be extended by an Act passed and assented to before that date. The petition stated that in the event of it not being deferred until the autumn, the election be deferred until a late date in May. That portion of the petition particularly has my special support. It will undoubtedly be argued on behalf of the Government that in the year 1909 there was a spring election and polling day was early in the month of May. There is no parallel between the year 1909 and the year 1919. Then the spring election was merely a reballotting by the public upon issues which had been fully discussed in the autumn of 1908. The candidates who offered themselves to the constituencies in the spring of 1909 were almost entirely the same candidates who offered themselves to the same constituencies in the previous year. The 1908 election had resulted in a deadlock, and in the spring the people of the country were asked to vote upon the question as to which

of the two parties, each having secured eighteen seats in the autumn of 1908, should be the Government of the Colony. There were practically no new men; there were no new issues; the whole matter was fully before the people, not only as a result of the autumn election, but by the newspaper campaigning on behalf of both parties during the winter. An election early in May this year would find the electorate largely uninformed as to the issues, with no opportunities of any canvass being made by the candidates, with the voters called upon to vote for candidates many of whom they had not seen, and could not by any means of travel available have an opportunity of seeing or hearing before Polling Day. They would be called upon to vote on issues which could not be explained to them except only in the larger centres. Under such circumstances a spring election could not possibly be an intelligent expression by the public of their opinions upon public matters and upon the men who were offering themselves for public office. Spring elections in Newfoundland are recognised as objectionable. They are permitted only under special circumstances, circumstances as occurred in the autumn of 1908 when each party secured an equal number of seats in the House of Assembly. Under the present circumstances it may not be possible to avoid a spring election. The Legislature expires by law on the 30th instant. There are questions of great magnitude to be considered, and there must be a Legislature capable of being in session after the 30th of April to grapple with these problems, and without the extension of the life of Parliament a spring election must be faced. The Government thus has in its own hands the question whether a spring election shall or shall not be held.

The Government has decided upon a spring election. In that event Polling Day must be deferred until such reasonable date in the month of May as could give the candidates at least five, preferably six, weeks clear from the closing of the House until Polling Day, and that proposition I support.

It is highly proper for the citizens of St. John's to have acted in the manner which they have in this connection. It shows most commendable public spirit. It shows that the public is alive to the gravity of the situation in which Newfoundland finds itself as the result of the iniquitous management of affairs by the Rump Parliament which has insisted upon holding office so long, by their forcing through the House of Assembly and through this Council an extension of term as they did a year ago. It is highly fitting that the citizens should have arranged for the presentation of the petition at the House of Assembly and at this Council Chamber, as also a special presentation to His Excellency the Governor, and I feel that the petitioners have the sympathy and support of every person truly interested in the welfare of the Colony, and that His Excellency the Governor will see to it that such a date be set for the May election as will enable the candidates for the Government and for the Opposition to make such a reasonable canvass of their constituencies as is possible during the spring and to enable the candidates to see the men who will be offering themselves for seats in the Legislature and make themselves acquainted with the issues which will be before the country in the election.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—When I came here today I was free to give a fair view of the Bill before us, but after hearing the explanations given

by Hon. Mr. Squires I can say "Amen." I looked forward with a great deal of pleasure to the outcome of this session of the House hoping that many public measures of importance would become law, and that an election would be held in the Fall. Now I do not care a pinch of snuff whether Sir Wm. Lloyd is Prime Minister or anyone else as long as they do what is right in the interest of the country. With regard to the holding of an election on May 8th, it is an unfair, unBritish and cowardly advantage to take of anybody that might join opposition to the Government. As regards the election on the 8th of May, there is no greater problem facing the country at present than the question of finance, and I question if there is an Hon. Gentleman on this side of the House who has the slightest idea of the financial condition of the country beyond the fact that there is a surplus of near two millions of dollars. This is not good enough. I am led to believe that the country's finances are in a deplorable condition, nor is the trade outlook much brighter. As far as the herring fishery is concerned they are holding herring in Springdale and the West Coast and can't get a dollar a barrel for them. This is the possibility of a greater loss in this respect and as far as this country is concerned it is possible that this year it will be as bad as last year for shipping, for salt importers, and for importers of other things. I must give credit to the Minister of Shipping for the great care and interest he took last year on behalf of importers and exporters, and imports of a more perishable nature were carried to and fro in the Kyle between St. John's and Sydney as ballast. As to the railway and the conditions it at present is in, Hon. Mr. Halfyard, the Colonial Secretary of this country, the mouthpiece of

the Government in his Department, says the Reid Nfld. Railway today is not fit for human transportation. What a statement for a Colonial Secretary to make. I say, Sir, that legislation should be introduced this session to deal with this most pressing matter, and we should not wait till after May or June to grapple with it. Demobilisation was referred to by me the other day; men are returning by way of St. John and Halifax and proper provision must be made to deal with them. Then we have industrial organisations and deputations waiting on the Government who a little while ago asked for a Bureau of Labor. I do not go so far as to say that such an office should be created, but I do say that the efficient head of the Board of Works should be a Bureau of Labor, from his knowledge of industrial conditions. He should be a man with a big mind, and the man who should be there should be able to grapple with deputations and all questions that might come before him. Now, as to fishery development, it is not for the fishermen to say how you are going to develop them or by what means. Why has not the Government introduced the proper and up-to-date methods? There is at the head of Freshwater Bay a large pond with which Hon. Mr. Ellis is acquainted, the inlet to which could be widened to about 15 feet and along the sides of the valley near it 400 soldiers could be placed in homes and a flourishing fishing town could be started there with Government assistance.

It could be a flourishing fishing centre and more fish could be cured there than in any other part of the country. The most important question facing us is the financial position of the country. I would wish to see figures showing the debits and credits, to satisfy us as to our finan-

cial state so that we might have every confidence that our expenditures are all right so far as entries are made showing them, but the large expenditures going on must cease. These are the questions I thought would be introduced this session. What we want is fair, reasonable and just treatment for the country and its people and a proper pronouncement upon the policy pursued by the Government the past four years.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—The resolutions that have just been tabled are perhaps from many standpoints the most important that have ever come before this chamber. Heretofore in all matters pertaining to general elections or the selection of candidates either in opposition to or in favor of the Government, the movement has always come from the politician; if public opinion had to be manipulated or people roused to a sense of their duty in order to exercise the right of citizenship the beginning was made by men who were seeking the suffrages of the people. This movement has been the very reverse; this has come from below, if I may use the word. The citizens of St. John's in public assembled, upwards of 1400 of them without any politicians there to harangue them, have solemnly deliberated, and the result of their deliberations is the resolutions now tabled. It is not a movement of politicians as certain sections of the public press would have us believe, but a movement of citizens who want, as they state, the purity of elections preserved, in order that they may exercise their rights, and that no person can lawfully or honorably deny them; that is the right to pronounce upon the issues as they may be presented to them. If we have an election this spring that opportunity will be denied to many thousands in this country. Take the District of Twillingate; how

is communication kept open there? By dog sled. And this House is to be asked to place the seal of approval upon an Act for an election in a district where the only means of communication is by dog sled. And that is not the only district; many others outside of St. John's are subject to the same lack of communication through climatic conditions. Take St. George's. It is not possible for any man to get over the district of St. George's in nine or ten weeks. It is only those who have been over that district know the difficulties to be contended with even under most favorable circumstances. Nevertheless, this Chamber is asked, in the face of conditions of this sort, and the fact that no voters list has been taken, to pass an Act for an election this Spring is done for reasons of political expediency. Now these resolutions express the wishes of an influential gathering of citizens, notwithstanding that ridicule may be heaped upon them by those who ought to know better, and who ought to respect the positions they occupy and not malign citizens and nothing more. An attempt is being made to give this political color. A certain paper said these resolutions were drafted by me; it was too cowardly to make the charge openly, but did so by low, base insinuation, and tries to give it a color of party expediency, and throw contempt upon a movement that has for its object no other than to enable the people to vote on a matter of vital importance to them and the country at large.

It was ordered that the petition do lie upon the table.

Second reading of Bill entitled "An Act respecting Elections in the present year."

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I beg to move that this bill be read a second time.

**HON. MR. SQUIBES:**—I move an

amendment that the second reading of this bill be deferred until Wednesday next. A few minutes ago there was laid on the table of the House a petition presented by the Hon. Mr. Goodridge for and on behalf of a large number of residents of the electoral districts of St. John's East and St. John's West, asking that there be no general election held in the spring, or if a general election must be held in the spring, that Polling Day be late in the month of May. I am creditably informed that a similar petition has been presented to the House of Assembly, and that a deputation has already waited upon His Excellency the Governor and secured an appointment with His Excellency for the presentation of these resolutions. Under these circumstances I ask that the second reading of this Bill be deferred until Wednesday to enable this Council to be informed as to the answer of His Excellency the Governor before we proceed with a debate on the second reading. I feel that the country should have an opportunity at an early date to express its opinion upon the Government in power. It is not practicable for an election to be held under existing conditions before an earlier date than the middle of the month of May. If the answer of His Excellency the Governor to this petition is that the date for the election will be a reasonable date in the month of May, it is quite possible that this bill will in its entirety receive my support. If, however, the election is to be held at a very early date in the month of May, I feel that there are many members of this Chamber who would have serious opposition to offer and would desire to oppose various sections of the bill, and possibly to offer amendments thereto. For the purpose of facilitating the business of the House and avoiding unnecessary debate, I move an amendment that this second reading be deferred until Wednesday.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—Why Wednesday? Why not make your amendment that it be deferred until to-morrow.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I merely want to have the bill deferred until such time as the answer of His Excellency the Governor is given to the petition. In the ordinary course of events the petition will be presented to-night. On to-morrow His Excellency the Governor will communicate with his ministers; his ministers will then consider His Excellency's communication in Council and advise His Excellency. His Excellency will then take the advice of his ministers into consideration, and, having regard to the petition and all the circumstances of the case, will make up his own mind as to what he should do under the circumstances, and will then communicate with the chairman or secretary of the meeting or other responsible person. I doubt whether it is possible for that to be done before Wednesday morning. However, if the Hon. Mr. Harvey feels that that will be attended to by to-morrow, and if there is some definite answer as to the approximate date to be set by to-morrow, I am satisfied that this order should be proceeded with on to-morrow.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I think the amendment might read until tomorrow. Then on tomorrow we will see what progress has been made.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I quite agree with Mr. Harvey's suggestion and ask permission to change the amendment to read "That this motion be deferred until tomorrow."

On the amendment being put the amendment was carried.

Second reading of Bill entitled "An Act for Defraying the Expenses of a General Election to be held during the Present Year."

On motion of Mr. Ellis this order was also deferred until tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge gave notice of question.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave notice of question.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until tomorrow at 4 p.m.

—o—  
TUESDAY, April 8th.

The House opened at 4 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Second reading of Election Bill.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—On yesterday I moved that this notice of motion be deferred until Wednesday but in accordance with the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Harvey changed the amendment to read that it be deferred until today. As pointed out yesterday, the deputation waited upon His Excellency the Governor last evening and laid before him the suite of resolutions which were tabled in this House yesterday. Up to half an hour ago no reply had been received. Under these circumstances I ask that this second reading be deferred until tomorrow.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—As the one who suggested the alteration in the date, for reconsideration, I would support the suggestion to defer it till tomorrow. It is a question upon which some of us may have some difficulty in making up our minds, and if some compromise can only be made I should welcome it.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—The Government had a communication from His Excellency this morning in reference to the matter and the Executive met and considered it, coming to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to grant it. I cannot see what is to be gained by deferring it to another day.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—Mr. President, the immediate issue appears to be whether the consideration of this

Bill should be deferred until tomorrow. If the deferring finds us in the same place tomorrow, I would like to know what we gain by wasting valuable time. In rising to speak to this question, I would like, as a preamble, to state that when the Prime Minister did me the honor to ask me to take a seat in this House he tied me with no fetters whatsoever, and I want to state, Sir, that in any matter which may be debated here and on which I may be called upon to give a vote, I shall do so actuated by the sole idea of voting as my conscience demands. My enforced absence from the Colony last year left me more or less ignorant of the details of the matters now under discussion. The debate which has already taken place has shown them to me, and I gather from what some have said that their chief objection to the measure is that this election is being sprung upon them. If I am rightly informed, the Government last years asked that the extension should be until the coming November, but this Chamber thought differently to them, and interposed and limited the term until the 30th of April. Now in that view of the case how can Hon. gentlemen urge that they are taken by surprise? I cannot see that their position is at all tenable.

How many of us are aware that the country has important financial obligations to undertake and discharge by the 30th of June next, and the Government cannot meet these obligations without money or the necessary legislative authority to raise it. The production of a Minute of Council would be no guarantee to them that the succeeding Parliament which may be different, would carry out its wishes. Indeed, we have seen this happen, when the deliberations of one government have been set aside by another. Con-

sequently, in order to place the Finance Minister on a firm footing there is an obligation on both branches of the Legislature to assist as far as possible, and I have no doubt that those to whom the destiny of this country is entrusted have thought this matter out.

It is not known to all that not only has the Government financial obligations. What are they offering us for our produce, the labor of our men—promissory notes payable in three years time. Promissory notes payable in three years for our hard-earned products, on which those called merchants have to realize. That opens up a vast vista of speculation, and it is in the interests of all that the exporters should be protected. My point is therefore to have the Finance Minister enabled to meet the obligations arising from the increased difficulties of our time. The time has come now when we, to use a popular expression, must sail close to the wind. We have a glorious instance bearing on this same matter, coming from the war situation some time back. Things were going badly, but an advance was essential. Foch telegraphed to the War Office in Paris: "My left has fallen back in disorder, my right has fallen back, but we will advance with the centre." What is wanted is determination. I think that this country is at the present time very much in that condition that not only Government affairs, but our commercial affairs need steadying, because if we destroy confidence in our finances we shall have greater difficulty in carrying on. If the Finance Minister therefore requires time to enable him to raise the necessary loans to discharge the conditions which have arisen, surely the desire of the Government to speedily bring this to an issue is reasonable. I have had experience for several years in another chamber, and in all experience with months at my disposal I never

succeeded in covering my district as I would have liked. It is absolutely impossible to spend a night in all these places. Many of them allow you to pass by, and consequently I think that if you were to give hon. members two months, they would not be in any better position than if they had one. In fact, I think, the fewer the visits the better. That was my experience. For these reasons I do not think that any good can come of a delay as asked for. If the people had made up their minds that this date, April 30th, was the date the Government was to go out of power, alright. As far as I know no great issues have come before the people immediately, and at the same time there are some obligations that require immediate consideration. We have the Coastal Contract, and a great deal has been said about Railway and other matters.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Why doesn't the Government attend to them now?

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—I don't know. I am not the Government. I am speaking as a private member of this House. I think, Mr. President for these various reasons, that we should not delay, but should rather get to work and face the issue.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—I would like to point out to the members that this debate is largely irregular. The order is for the second reading. That has not yet been moved. I would suggest that we go back to where we originally stood, and I ask Hon. Mr. Ellis if he wishes to move this Second Reading or not.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, we allowed the motion for the second reading of these bills to stand over yesterday in order that I might confer with my colleagues in the Government in relation to the proposition put forward by the Hon. gentleman, Mr. Squires, as to the Government announcing a date for the election, see-



ing that resolutions of similar text to those tabled here yesterday were to be presented to His Excellency the Governor last night by a gathering of citizens.

The Government has given full consideration to the representations made by the petitioners and the arguments advanced by the Hon. gentlemen here yesterday, but regrets that it is not possible to recommend His Excellency the governor to accede to the petition as to the views of Hon. gentlemen who spoke here yesterday in favor of the same. This is not through any lack of willingness to co-operate with any section of the community, but because the Government is influenced over and above everything else, by the fact that it is necessary that the election should be brought off as soon as possible so that financial measures of an important character should be dealt with before the 30th June. I am unable to say on what date the election will be held, but it is intended to give at least the same notice between the proclamation and the polling as was given ten years ago, namely, four weeks.

On behalf of the Government I would like to point out to the House that some three years ago a Loan of five million dollars was obtained in the United States, which loan will expire on the 30th June next. To meet that obligation it is necessary that this Government, or another Government, if this is not successful at the polls, should meet the new Legislature in ample time to admit of the passage of the necessary enactment before that date, so that this obligation may be satisfied. The suggestion in the petition is that nomination be not earlier than May 15th, which would mean that polling would not be until May 26th. Allowing, then, for possible delays in the receiving of the returns, many of these might not be in the

Colonial Secretary's office for another week, and then 21 days must elapse before the House can meet, so that a postponement of the election until the 26th May, as suggested, would mean throwing the meeting of the new Legislature back to the last week in June and any hitch then might be disastrous.

Reference has been made here the past day or two as to the financial condition of the Colony. So far as the Colony itself is concerned there is no cause for apprehension. From some points of view the Colony's financial position was never better. But it is true on the other hand that certain aspects of the Colony's trade are not looking as favorable as could be desired. The problem of marketing our fish is proving a serious one and it may be more difficult, and it is eminently desirable that there be a termination of political warfare as speedily as possible and a settling down to the task of endeavoring to consider establishing a sound economic equilibrium to our affairs with the least possible delay. The Government would very willingly postpone the election, if it felt that such could be done with proper regard to the problems which have to be dealt with but feels that no time is to be lost in getting through the necessary financial measures, not alone with regard to this particular loan, but for a loan for an additional sum necessary to meet the Colony's war expenditure.

The Government feels it is only fair to point out, also, that these two bills were passed thru the Lower House unanimously, were in fact sent thru all stages in that Chamber at one sitting, and, moreover, at the suggestion of the members in that Chamber who represent the Opposition party, and who, after hearing all the debate, agreed that there was nothing to be gained by prolonging dis-

cussion, but that it was desirable, if an election was to be held, that it should be held as speedily as possible. The Government feels too, that it should be pointed out that this House laid it down last year specifically that the life of the Legislature was not to be extended beyond the 30th April and accordingly, therefore, the holding of an election at as early a date in May as possible would follow as a necessary consequence of that fact.

I would repeat that the Government are not taking this step from any desire to hold a "snap" election or so deprive the people of their rights; May the 8th, which was the date of the election ten years ago, was fixed after the then Governor, Sir William MacGregor, had gone into the whole question very thoroughly. In the Journal of that year is the correspondence bearing on the subject. It shows that Governor MacGregor enquired of shipmasters and other people as to the most suitable date and that members of the Opposition party concurred in the view that May 8th was the most suitable date. As a matter of fact, the actual experience of the election was that in the northern districts more votes were polled in May 1909, than in the November of the previous year. For these reasons, therefore, I greatly regret that I find myself unable to adopt the suggestion of the hon. gentlemen and must ask permission now to move the Bill be read a second time.

**HON. MR. MURPHY:**—Mr. President, I cannot see what difference it will make whether this bill passed its second reading last week, whether it passes to-day or whether it will pass a week hence. The Governor has nothing to do and no influence which he can bring to bear is likely to alter his determination to act as he thinks right under the circumstances. He is

not obliged to take cognizance of these petitions. There is no doubt that the Governor will do the right thing, and whether we pass this bill to-day or in a week's time, it can make very little difference to the ultimate issue. When the matter of appointing a day for holding an election is in the hands of His Excellency why not leave it to him. We can rest assured that he will give fair play and fair treatment to all concerned, and I think, Sir, that so long as this matter is in His Excellency's hands we may rest assured that the right thing will be done in so far as lies with him to do it. I therefore support the second reading of the bill.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—That is entirely the stand I take. I support the second reading, but with all due respect and courtesy, which I do not sometimes get from the Government, I suggested that St. John's, the capital of the Island, where the whole trade and commerce of the country is, should be given some consideration. The Government would have lost nothing by deferring until to-morrow. The citizens of St. John's have been entirely ignored by the Government in this matter.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I now move in amendment that this order be deferred until to-morrow. I feel that having spoken on this matter a few minutes ago, I need not now trespass upon the patience of the House. I would point out, however, in response to the observations of the Hon. Mr. Ellis that the matter of a day's delay cannot affect the various matters to which he refers. Both Mr. Ellis and Mr. Grieve pointed out that it is necessary for there to be an early election so that there may be a session of the House of Assembly in June in sufficient time to pass the necessary legislation in relation to loans. I

would say that the Legislature is now in session, that the Government is just as strong to-day numerically in the House of Assembly as it was a year ago, when it extended its own life contrary to the recognized constitutional law and procedure. No obstacles will be placed by the Opposition in the House of Assembly or in this Chamber in the way of the passage of all necessary loan bills, and the suggestion that the country has to be rushed to an election so as to have a new Government to meet another session of the Legislature in June for the purpose of passing of a Loan Bill is palpably absurd. As a matter of fact, now is the time for that Loan Bill to be passed. Then there can be no uncertainty about it. The Government which has incurred the responsibility would have the conduct of the measure dealing with the loan. The fact that the Government let last year pass without passing a loan bill and waited until April to have a session of the Legislature when they might have had a session in February or March indicates that the Loan Bill was not worrying them very much, and that argument is now used as a mere subterfuge. I do not propose at this moment to go into the merits or demerits of a spring election. Under ordinary circumstances I feel that the people of this country should have at as early a date as practicable an opportunity of deciding as to whether they want to continue to be ruled by their rulers of recent years or whether they want a change of rulers. The important point is that an appeal to the country should be intelligently made and not made under circumstances when a large proportion of the electorate would be disfranchised. There can be no comparison between the election held in May, 1909, and an election held in May, 1919. The election in

May, 1909, was merely a reballot on issues which were before the country in the year 1909, fought out in the autumn of 1908 in an election which resulted in a tie. The issues were before the country during the entire winter; the business of the country could not be proceeded with because of the tie; a speaker could not be elected; the necessary supply act could not be passed, and to dissolve the deadlock an election was necessary. Practically the same candidates went to their constituencies in the spring as contested in the autumn of the previous year. The electorate knew the issues, knew the personality of the candidates, had the whole situation before them, and were merely asked to reballot for the purpose of settling which of the two parties should be the rulers. At the present time there is no such necessity for an election, as there is a Government in power which has from now to the end of April to deal with the necessary legislation. But if His Excellency the Governor, in view of the advice of his ministers, has determined upon an election this spring that is not a course which I would for one moment oppose, provided sufficient time be given. The issue is not before the people; up to a week or two ago the people of the country did not know that there would be an election this spring. It is quite true that those acquainted with political activities were aware of the possibility of it, though the fact that no voters' list was taken last autumn was a strong indication of the fact that the Government did not intend to have a spring election. It is well known that the decision on the part of the Government to have a spring election is quite a recent one. In the autumn of 1917 a Voters' List was taken. That was the notice to the country that there was to be an election in the spring of 1918. There

was no election in 1918, tho an attempt was made to rush the Voters' List to completion so as to have an election in February, 1918. That was one of the matters upon which there was a difference of opinion in December, 1917, and there was the resultant dissolution of the National Government in January. My own retirement from the Executive Government early in January prevented the Government from proceeding with the policy of a spring election which was being urged by certain members of the Government. No Voters' List was taken in the year 1919. Either the Government negligently omitted to have it taken, or for the purpose of deceit they did not have it taken, so as to avoid the suggestion of a spring election, or they had no intention whatever of having a spring election and intended to take the Voters' List in the year 1919. In any event, the taking of the Voters' List is the act which is regarded thruout the country as notice of an election within a few months. There was that notice for the spring of 1918. There was no such notice for the spring of 1919. The first rumor of a probability of a spring election was ten days ago, and in the ordinary course of transportation, that information could not reach from St. John's to many sections of the Island within that time, so that to-day it is not known throughout the country that a spring election is in contemplation. Having regard to the difficulties of travel, the fact that mails under present conditions are being carried by dog teams to various sections of the country, the fact that there is no possibility of candidates getting around their districts, the fact that the trains are not in running condition, and are never likely to be in running condition while the present Government is in power, all indicate the impropriety of an election

too early in the month of May. The Hon. Mr. Ellis has informed us that the Government intends to defy the residents of St. John's and outports in the matter of their petition, and that they propose to advise His Excellency the Governor to grant no extension of time.

That is a matter with which the petitioners will undoubtedly deal when they vote upon the question as to whether the present Government is or is not a representative, responsible body of men worthy of support. But that is not the important point so far as this debate is concerned. The petitioners caused a petition to be laid upon the table of the House of Assembly; they caused a petition to be laid upon the table of this Council; but they went further, they waited upon His Excellency the Governor to present the petition to him. If these petitioners had felt that this was a mere matter for the Government to decide, they would not have wasted their time in connection with the matter. The residents of St. John's know well that there is nothing the public of Newfoundland can expect from the Government save what is in accord with the self-aggrandizement and personal profit of the Government and its members, but the petitioners relied upon the sense of justice of His Excellency the Governor to see to it that the whole country would have a fair opportunity of expressing its opinions at the Polls. Certainly His Excellency the Governor cannot be expected to grant the extension of time if his Ministers positively and emphatically insist to the contrary. Constitutionally the Governor is not responsible for his officials acts; his Ministers are responsible. But the Governor is not merely a figure-head; he is a man of strength in framing the policy of his ministers and the advice which they officially

give. If the position of the Governor amounts to nothing more than that of an official to carry out the instructions of the Prime Minister, the term "Governor" should not be used; the term should be "Private Secretary to the Prime Minister." I do not agree with the theory that the Governor is a nonentity, who cannot prevent the misuse by the Ministers of political power for political, partisan purposes. Whatever the decision of His Excellency the Governor may be, it is not a decision for which His Excellency can personally be criticised, but when there is at Government House a man of strength of character and breadth of experience and vision, the advice of Ministers, by which he is officially governed, can in no small measure be controlled by the Governor himself. The hope of the present situation is not that the Government will voluntarily advise the Governor to accede either wholly or partially to the prayers of the petitioners, but rather that the Governor will see the justice of the petition set forth by the petitioners and influence his ministers against injustice.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—As Hon. Mr. Squires says he is speaking as a private member, I think it is hardly correct for him to bring His Excellency's name into this debate.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—His Excellency's name has already been introduced by the Hon. member.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—But the Hon. member (Mr. Squires) has lead us to believe here that His Excellency intimated to the deputation that he was favourable to their petition, and this, he tells us was heard on the street. It is very peculiar for the hon. member to say this, while we have the Leader of the Government in this House saying that the reply would not be favourable to the petition.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. President, I think that the motion of the Hon.

Mr. Squires, that the Bill be deferred, is a very reasonable request. Twenty-four hours is not going to make or break the Government, to make or mar the financial condition of the trade, and it is only suggested in deference to the wishes of a very large body of citizens representative of all classes of the community who have asked that a certain thing be done, and are now waiting for an answer to that request. The answer to their request will surely be conveyed to them during the next 20 hours, and then this House will be the better informed as to when the election may be held, because hon. members must not forget that the question of the date upon which election shall be holden is not solely a matter for the Government. The law empowers the Governor, not the Governor in Council, to fix the date upon which the election shall be held, and it is because of the powers vested in him under the Election Act that the citizens of St. John's have made these representations in exercise of their undoubted rights, and presented them to His Excellency the Governor. As he has the right he possesses the prerogative to fix the date of election. Surely there is nothing unreasonable in the request of my hon. friend that twenty-four hours be allowed to elapse in order that citizens may learn what is to be the answer to the resolutions which they submitted to His Excellency and both branches of the Legislature. I submit, with all due deference to hon. members, that we cannot ignore the wish of thousands of citizens who want to know whether this election can be postponed to as late a date as is possible. In the first place they protest against an election at all, and then point out that if it is in the interest of the country to have it now, the date should be fixed as late as possible

under the circumstances. The demand that nomination day be the 16th of May is a perfectly reasonable request, and I cannot think honorable gentlemen here would refuse to assent to this wish for the purpose of enabling citizens to receive their answer. Whatever the answer of His Excellency the Governor is may determine the attitude of hon. gentlemen of this Chamber. I presume hon. gentlemen here will see that the people of this country get every opportunity to pass upon the issues that may be put forth by public men and political parties. That is all they are asking for; and therefore if it is going to be done, if the wish of the citizens is going to be complied with, then I take it that the attitude of hon. gentlemen will be determined by the answer of His Excellency the Governor. Now it is merely for the purpose of finding out what His Excellency proposes to do, that we support this amendment and it is only right and reasonable that we should do so, for as I have said, His Excellency's answer will determine the attitude of some in this Chamber, as to how they will vote with regard to the bill submitted here. Now the arguments of the hon. gentlemen that we should have an early election are far from sound, when duly considered, and are perhaps the best condemnation of the attitude of the Government in relation to this very serious matter which confronts them. The Government of this country knew twelve months ago that this country had to raise this loan to pay off the loan expiring on June 30th, 1919. But no arrangements have been made yet. They have known since the 1st of January that this loan had to be raised. Why was not this Legislature called together then? The Government have a majority enabling them to pass any bill they deem necessary, then why was not the Legislature called to-

gether for that purpose. Now we are called together in the closing days of the Legislature and this is urged as a reason why this wish should not be acceded to.

It was a well-known fact for the last two years that the loan was coming due, and why did the Government take hold of it? The fact that they did not is no argument in their favor in connection with this bill, and still worse as an answer to a request of this kind. What has the holding of an election to do with the duty of the Government to its people? What, I repeat, has an election to do with the raising of a loan? Absolutely nothing as far as I can see. Then it is pointed out that the holding of an election in the spring of 1909 is justification of holding one now. If hon. gentleman will only let their minds go back they will see there is absolutely no similarity. In 1908 the people returned an equal number of both parties, eighteen each. They could not select a speaker, and consequently there was no session. The life of Parliament had ceased to exist then according to constitution just as the life of the present Parliament will cease to exist on the 30th of April next. Consequently there was no Parliament in existence from Nov. 1908 to May 1909, because neither party had been elected with a sufficiently majority and the conditions which confronted His Excellency then do not appertain to-day, because they had no Supply passed, no salaries voted; school-teachers; orphanages and everything and everybody depending on the Government were tied up. Not \$1.00 could be paid out, and there was no alternative but for the Government to hold an election in the spring of 1909 so as to enable supply to be passed by June, 1909. Conditions like these do not exist to-day. The Government is in a position to vote all the supply necessary to carry on

the Government. It is in a position to pass any legislation. It was never the intention of the Government to have a spring election. The Government never had any such idea until a short time ago. It is well known that it is only because they think they can get a lease of power again that a spring election is about to be held. Now are we prepared to do that? Are we prepared to assent to an arrangement and a compromise of political parties to the extent that everything is to be sacrificed on these grounds? The rights and the liberty of the people are to have a free election, and to vote as they may think best in the interest of the country and in its welfare. And are all these to be sacrificed upon the altar of political expediency because it suits the Government to have a spring election? There is nothing to prevent the Government from retaining power until November or October next, but in order to do that they must come in and pass necessary legislation to meet the difficulties that beset the country and people. But the question is now before you. The citizens have asked and demanded that their rights be given them, and under no circumstances ought these spontaneous demands of the people be turned aside.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Mr. President, we have heard a great deal of discussion by hon. gentlemen in this Chamber as to whether this Bill should be given its second reading today or tomorrow, but that point is, after all, not of any very great moment. The question to be considered is whether the present administration is prepared to extend to a large body of representative citizens the courtesy of complying with the request put forward by them that the holding of a general election be delayed sufficiently to enable candidates to get to their districts in time to place the issues on which they in-

tend going to the country before the electorate. I was delighted to hear the able remarks of the honorable gentleman opposite (Mr. Grieve) when moving the Address, as I look back on the time when we sat together in another House of which his exceptional knowledge and ability made him a valuable member, but I cannot agree with him as to either the necessity nor the propriety of holding an election at the time which the Government contemplates. It will be within the recollection of every honorable member of this House that last year a large section of this body were in favor of the holding of an election last autumn. In view of what is now about to take place, it is evident that such would have been the best course to pursue. However, it was at that time agreed to extend the life of parliament until the 30th day of April in the present year, but if the Government knew that they would now be going to the country why was not the Voters' List taken and every other proper course adopted to ensure the holding of an election this spring instead of making the present occasion a matter of political convenience in order to keep the present party in power regardless of the wishes of the people. Now, Mr. President, this Government has the power to pass any legislation necessary and there is no reason why they should not deal with the important matter of the loan bill. They come before the country now on a plea of economy, to pass legislation enabling them to hold an election without taking a list of voters as provided by law, but no economy has been practiced by the present Government since they acceded to power. With regard to the holding of this election it is impossible, as every honorable member will agree for candidates to canvass a district in a few days. I my-

self have some knowledge of the matter, knowledge gained from contesting of three elections in Green Bay, in two of which I was returned and once defeated, and my experience has been that it took at least six weeks to canvass the district by steamer. Now these people of Green Bay are asked to elect three men whom possibly they have never seen, and the men themselves are expected to go to the district without necessary time being accorded them to visit even a small proportion of the people to whom they are offering themselves as candidates. Is it not too much, Sir, to ask them to go to a district of that kind and expect them to canvass it in a few days, when it took me fully six weeks to visit the settlements which I found necessary to visit? I am glad to see such strong evidences of protest against the Government's action in this matter, manifested by the people of St. John's and I hope the idea that has sprung up here will take root in the other outside districts and general resentment of the unheard-of conduct of the Government be thus shown. The Government could have done all that was required for the proper holding of an election long ago, when the present state of things would have been wholly unnecessary. But they have not done anything until now because they wished to make the present occasion a matter of political expediency. To go to an election now in the manner contemplated is to bind the country for four years of management or mismanagement by men of whom the electorate will have an opportunity of knowing little or nothing. The party now in not by the will of the people. The prolongation of the life of parliament power is there by its own act and was a measure that I, for one, strongly resisted and I see no reason

on to regret having done so. We meet now with the boast that our financial standing, so far as revenue is concerned, has improved during the past year. This is pleasant to know in some degree. The people at least know that they have been taxed to the extent of this revenue increase, but do you not think that they will also want to know what has been done in other directions, particularly as to the expenditure of the immense revenues collected the past years. With these few remarks, Mr. President, I support the motion that the second reading of the bill be deferred until tomorrow.

**HON. MR. D. A. RYAN:**—Mr. President, before referring to the matter now before the House, I would avail of this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to the Prime Minister, Hon. Sir W. F. Lloyd, and also to the Minister of Finance and Customs, Hon. Sir Michael Cashin on the honors which have been conferred upon them since the Legislature last met. With regard to the bill now before the Chamber, I feel Sir, that it should be put through with as little delay as possible, for the reason that there is no time to lose now in the holding of a general election. I am convinced that a date early in May is the most suitable for an appeal to the country and this has been borne out by past experience as in the case of the spring election of 1909. If it is left till late in May most of the fishing vessels will have sailed and large numbers of fishermen will be deprived of their right to vote. For this reason, Sir, I support the motion for the second reading of the bill.

**HON. MR. McNAMARA:**—Mr. President, just a word before this bill goes through. I support the motion for the second reading of the bill now because I am firmly convinced that



in supporting it I am taking a course which must appeal to all who see this issue in the proper light. As to the propriety of an early election, honorable members are aware that in 1909 when an election was held on the 8th of May, there were more votes polled than there were the previous fall. Moreover, there are many big obligations before the Government which make it necessary for them, whether it be this or a new party that comes back, to be in a position at as early a date as possible to put thru the required legislation to meet these obligations.

**HON. MR. WHITEWAY:**—Mr. President, in view of the lengthy debate that has already taken place, I feel that it is quite unnecessary for me to discuss at any length the bill which is now before the House. I think, however, that the motion to defer the second reading of the bill till to-morrow should not be considered. When the motion was made yesterday I felt that I was but doing justice in opposing it because it is extremely necessary that an election be held at as early a date as possible. As one just entering the House I have heard with much pleasure the speeches of the honorable gentlemen who have spoken on this matter, and I think the explanation of the leader of the Government as to why the passing of this bill should not be delayed is a very reasonable one indeed. The reason why I took the position I did in opposing the motion to defer the second reading of the bill, was that, although on the spur of the moment it occurred to a number of citizens to exercise their right and request that the election be not held until late in May, I felt that the movement lacked the support which would have entitled it to the consideration which is now asked for. It was confined solely to St. John's, and I submit, Mr. President, that this is a question which in real-

ity does not in any way effect St. John's, for the reason that whatever time an election is held neither the candidates nor the people of St. John's East and West have any of the difficulties to contend with that will arise in the case of the outports. It seems to me Sir, that the attempt to defer the election is an unnecessary move because I feel that the only way to do justice to the whole country is to hold the election as early as possible. Conditions in the outports are varied. For instance, in Conception Bay there are large numbers of men who do not follow the codfishery. They to some extent prosecute the sealfishery and after that they proceed to Sydney or to other places outside the country to obtain employment; and more, they go, as a rule, early in the spring. My experience in Bay de Verde District, in which I made two successful appeals to the electorate, has been, as in the case of the spring election of 1909, that when you enquire for some man or other you are told that he has gone to Sydney or elsewhere. The best time for an election is early in May. Even the 25th or 30th of May is too late, because I think, honorable gentlemen here will bear me out that in a great many cases fishermen who prosecute the Labrador and Straits fisheries leave usually before the 20th of that month. So that if you defer the election till the latter part of May you will be disfranchising a greater number of fishermen than by holding it any other and earlier date. On the other hand, if you set the election date for the 16th of May, we know from past experience that at least five or six days must elapse before the returns are in. Then allowing for 25 days to elapse before parliament can meet, it will be the 16th of June before anything can be done. It seems to me, Sir, that this would allow very little time for the Finance Minister to finalize matters in connection with the

paying off of the loan which comes due on the 30th day of June. It has been said that this legislation could be put through now but I take it that the life of the present parliament was dealt with finally when the end was set for April 30th. That is why such important legislation should not be enacted at the present stage. It was generally known throughout the country that the life of the present Parliament expires on April 30th, which must have been an indication to the people that an election would be held at as early a date as possible this spring. I hope that in my remarks I have made myself clear on these points. If the outports wanted an extension of time such as is asked for here, they would also have made the request, and I was surprised that the outports were not consulted with regard to it. Nothing has been heard from the members of the Lower House in their speeches that would indicate any desire on the part of the outports for an election on any other date than that proposed by the Government. I have, therefore, much pleasure, Sir, in supporting the second reading of the bill.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. President, I beg leave to move the adjournment of this House until to-morrow, but before doing so, I desire to draw the attention of honorable members to a fact in connection with the answer to a question asked by me some days ago and which has just been tabled, as to the amounts collected by the Food Control Board and on what authority such amounts were collected. Now, Sir, there is one item alone which shows that this Board collected \$1970.70 on sugar imported into the Colony since it came into existence. Whether or not this is a clerical error or an attempt on the part of some person to withhold the correct information, I am not prepared to say, but I do know that on two shipments of

sugar alone over \$1,100 was collected.

It is only another evidence of the autocratic use being made of governmental powers in this country, where three men, without any authority whatever can levy a tax upon food-stuffs coming into the country, increasing the cost to the consumer. God only knows the price of foods are high enough here, and have been so for some time without adding to the cost of them; and the Government of the country delegates power to a Board of three men to levy taxes upon goods coming into the Colony, a power which is only vested in the Legislature. Not even this body here has the right to confer such power. It can be only conferred by the gentlemen elected to the other Chamber. "No taxation without representation:" This is as old as the British Constitution and we see it violated in this country for the past year, and not sufficient public spirit aroused here to assert a right which was taken, a principle in defence of which people have fought and died. Here is a Government making use of its powers unfairly for the purpose of increasing the price of food stuffs. On a couple of shipments of sugar a short while ago the Food Control Board collected \$3.75 per barrel, or the consumer had to pay \$3.75 more a barrel on it than otherwise, and with this levied upon him without authority. What right has the Food Control Board or the Government to give the power to levy a tax of that kind? None whatever. The power of taxation is in the Legislature. The tax is made by the people or parliament, and it can't be added to or altered in any manner except by the people who conferred that power, and that can only be confirmed by the Legislature and not by an Order-in-Council. The War Measures Act does not give any right to impose taxation on the people, and the people never forfeited any such right under the War Measures

Act, which was passed for dealing with conditions arising out of the war. But the War Measures Act gave us authority to levy taxation upon any article of commerce. And here as I have pointed out, we have a government that either does not know, or does not care, and uses the powers they have in order to extract not alone the pound of flesh but the very blood as well, because when you exact unjust taxes it is an outrage on the people. I am surprised that the trade do not contest the right of a Food Control Board to collect any such imposition in the way of taxes. Perhaps it is that they are so engrossed in business it never occurred to them, but the public has had to pay for it, and the fisherman has to pay more for his sugar, flour, pork, and other articles that are imported here and upon which taxes were levied for which there was no right or authority and those who are supposed to represent the fishermen do not look out for it. What answer can there be for an outrage of this kind? There is no justification for it whatever; and then statements furnished here do not give within a tithe of the amount collected under this supposed authority or Order-in-Council, under the War Measures Act. But the public paid it and they are entitled to know how it was collected. I am going to find out, before the Legislature closes, how much was collected and what was done with it, and we here are entitled to know it.

I do not say that intentional dishonesty was done, but the statement furnished here shows that \$700 was collected when over \$10,000 was collected for sugar alone. The other point I want to refer to and impress upon the House is the gross, wanton abuse of power by those in control of the Government; an abuse of power that would not be tolerated in any other country except this, where

people are mindful of their rights and where the Government lives up to its obligations and duties, displays the intelligence which has not been displayed here. The authority for collecting stated in answer to my query is an Order-in-Council. I want to ask hon. gentlemen to seriously consider this matter, because it is a question that affects every man, woman and child in the country, if we are prepared to adopt the principle that a body created by law may tax the goods, trade and commerce and business as they did without authority, what is going to become of the public and the rights of individuals? Have we no duty or obligation to perform, no rights? Are we prepared to slavishly submit to things of this kind, are we afraid to assert our rights? There is one in this Chamber who is not and who is prepared to raise his voice in defiance of wrong and injustice. I was reared in an old-fashioned home and one of the principles instilled into my mind and will continue till I go to my grave, was to resist wrong and injustice no matter where it was, and there is no greater injustice than to have an unrepresentative body by Order-in-Council levy taxes upon the necessaries of life in this country, increasing the cost to the consumer. There are hundreds of families in this town who have not enough to purchase the common necessaries of life; there are hundreds of people, of whole families, who are living under conditions that some of us would not subject our horse to in stabling them. And here are taxes, thousands upon thousands of dollars, levied upon a people, for which there was no power and no warrant of law whatever. Then, apparently, we are unmindful of the rights we possess and are prepared to acquiesce. So long as the Govern-

ment leaves us alone and does not take too much from us and lets us carry on trade and business, we are satisfied, and let this go on and see taxation levied, for which there is no warrant or authority.

Before the second reading of the Election Act is proceeded with, I desire to answer some of the arguments which have been adduced here in favor of the passing of the Bill. It is a well-known fact that the Government as at present constituted is not elected by the people. They have no mandate from the people of the country. It is not the choice of the people. It is the product of political dishonesty and improper bargaining between politicians. Men there are in the Government, who, in the most vehement manner denounce what they consider to be wrong and injustice inflicted by men now partners with and supporters of those who inflict them. This Govt. was brought into existence as the result of a coalition and is still kept in existence as the result of a bargain between the leader of the then Government and the present Leader of the Government, by which one man was to be paid his price and the other a like consideration. One lived up to the bargain the other did not.

The Government of to-day are there as a result of that bargain between two or three individuals, and we are now seriously asked to permit a Government not representative of the people of the country to alter a law which was enacted upwards of thirty years ago. The Election Act was passed 31 years ago, in 1888, and the men in public life then were perhaps some of the ablest men that the country ever had. They deliberated for weeks and weeks and the result of their deliberations was the Election Act as it is now on the Statute Book. It has been amended from time

to time but the amendments were made for the purpose of improving the law, and those who amended the law did so under the warrant and authority of the people who are affected by the law desire it, not hon. gentlemen who comprise this Chamber or others in the Assembly which is an unrepresentative body to-day. We have no right to change a law which affects the whole people of the country. It is a law which was enacted to preserve the purity and freedom of election; and one of the conditions and provisions contained in it is that there shall be a voters' list taken at least 12 months prior to a general election. No voters' list has been taken and the Government knows, if we here are to believe the statements made, there was to be an election this spring, and they had all last fall to warrant the taking of a voters' list. But the Government has no such intention of holding an election this spring and did not take a voters' list. Now we are asked to remove one of the principal safeguards from this law. What is the object of taking the voters' list? It is to get as complete a list as possible of every man in the country, who, according to law, may exercise the right of voting. Why is it that this is done? In order that those who have the right to vote may do so. There are very many people in the country who will exercise the franchise for the first time in 1919, and no list has been taken of them and consequently very many of them will be deprived of the right to vote. The answer may be that they may go to the polling booth and declare under oath that they have the right to vote. But why should men be forced to take an oath in order to exercise the right of voting simply through the neglect of the Government

There are thousands who will have the right to exercise the franchise for the first time and they must be forced to take an oath. They have the right to vote and if they are not prepared to take an oath they are deprived of it. The object of compelling a man to take an oath was to safeguard the freedom and purity of elections, to see that no man exercised the right without he had that right within himself. But now we propose throughout the length and breadth of the land to impose an unnecessary obligation, rendered necessary by the action of the Government, and thus a considerable body of electors are not, will not, be afforded the opportunity of dealing with questions of public policy which they should be enabled to publicly pronounce upon. Because of climatic conditions in the country, hon. members know as well as I do that it is not possible to intelligently present the issues to the public of the country within the short time which will be allowed.

The Government of this country prolonged its life in violation of constitutional law and right and they can go and violate any constitutional law they wish, if they have a majority, and they have this majority apparently. Therefore, if they wish to dispense with the necessity of 21 days' notice there is nothing to prevent them coming in with a bill to ask that this law be amended so far as the calling together of the Legislature of 1919 is concerned, should they wish to-day. But this is only subterfuge. It is used for the purpose of confusing and befogging the questions before this House. Then another argument is used that because the men of Conception Bay go to the fishery and leave early in May that it is a reason to hold the election. It is an argument why it should not be held, because if they go from home early in May, as many have gone from outside

settlements here already, it is one of the best arguments why the election should not be held, because when a man leaves home early in May he will leave before polling day will take place at this election. Another argument is that they go to the fishery between the 20th and 25th May. If they do so, why should there not be an election on that day or as near thereto as possible. If a man was not to go to the fishery before the 25th May then where is the necessity for the election as early as the Government contemplates? All this talk about the 30th April being a special notification to the people that an election would be held amounts to nothing. It is no such thing; the people never heard of an election until a few weeks ago. The notification of the people of the country that an election would be held should be the taking of the voters list. This is the proper notification. How do men living in the extreme north or west of the country know that the life of parliament ceases to exist on the 30th April? What means have they of finding it out? We take advantage of their lack of information on matters of that kind. How is it possible in the District of St. George's, Burgeo, Bonavista for candidates to present to the people of these places the issues and questions of this campaign? The argument that because it is necessary that a loan bill be passed therefore there should be an election, brings the reminder that the Government has had since January to call this House together to enact whatever legislation is necessary to deal with the financial questions of the country. They have not done so. Why? Because they had no intention of holding an election. If they had any intention of holding an election until recently they would have called the House together in January, Feb-

ruary or March, and would have submitted to the Legislature and House the money bill which we are led to believe now are to be dealt with. Then another argument used is that the Act was passed unanimously in the Lower Chamber. But they are not representative of the people, are there against the law and the constitution, that they invaded the rights of the people in order that they may continue in office under the guise of patriotism. All this argument about trade difficulty and the sudden termination of the war, all points to the necessity of the Legislature being called together early in pure camouflage, because if the Government were alive to the public necessities and difficulties that arise, they would have immediately called the Legislature together and have prepared it to deal with the difficulties and problems that present themselves at the termination of the war. Every other country in the world did so. It was done promptly in England.

Hon. gentlemen should ask themselves the question: Have we the right to disregard the law? We may have the right to disregard the laws of the country. The Legislature may by act of autocracy amend, alter or abolish any law, but the moment it admits the right of the Legislature to act in that way, then we admit the right of autocracy to rule. Parliaments have no more right to disregard laws and commit wrong than individuals. They have no more right than citizens have to take advantage over their neighbors. The State Omnipotent was the cause of the awful conflict that ended in November last. The right of the state to break laws was the cause of war, and we should not think of using right to disregard laws that have been enacted, tried and proven good for a period of thirty years simply

because it suits political expediency to do so. The law was passed by the duly elected members representative of the people. The "Election Act" was the outcome of an agitation which went on in this country for some years and was put on the Statute Book by men who represented the people. Now a government that does not represent the people of the country ask us to amend that law which has the experience of thirty years, and which was enacted by the people's representatives. It is only for political expediency that they seek to have this done, because they have no other object in view; all legislation, all problems to be met, could have been met in January last, besides which now the country has the right to know what the financial outlook is, or what legislation is necessary, or what problems are to be faced, but no such opportunity is offered and we are asked to set our seal of approval on actions of this kind.

Mr. President at this junction I may say I have many more observations to make. Might I suggest that debate on this motion be continued to-morrow.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—Is it the wish of hon. gentleman that I leave the chair until 8?

**Hon. Mr. GIBBS:**—What's the hurry? Won't an adjournment until to-morrow meet the requirement?

**HON. Mr. ELLIS:**—I would suggest Mr. President that you leave the chair until 8 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. President left the chair until eight o'clock.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—By taking adjournment we would be in a position to meet the wishes of the citizens of St. John's as regards the holding of an election. As I hoped before the second reading of this bill was passed the reply of His Excellency would be received in order that some at least

may determine their course of action, but up to the present no reply has been received by the citizens deputation. The citizens of St. John's look upon this bill as an act of injustice. Hon. members may say and some have said that this movement is only confined to St. John's: Well, I think St. John's is really the place where a movement of this kind should be expected to take place. Here are centred the educational institutions of the country, the press and various channels of information and it is here that we would expect citizens to be more mindful of their rights, their duties and obligations than in other portions of the country where they have not the same means of focussing attention upon matters which concern every portion of the country. One hon. gentleman has drawn an analogy between the present position of this country and the famous Marshal Foch at the Marne. I fail to see where the analogy comes in. There has been no heroism on the part of any member of the government in coming to the rescue of the country. They have failed up to the present time to do any thing to rescue the country from the difficulties it is faced with now and in the future.

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WEDNESDAY, April 9th, 1919.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. President, I would like to ask the Leader of the Government if he has that information I asked for respecting the Government Engineer's Dept.?

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—In reply, Mr. President, I may say that that has not yet been prepared.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Now Mr. President, that is not satisfactory, and with your permission I would like to call the attention of the House to the fact that this was asked for at

the very first session. It should be available. The information is in the Government Engineer's office, also in the Colonial Secretary's Office, and could easily be obtained. Various reports have been circulated, and there seems to be very little confidence in the present railway. These are doubtless exaggerated a great deal both ways, but we should know conditions. Now the Government Engineer is drawing a very liberal salary, but not too much, and the public are entitled to receive information and a copy of all reports, so that they may be assured that the railway is safe to travel on. Now if that report is favourable, relieve the minds of the people. If otherwise, let us get to work and see things remedied. I do not bear any animosity or have I any personal quarrel with the Reid's but would respectfully urge that the quicker this is attended to the better for the country. This information must be supplied.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. President, there is also a question I asked which has not been answered yet. It was that the report of the Auditor General be tabled.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I may say in connection with this matter that it was not the intention of the Government to have this session the same as that of other years, and consequently this information is not being supplied. The work in connection with the Auditor General's report is not yet completed, and consequently is not ready to be laid before the House at the present time.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. President, understand this matter has been reported on to the Government, and his House should insist upon its being laid on the table. I say I understand that he has made a report, and there is a way of finding that out. If the hon. member says it was not com-

pleted, he should make quite sure, and inform the Legislature definitely. The Hon. Mr. Goodridge has asked a question and that was the report of the Government Engineer. The Government Engineer makes his report and that report is in the hands of the Government. Why is it not tabled? Why is it held back? Is this the way this House is to be treated? An important matter like the Government Engineer's report dealing with the railway, freight, passenger and other very important matters like the condition of engines and cars, and the report of his inspection. What has been done with his report? What has become of his recommendations? I believe the report is a serious one, because no report on such a matter can be otherwise. It surely too must be at hand. The report asked for is for the years 1917-1918. There is no request that this report for 1918-1919 be tabled. It is last year's report we want, and there is no reason at least no good reason why that report should not be tabled. As the hon. gentleman has said, the country is entitled to know the condition of the road. If it is in good condition, the report will restore public confidence; if not then if something happens the responsibility should rest on the proper shoulders. I would move that this House adjourn until we get that report, that report made one year ago. If there is any reason why it should not be tabled, then we are entitled to know that reason, but the report is in their possession and we should know the reason that the Government is holding the report. It is only fair.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Mr. President, if I am in order, I would support the demand that information respecting the railway should be had. I need not remind the House again of the declaration of the Colonial Secretary that the railway is not fit for

human transportation. Now this is a statement which must be either admitted or denied, and I would call upon the Leader of the Government in this House to make some official declaration, so that if there is no danger our own travelling public, and those who visit us from Canada and the United States, may feel they are safe in travelling. It seems that even packages shipped by express are unable to stand the cross-country trip, for every day we receive packages smashed to atoms. Possibly this may not be done on the railway, but it is certainly done, and very many packages arrive utterly worthless. Now if the Leader of the Government will assure this House that the railway is in perfect condition and that human beings can travel safely to and fro over it, the public will be indebted to him. Now let it be definitely understood that it is no use evading questions. There are many important matters that should have been brought before the House, for now when the House is opened many important matters should be dealt with, but even before these we should be assured of the safety of our passengers and property when being transported by rail.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I regret I cannot give the information asked for, but it must be remembered that this is not an ordinary session, and that that information will no doubt be supplied at the next session which it is the intention to call shortly. It will practically be this session with a short interruption in the way of a general election. It is well known that there is to be another session, and in the meantime a large amount of information has been asked for, which in other years was received and tabled as the session went by. Certainly, when the House will resume its sittings this inform-



ation will be laid on the table and all information given. It takes quite a long time to get the report, but no doubt before the session closes we will have it ready for the House.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. President, that certainly is not satisfactory. This is a very serious matter requiring immediate intention, we have heard the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Anderson, and in face of that we should not allow the information to be held over. They have office staffs both at the Colonial Secretary's office and the Government Engineer's Office and why is not a clerk detailed to prepare this without keeping us waiting here. Are they afraid of the public? Is the condition of the railway such that they cannot give the information asked for to the public? Are they afraid of the contractors? Are they really afraid to give the information?

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Is that the case or not? with regard to the session. We come here as a representative body to get information and have a right to it and I shall support the motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs for an adjournment until we get that information.

**HON. J. D. RYAN:**—Without wishing to adjourn this matter until next sitting I should like to say the railway is not safe for travel. We should have a report for the half year at least up to the end of the year from July from the parties in authority in the Government with respect to the railway. I know it is not in good condition; it was not in May last when I saw some of the cars tumble over. There has been nothing done to it since. There were reports made but whether we are going to get them or not is another question. There is another matter referred to in the papers some time ago which has not come up her yet, that is the purchase

of the Empire Building for the Militia Department. Some say the Government paid a fabulous price, but I know what I am talkink about, and the price paid will not pay 25 cts. in the dollar. The Government got it almost for nothing. I know nothing about the cost of fitting it up, but as to the other part, the Government paid \$12,000 and it cost \$25,000.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:** — I understand the motion before the chair is that the House adjourn until the information sought is furnished. I understand that the question is that a certain report, 1917-18, of the Government Engineer which it is stated to this House has been prepared and furnished to the Government, should be tabled. Hon. Mr. Ellis states no such report is in the possession of the Government.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—I think there is some confusion as to two matters. The hon. gentleman did not dispute that the report was in possession of the Government, but said the matter was in course of preparation. The question as to whether a report is or is not in the possession of the Government is the report of the Auditor General.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—On the question of the R. N. Co. and information concerning the railroad I support the motion that the House should adjourn until this information is supplied. Reference has been made as to the condition of the railway line. I have had opportunity of travelling over that line to Port aux Basques several times in the last few years and the condition is abominable. My wife had occasion to go over it about two months ago. The oil lamp placed in the drawing room to permit occupants desiring to read was lit when the porter came in and put out the light. Why are you putting the light out? my wife en-

quired. "Well, we do not know what time we may topple over, and it is not safe to have the lamps lit," the porter replied. It is very difficult to travel from St. John's to Port aux Basques or back without taking that particular gymnastic stunt of toppling over. There has been wreck after wreck. To travel to Harbor Grace, my home, is a gymnastic performance. You leave Harbor Grace at 4.45 and travel at the rate of 12 to 14 miles per hour, tumbling from side to side, and arrive at St. John's at midnight. Leaving here at 6 you may arrive at Harbor Grace at 1.30 a.m. The train that left St. John's to connect with the Kyle at Placentia with a very large number of passengers was off the track three times from St. John's to Placentia. I think that the reports of the Government Engineer and certain magisterial reports could be tabled in a few hours. These reports are in existence, and typewritten and spare copies are in Government departments and it would take an ordinary clerk about five minutes to locate them and half an hour to get them here. I consequently feel that in view of the fact that we are now in the committee stage of the only bill before this Council, and as it appears there is no other legislation to be brought forward, this Council ought not to proceed further with this business until the Leader of the Government assures this Chamber that the information required shall be furnished forthwith. This question was on the order paper some days ago, and it is only a matter of a few minutes work to secure important information as to the condition of the railroad as set forth in the reports of the Government Engineer from time to time and the various gentlemen who have investigated specific accidents and disasters.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—With regard to the railway I think we are all in agree-

ment; I had the pleasure of travelling over the road with Hon. Mr. Squires and we enjoyed the jolts together. As regards the motion for adjournment I hardly think it necessary to waste time when we could get on with the committee stage of the bill, and as we have to come here to-morrow to complete it, the information asked for could be furnished then. As this is a half-holiday it would be better to employ the time instead of adjourning at this stage

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I wish——.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—I have to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that he has already spoken on this motion.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Well, I am going to speak again. If you always ruled this way I would not mind, but you don't.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—Will the hon. gentleman sit down.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I am going to speak now in answer to the comments of the hon. leader of the Government with regard to this motion. I want to draw the attention of the House and with the permission of the House to the excuses that have been offered. The hon. member says that it takes time to compile the report. I do not think the hon. gentleman is quite correct in that statement because his report was compiled a year ago, and consequently that is no justification for the delay. The report has been in the hands of the Government for nearly a year, and as has been pointed out by one hon. gentleman there are several copies of it in existence, and why should this information not be tabled. Now in view of the statement that is attributed to the Colonial Secretary, in whose department this report is, it is a very serious matter because there are hundreds of our people travelling over the railroad. It would be impossible to frame a more strong indictment against a ser-

vice which the public has to use and which people are compelled to use, and which has been built at the expenses of millions of dollars from this colony, not alone for the building of it, but for the operation as well, and those in charge of the road are bound under the contract to keep it in proper order and condition, in order that it may be operated with safety to the public. That condition does not exist to-day and these enquiries and reports are for the purpose of finding out why it is not done, why the remedies are not applied, and how the contractor is to be compelled to carry out his obligations to the country and protect the lives of the people, because lives have been lost while people have travelled over the road. Is not that a question to engage the attention of this House? Is not that a reason why we should adjourn this House in order to compel the Government to do something. There was a holocaust on that line some time ago when people were burnt to death, and the magisterial inquiry was not made for over twelve months. And why was it not made? Was it for the purpose of freeing that company from responsibility? Because they were responsible for damages because there was a report of another magisterial inquiry which found that lamps lighted in the train were a menace and a danger to the travelling public, and the company had notice that the lamps used were dangerous, and it was one of those lamps which caused that awful holocaust. That report was not made until over twelve months had elapsed, and those who had an action were prevented from bringing same, because the time in the act. Is that kind of thing going to be allowed to go on. Are corporations to dominate? Have the people no rights; have the public no rights?

**HON. MR. HARVEY**—I am inclined to follow the attitude of the Hon. Mr. Mews in this matter. I think the

House has a right to insist on this information. I think we ought to exercise that right. I can understand questions being put to the government that they might think it injudicious to answer. In such circumstances the government should say so, and it is within the purview of this House to say if satisfied with that or not I think it a pity to adjourn as we have another sitting to-morrow. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman who is pressing the motion that he follow Mr. Mews' suggestion, and if the information be not forthcoming then we can act on this motion.

**HON. MR. WHITEWAY**—I rise to support the suggestion made by Hon. Mr. Mews. My feeling in connection with this matter is that the time is opportune and this is a momentous question, and calls for the conscientious declaration of all hon. members of the House. It is their duty to protect the lives and rights of the people of this country. I am in hearty sympathy with the motion made, but I see no reason why that should misplace the order of the day, and if the proposer and seconder of the motion amend it, it will receive my hearty support.

**HON. MR. GIBBS**—If the hon. leader of the government will give a definite promise that the report asked for by Hon. Mr. Goodridge will be tabled to-morrow, I have no desire to press the motion that the House adjourn. If he is prepared to say this information is forthcoming or give an explanation satisfactory to the House as to why the report should not be tabled.

**HON. MR. ELLIS**—I am quite willing to give an explanation to-morrow; quite willing to give the information asked for. I do not say all that is asked for.

**HON. MR. GIBBS**—This is the report made a year ago.

**HON. MR. ELLIS**—But Hon. Mr. Goodridge asks for report up to date and I will do my best to satisfy him and other hon. gentlemen as to all the information. I may say that the government is not unaware of the condition of the railway, and that it has not yet come to a decision as to what will be done; it is a very large undertaking. Everybody admits it is in poor shape, but whether it is the duty or the business of the corporation to put that railway in condition that will be satisfactory to the people is a debatable question. Whether new rails are needed and they are bound to put down rails of a heavier character than required according to the first contract is a matter that they may claim they are not bound under the contract to do. According to the contract they are compelled to keep the railway in repair. If conditions are different now to what they were when the contract was made twenty years ago, or if the rolling stock in use now is heavier than was required then, and the rails laid then according to the contract are not heavy enough to bear the increased traffic, then the contractors may claim and I am inclined to think they will claim, that they are not responsible for these new rails. No doubt we can compel them to ballast the road and put in new sleepers, but whether we can compel them to put in a road that will satisfy the present requirements is another matter for consideration. Between this and tomorrow I will do my utmost to satisfy the hon. gentlemen in this respect.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE**:—I have no objection to withdrawing the amendment, with the understanding that if the information be not forthcoming tomorrow I shall take the same steps to compel the government

to give us this information. When the original bill passed I was one of its strongest opponents, and this very thing now gratifies me very much in that it proves my contentions at that time were right. I objected to the building of the railway, and the wearing out of the rails so soon proves that I was right. Some of its advocates used as one of their strongest arguments trans-Atlantic traffic, and if we had this then, the road would have been in the conditions it is now twenty years ago.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the House went into Committee on the Election Bill, Hon. Dr. Skelton in the chair.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON**:—I observe in this Bill there is no provision for votes for women. Now the governments of Great Britain, Canada and New Zealand took up this question, and whether it is a little premature or not in this country I do not know. The bill before the House is the last stage of the political drama. I was in hopes that we would have been able in this House to introduce some of the social problems that demand immediate attention of government. Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to make any extended remarks on this bill as I have already expressed my view upon the matter, but I would in passing pay a tribute to the honourable members in the Lower House who have during the past four years rendered such valuable service to the country in her hour of need and who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and especially to Hon. J. C. Crosbie who with his associates has rendered greater service to the people of this country than they will ever realize.

A matter to which I do desire to draw the attention of hon. members is that all important problems of providing suitable homes for the working people of St. John's.

The Government of Great Britain a little while ago was presented with a petition asking that steps be taken to enquire into conditions in connection with housing in the Old Land and the matter has as a result been taken up in the heartiest manner with the result that already extensive schemes are afoot for the bettering of conditions. In this country interest must be aroused in the matter of housing conditions and I hope Mr. Chairman, that before the first of June the Government will be prepared to make provision with the Municipal authorities for the extension of water and sewerage, which is so vitally necessary to the welfare of the people of this city. This matter has now become so serious that immediate steps must be taken and the power to effect a remedy lies with the Government and with them only. With regard to the housing problem in this city, it is well known that the present Municipal Council is the greatest stumbling block in the way of the successful development of the scheme outlined so effectively to deal with the question as is plainly evidenced by their stand in dealing with the splendid offers of land by private citizens for the purpose of erecting workingmen's homes. In December of last year I wrote a letter to the 'Evening Telegram' headed "Bolshevism at City Hall" in which I reviewed this important matter and drew attention to the attitude of those in authority over our municipal affairs towards the generous offers of the men who would make the fulfilment of the plans for erecting homes for the working men of the city easy. I received a reply to this letter, through the press, signed J. L. Slattery. Now, Mr. Chairman, I give Mr. Slattery credit for being a very competent and indefatigable official of that body known as the Municipal Council and hence his attitude, as explained in his letter, is one which, under the circumstances, cannot be eas-

ily understood. He undertakes to defend the Council in its absurd answer to the proposal of Mr. Thompson, to give the Sudbury property for practically nothing, which answer was in effect that besides giving this valuable land to the city for a purpose to which it was eminently suited, he also pay for the water and sewerage extension after which they would consider his proposition.

The present Premier of England when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Asquith Government, introduced his famous budget which provided for a return to the state of a proportion of the increased value accruing to land through the growth of the community in industry, business or the activities of the people. This is known as the unearned increment or unearned profits coming to land owners as the result of the labours of others.

"With the knowledge of how these things are dealt with in many cities, I am prompted to write thus, though I thought someone else might have noticed Mr. Anderson's communication, and as a citizen with some private property, I could not stand by without questioning Mr. Anderson's proposals to spend money freely, that must of necessity have an influence towards increasing materially the taxes now paid by the citizens of St. John's."

Now, Mr. Chairman, for downright cheek and impertinence, I believe this cannot be surpassed. I consider the Sudbury property excellent in every way as a site for dwellings and every encouragement should be given by the Council towards the furthering of the plans to convert it into building lots.

As to the provision made by Lloyd George for the return to the state of the increased value accruing to land, it simply meant that people who held lands, but who would not sell be-

cause they were holding out until the value of the land increased were taxed. These were the people Lloyd George was after and he merely taxed the land because people would not sell at seasonable prices. This is made clear in the following clipping from a Manchester paper:

"The Northampton Housing and Town Planning Committee, which proposes building 500 workmen's houses, finds its scheme held up through the difficulty of obtaining land at a moderate price. One landowner asked 70 pounds an acre for land on the outskirts of the town which a few years ago could have been secured at agricultural value. The Town Council is urging the Government to take steps to enforce sale of land for workmen's dwellings at reasonable rates."

The increment value duty introduced by Lloyd George is a tax of 20 per cent. on the increment value of land—i.e., on increases of site value accrued since April 30, 1909, the date of the original valuation.

The plan of the Act is to charge the duty when the land changes hands and it is accordingly levied on the following occasions:

(a) The sale of any land or interest in land in pursuance of a contract made after the commencement of the Act;

(b) The grant in pursuance of such a contract of a lease for a term exceeding 14 years.

(c) The passing of any land or interest on the death of a person dying after the commencement of the Act;

(d) Periodical occasions in the case of land which is held by bodies corporate or incorporate.

The increment value duty, in the nature of things, cannot be expected to yield much during the early years of its existence, say the Commissioners. With regard to the collection of

duty we have been able to effect comparatively little in the past financial year.

Reversion duty is a tax, at the rate of \$5 for every complete \$50 on the value of the benefit accruing to the lesser by reason of the determination of a lease. The value of this benefit is defined as the amount (if any) by which the total value of the land at the time the lease determines exceeds the total value of the land at the time of the original grant of the lease, to be ascertained on the basis of the rent reserved and payment made in consideration of the grant of the lease.

The lessor is required, under penalty, within three months of the determination of the lease, to deliver an account setting forth the particulars of the land and the estimated value of the benefit accruing to the lessor by the determination of the lease.

The assessment of reversion duty has been retarded, and the cases in which the Commissioners were able to make assessments before the end of the year were few.

Undeveloped land duty is an annual tax on the site value of undeveloped land—i.e., on land which has not been developed by the erection of dwelling-houses or of buildings for the purpose of any business, trade, or industry, other than agriculture, or is not otherwise used bona fide for any such business, trade, or industry.

The rate of duty is 1c. for every \$5 of the site value. The basis of assessment in the first instance is the original site value, but a periodical revaluation of undeveloped land is to be made every five years.

The special difficulties in connection with the valuation of undeveloped land rendered it impossible to assess within the financial year more

than a small proportion of the total duty chargeable.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking on the yield of the Land Values Tax, said (May 1911):

"He had never put these taxes forward as likely to produce much money within the first few years. Nor was it true to say that the Government were spending more on valuation than they were receiving. They were getting much more out of the estate duties than out of valuation—not out of the rural landowner, because the valuation of agricultural property had not proceeded far enough to make any difference. But they were getting more value out of urban sites.

"These sites used to be put at twenty or thirty years' purchase of the agricultural rents, whereas they had an enormous value as building property. The Government were getting valuation out of those sites which had more than paid the cost of valuation. Valuation was of great importance when they came to settle the question of local taxation. He believed that it would be a relief to purely agricultural land, which was paying a heavier burden than this other land which was escaping."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I hope that the land offered to this city will not be turned down by the Government. Mr. Slattery in his letter previously referred to, and in reply to my contention that it was the duty of the Council to put water and sewerage to the Sudbury property, says:

"Suppose it will cost from ten to fifteen thousand dollars to lay water pipes, build roads and do everything necessary to make the property suitable and attractive for building sites would Mr. Anderson ask the five thousand property owners of St. John's to subscribe an equal proportion of this amount to make the proprietor of

Sudbury wealthy? If so, what would be the answer of the property owners, I think it would be a blank refusal. Then I submit, as the City Council represents the property owners and rate payers, and is the guardian of their monies, their attitude should be in line with their good wishes, and in accordance with the powers given them under the Municipal Act.

According to Mr. Anderson's reasoning the City Council is a thing apart, and no doubt, without thinking, many people have the same view. The only way the city can get money for all its requirements is from rates and taxes, which are to be spent as well as can be on all the requirements of the city services. If this money is to be devoted to making a half dozen land owners in St. John's richer, then I think it is time for many householders, who find it hard enough at present to meet Municipal obligations, to ask some questions."

Now, Mr. Chairman, what has that to do with the Sudbury estate land? Mr. Thompson is giving it for nothing? It will make little difference to me whether the estate is Sudbury, McLoughlan, Buckmasters, Fitzgerald or anybody else—they will be treated all alike. The policy that has been pursued of preventing people from building homes for themselves must stop. We must give and take if this city is to improve.

If the Council will only make the roads and lay water and sewerage, there will be \$250,000 worth of property built upon this land, giving labor and employment to our people, the policy of the Council has been one of obstruction, instead of reconstruction in the solution of housing for our citizens.

What connection has the present Premier of England, Rt. Hon. Lloyd George, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Asquith Govern-

ment, with the present situation.

The following correspondence which passed between the Council and Mr. Thompson, will give honorable gentlemen an idea of the attitude of the former with regard to the land offered by Mr. Thompson:

June 29th, 1918.

C. R. Thompson, Esq.,  
Water Strete, West.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 19th inst., and to state the Council, on general principles, are prepared to consider the opening of "Sudbury," the details to be arranged for.

Very truly yours,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

October 29th, 1918.

C. R. Thompson, Esq.,  
City.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to send you herewith copy of Plan of proposed layout of Sudbury property, which the Municipal Council has agreed to.

You will notice that on the Poor House land side it will be necessary to shift the line a bit to the westward, in consequence of the proposed repairs to the property of the Bennett Brewing Company. This line will probably be moved in nearer to the three houses opposite the property referred to.

Yours very truly,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

November 8th, 1918.

C. R. Thompson, Esq.,  
Water Street, West.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your favour of November 5th, and note that you consider the proposed layout of Sudbury property satisfactory.

Before the Council can proceed to order water and sewerage pipes for the proposed streets, it will be necessary for you to write to the Council approving of the plans submitted, and undertaking to be responsible for the

whole cost of making the streets and the laying of water and sewerage pipes.

Provided the water pipes can be obtained in the meanwhile, the Council would be prepared to proceed with the work in the early spring.

Very truly yours,  
Mayor.

St. John's, Nov. 14th, 1918.

W. G. Gosling, Esq.,  
Mayor of St. John's.

Dear Sir,—I have yours of the 8th instant. I am not only willing but anxious to have the "Sudbury" property opened up for building purposes and to do anything in reason in my power to accomplish that result.

I have already written you that I approve of the layout and I have no hesitation in confirming this.

When you ask me for an undertaking to be responsible for the whole cost of making the streets and laying of water and sewerage pipes you are asking for what I am unable to do if you mean that payment is to be made either before or immediately after the work is done or during its progress.

I do not know exactly what this amount is and should be glad if you would furnish me with a blue print showing measurements in detail and your calculation of the sum payment of which you wish me to undertake.

Might I suggest also that as the Council doubtless expects to derive a revenue from these public works exceeding the upkeep and interest on its expenditure that it would be but fair and equitable that it should stand part of the expense.

Under any circumstances as I have stated I am not in a position to accede to your conditions as you put them, nor do I expect to be until a large quantity probably one-half of the property is sold and as far as I can see that may not be for some time and possibly not during my lifetime. It



would be very unfair if the Council expected thus to take say one-half of the whole property and leave an interest charge to eat up the balance even if I could borrow the required amount.

I would suggest that the only method by which the difficulty can be successfully overcome is for the Council to do the work and collect from parties purchasing lots a proportion of the cost according to their frontage or at any rate that the cost of the water and sewerage service should be dealt with in this way and that I should be charged with the cost of the roads on the same basis.

I think you will realize that I am doing the best I can to meet you and that it is useless for me to undertake what I shall manifestly be unable to perform and which would certainly practically entirely deprive me of the benefit of an exceedingly large portion of my property and quite possibly result in practical confiscation of the whole.

I shall be glad to hear from you again after you have further considered the matter. In the meantime I do not know whether you are aware that the Brewery building on Sudbury Street is being repaired although it projects over the proposed new line for Sudbury Street. I would also point out that I should not be charged for the proposed new street running north from Water Street past my dwelling-house. The fronts on that street will not be of any value whatever to me, in fact the street itself will as you will I think recognize, simply deteriorate the value of the present property.

I should I think also require some assurance that after the property was opened up the vacant land tax should not be immediately applied to it and thus another heavy charge cast upon me which would be through no fault of my own.

Trusting some consideration will

be given my representations and assuring you of my continued interest in this project.

Yours very truly,

C. R. THOMPSON.

—And when the houses are built upon the land they will be assessed at a valuation by the city appraisers for taxation, quite a modest and modern request, and a real tonic of Bolshevism. The citizens want to build houses; \$500,000 will be spent in erecting cottage homes by the people, but they must have water and sewerage; then if the Council can't do it we must look to the Government, through the Board of Works, as well as to the Council to co-operate with the Dominion Co-operative Building Association, Limited, which has been incorporated by special Act of the Legislature with a capital of two million dollars, and patron His Excellency the Governor. There are seven directors, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four others, and a building committee of three. The bankers are the Royal Bank of Canada, auditors Read, Son and Watson; solicitor, Hon. M. P. Gibbs, M.L.C., and architect W. D. McCarter, Esq. The capital of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) will be subscribed in shares of \$100 and \$200 each, payable without interest in ten years, that is 10 payments, \$10 each year—\$100; 10 payments, \$20 each year—\$200; 10,000 shares, \$100—\$1,000,000; 5,000 shares, \$200—\$1,000,000. Total \$2,000,000.

Each shareholder under the Act of incorporation is only liable for the number of shares he holds.

It shall be optional for shareholders to make one yearly payment, or in one payment for ten years.

Annual subscriptions of ten and twenty dollars payable every three months.

It is proposed at the present time

to offer half the capital to the public.

5,000 shares, \$100 . . . . .	\$ 500,000
2,500 shares, \$200 . . . . .	\$ 500,000
	<hr/>
	\$1,000,000

1 share . . . . .	\$ 100
10 yearly payments, \$10..	100
Annual call per share ..	10
4 quarerly payments, \$2.50	10
1 share . . . . .	200
16 yearly payments, \$20..	200
Annual call her share ...	20
4 quarterly payments, \$5	20

5,000 quarterly shares,	
\$2.50 . . . . .	12,500
2,000 quarterly shares,	
\$5.00 . . . . .	12,500
	<hr/>
	\$25,000

4 quarterly payments,	
\$25,000 . . . . .	\$ 100,000
10 yearly payments,	
\$100,000 . . . . .	\$1,000,000

Houses built by the Company will be rented to workingmen at the lowest possible cost of construction, and sold to tenants at actual cost, upon easy terms of payment. It is estimated that the rent will not exceed 6 per cent. of the cost of houses, including all charges.

Interest . . . . .	3 per cent.
Repairs . . . . .	2 per cent.
Fire Insurance . . . . .	1¼ per cent.
Ground Rent . . . . .	1½ per cent.
Taxes . . . . .	1¼ per cent.
Management . . . . .	1 per cent.

During the first ten years of the Company, owing to the high cost of building, rentals will be charged 7½ per cent. on the cost of construction; 2 per cent. will be placed to the credit of Reserve Fund. Tenants wishing to buy their houses can do so on easy terms by the instalment plan, for which interest at the rate of 3 per cent. will be allowed.

Repairs . . . . .	2 per cent.
Fire Insurance . . . . .	1¼ per cent.
Ground Rent . . . . .	1½ per cent.
Taxes . . . . .	1¼ per cent.
Management . . . . .	1½ per cent.

Now reduced to 6 per cent. including all Taxes, Repairs and Insurance.

As to the cost of building since the outbreak of war, the increase has been very great; it is now nearly twice, and in some articles three times higher than it was before the war. The price of lumber at the present time is abnormally high; the same applies to all supply of materials. We can face the Housing Problem by the united effort of our citizens, the co-operation of the Government and the City Council. We all know how important it is to make early arrangements for the building of a large number of houses required immediately for the workingmen, which we can do by co-operation, thrift, and common sense.

The type of dwelling required in ordinary circumstances is the self-contained house; occasionally there may be a demand for accommodation of a limited character, e.g., accommodation for newly married couples or for aged persons without a family, and in such cases it may be desirable to meet the demand by the provision of two-storey houses consisting of two self-contained dwellings; but generally it would seem desirable to avoid the erection of blocks of buildings containing a series of tenements.

Citizens and the Dominion Co-operative Building Association will do their part but they must be supported by the Government and City Council.

The object of the Dominion Co-operative Building Association is: To face the Housing Problem with courage, we can never tackle successfully a job of which we are afraid, our effort must be equal to the task, we

must handle the housing problem boldly, we ask the co-operation of all classes to assist in this great work of reconstructing the City of St. John's.

As regards the plans for the construction of houses and the laying out of the land, the first duty of the Company will be to build six hundred houses for workingmen.

These houses will be rented to the working class and our artizans at a minimum rent upon the actual cost of construction.

We proposed to build these houses, if at all possible, in broad, clean streets, bordered with substantial buildings of excellent modern design with plenty of space and air, that will be well made, well kept and well lighted, a perfect system of drainage and a magnificent supply of pure water, every home to be connected with the most up-to-date fittings for sanitation, and in time, make the town of St John's a veritable garden city.

The further object is declared to be the amelioration of the condition of the working class and laboring population in and around St. John's by the provision of improved dwelling with gardens and open space to be employed therewith.

The evils arising from the "insanitary and insufficient accommodation," here referred to are now pretty generally recognised. Thousands of our fellow-citizens are compelled to live under conditions which are a scandal to our civilisation. They are housed in close, dirty, evil-smelling lanes and streets, deprived of fresh air and sunshine, strangers to the sight of grass and flowers and trees, and without opportunity for healthy recreation.

All this inevitably tends to produce moral and physical deterioration. It is almost impossible for people to

maintain a high standard of character and physique where all the conditions are adverse, and we have only to visit the places described in order to see how disastrous are the results. Little wonder if, while many battle bravely against their surroundings and rise superior to them, a small number succumb, and go to swell the mass of vicious, criminal and diseased humanity, which is a disgrace and menace to our City.

Further, it should be remembered that in addition to those who are subject to these conditions, there are many others who have no choice but to live in these dismal monotonous streets and lanes so familiar in all great towns, where gardens are an impossibility.

Here, then, is the problem to be faced. Population overcrowded in houses, houses overcrowded on land; streets and houses in innumerable cases in a shamefully insanitary condition.

The following extract is taken from a circular letter, which must appeal to every right thinking citizen of St. John's:

"The housing conditions in certain sections are a disgrace to the city. This is a matter that would seem to call imperatively and immediately for united effort and action on the part of all interests and sections in the community as well as for the assistance of the State amongst whose most valuable assets must ever be reckoned the health and happiness of its citizens. It surely should be possible for corporate enterprise with the active sympathy of the State to evolve some comprehensive system whereby the housing problem could be dealt with on an extensive scale, and better homes at reasonable rentals provided for a large number of our people in St. John's. Until this is done despite the

commendable efforts that are being made by the health authorities to bring about a decline in infantile mortality and to combat the spread of tuberculosis we must inevitably continue to pay our heavy toll in disease, misery and death."

Bad housing conditions affect not merely physical health, but the general standard of life. How is it possible to keep a home clean and comfortable if it consists of two rooms only, while the family number ten? How is it possible to maintain decency, when there are insufficient bedrooms to separate the sexes, or when, as is not uncommon in hundreds of houses, there is no sanitary convenience of any kind.

In many respects the demands of the intelligent women living in a town like St. John's vary but little. They ask for a house rather than a flat, though some admit that for the sake of reducing the cost, the two flat house might be adopted, while most agree that for old people, and single blocks of dwellings are not objectionable; but the ambition of a woman with a family, is a house with a small garden in which the children can play, the washing can be dried, and in which is a shed for storage of coal and other things, for which it is difficult to find a place inside a small house.

The wealth of a nation is its people. At last, if slowly, we are coming to realise that the real wealth of a nation is its people.

In the past we set up a God of material wealth, and made human sacrifice to it, but to-day war has taught us what it seems we could not learn from peace, that healthy, happy and therefore efficient people cannot be born and reared amidst those surroundings; though the cost will be great, the cost of producing a sickly and degraded people is greater.

With co-operation, thrift and common sense a proper business housing scheme will not only fill an urgent need, but will accelerate demobilization and reduce unemployment. If a further reason be wanted for a progressive housing policy there is one more convincing than all others, it is that as a bare measure of justice, every man who has given of his best in working for his country should be regarded as entitled as of right to a decent home in pleasant surroundings.

Faced by the great foes, dirt, dark, and damp, children are predestined to an early death.

If parents have only slum houses to bring up children, what else can we expect but a high percentage of infant mortality, what is the use of lecturing mothers on the science of motherhood if you continue to let them live in a hovel.

It is easy to study statistics and to read such words as "infant mortality" death rate, without any real understanding, translate the words "infant mortality" into the suffering, the death of Mrs. Smith's little Jessie, or Mrs. Brown's year old Tommy. Picture to yourself too well fed, clean healthy babies that you know, and then think of those others in such houses as we have pictured to you, denied enough air, enough sunshine, enough light, sickly, wailing, dwindling away into the ever waiting arms of death. No scheme of infant welfare can be regarded as in any sense substituting for fundamental reform in many of the conditions of home life. Give the mothers a decent house the children a play room, and not a cattle pen.

It is not only the children who die that we must consider, but the children who live, halt and maimed and sickly, the boys and girls who survive the perils of childhood to grow

into unhealthy under-sized miserable specimens of humanity. The wealth of a Nation is its people.

Our first aim will be to remove those who live in houses not fit for human habitation, to homes of health and comfort.

**HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.**,—The object of this amendment is to enable the next Government to call together the Legislature about two weeks earlier than it would otherwise be able to do. The present election law provides that a certain period of time shall elapse after the next election before the new Legislature is called. This amendment reduces that time by two weeks. The Hon. Mr. Grieve on behalf of the Government pointed out that the reason why a spring election was necessary very early in May was to enable the election to be held, the Legislature called and the Loan Bill passed before the end of June. This amendment meets Mr. Grieve's objections and will enable the Government to have the election two weeks later than it would otherwise be able to do and still meet the house at as early a date as they could possibly have met it under their own arrangements. This is a practical step towards assisting the Government and His Excellency the Governor to give favorable consideration to the petition from the Citizen's Committee. All the arguments which can be advanced against that petition may be summoned up under two heads, first, the necessity for the new legislature to meet in sufficient time to pass the Loan Bill before the end of June, the second, the election should be held at the same date as in 1909 as the people are then home. Very great stress has been laid by Mr. Grieve and others, but particularly by Mr. Grieve, upon the first point. He has argued that unless the election so held be early in May the House of Assembly cannot be called together in sufficient time to pass the

Loan Bill and enable the financial obligations of the Colony to be satisfactorily handled before the end of June. This amendment meets his objection in full and enables the Government to hold the election two weeks later than planned by them and still permit the opening of the new legislature just as early as it could have opened under the law which is in force apart from this amendment. The second point is one of importance to the electors to the candidates and to the interest of the Colony at large. It is absolutely impossible in the very few weeks that must elapse from the closing of this session to Polling Day, if it be held very early in the month of May for the candidates offering themselves to the various constituencies to make any reasonable visitation to their constituencies; it will be quite impossible to lay issues before the country and the people will not have an opportunity of making themselves acquainted either with the men, parties or policies unless the election be deferred to such a reasonable date in the month of May as would be in the best interests of the Colony, the date being set late enough for canvass and visitation of district, but not so late as to interfere with fishery operations.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I think there is one point with which it would be difficult to get the Government to comply because it will deprive thousands of the right to vote because being engaged in the fisheries many will leave after the 15th of May for the Straits and Labrador. I have it from a gentleman well conversant with the matter who tells me that the right time for an election in the spring is the 1st of May. He well understands the conditions in the bays and asserts that the 8th of May is too late and is unsatisfactory to the people. If you wish to give the candidates the chance to visit their con-

stituents, you can do so better in April than in May. The ice along the shore then is in a condition to permit a horse and slide to travel along in safety, whereas later on in May it is difficult for candidates to get to their constituents and constituents to come to the polls to vote. I believe if the matter is put to the vote, as far as the members of the Government are concerned the motion that the election be held the latter part of May will be defeated by a big vote. I regret that I cannot accede to this, knowing as I do the mind of the Government on the issue.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—We have been accustomed lately too hearing various denunciations of the Government for having dared to interfere with the constitution. This is a very serious amendment to the Election Law which the hon. gentleman holds as so sacred. His amendment is in my mind only a move in a game of checkers. He says it has nothing to do with the date of the election, but the leader of the Opposition on the other side of the house says that as a result the date of the election can be brought forward two weeks. They have not evidently been working in collusion on the matter; but it also shows that the Hon. Mr. Squires is a bit far-seeing and can see a move ahead. There is nothing in the amendment, but I submit that there is something in the back of Mr. Gibbs' head. He is making his point in order to advance an argument against Hon. Mr. Grieve's argument in connection with the financial problems of the country. If that were all there might not be any objection; but from my investigation as to the proper date on which to hold an election, I find that May 8th is a suitable date. That being so, I do not see any reason for amending the Election Act to make it feasible to influence the vote

in this Chamber to set the day of election to a date not later than the first week in May. The community at large must be considered. This matter together with all other matters referred to here today have been fully and completely considered by the Government; and there is then no necessity or justification for amending the election law.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Mr. President, as I understand it, this amendment is in the interest of the Government, which ever is returned; and there ought be no objection. It allows the Government to be called together in a fortnight, which is a very good plan, provided any money problems develop. I think then that the idea of the Hon. Mr. Gibbs is a good one, one which offers a complete answer to the Hon. Mr. Grieve; and if the Hon. Mr. Gibbs is assisting the Government, I am sure every member of this House is going to help him; and I fail to see, Mr. Chairman, the reason it is not acceptable. I can assure my friend, the Leader of the Government, that if he'd adopted diplomatic tactics this might never have occurred. I think, as I have said, that the suggestion is a reasonable one, and the Government may well consider it as such.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—That little unpleasantness seems to be worrying hon. members. I am sorry the hon. member was not here when I explained that the date as fixed was set as the most convenient date for the people who are to vote. This whole matter was considered by Sir Edward Morris and Sir William McGregor in 1909. They got together and went into the whole matter; took evidence from people all over the Island; and from the masters and crews of vessels; and as a result of their deliberations it was decided

that the 8th day of May was the most reasonable time, and the election in that year was carried out then with great success. More votes in fact were polled than in November of the previous year, and so the Government in considering the matter of an election this year took all these matters into consideration and came to the conclusion that May 8th was the most suitable time.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—But this doesn't say anything about the election date.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I know, not directly; but there is something there. I have an idea as to what is at the back of the hon. member's head. Two weeks shorter time after the election might be construed into a two weeks' longer delay before the election and such a plan is not acceptable to the Government. That would be playing into the Opposition's hands, and that is not the intention of the Government.

**HON. MR. RYAN:**—Mr. Chairman, I think we are just a little mixed up. I think what the Hon. Mr. Gibbs is doing is trying to facilitate the Government by giving them a fortnight more. This has nothing to do with fixing the day for voting. The law at present requires twenty-five days' notice. Mr. Gibbs' amendment cuts that down to 11 days, so the Government can be called together that much earlier to consider those money matters which I contend ought to be taken up now. The Government will be well advised if they attend to these matters now and not after a general election; so failing that, if they want to help along the new government, they had better accept the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Gibbs, for there are bound to be new men in nearly all the offices. The date of the election is not being changed one day. This will give the new government one fortnight more in which

to call the Legislature, if they don't wish to touch this legislation now. But we have plenty of time during the next fortnight, and it should be faced right away.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—Mr. Chairman, I think the issues are somewhat mixed. I cannot agree with the amendment as proposed and supported by Hons. Messrs. Gibbs and Squires. Mr. Squires has referred to the vote I gave on the second reading, but I cannot follow his logic when he claims that this amendment meets my demands by cutting the time necessary from 25 to 11 days. I cannot agree with that. He knows better than I the difficulty it sometimes is to get a cabinet formed; and to expect a new government to be called together within eleven days of the election returns is not reasonable. To a new government the full period of 25 days is not too long to formulate its policy and come to the House with prepared measures. I think, too, that governments do not always do business on a sound commercial basis, and consequently there are always difficulties to be overcome and little adjustments which must always be made. Again, sir, when an amendment like this is offered instead of criticism such as was offered a few days ago, one must come to the conclusion, to use an old expression, that there's a nigger in the wood pile; and there is an old saying of an old king, that he always feared the Greeks when they came with gifts. But it is quite possible, and I hope hon. members will accept this, that these hon. gentlemen have something to gain by this amendment.

They certainly are giving the Government a strange compliment by telling them that they are going to be returned again, and that is such is the case 11 days will be quite suffi-

cient; but I submit that if a new body of men are returned, it will take more than ten or eleven days to fill the different offices and formulate their policies. On this ground I think that the law as at present is preferable and therefore that the amendment of the Hon. Mr. Gibbs is not a good one.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. Chairman, I am afraid the hon. gentleman is not very happy in his illustrations and arguments. He states that the twenty five day period is to enable the Government to name its Executive and formulate the policy of the Government. Now that is hardly the case. Twenty-five days referred to in the Act is not for the purpose of enabling the party to form its Government. No such thing at all. That provision is in the Act in case a recount is called for. Unsuccessful candidates may call for a recount at any time within 21 days, and that is the reason this provision had been made. If the Hon. gentleman will only look back; if he will only bring his mind back; he will find that a cabinet is usually formed in three or four days; and oftentimes in less than twenty-four hours; and the machinery immediately set in motion and the arguments therefore that the Government requires that period to enable it to complete its Executive is hardly a correct statement. Under this amendment the Legislature can meet by the 24th of May. Suppose there was an election on May 8th, then allow five days for the return of the Returning Officer to get here. Then the gazetting of members returned immediately after would allow the House to meet on the 24th of May; whereas under present law they cannot meet until 7th or 9th of June; and therefore whatever government is returned is given that additional time in order that it may meet the

House earlier. The session may be a prolonged one. There may be considerable discussion and debate, and the government's majority may not be large; and if there be protracted debating; whatever Government comes in will require all the time between the 24th day of May and late in June to complete necessary arrangements for the situation the Government will have to face. Take also the situation here today. Take the questions of the railway. This is perhaps the most serious matter which has confronted the country for years. It will require much thought, research and investigation. All the millions of dollars that have been spent will require to be safeguarded. Then there are the trade conditions; and all these questions must be taken up on behalf of the people; and it is therefore of the utmost importance that the Government should meet at as early a date as possible. In fact I would be willing to make it seven or even eight days in order that the Government might be able to get to work as quickly as possible.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. Chairman, while I am as conservative as anyone regarding election laws, I may say that I feel that this amendment is a remarkable one. I think it is a complete answer to the remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Grieve in his early speech; quite in accord with it, and his argument that the honor of the country should be saved by the raising of a loan to meet that expiring on June 30th. The necessity for provision being made is very great; and I submit that this amendment meets the situation as it enables the Legislature to meet with promptness.

It is our duty to be very careful over our legislation; the neglect of the Government has rendered this



legislation necessary. With regard to the suggestion of the new Government, I would say that there will not be a new government until there is a meeting of the Legislature; because these people will not get out until they are obliged to; until they are kicked out. Therefore any talk about the new Government need not apply. It is our duty to see that our legislation is just as good as possible; so that we can preserve the honor of our country if there is any left to be preserved.

**HON. MR. McNAMARA:**—I may say, Mr. President, that I agree with the Hon. Mr. Grieve, that the Act should stand as it is. Then, again, I do not recommend tinkering with the Act at all. We have been told here with much eloquence that it took the best brains that existed here thirty years ago to formulate this Act, and it is only now that it is thought necessary to change it. I think the Hon. Mr. Gibbs is, to say the least, a little inconsistent, either that or his ideas change from time to time so that we can hardly think that he is sincere. I shall vote in favor of the Act as it is at present.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—The Hon. gentleman is certainly not consistent in his attitude. Now I am not tinkering with the Act. That was done by the Government in making the Voters' List of 1917 legal in 1919 contrary to law. Now the reason has been advanced and the reason is because 25 days must elapse from the date of the proclamation in the Gazette of those returned; and that therefore it is absolutely necessary that an election be held early as certain matters have to be discussed at an early date. Now, I propose to give the Government an opportunity of calling the House together two weeks earlier; and if the Government is really as deeply interested as it appears, and

if they really are sincere in their motives they cannot but gladly accept my suggestion.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Government will be in any way affected by accepting this amendment. The point the Government wished to make is not interfered with by making the period 11 days instead of 25 days. It will give the Government some advantage, and therefore the Government is prepared to accept it.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I would beg to move the following section be added in compliance with the request of the petitioners tabled yesterday. (Read section).

This amendment is nothing more than asking this House to approve of and adopt that portion of the petition submitted in so far as it relates to a Spring election. Personally I support a Spring election as I announced on the second reading of the Bill yesterday. This, then, merely carries out the limiting of the time set for Nomination. In view of the protracted nature of this date I shall not further delay the chair, but merely wish to move the section.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I suggest to the hon. member that we had better be careful what we are doing. Surely the ultimate decision as to the time for an election rests with the Governor, and it is one of the burdens of his office, when to dissolve and when to call. I know that he acts on the advice of his ministers, but we should not dictate the time.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—The argument advanced by the Hon. gentleman is met fully by the remarks of the Hon. gentleman last year on the question of the extension of the life of Parliament. This is exactly in line with last year's act; of the same class and character. In other words in this amendment we merely say

that polling day shall not be earlier than 16th May, just as last year we said there shall not be any election in 1918. Last year we extended the life of Parliament by act; this year we extend the time for which nomination is to take place up to the 16th May. It is a modification of constitutional practice under some very strong arguments advanced by the Hon. Mr. Harvey; and all arguments advanced then are equally cogent arguments in favour of this.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I am not sufficiently of legal mind or training to question the correctness of the hon. gentleman, and I dare say he is all right. I am prepared to say I should like to see the Government meet the prayer of the petitioners, but I am not prepared to vote an instruction to the Governor or the Government to do it.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I support the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Squires and I do so because it embodies the request of some thousands of citizens of this country, citizens who have rights and want to see these rights which they enjoy enjoyed by others as well. Now, there is nothing to prevent an election being held on May 16th, but there are many reasons why it should not be earlier than that date, such as the difficulties of transportation, and the limited time at the disposal of candidates who may seek the suffrages of the people, and the limited time the people will have in which to learn the issues of the campaign. This will enable the people to have this additional time and to intelligently learn and discuss the policies of the different political parties seeking their support. Now that is the only object the citizens have in view. As I have said this cannot be said to be a partisan movement, but it has sprung from the people themselves, and that is the

most dangerous movement of all, because if we without any right authority set our faces against a movement of that character we cannot tell how far the citizens may go to assert their rights. This is the prayer of a petition from reputable citizens of all classes in the community asking the Governor to use his prerogative in order that this date may not be set for earlier than 16th May. Now there is nothing unreasonable about that, and I think the request ought to be acceded to. If hon. gentlemen are prepared to register their votes against a request of that kind I feel certain in my own mind we are not doing what is right or just. Take the question of transportation alone. Why one would want an aeroplane in order to get over the country in the time the Government allows. The steamers are not here to be hired, and candidates must use their legs in order to get over vast stretches of territory, and the voter would be put to a great deal of inconvenience in order to record his vote merely because we sitting here may decide to record our vote in favor of the Government in this thing because we happen to be here for the time being.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—The move I expected has come. First from the Leader of the Opposition on this side of the House, that we should change the Election Act; and the hon. member said it had nothing to do with the election whatever; he had no intention of altering the date of election; had no thought of anything of that kind.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—The hon. gentleman will excuse me. I made no such statement.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—That was my impression. The hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House now moves a date be set not earlier than the 16th May and he is very ably

seconded by Hon. Mr. Gibbs. If this hon. gentleman is consistent he should not support this amendment for the reason he brought in his motion, namely, that the incoming Government would not have time to reorganize their cabinet. As I understand the amendment it meant that election shall not be earlier than May 26. The Hon. Mr. Gibbs says this petition emanates from all parts of the country.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I did not say anything of the kind.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I am very sorry. I thought he did. That being so he limits himself to St. John's, and I submit that without further evidence that the rest of the country is in favor of the amendment we cannot accept it. And I contend many men will be disfranchised if it is held any later than first week in May. Political expediency is a blessed word, and has been used on both sides of the house. The hon. member on my right has said it is simply the good of the country he is laboring for, but I think that is a little bit of the political expediency he has been talking about. I do not see the force of the amendment.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Did I understand my hon. friend who has just sat down to say "we" cannot accept this amendment. Does he speak on behalf of the Government or for himself alone?

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Myself.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I was wondering because we apparently have a leader on this side, one on the other side, one in the middle, and one at the other end. I think we are a little bit mixed up. There was an old song in the Old Country, "We don't know where we are," but I know many of us know whither we are tending. The amendment introduced here is at the request of the citizens of St. John's. My hon. friend, Mr. Mews, has said that when we have no request from the

outports we should not accept this request of the citizens of St. John's. Well, now, I must say that is deplorable. It is just one of those questions which are always arising here and in the Lower. I support the amendment because I think it reasonable. As I pointed out yesterday the industries of trade and commerce are centered here, and should have at least some weight with the Government. There is no member of this House who wants anything from the Government; I want nothing for myself but British fair play in the place in which I have spent seven-eighths of my life. I was not put here as an ornament, as a figurehead, as a puppet, to jump up and sit down at the crack of the party whip of the leader of the government. I will support the government when they do what is right and will condemn them when they do what I think is wrong, and my conscience will never be at the beck and call of the leader of any party of any man. And if this amendment is not accepted then there is only one construction that I can place on it, and that is the condemnation of the citizens of this town. Now, there are many problems facing the country, and none greater than the demobilization of our soldiers, but nothing has been suggested or brought forward in that connection. What are we going to do for them? What has Great Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand done for them? Hon. gentlemen of this House know what they have done. As I stated to the Prime Minister in his office the other day on behalf of a deputation in regard to the housing problem he needs no orders on these questions for he has just come from the seats of the best intelligence in the world, the prime movers in problems of the people and the soldiers. This matter will have to be dealt with; the people will have to be faced, and the Government has to be prepared to make provision

for them. Many of them are still bleeding; many lie along the banks of the Somme, and their mothers here are looking to the Government for something. New Zealand voted fifty million pounds sterling to build homes for the widows and mothers of soldiers. Twelve hundred of the brightest jewels of this country have been sacrificed on the altar of bloody war, and up to the present moment not a single problem has been grappled with except that of how to get back to power. I have no desire for power or place or pay, but I here demand in the name of the citizens of St. John's justice for them though the heavens fall.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I do not want to weary the house, but want to see where we are in this matter. I am figuring out how this amendment will work out if passed. A proclamation would issue for nomination day not before May 16, polling day would be on the 26th. You allow eleven days for gazetting members and 5 for getting returns and that will bring us down to the 10 June. On that date at the earliest the new members will be gazetted, and then to call the House together will take anywhere from four days to a week, possibly the 15 June. You cannot reckon on getting your loan bill through for perhaps a week, which would be the 22 June. Then the Finance Minister has to get away to New York, and will probably not arrive there until the thirtieth, and on that date our bonds are due. If the Government is to be in position to take up this loan on June 30th, I think honorable gentleman must agree that there is no time to be lost to avoid any possibility of our falling down on the New York market. We have heard a great deal about the unrest and dissatisfaction which exist in St. John's, and, under ordinary circumstances, the petition which has been presented would have my hearty support, but to comply with its demands now would be

running things dangerously close and I think it would be a very serious matter to jeopardise the credit of this colony in New York. Arrangements for the taking up of these bonds should be made well in advance so that the Minister of Finance will not have to be running at the last minute to finalize a matter of such grave importance.

**HON. R. A. SQUIRES:**—No more convincing evidence of the gross incapability and mismanagement on the part of the Government could be advanced than that which has just come from the Hon. Mr. Harvey. If this bill, without the proposed amendment were to go through, the Government would be placing themselves in a position where they would find it utterly impossible, should they be returned to power, to pass the necessary legislation in time to enable them to meet the financial obligations of this Colony in the New York market. These, Mr. Chairman, are facts which cannot be successfully disputed. Let us take it for granted that the election be held on the 8th of May, and allow five days before the returns would be in the office of the Colonial Secretary which, I think honorable members will admit, is the shortest time that we may reasonably allow, and we have thirteen days of the month gone. To allow then for the elapse of the twenty-five for which the act, as it now stands, provides, before the members can be gazetted, it will be seen that thirty-eight days have been taken up which with another five days which under the most favorable circumstances, it will take to call the House together, makes in all forty-three days. Now with this amendment the Government would be in the same position by holding the election on May 1st, as they would be by holding in on the 8th., as the Act now stands. My honorable friend, Mr.

Harvey, points out that to postpone the election to a later date than that on which it has been decided to appeal to the country, would be to put the Government in a position where they won't be able to get the Finance Minister away in time to take up this New York loan but that is identically what will happen if they proceed as they are now doing. Why could the Legislature not have been called together in February or March instead of waiting till April and then endeavour to rush thru the business of the session without giving the least consideration to the matters of vital importance to the country with which it is proposed to deal. The Government stands indicted for gross incapability, mismanagement and disregard of the rights of the people. Admitting, as Hon. Mr. Harvey has pointed out, that no time should be lost in giving the Government the necessary authority for the meeting of our financial obligations abroad, the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Gibbs is calculated rather to assist towards this end than otherwise and if it be true, as Hon. Mr. Harvey points out, that no Government having the responsibility for the welfare of the country's trade resting upon it as ours has, should run the risk of failing to meet such obligations as that represented by this loan; then sir, we must certainly fail to see how the Government can be prepared to allow the present session to pass over without bringing in the necessary legislation to enable them to deal with the matter as it should be dealt with. Depleted ranks cannot be advanced as an excuse. If the Legislature as at present constituted had the power to extend its own life last year, it is strange if it cannot now bring in the necessary money bills.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I do not agree with the opinion expressed by Hon.

Mr. Squires that if we allowed this amendment to go thru, the Government would still have sufficient time to deal with the loan which has to be taken up in June. It is necessary that all the time possible be obtained so as to get the Finance Minister away early enough to transact the necessary business in connection with the loan and by holding the election early in May, the Government consider that it would be in the best interests of all concerned. We know from precedent that the earlier a Spring election is held the better, and by meeting the legislature on the 5th or 6th of June the Government would have nearly a month in which to pass the necessary legislation. I don't see what could be gained by the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Squires. When the other amendment was proposed by Hon. Mr. Gibbs it struck me that there was some underlying motive and that all was not straight. I now see that I was not altogether mistaken and I must say I do not like this deception.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Does the hon. gentleman mean to assert that I have practiced deception in introducing this amendment? I want him to understand that I had not the slightest idea that Hon. Mr. Gibbs was going to move an amendment. When this amendment passed, I drew up that which I have just proposed and when the hon. President passed behind my chair I showed it to him before putting it forward. I resent exceedingly any charge of deceit, misrepresentation or trickery on my part in any word or act and I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw his statement.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—My statement did not apply to the hon. gentleman when I supported the first amendment.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I ask you

to take back that dirty insinuation. I did not expect that kind of thing from you.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I repeat it did not apply so much to the hon. gentleman as to——

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I ask you to say that it does not apply to me at all.

**HON. M. P. GIBBS:**—Mr. Chairman the honorable gentleman on my right has submitted certain figures in an effort to show that it is in the best interests of the country that an early election be held. Now sir, if honorable gentlemen assume that the 8th of May be fixed as polling day, it will be readily seen, as Hon. Mr. Squires has already shown, that there will be only a difference of about three days in the time, the house could then meet and the time on which it could meet if this amendment were accepted and the date of the election set for May 16th. In the former case they could not meet the House, taking for granted their success at the polls, before the 3rd of June and with the acceptance of both amendments the House could meet not later than the 6th of June so that only three days would thereby be lost. It is plain, however, that the government has no intention of meeting the wishes of the people because if it had, the date of the election could easily be set for the 16th, and sufficient time be allowed for the necessary legislation to be got through by the 30th of that month. By holding the election on the 8th of May, without the amendment which has been accepted, cutting down the time which the act provides must pass before the members can be gazetted, there will first of all be at least five days before the returns are in which will be the 13th, then allowing for the 25 days before the gazetting of the members, the time will be brought up to June 7th. Furthermore when we make a reasonable allowance for the

delay which may be caused members in getting to St. John's from the out-ports, on account of possible railroad or other accidents, we may assume that another five days will have elapsed before members from the extreme portions of the country can reach here, so that the legislature would not open before the 11th or 12th of June. Assuming also that there is a strong opposition in the House it would be impossible for the government to pass the necessary legislation and get the Finance Minister away before the 30th., with the result that the colony would default in her obligations and all because the government is not alive to its duty. Because of political expediency the colony is faced with a situation fraught with the most unpleasant possibilities, for there was nothing whatever to prevent the Legislature being called together in February or March. This, Mr. Chairman, is a state of affairs that would in no other country be tolerated.

**HON. J. D. RYAN:**—I regret Mr. Chairman, that it is necessary for me to detain the House longer on this matter, but I think the government ought to proceed and pass the money bills so that the Minister of Finance will not be going to New York by and by with his hat in his hand when the proper time for his presence there has passed. I think the government would be well advised if they could see their way clear to deal with financial matters at this session, and so be in a position to accede to the prayer of the petition presented by the voters of St. John's asking for a postponement of the election to a later date in May than that on which it is the present intention to hold it. The gathering of citizens which presented this petition to His Excellency the Governor was such as should be ensured consideration for their very reasonable request. I did not see the procession which went to Government

House, but I have heard that never was a more orderly body of men seen on such an occasion in this city. Nor were they all St. John's people, for from what I have learnt, there was a good sprinkling of out-port men amongst them. It was not like what might be seen years ago on such an occasion, when with a flag and a jar of rum the crowd could be got to take part in any demonstration regardless of what its purpose may be, they were orderly and sensible men who were determined that their wishes on a matter which affected their interest should be heard. I did not know, Mr. Chairman, that we had an opposition on one side or the other of the Chamber but I understood that we were all here in a common cause, to pass legislation for the good of the country at large. Hon. Mr. Gibbs was a supporter of the present Government for some years but I thought there was no such thing here now as party politics. However, Mr. Chairman, I would strongly urge upon the House and the country the necessity of having the money bills put through as speedily as possible so that we will not have the Minister of Finance forced into having to ask our New York creditors for an extension of time for a single day. Besides, Mr. Chairman, there is no necessity for the Minister of Finance to go to New York at all. We have the Bank of Montreal here through which the business could be done, and part at least of the proposed new loan could be floated at home, and I think, sir, that an opportunity should be given our people to subscribe to such a loan not only the big man but the small one as well.

**HON MR. HARVEY:**—Mr. Chairman, so that the House may not misunderstand my point, I wish to make things clear with regard to my stand on this matter. I have gone care-

fully over the remarks of hon. friend Mr. Squires, and I see no reason to depart from my original position. Taking the same figures as I then took, and supposing the date of the election to be the 8th of May, the House would be able to meet on June 21st and allowing five days to get the necessary legislation thru, the Finance Minister could be in New York on the 25th. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that even this would be running things rather close, but nevertheless it would afford ample time for the taking up of the maturing note. I should like to have seen the money bills put thru at this session, but I have reason to think that legislation of this kind should not be considered lightly and that to deal with the question of this loan in the hurried manner which certain honorable members propose would not be at all welcome to the New York market. If that is so, it would, I think, be undesirable to handle this loan on the last hurried session of the present parliament but we should leave it to be dealt with by a new legislature. I don't see how the Government can pursue any other policy than to hold an early election and give the party returning to power an opportunity to get the proposed legislation through with as little delay as possible to safeguard our financial interests in the foreign markets.

**HON. MR. WHITEWAY:**—I submit that very important matters have arisen since we began here this afternoon, and having been so pronounced at the first reading and second reading of the Bill, I feel that I should like to again say what I have stated on a previous occasion. I am, as the House is aware, the junior member of this Chamber and do not pretend to know very much about parliamentary practice, but I take it that the opinions of members such as

Hons. Harvey, Ryan and other hon. gentlemen I could mention are worthy of every consideration. The financial aspect of this Bill is of a very important character, and although not being prepared to talk along these lines, I should like to have an opportunity again of enlarging upon my reasons, and conscientious reasons why I strongly advocate an early spring election. It is now past the hour of six-thirty and with the courteous permission of the House I would ask the committee to rise and sit later.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—As a number of hon. members cannot possibly attend tonight I would respectfully suggest that the committee rise until tomorrow.

The committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, April 10th.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Before we proceed with the order of the day, I should like to ask if the information asked for yesterday and previous days has been tabled.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—In reply to the hon. gentleman I would say that I shall have the required information before this session closes this evening. I now beg to table information asked for in relation to the Government Engineer's report. As part of this is the original copy I would ask that same be returned after perusal.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the House went into Committee on the Election Bill, Hon. J. D. Ryan in the chair.

**HON. MR. WHITEWAY:**—Mr. Chairman, I owe the House an apology for again rising to speak on this

bill, but I think there are certain phases of the matter which it would be well not to lose sight of, and the importance of which should be impressed upon honorable members. It is not necessary for me to go into the matter at length, but I should like, with your consent, to point out that up to the present we have seen no action on the part of any of the outport districts. Especially do I desire to point out that Harbor Grace, a district with which there is daily communication, has offered absolutely no opposition to the holding of an election early in May nor as a matter of fact has there been any indication that they are worrying about what time the election will be held. I presume, Mr. Chairman, that the people of all the outports are kept in touch with what is going on daily. The public news containing local and foreign matters of interest to the public are daily received from the city and consequently the outports are in a position to know what is being done but no opposition has been shown and no disapproval expressed as to the proposed time on which the election is to be held. Is not this evidence of the fact that the outports are content to have the election early in May? I think, therefore, Mr. Chairman, that the fixing of a date is of little or no concern. I have no desire to delay the time of the House but if you will permit me I should like to refer briefly to the very able and comprehensive speech of Hon. Mr. Anderson. The hon. gentleman calls attention to the fact that the bill now before the House makes no provision for "women's franchise." Now, Mr. Chairman, I hope that at the next session the hon. gentleman will see fit to introduce into this Legislature a bill dealing with this all important matter.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I under-



stand that the hon. leader of the Government has a bill of that kind under consideration.

**HON. MR. WHITEWAY:**—Thank you, the reason why I refer to this matter is because of the present great difficulty facing the working classes in this city, the women are the greatest sufferers from lack of proper housing accommodation and it is therefore but right that they should have a voice in the affairs of the country so that they may be in a position to demand what they consider their rights. I can bear witness that the conditions in this city with regard to housing, as outlined by my hon. friend, do indeed exist, and I think, sir, that it is up to the Government to come to the assistance of the Municipal authorities, not only in a financial way but also by giving them land whereon to build houses and thereby helping to solve the greatest difficulty which those who would better conditions, have to contend with. I claim, sir, that the Crown Lands which we have available should be placed at the disposal of the people as a whole instead of being given to one denomination or another as has been the practice up to the present. Heretofore, if one denomination got a corner, another wanted the same, and if this sort of thing is allowed to continue there will soon be nothing left for the citizens but to go out on the White Hills or the South Side Hills and build houses for themselves. As I said in my opening remarks, it is unnecessary for me to make any lengthy reference now to the merits of this bill. I am conscientiously convinced that the earlier an election is held in May the more advantageous it will be for all concerned. It has been said that the districts could not be canvassed if the election were to be held early in May, and Hon. Mr.

Goodridge went back to the musty past to quote experiences showing how impossible it would be for candidates to get around certain districts within the time allowed by the holding of the election within the next month. I am prepared to admit that under the same conditions that existed at the time of which the hon. gentleman speaks it would indeed be a hardship for candidates to canvass the whole of a district like Green Bay in such a short time and in this particular season of the year.

It must be remembered that during the last ten or fifteen years conditions have greatly changed and that we now have railway extension, steamers and various other facilities which we did not then possess, so that there is no comparison between now and then. To-day you can get a well equipped motor boat to take you at short notice to any part of any bay which you wish to visit and there are numerous advantages I need not mention that we did not have twenty-five years ago. If one is to judge by the action of the members of the Lower House, those on the Opposition as well as those on the Government side, there is little reason to dispute the advisability of holding the election early next month and it is up to the candidates themselves whether or not they get around their districts. I have gone to districts in the interests of candidates, and from time to time the steamer arrived in the district you could not get these same candidates out of the smoking-room. We want good men to handle the affairs of this country in the future, Mr. Chairman, for those who will take upon themselves the responsibility of government will have many weighty problems to face, and whoever they may be, will go out of office branded as the most unpopular that ever held

office. But they will have to do their duty in the face of all criticism. One of the first steps we want to take is to modify the press and do away with the personal abuse which has been so prevalent amongst the newspapers of this country. We want good men and we have them, not only in this House, but in the Lower House as well, and good men are to be found in other sections of the community whose experience would be invaluable to the country but they dare not enter public life because their private affairs and those of their grandfathers would be raked up and their very birthplaces, if they happened to be humble, would be held up to ridicule, and if they were not born with silver spoons in their mouths the public would be made aware of the fact.

On the other hand if they happened to be wealthy they would be equally a subject for abuse. Now I do not mean to single out any particular paper, because I consider them all alike in this respect. If you were to put them all in a bag you could gamble as to which would fall out first. If we want to get good men to take up the problems which now confronts, we must see to it that they will be immune from personal attacks which have heretofore characterized the conduct of newspapers in this city towards their opponents in politics. We have our soldiers coming back and their interests must above all be protected. They are worthy of the very best we can give them. They bear the scars of the battle and broken limbs as an undying evidence of what they have done for their country and it is now up to the country to do all in its power for them in return.

**HON. MR. McNAMARA:** — Mr. Chairman, I have already expressed my opinion on the Election Act before the chair and see no reason now to alter my decision.

My principal object in addressing the House at present is to support the remarks of my friend, the Hon. Mr. Anderson on his exhaustive and eloquent portrayal of the housing situation in this city. Hon. Mr. Anderson has so fully dealt with the situation that my remarks will necessarily be very brief.

I would call your attention to the fact that at this moment there are 2500 tenements in this city without either water or sewerage. Averaging these tenements at five persons each would give us 12,500 persons, or practically half our population without these prime essentials to comfort and cleanliness. I say this state of affairs is appalling and should not be allowed to continue any longer. I really do not know who is actually responsible for these conditions whether it is the Government or the City Council, but I do say it is a reflection on all of us, without exception. We are all a part of the town and we must all share in any credit or odium that may belong to it. I, therefore, think the government should grapple with this serious problem without delay and advance or guarantee a liberal loan to the City Council so that the deplorable conditions referred to may be remedied immediately. There is another matter which calls for public attention and that is the prevalent excessive high freight rates, which are, to a large extent, the cause of the present high rate of living. We will take the freight on a ton of hay, for instance, which is nearly \$20.00. Why, sir this rate is practically more than the first cost of this article. Then again, we will take the freight on coal which is outrageously high and I understand is much more than this commodity costs at the mines.

According to a late letter of T. P. O'Connor, I notice the Lloyd George Government are taking charge of all

transportation facilities in Great Britain, and it occurred to me that our government might be able to do something to remedy the present unbearable conditions. Speaking of the high freight rates, Mr. Chairman, reminds me of the story told about the Western Canadian farmer sending a consignment of sheep to Eastern Canada during the war for sale and when the auctioneer sold the sheep discovered that he had not enough money to pay the transportation charges. He wrote and called the shipper's attention to the fact that he was out of pocket on account of the transaction and asked the farmer to send him money to make up his loss. The farmer replied to his letter and regretted the result of the sale and said he had no money but he could send him some more sheep. I fear, Mr. Chairman, that if anybody had sent coal here lately on consignment, he would have the same experience as the Canadian sheep raiser referred to. Anyhow Mr. Chairman, I merely call the attention of the Government to these conditions and hope that the Minister of Shipping, Hon. Mr. Crosbie, with his well-known ability and energy, will look into this freight business and see if some relief cannot be found for a long suffering community.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:** — Mr. Chairman, I have to agree entirely with the honorable gentleman who has just spoken, on the matter of freights and his story of the sheep is very much like that of our codfish at the present time. The cost of freighting a cask of fish to market has reached the enormous figure of seventy-five dollars a cask, where a few years ago it was only from a dollar eighty five to two dollars per cask. Yet this sort of thing is allowed to go on unquestioned, and no word is heard from the Government

in explanation of why this is so. This is the first time I have heard freights discussed and I think it is time that the matter should be dealt with. We were told last year that the Government had commandeered vessels to facilitate the transportation of our fish to market but what were the true facts of the case? A vessel was bought, registered in Newfoundland, and loaded for the foreign market and the freight rates charged were so high that she paid for herself on the first trip and she subsequently paid for herself two or three times. I contend Mr. Chairman, that this sort of thing is pure, downright robbery and moreover it has had the result of rendering our fish prohibitive in the foreign markets because it has made the price to the consumer many times what the article was worth. The Government considered that they had done wonders because they got tonnage to take our fish away, but it seems to me that they have been afraid to do the right thing, which would have been to keep the freight rates down to a proper figure and thereby assist the trade of the country in the most beneficial manner to all concerned, but instead of doing this the ship owners were allowed to make thousands of dollars, while those buying the fishing and having to export it under the outrageous conditions existing had to suffer. On the other hand no thought was given to the requirements of the markets but large cargoes were rushed away as in the case where the merchants of St. John's and the Government got together and sent a cargo of 47,000 quintals to Greece, a market which was already supplied, with the result that after months of delay they were able to dispose of it to a country that could only give them promissory notes in payment and told them to come back in three or four years and

get their money. Now, Mr. Chairman, this big shipment of fish which was sent in one bottom should have been sent in ten bottoms if those who sent it had been awake to the best interests of the trade of this country and the requirements of the markets in which our product is consumed. Now all this was done to make freight for the steamer in question, and incidentally to put money into the pockets of the shareholders while there was nothing at all about the people who were ruined, all through the wonderful intelligence of the St. John's merchants. It is high time that people of St. John's realized that they do not know it all, and that St. John's is not the whole of Newfoundland.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without congratulating Hon. Mr. White-way for the very excellent speech he made today. He struck the key note when he referred as he did to the housing condition of the people. I must say the same as to the effort of Hon. Mr. McNamara. When I came into the House I came with the best motive and was prepared to support the Bill. I observed today in the Herald an extract of a speech made by Hon. Mr. Bennett. Now none comes into this House with purer motives to support the Bill in its entirety than I did, but when a section of the press last evening, for reasons best known to itself, made incorrect statements I must make the matter clearer to the House. In 1908 when Sir Edward Morris issued his manifesto to the people of the country with its thirty-nine promises I took a decided position. I was a supporter of the Bond Government only a few years before coming from the Lower House, and criticised the manifesto in all its details, but in a straightforward manner, with my

own name and my criticism was fair. I was the subject of much criticism but I was good enough to say that if Sir Edward was prepared to carry out his promises to the country without increasing taxation I would back him. I may say that the speech I made here when I referred to the gross imports and exports amounting to \$35,000,000 was published in the Herald and other papers. I was in London and found the papers in the Colonial Institute. I supported the Morris Government because I promised to do so, and supported the National Government in the bills before the House last year, though I did not believe in their policy, but for doing so I was subject to ridicule and am now subject to the same. Now, I have shown to this House that it was October 1917 when I had many conversations with Sir Edward Morris, now Lord Morris, and he told me that my criticism of his manifesto was the only one before the country, and he did not believe it wrong. If Lord Morris has got the title which he deserves, he must remember that he has received it as a result of what has been done by the boys at the front. If my friend, the President of this Council, was honoured by the King for services rendered in various departments of this country, he must remember it was at the expense of many of the boys who went from this town. If my friend, Sir Michael P. Cashin, has received honors coming in the same way, it is because of the valuable services he has rendered but coming as a result of the work of our boys overseas. Let them all, therefore, now unite in bringing conditions to that higher plane for these of the boys who have returned, remembering that they themselves have been elevated for work well done. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that there will be no more fuss here. We

are all as one in this matter. Nobody is going to be antagonistic to the Government in their desire to carry out this bill. My one wish is to impress upon the Leader of the Government the desire of all that the Government should by Minute of Council at as early a date as possible do whatever it is their intention to do in connection with the Housing Problem. You cannot wait until the General Election is over. Conditions in this town are too serious; it is imperative, and I hope that it will be attended to and that the Executive Council will very shortly make up their minds as to what they propose to do. You owe it to the men who have brought honor upon us and upon you to take up this matter and dispose of it in a prompt and efficient manner.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. Chairman, I must congratulate the youngest member of the House on his speech. I agree with what he says as regards the purity of the press. The matter under discussion is the amendment as to the time in which an election should be held. As far as I am concerned I must support the request of the petitioners, that the time be extended to have nomination day not earlier than May 18th. I think that a matter of far more importance than the fixing of a time for the election is the consideration of our liability to return the money borrowed till the 30th of June; and so I hope the Government will give an assurance that they will pass immediately a bill authorising the Government to raise five million dollars. There can be no more important duty for the Government and Legislature than to preserve the credit of the country. I have no hesitation in saying that the credit of the country is at stake.

The Government considers that it

can call the Legislature together by the 6th of June; but can they be sure of a unanimous vote in that legislature; and while we may urge and hope that the new members will be patriotic enough to pass such a bill; by experience has been that such patriotism does not exist and cannot be relied upon. I can remember when experienced politicians refused to do it even when the credit of the Government was at stake. That may happen again; but there is a way to avoid such risk. We are called upon to meet on the 30th of June five millions of dollars. Is there too much time between now and then to make those arrangements? Would you, were you in private business, delay longer and run such a risk? That money could be raised in this country and perhaps with good advantage. The main question before the Government is not that of an election, but that of raising money right away. That being so, the date of election makes very little difference. We have heard the long speech from Hon. Mr. Templeman on the hardship of freight. Now while we do not doubt the actions of the Government in this connection, we would nevertheless like to see all the papers in connection therewith. Let us have full information right away so as to bring this session to a close as quickly as possible as it proposed. We must pass this Bill now without information which we ought to have before going to the country. Possibly everything is o.k.; but very large sums of money have been made out of shipping, and by members of the Government; and while I do not believe the Government is to blame for the high freights, for I believe it is regulated by the principle of supply and demand, yet all available information should be furnished. I know of a vessel a day or two ago which was

offered five shillings freight for Oporto. Later for that same freight she was offered twelve shillings. Who is to blame. It cannot be the owners. I blame those who pay the freight, for there is no mistake but that if the Government had been a bit firm there should not be such high prices paid today. There has been no cohesion among the shippers; and no truth attaches to any statement about a merchants combine. There is no combine. If there was there would be a very different state of affairs here today. Good prices would be paid for produce and there would be provisions brought into the country. Of course the great defaulter is the fisherman himself and those who negotiate between the purchaser and the consumer; for instead of uniting and going to the market together, they have gone individually and lost the strength of union. There are many other matters more or less in this connection to which I might draw attention; but as we have had a good many remarks here today which are not germane to the subject before the chair, I will not enlarge further but will support the amendment in deference to the views of the large and important gathering in the Casino a few nights ago. I entirely disagree with the idea of mis-reporting this meeting which was large and enthusiastic. I am entirely in accord with my hon. friend, Mr. Anderson, in connection with his remarks re the publications concerning Mr. Ayre, and I can assure the House that in my opinion the author of such is absolutely unworthy of the confidence of anybody.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:** — Mr. Chairman, I think the Government should have stepped in and regulated these prices. That was a very important matter that they overlooked. There are many other matters before

us today, but I will not delay the House. We have heard of the housing question, and all that the Hon. Mr. Anderson has said is but too true. There are houses here in St. John's which cannot compare with huts on the Labrador; and yet we heard of the great things which were going to happen when the present Mayor came into power. Then we hear of what the great British Government has done. What has England done for us? She has not been with us as she should have been during the past season. She dumped 180,000 quintals of fish on the market and tried to ruin us. They say "Whom the Lord loveth —." Perhaps this is her way of showing her love, but we cannot appreciate it as they seem to think we ought. In connection with this matter we have heard it said that the outports have not protested against fixing this date for an election. Who has enquired from the outports? According to the Hon. Mr. Whiteway, Harbor Grace does not even know of the plan. What has happened anyway? Has the railway stopped running altogether? In this connection it is my intention to vote in favor of the amendment as I think the district of St. John's has not had its feelings respected in the manner in which I feel they ought to have been.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:** — Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to delay the present sitting but I feel I ought to make a few observations. I should like to emphasize the position taken by my friend, the Hon. Mr. Goodridge, with reference to the danger that might arise by postponing too long the sitting of the new house proposed under this bill; and I have in my mind the instance to which he referred. That was in 1894, when as a result of election petitions brought in in that year and the subsequent State Trials as they were termed, the Gov-

ernment of the day resigned and the majority of the Government was entrusted with the Government. I am not referring to that in any partisan spirit because I would say that the hon. gentleman and myself were on the same side, he was the Captain and I was one of the crew. But the experience of the country at that time was that the party forming the Opposition resisted very strongly the passing of supply, availed of every legal opportunity which could be utilised during the session, with the result that it was the 11th of June before the revenue bill was accepted, and the Government was obliged to act and collected their revenue under the protection of the guns of a warship anchored outside. In those days my hon. friend will remember he stuck very strongly to principles which he maintained should be continued. I am not here to apologise now for anything said in my newspaper. I concern not my remarks to the business affairs of my friend who has been so strong in his denunciations, for if I did he would resent it very strongly. I have no intention of referring to these matters or to the honors to which he has referred given to gentlemen of this country, other than to point out that it is hardly proper that such a subject should be discussed here. Knight-hoods come from the King. He is the fountain head, and the suggestion that they have been obtained through the blood of any of our people I believe unfair. One gentleman whose name has been mentioned, Sir Michael P. Cashin, Minister of Finance, sent two boys to the war. He did as much as could be expected. Both boys saw active service. I am not a married man, and had no boy to send. I had with me the equivalent of a son and he went from my home. He did his bit and did it well, winning his

distinction on the field of battle. My hon. friend has two sons, but I would point out that one has been engaged in England, occupying a lucrative position in the Pay and Record Office in London. The other has been comfortably situated in New York running a cabaret. Now I do not wish to reflect in any way on him. I had the honor of being with my friend in New York and visited this cabaret. It was one of the finest places in New York, and it was a place conducted with scrupulous care and attention. Possibly in the case of both these gentlemen they were physically unfit to be on the firing line; but I submit with all due deference to my hon. friend and without wishing to reflect upon him in any way, that it comes with poor grace for him to make the class of observations he did about people who have been regarded as worthy of honor and to suggest that their honors have been purchased with the blood of other boys. I might add that I find it extremely difficult to follow my hon. friend, Mr. Anderson; for he is for you today and against you the next. At one moment he pours praise upon you and the next he severely criticizes you; making it very difficult for even the closest follower to determine his exact relative position.

When he said with very great emphasis that Lord Morris told him in New York in 1917 that the only real criticism of his manifesto in his first election was that which hon. friend had produced. Well, of course, we all know Lord Morris to be one of the most confirmed practical jokers this country has ever produced. Consequently it is not surprising. (Hon. Anderson: It was a huge cod, eh, Mackinson cod? Hon. President: Huge cod, exactly). Consequently I do not take my hon. friend very seriously, but I must confess I was more strong-

ly affected by my hon. friend opposite, Hon. Mr. Goodridge said the man who used these words about Mr. Ayre was unworthy of the confidence of anybody.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Hear, hear.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—The remark I made about him was this, that when Mr. Ayre started to speak some one said "You are sore because you did not get Mr. Whiteway's seat in the Legislative Council."

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Well, no one said that.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—Well, I was not there.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Well, you knew it was not correct when you penned that slander about that man.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—Well, never mind about penning slanders; but I say I did not know it was not true.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Then you should have found out whether it was or not before doing so.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—Well, it is no crime. To return to my hon. friend, Mr. Goodridge. He said I made such offensive remarks. Well, granted it is. I want to recall the hon. gentleman's recollection to an occasion in the lower Chamber some thirty years ago when he flung across the floors of the House the suggestion to a present member of that body that at the time he made these remarks he, Mr. Goodridge, was feeding that gentleman's family. He made these remarks in regard to Mr. Morine. If I offended with regard to Mr. Ayre I submit my offence was in no way comparable in regard to Mr. Goodridge's words to Mr. Morine.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—But Mr. Ayre said nothing to you.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—Well, that is another matter. As to whether there was provocation or not does not concern the matter. To get back to the

question. My hon. friend, Mr. Goodridge, as I said has made that remark. I think on reflection he will agree that the remark was hardly called for in view of the fact that as I said, he himself, in years gone by made a much more offensive remark to a gentleman sitting on the opposite side of the House from him. Having said this much to make the position clear I will abandon that aspect of the the proposition as to when this election should take place.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Do you think it right in your position?

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—Never mind about that—

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—I said the man who wrote those articles on Mr. Ayre was unworthy of the confidence of any man. You admit the responsibility for that article. I did not name you in any way. The dignity of that chair cannot be maintained by one who edits that paper, that scurrilous paper, that—

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—The dignity of that chair can be maintained just as well by me in that position as the dignity of the premiership was maintained by the hon. gentleman in 1894 under the circumstances under which he held that position. To get back to the point where I was interrupted. At that time the result of the struggle which prevailed was that the credit of the Colony was very seriously affected abroad. Ten years ago we had a political contest which resulted in a deadlock. There may be a deadlock arising out of this. For that reason I think the earlier the election is held the better in order that the Governor and those in authority may have the longest possible time between polling day and the calling together of the Legislature.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Now there is no similarity in the position of my hon. friend and myself in this



matter. My remarks were such as might be repeated anywhere. They were made face to face with the man which yours were not. What I said to Mr. Morine was not behind any shield, and they were made in reply to a dastardly attack on me. Did Mr. Ayre ever anger you or cause you to attack him at all?

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—I did not attack him at all.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—You did. Now I am not afraid of my whole career in politics being known, from the time I entered therein in the seventies up to the present day, and I contrast it with any man's as being straightforward and upright, free of stain, gain or reward, and I am not afraid of any remarks such as you may make against me anywhere.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—The hon. gentleman has again urged the argument that an election should be held at an early date to enable the legislature to open. Now as the bill originally stood before the amendment which I moved, the legislature could not open before the seventh day of June if you held the election on May 8th. Then where would there be time to meet and grapple with the problems we have been talking about here the past couple of days? No time whatever, and the result would be that this colony would not be in a position to meet its financial obligations. These are facts, and that is how the government considered this question. Consequently we would have the government considering important financial and industrial legislation on the 12th day of June; then the Finance Minister would have to leave for Canada or the U. S. to negotiate that loan, and where would there be sufficient time for him to finish his work. But when the secret history of this thing comes

to be written, and perhaps it will be before long, then people will see that there is more behind the scenes than they know at present. The matters which have been referred to here show how vitally necessary it is to have a sitting of the legislature to deal with matters more important than those we are talking about to-day; matters effecting the very life of the country. We shall have a debt of the 30th June of some fifty million dollars, bearing an interest charge of approx. \$2,500,000, and we shall have to find another annual charge of \$750,000 for soldiers and their dependents. Then we shall have to find money to carry on other public services, about \$7,500,000 at least, and what does that mean? Why, the total catch of fish averages 1,500,000 qtls. a year, and estimating at ten dollars a quintal, giving total fish value of \$15,000,000 it means that every second quintal of fish caught throughout this country would have to go for carrying on the public services of the colony; fifty per cent of the total value of the principal industry of the colony. These are questions we have to face. Is not that a very serious conditions of affairs confronting the country? Instead of considering that, we are debating whether we shall give the government opportunity to get a snap decision, because they have not got the brains to lift it out of the slough of despond. What I would like to see is some of the men in this chamber who have the necessary brains and ability come into the public life of the country. Never mind the slanders of the public press; we have to face that if we are to do good for the country of which we form a part. These are serious questions and the government should pass this loan bill now as Hon. Mr. Goodridge says; not when the new legis-

lature meets because they will not have time; and I think hon. gentlemen here who represent larger industrial interests are capable of viewing the question from the standpoint of what is good for the country, (because what is good for that is good for the interests they represent.)—should refuse to pass this bill until a loan bill is brought in. We have had parallels here of attempts being made in 1894 by politicians refusing to do their duty to discharge the financial obligations of the country, and the same may occur again. That may be duplicated at the next session of the legislature and now is the time to prevent it.

Some of the men who are loud in their desires to see this bill go through, are the men who were involved in that at that time and who sent messages out of this country in order to damage the country's interests. I think it is due to the interests which hon. gentlemen represent in this House, and to the fact that they are free to exercise judgment and thought uncontrolled by political influence to insist on the present Government passing this loan bill before this session rises, and the only way to do that is to refuse to pass this bill until that be done. One hon. gentleman referred to the fact that fishermen did not leave for the Labrador until between the fifteenth and twentieth of May. Well, that being the case there is no reason why polling day should not be held between those dates. I think there ought to be a spirit of compromise, of give and take, about this. The citizens of St. John's are in earnest about this matter, and we ought to meet their views, if not all they ask, at least half way. I suggest to the Government that nomination day be the 9th, and Polling Day would then come on the 19th, and the fishermen

could then leave for the Labrador as usual, because that is the earliest time they leave, and by that time they would have opportunity of learning intelligently of the issues before the country. Look at the lack of information before this Chamber; look at the difficulties that are surrounding the country at every department of its life, and we are without this necessary information that we require in order to apply the remedy. Now that is not right, and are we going to lie supinely on our backs and let this sort of thing go on. Many of you men are largely interested in trade and business; the success of the Colony is your success, and the success of the people is yours, but if disaster overtakes us we should all go down together. Now is the time to avert it, and to do that which hon. members longer in the world than I have been, and who have a greater amount of experience in departments of life of which I know little, the industrial life of the country, think it necessary to avert the dangers ahead, if the Government does not pass this loan bill before the close of the session. I would therefore suggest to the Leader of the Government that he meet the wishes of the citizens in this connection.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I regret exceedingly the absence of the President of this house; I do not know whether it was his intention to skulk out. The statement he has made here this afternoon regarding my two sons are as mean, vile, contemptible as they are false. He has referred to my son Hugh as having a lucrative position in the Pay and Record Office in London. I am not going into family history; sufficient is it to say that in 1914 his mother was ill, and although expressing a desire to enlist here I asked him to see his mother

over safely to the Old Country. He did so, and in 1915 he cabled he was going to enlist in Glasgow. I at once replied "Do your duty to the Empire." He cabled that was turned down on account of his eyesight. He tried Edinburgh and was turned down again. He cabled against that he was going to offer his services to the British Government as an interpreter, and failing that to Lord Northcliffe as a correspondent. He never asked for a position in the Pay and Record Office; they sought him. The greatest honour that could be conferred on this country was conferred on him, by the British War Office when they gave him a pass, as a civilian to go anywhere in France or Germany. During that visit he wrote his experiences, his opinions upon what he saw that was in the interests of the Newfoundland Regiment, and submitted copies to the British government and the Governor of this Colony. He spent three or four nights of this period in France under heavy bombardment, sleeping upon dead rats and Germans, and went back to England again and offered his services, and was turned town for the third time. And again for the fourth time, and then for the fifth time. Has that boy not done his duty? He was prepared to do what he could in the interests of his King, and he is nearly blinded, and it ill becomes the President of this chamber to in any way refer to one boy at least who is a credit. Ask the boys of the regiment; ask anybody in the community from the Governor down; ask Hon. Mr. Grieve, who has been in the office over and over again what services he rendered to the country, and if he had taken my advice he would have come home long ago, because his ability and talents were jealously looked upon from here. I regret Mr. Chairman, that I have had to make this personal reference but in justice to my own son I felt I could not permit the remarks

of the Hon. President to go without this explanation. I leave it to the House to say whether or not he has done his duty.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES**—If the argument that it is necessary that this bill should be passed to enable the House to meet again in time to authorize the floating of a new loan by the 30th of June is a good one, it is difficult to understand why the Legislature was not called together in February or March. Such an arrangement would have obviated the necessity of any such haste as that which characterizes the present proceedings with regard to the measure before us. The amendment which I have proposed will not delay the meeting of the new legislature; on the contrary it will, if anything, facilitate it. With the Act as it stands at present the Government will find it difficult, no matter how early in May the elections is held, to meet the House and pass the necessary legislation for the floating of the proposed loan, and get the Finance Minister away in New York in sufficient time to meet the occasion. Under the most favorable conditions it could not be hoped to get the House together, if the election were held on the 8th of May, earlier than the 15th or 20th of June, while under this amendment the date would be but two or three days later. The contention of the hon. leader of the Government, that by delaying the election, we would be endangering the credit of the Colony in New York is ridiculous in the face of this amendment which would more than make up for the delay caused by making the date of the election a week later than that now entertained by the Government. The credit of the Colony is, for that matter, already endangered because of the fact that there is always the possibility of some unforeseen occurrence. If, for instance, the election resulted in a tie as in the case of previous election, how could the

matter of this loan be met. To my mind, sir, the action of the Government in this whole matter is but another evidence of the criminal incapability of the government and of the desire to cover up their misdeeds so that the facts of their past mismanagement of the affairs of this Colony may not become known.

The arguments of the honorable gentlemen against the postponement of the election to a date later in May do not apply. When this amendment is taken into consideration, and the only arguments which we may consider seriously are those of Messrs. Whiteway and Templeman, who have stated that the 26th of May would be too late, as most of the people would have by that time left for the fishery. Coming from men who have a knowledge of the matter as extensive as that of Messrs. Whiteway and Templeman, this argument must, of course, have considerable weight with this Chamber. If they feel that the 26th of May is too late for an election in the best interest of the majority of the electorate, then I am willing that an earlier date and one more suitable be set and I would submit for the consideration of the hon. the Leader of the Government three dates on either of which it might be found feasible to hold the election. If nomination day were to be on the 16th, polling day would be the 20th, and if the 12th be set for nomination day polling day would be on the 22nd, or nomination day on the 9th of May would allow the election to be held on the 19th. If, in the light of what has been said, the hon. the Leader of the Government is prepared to consider any one of these dates I should be happy to see the bill go through.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—As I have already stated, the Government has set no date on which to hold the election. The only decision with regard to the

matter is that it be held at an early date in May.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I presume, Mr. Chairman, that the question of main importance is that of holding the election in time to get the Finance Minister away early enough to take up these maturing notes, and I am convinced that since the Government does not think it advisable to bring in the money bills this session, if the proposed amendment is carried the Finance Minister, according to my calculation, could not possibly reach New York before July 3rd, allowing for the delays pointed out by my hon. friend as likely to occur. Even in normal times such a matter could not be attended to very quickly, and I think under present conditions it would be greatly inadvisable to cut the time too fine. I am not going to argue as to whether the Government should or should not bring in the Loan Bill this session, and I see no indication that they intend doing so, but if they decide that the passing of this amendment would make it impossible for the necessary time to be found to meet the Colony's obligations abroad, I have no doubt they have good reasons for this attitude.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Mr. Chairman, I fail to see what the presence of the Finance Minister in New York has to do with the matter of this note at all. If a loan bill is passed to meet this note when it matures on June 30th, surely it can be taken up in the ordinary manner through the Bank of Montreal, and as to the floating of the new loan to meet it, I don't see what difference it can make, whether the money is raised in New York or elsewhere.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I may say, Mr. Chairman, that this question is one of very great importance, and the government has seen that whatever

conclusion might be come to in the matter, the Minister of Finance will not be disappointed in reaching New York in time.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES**—Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that all this argument has been a joke.

**HON. MR. ELLIS**—No, but when the Government considered the question of holding the election early in May, it was with a view to eliminating any possibility of a delay which would possibly prevent their being unable to have the Finance Minister in New York by June 30th.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON**—I would like to ask the hon. leader of the Government if the Minister of Finance is going to New York to simply meet the maturing note or to float a new loan, and if a new loan is to be floated is any of it to be offered to this country.

**HON. MR. ELLIS**—The object of the Finance Minister in visiting New York is to take up the maturing bonds and to raise a further four or five million dollars which will mean floating nine or ten million dollars altogether.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES**—Before the question is put, did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the new loan would be nine or ten millions?

**HON. MR. ELLIS**—That is what it is generally supposed it will amount to.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES**—In other words it is the intention to square matters in New York and float a further five million dollar loan.

**HON. MR. ELLIS**—Hon. Mr. Squires knows that possibly as well as I do.

**HON. MR. GIBBS**:—Before the preamble of the Bill is read, I have another amendment to move to it and it is for the purpose of doing a favor and not harrassing the Government. I do not want to get the Govern-

ment into difficulties but to help them out. Section 109 of the Election Act which is already the law of the Colony, says that a recount may be called for in 21 days, so that if several requests for a recount are made, then the candidates against whom it should be asked would not be able to take their seats for 21 days. To obviate that and make it possible for them to take their seats concurrent with the candidates declared duly elected, I propose that the word 'ten' be substituted for the words "twenty-one." That is instead of 21 days being allowed in which to demand a recount against candidates the period be shortened to 10 days, and if the demand be not exercised within 10 days then no right exists upon the part of any person to call for a recount. That means that the candidates elected may take their seats with the minimum of delay.

On motion the amendment was adopted.

The committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendments.

**HON. MR. ELLIS**—I would respectfully ask the consent of the House to allow the Bill to be read a third time to-day instead of to-morrow and at the same time beg to lay on the table the information asked for by Hon. Mr. Goodridge recently.

**HON. MR. GIBBS**:—I most emphatically object to this Bill being read a third time to-day. There is no necessity for any rush in connection with it or a departure from the usual parliamentary procedure and I must object to any other procedure.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

House went into committee on Election Expenses Act, Hon. Mr. Skelton in the chair.

On motion the Committee rose and

reported the Bill without amendment and it was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. President acquainted the House that he had received a communication from His Excellency the Governor as to the appointment of the Commissioners of the Internal Economy Commission, viz: Hons. the President, Messrs. Bishop, Ellis, Higgins, Lloyd, Crosbie and Coaker.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave notice that he would on to-morrow introduce a bill to amend the act with respect to Compensation to Workmen for Injuries suffered during the course of their Employment.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I hope that the unfortunate accident to the Evening Herald will not prevent the publishing the debates of the House which have been so important to the people of the country. The official organ of the debates of the House has so far published them promptly, and it would be unfortunate if the speeches of the House should appear, as they have sometimes done, in the months of October and November, so that, I hope to soon see the paper published again.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—The reports which have been tabled here in connection with the Commission of the Railway show that the matter is a very serious one and that the Government Engineer has not failed to point out the condition of the road and the menace it is to the travelling public. So far as the Government Engineer is concerned he has apparently done his duty, but others have not done it, and if the reports be read seriously in the light in which they should, then there is grave cause for concern. With regard to the reports here it is not necessary to give them publicity, because it would not be in the interest of the Colony that they should be known, as they are of such a grave character, pointing

out in the most unmistakable manner the condition of the road and the bridges and trestles some time ago; not this year; and as well. Since that complaint was made sufficient time has elapsed for a remedy to be applied, but it has not. Honorable members will remember that I referred to the accident which happened in which eight people were burned to death by the turning over of a car and the exploding of a lighted lamp in it. The investigation which was held into the accident commenced in February and did not end until the following December. No reflection is made upon the gentlemen who occupied the judicial position as Magistrate at the enquiry. He had nothing to do with the character of the enquiry or with the bringing of witnesses here. This is for the Crown that undertook the enquiry but here it went on for months and the Magistrate sent in his report in December and it has never been given to the Legislature or any member of the public possibly outside of one member of the Government, the Colonial Secretary or Premier, though it is a report dealing with the horrible death of eight persons. There must be some ulterior motive in waiting all that time, because the Company was liable for damages to the relatives of the people who lost their lives but their liability ceased twelve months after the accident. The accident was caused by the explosion of the lamp, the Magistrate condemned the use of lamps and said the matter should be dealt with immediately, but though the Magistrate found the lamps a source of danger and recommended their discontinuance, nothing has been done, and nothing will be done until the public take the matter in their own hands. The whole thing shows a great lack of public interest on the part of the people of this country when such circumstances are

allowed to go on year after year and month after month.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON**—My Hon. friend has stated that it is not in the interest of the country to know of conditions on the railway. If they are so bad it certainly is in the interest of the country to know them. Last September I went over the railway after the big accident happened and it was fortunate the car skidded down the embankment or all on board would have been killed. This would have occurred had it rolled over. The conditions of the road must be responsible for such accidents, and it should be repaired at once—either that or shut it down altogether.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until 4 p.m. to-morrow.

TUESDAY, April 22nd, 1919.

The House met at 4 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the Bill entitled "An Act of Ejectment of Tenants" was read a first time, and will be read a second time to-morrow.

Second Reading of "Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill."

**HON. MR. GIBBS**:—In moving that this Bill be read a second time, I desire to point out or the information of Hon. members the amendments this Bill will make to the Act, should it be passed by the House are two in number. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act passed in 1908, provision is made for payment of a certain sum of money to workmen who may be injured during the course of employment, that is employment to which this Act relates. The maximum amount under this Act to which workmen are entitled is \$5.00 per week. If a man be earning \$14.00, 15.00 or \$20.00 per week as many laborers or mechanics earn here, they are only entitled to

\$5.00 per week, and it is to the credit of the majority of employers of labour in the city, that, since the outbreak of the war, they have not availed themselves of the right given them under the Act to pay only \$5.00 per week. They have been paying \$10.00 per week, and in no instance have they availed themselves of the right which they possess of paying but \$5.00 per week. Under the local insurance scheme here the majority of employers are members of the scheme and they have in all cases paid 100 per cent. more compensation to disabled workers than this law provided for. It is for the purpose of making the foreign insurance pay the same rate as the local employers of labour have been paying for the past three years that the amendment to the law is now sought. I propose to amend the sections of the act bearing upon the matter so that the maximum amount to be paid will be \$5.00 to incapacitated workmen, under 21 instead of \$2.50 under the present provisions of the Act. This will compel the foreign Insurance Companies to pay more than they have for the past two years. Several cases have come under my notice where workmen have been disabled during the course of their employment, and when employers were notified, all except one paid \$10.00 per week during the period of their incapacity, and in some cases that payment of \$10.00 went on for 2, 3 and 4 months, according to the seriousness of the injury of the men while they were incapacitated. I think the terms of the Amendment will appeal to all in the House, and would therefore ask that the Bill be read a second time.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES**:—I support the Bill on the principle that whereas the cost of living has greatly increased since the Act was first passed, and whereas the price of labour has so materially increased it is only reason-

able that the provisions for injured workmen contained in the Bill, should be proportionally increased. I think it will be considered that the local Insurance Companies with which the larger number of employers of labour in St. John's are identified have been exceedingly liberal in their treatment of employees who received partial disablement in the course of their employment. I feel it is only fair to the Companies who have been thus liberal to employees that all should be placed upon the same basis by law. The increase in the amount of wages is the price of labour, and this means a large increase in the premiums paid to companies, because the practice is that payments are made upon the total of the pay sheet of wages paid for the day or week, and as the wages have increased materially, so the premiums have increased without there being any corresponding increase in the risk to employers or the Companies with which they are insured, and the Companies are thus getting the benefit of double or treble the premiums because of the increased cost of labour. It is impossible to conceive that \$5.00 per week can be regarded as anything for a totally disabled man, who works in St. John's, and who has a family to provide for. I feel that every Hon. member of this Chamber will gladly concur in the idea of doubling the minimum set forth in the Act.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I do not want to say anything in opposition to the Bill, but I should like to say that I do not think the House would wish to press the second reading of any Bill before it was printed and placed in the hands of Hon. members, and I would therefore suggest that the second reading be deferred until the Bill is printed.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I have no desire that further progress be made with the Bill until printed copies be placed in the hands of Hon. members. On

motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs the second reading was therefore deferred.

Second Reading of Legislative Extension Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, in moving the second reading of this Bill which provides for extending the life of the present Legislature until the 30th September, it is unnecessary for me to say very much. You are all aware of the effect of the Bill and the reasons which have induced the Government to undertake this step are more or less familiar to you. Under the existing law the life of the Legislature would expire on Wednesday next the 30th April. This date was fixed by this House last year, and the Government at first thought of adhering to that date and having a General Election in the spring but decided recently that, for various reasons, it was perhaps preferable to postpone the election until the Autumn, and ask for a further extension of the life of the House in the meantime.

This proposition was accepted with unanimity by the Lower Chamber and the Bill which now comes before this House is very short and simple and merely extends the existence of Parliament for 5 months. By fixing the date at September 30th, it automatically follows that an election will be held in the Autumn and, it is the intention of the Government that it should be held at the usual time about the 1st November. The effect of this, and preceding measures is that the life of the Parliament first elected in November, 1913, for a term of four years, will have extended to a period of six years as a result of war conditions, but, now that hostilities are virtually at an end, and the world is returning to the normal course of events, it is to be hoped that many years will elapse before it may become necessary to take such steps as were rendered imperative by the conditions which prevailed here during the time



that hostilities existed in Europe. Without further ado, Mr. President, I would ask that this Bill be now given a second reading.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. President, before this bill is read a second time I desire to make some observations with regard to the subject matter thereof. The hon. gentleman tells us that the bill is a very short and simple one. I agree with him that it is very short; and the simplicity of those that framed it is undoubted. He tells us that automatically an election will be held in the fall. Now we have heard that before. Now what assurance have we that an election will take place? A few days ago a bill to enable the Government to hold an election was before this House. We were assured that it was absolutely necessary in the interest of the country that a spring election should be held. We were told that an election at as early a date as possible should be held because the financial obligations of the country had to be met by a certain date. We were further told that the Government had seriously considered the bill from every standpoint; and viewing it as they did from every standpoint, they could see no other way of solving the problem before the country except by a spring election. We were told in effect that the object of the bill was the government's desire to conserve the public welfare of the country. That the welfare of the country and the people demanded the passage of the bill; and that those opposed to it, inferentially, were doing so not in the best interest of the country. Some hon. gentleman no doubt, who actually supported the measure and voted for it, considered the evidence adduced to be a sufficient reason that this bill should be passed. We were also told that in order to have a successful flotation of the loan, which this country must place in the market, it was necessary to its success that the Gov-

ernment should secure a mandate from the people, so that whatever party should be returned could go into the market with their hands strengthened, because the people had set the seal of approval on their actions. The reasons advanced and the arguments given appealed no doubt to the common sense of hon. gentlemen. Certain newspapers that supported the Government loudly proclaimed the unanimous passage of this Bill through the Legislature; referred to it as evidence of the sincere desire of the Government to conserve the welfare of the country; and to do their duty no matter what inconvenience, risk or trouble might be involved.

They were prepared to go to the country and prove their patriotism and love of country by having a general election in the interest of the country. I ask hon. gentlemen what must now be the thoughts and ideas of those who gravely and solemnly assured them that the passage of this bill was necessary to the country's welfare; because if the Government was sincere in their motives and the objects it outlined in that bill; why should there be such a sudden change. It came very quickly. While we were gravely discussing the provisions of this bill; within a few hours, the Government that emphasized the necessity of a general election saw that it was not necessary. It came suddenly to the conclusion that a general election was not necessary at all. What caused this sudden transformation in the thoughts of the powers that be? A few hours or days before they had been loudly proclaiming the necessity of a spring election. The interests of the country demanded it. While this chamber was seriously discussing this bill and considering it, a sudden transformation took place in the councils of the Government. What was the reason for that change? Hon. gentlemen who gave this bill their

support in this chamber are entitled to know the reasons why the government suddenly changed its opinion. Is it that they could not agree in dividing the spoils of office? That when it came to the division of the spoils of office, disagreement occurred, and the country's welfare no longer existed. The welfare of party and politicians was paramount to the country's welfare; another case of the country being sacrificed on the altar of expediency. What a predicament for a Government to put its supporters in. Some, no doubt, honestly believed in the sincerity of those who framed the bill and brought it in; but now they see before their eyes a result of the insincerity of the motives of the men who framed this bill. I ask them now, what reliance can they place in the bill now before the legislature. To what dreadful straits is the government reduced, when we see the result of bold dishonesty of this character; because even in the speech from the throne great emphasis was laid on the words of His Excellency when he said that the object of this session of the legislature was to provide for an election at an early date. The object for which this legislature was convened was that an election might be held at an early date. That is according to the speech from the throne. And I ask hon. gentlemen, in the face of such declarations, what sincerity they can place in a government that now comes in and asks that the life of the legislature that has already been extended two years, shall be further extended? Look at the example that sets to the young men of the country; to our young men, educated in the schools of the country, who have ambitions of entering public life, and no doubt are imbued with a desire to serve the country honourably and faithfully. If we permit this kind of thing to go unchallenged, are you not setting an ex-

ample to them that if they want to be successful in politics they have to practice political dishonesty, otherwise they cannot succeed. Is that the kind of thing you must hold out to the young men of this country. I ask you now because you are asked now to set your seal of approval upon the dishonest actions of men who asked us just the other day to pass a bill whereby they might be allowed to hold a general election in the spring. When a similar bill passed this legislature last year I think, in conjunction with others, I opposed its adoption, and I did so because there was no power in this house or the legislature to extend its life. I see no reason now to change my opinion. In fact, instead of my opinion being changed, it has been strengthened. Legislatures have no right to prolong their existence. If we admit their right so to do, we give this government or any other government the power at its convenience to extend its life for seven or for ten years if necessary in defiance of the wishes of the people. The history of representative government in every land; the struggle for free institutions was one full of turmoil and trouble; and was not easily won. Those who sought to hold control of the public institutions could only be beaten after a bitter struggle and much turmoil; when that power was wrested from them. And when that power was wrested the people solemnly said that Parliament or Legislature could only exist for a certain period and when that period elapsed, the life of Parliament was to cease. If such limitations were not placed on the life of the legislature, there would be nothing to prevent a corrupt party from prolonging its own life as long as it is in a position to buy support. And it is because of powers that may be made use of by politicians that people in all countries and lands where democratic institutions exist have de-

cided and laid down the law that Parliament shall cease after a certain time. Attempts have been made time and time again to modify this law, the people have always resisted with great success any attempts to have their rights usurped in the manner proposed by this act. Men in every land where free institutions exist look up to them with faith. These institutions never intended to give Governments the power to continue in office in defiance of law; but on the contrary they say that they shall be bound by the law that governs them; and that they shall live up to the letter and the spirit of the law. In our system of government as in all others, you place in the hands of the majority of the chosen representatives of the people, the government of the country; and you place it in their hands for a limited time only. You give them the right for a limited time only to govern the country; and if the period of time were not defined or limited, Government would become impossible, because, if you have it fixed that a Government can continue in power in opposition to the law of the country, then what safeguards have you? What safeguards have you where such conditions exist? What authority have you to do things for which there is absolutely no precedent? It may be said that last year we established precedent. I pointed that out last year when opposing this measure; for while we were accommodating the government we were adopting a principle that was wrong; and one which never should have been thought of. Forces of discontent are rife in this world to-day, and what is more important than that fullest respect for the law should be shown by those to whom is entrusted the administration of the law? If they do not, I would ask this House wherein lies our safety in the future? It is a very serious matter for those charged with

the government of the country to disregard the law.

The people of this country, through their chosen representatives, before they elected the present assembly, put a limitation on those elected to that House, and laid down the law that "The House of Assembly shall continue for a period of four years from the date on which they are appointed to meet and no longer." That is a summary of the law as it has been on the Statute Book for years and years. It is there because the people placed it there. It is there in order that the Government may not have autocratic power. It is there so that a Government may not extend its own life; and I repeat, what right has any government to disregard the law which governs their holding of office? Look at the constitution of the present government. Thousands of people are not represented. Laws are enacted; taxes levied; and thousands of people in this country remain unrepresented. They have no voice or say in the levying of taxes upon them. How can they with any show of justice continue such a condition of affairs? How can you justly impose taxes on people and make laws which effect their rights as individuals when thousands of them are unrepresented and have no voice or say in the enactment of laws or the levying of taxes? You have men in the Government who have no right to be there; who long ago forfeited their seats. Why did not these men surrender their seats as instructed at the last session? You remember there were men there who had accepted positions of emolument and pay from the Crown, and, notwithstanding that, held their seats. This act was passed for the purpose of preventing the corruption of the legislature. It is very clear in its provisions in this matter. You will remember it says "Any member who shall accept office of profit un-

der the Crown or Government of this country, shall by writing under his hand tender to the Government his resignation as a Member of the House of Assembly." Now that is the law. There is no option left in his hands. The law is imperative; but in spite of that we have had men there, and we have them there to-day, who hold seats in direct contravention to this law; but who do so because they are in a position to support the Government which depends largely upon their support, and which is under the control of those under its pay. Can we expect honorable legislation from a Government depending upon support of this kind? And this government came in here a few days ago asking that we authorize a spring election. We have no sooner passed their bill than they change their minds, and decide that an election is not necessary. The position is an absurd one. Some may call it a joke; but the question is too serious to be a joke. The rights and liberties of the people to representation in the legislature are at stake, and these are too serious matters to joke over. Legislation of so uncertain a character is too serious to be thus played with by those who framed it.

It may be said that the people elected the present House of Assembly. They did elect the present House of Assembly, but they did not elect the Government. The people always elect the Government. In other words, parties go to the country on certain issues and the people by voting determine which party is going to rule. That party becomes the Government of the country. The people of this country in 1913 returned a majority party; and that party formed a Government. That Government went out of existence when it resigned. The present Government is there not because it is the wish of the people that they be there but as the result of a corrupt bargain. Now

that was contrary to law. The people made the law as it stands, and that law should not be abused. The legislature must represent the whole of the people and not only a part. The present House of Assembly does not represent the people as a whole. The House of Assembly has not represented the people for the past two years. The people have had no voice through what should be their representative chamber. The present Government represents only one section of the people. Why some of the members are servants of Corporations that are seeking to dominate the country; men who since taking their places there have furthered the financial interests of their corporation at the expense of other parts of the country; and these men are not free to discuss legislation from the standpoint of what is good for the country. They are not free servants of the country. They are paid agents of the Corporation. And not alone are they paid agents of a corporation, but they are oath bound representatives of that corporation. Hon. gentlemen know that every candidate selected by the Fishermen's Union are not selected by them, but by the President of that Union. By their oaths they are bound to resign their seats in the legislature if called upon to do so by the District Councils that nominated them. Can you conceive of a greater menace to the public welfare, to the rights of the individual to be a free agent than that? Can you conceive that legislation will be considered by them for the good of the people as a whole, or for Newfoundland? We are not going to have legislation on public matters considered properly so long as the country and we are prepared to continue in office men who by their oaths are not bound to serve their country and their king above all else. That oath is not alone improper; it is illegal; because the oath he takes as a

representative is to serve his country properly and fairly, but instead of that the oath I have referred to is not to serve his country or his king, but the district councils that elected him, and if he does not serve those district councils he must resign, if called upon by them to do so. And I ask hon. gentlemen what greater menace can there be to the prosperity and welfare of the country than a continuance of that. Be it said to our discredit that we have not sufficient manhood or courage to put an end to this kind of thing. What is this legislation but an arbitrary use of the powers of a legislature. To begin with I deny their power to enact any such legislation. Next I call your attention to the autocratic use which the government is making of its power to continue in office, contrary to the law of the land. What is a government but a trustee for the people of the country. They are in the position of trustees, and their trust is defined by act in some instances, and they have to perform that trust in an honest and conscientious manner, according to the law which governs their actions. If a man is appointed trustee by the Courts, his duties are defined, and if he neglects those duties or carries them out in an improper manner, he can be relieved of the trusteeship. Apply the same reasoning to the government, they are there as trustees for the people and limitations are placed upon them as to how long they shall continue as trustees, and when they continue for a longer period than the law allows, then they are there in violation of the rights of the people and of the law which sent them there. Can you conceive of a trustee being appointed under a will or deed and acting for his own interests entirely? What would you think of that man? He would not be considered fit for society and if guilty of acts of a certain character he may be prosecuted. The same mode

of reasoning can be applied to the government. The law says they shall be there for four years, and notwithstanding that they continue to act and extend their powers. Are they any better than the individual trustee who disregards his powers and sets at naught the will of the person who made him a trustee. There is no difference whatever. One is as bad as the other, and we should not place our seal of approval upon a trusteeship of men who long ago forfeited their right to act as trustees. If hon. gentlemen want to be secure in the enjoyment of rights which they possess, the right of liberty to hold and possess, without being controlled by others except in so far as the general law of the land may control it, the property which they have acquired by their brains and ability and skill, then they should not establish precedents of this kind. The average man who has any of this world's goods holds them subject to the law of the land. He cannot hold them otherwise. A grant of land is subject to certain conditions; a house rented from another has conditions placed upon such renting; otherwise contracted obligations could not be entered into except the law of the land laid down the manner in which contracts may be entered into. The law of the land has laid down that governments shall cease to exist for a longer period than four years. Disregard that and the day may come when perhaps the forces of discontent may turn and say that the government disregarded its contractual obligations to society, to the public, and we are going to disregard our contractual obligations to society also because you have established the precedent; you in whose hands rested the power to see that contractual obligations are properly fulfilled failed to do so when you had the opportunity and you cannot ask us to do differently. Let us ask ourselves the question "in

all countries where government exists, from what source is the power derived? From the people and in order that the government may get the right to continue in office they have to go to the people. The people made the law, they are the source of authority, and in order that the law may be abrogated or amended or altered or extended in any shape or form it is those in whom the authority rests who should do it, and not the government of the country. As I pointed out this government is not the government of the country; it was never elected as such. Arguments were advanced last session that this government should be permitted to continue because of the exigencies of the war, but we look at other parts of the empire and compare our insignificance in point of wealth, territory or population, and they did not think the seriousness of the war such as to prevent the rights of the people being exercised; they did not conscript their sons in some cases without consulting the wishes of the people. In Australia, Canada and other places they have had bye elections going on, yet we could not carry on an election here. I do not wish to prolong this debate, but I desire to place myself on record as opposed to the principles of this bill, because if we discredit principles, what is going to become of the country, of law and order. Men may die but principles live for ever, and here we are asked to disregard a principle which is as old almost as the Magna Carta. True during the career of representative government attempts have been made to extend life of the government, but they have always been restricted, and people would be justified in restricting that by violence if necessary because the government has no right under the constitution to extend its life. If we are going to permit the government to extend its life beyond the time allowed by law, then I submit

there is nothing to prevent the various branches of the government coming together and saying that representative government shall cease to exist; if they have the right to extend, they have the right to do that; one is as bad as the other. All rights are subject to certain qualifications. There is a great English authority upon the question of interference with the rights of legislation, Lord Brougham. Every hon. gentleman has read with interest and pride this distinguished man's career, who was an advocate of the rights of man. Now we have the legislature devoid of its proper representation, notwithstanding that the law expressly says that upon a vacancy occurring, the Governor shall issue his writ for an election. Notwithstanding that the farce still goes on, and will go on unless hon. gentlemen assert their rights or the people will take the law into their own hands and do what we fail to do or are afraid to do. Professor Dicey whose name is familiar to hon. gentlemen because of the many valuable and authentic works is another authority. There can be no question of the statement of a man like Prof. Dicey. He is a recognized authority, and is followed by courts of law in matters of the kind, and he points out as I have been doing this evening that the government has no right to continue in office for a longer period than that which the law allows. I feel I am only performing my duty as a member of this house to citizens of this country in voicing my protest against the enactment of a measure which is contrary to the law and the spirit of free institutions.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I took the liberty of taking down two sentences of the hon. member who has just sat down: "A legislature cannot extend its life," and "An extension is wrong in principle." Coming from a man of such mature judgment as the hon. gen-

tleman we take these statements as being sincere, but I submit the effect of his speech is considerably limited by the fact that the hon. gentleman was a member of this Council which in 1917 extended the life of parliament. Further he was a member of the executive government of the day which brought in this measure. Under these circumstances it is hardly likely we can take his protestations as coming from one who is very sincere.

Said bill was then read a second time, and ordered to be committee on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave notice of question.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the house adjourned until to-morrow at four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, April 23rd, 1919.

The house met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion second reading of Ejectment of Tenants Bill and third reading of Election Bill were deferred.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs, Act to amend Workmen's Compensation Act was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, house went into committee on the Legislature Extension Bill, Hon. Mr. Anderson in the chair.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I would like to draw the attention of hon. members to the simplicity of this bill as is pointed out by the leader of the government, and while it appears so simple, there is nevertheless this contingency that may arise, and that is that the section we have just passed says the assembly shall be extended until the 30 September next, but there is no guarantee that a general election will be held in the fall. There is nothing to prevent the government, altho' the legislature may be dissolved in September, from continuing in office until May of next year,

and bring about a spring election this time twelve months. While the Legislature is dissolved the Government exists. It always exists, and I am going to suggest to the House that a further section be added to this bill called section 2—"A General Election of members to the House of Assembly shall be holden not later than the 10th day of November, 1919." Now that makes it imperative that an election shall be held not later than Nov. 10th next, and the Government could not continue in office and have a spring election because if we are to accept the theory that the Governor must be advised by responsible representatives, if they his ministers advise him that a spring election is in the interest of the country, then according to the theory which has been profounded, he could be bound to accept the advice because they are his ministers, and therefore he would be bound according to constitutional practice to accept the request of his ministers. Now this amendment which I am going to move, and which I trust will meet the views of hon. members, puts it out of the power of the government to tender any such advice to the Governor, because there will be an Act of the Legislature which says that an election shall be held not later than 10th of November this year. Personally I do not see what reasonable objection there can be to this amendment, and I trust hon. members will view it from the standpoint that an election is necessary, and that as an election is necessary, it should be held at the proper time. Now the proper time is not later than Nov. 10th, 1919. As I have said personally I can see no possible objection to it when the last Extension Bill was before the House. It was understood,—while no assurance or guarantee had been given, that there would be an election in the fall of last year. That was the intention hon. members had.

That the mere inserting of the words that the legislature should be extended to the 30th day of April meant a spring election is a false conclusion. As I have said it was understood that there would be an election in the fall of 1918. Now the Government has continued in office until the 30th of April. Now there is nothing to keep them from continuing until a spring election may be called for this time next year, and I trust that the reasonableness of this amendment will appeal to the good reason of hon. gentlemen.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, I may say that it is the Government's intention to have an election this fall at the usual time. Consequently I have no objection to the amendment.

The amendment passed.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, and with the unanimous consent of the House this Bill was read a third time, ordered to pass and be sent to the House of Assembly asking their concurrence in the amendments made.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I move that this House adjourn till Friday next.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Mr. President, before this House adjourns, I would like to say a few words in reply to my friend Hon. Mr. Ellis regarding the Tenants Bill. Honourable members will remember that on yesterday he said he had carefully considered this matter, and that a solution had yet to be found. He said too that my plan did not meet the matter. Now as he said so we all say, what we want to know is "How to solve this problem." My hon. friend has had 17 years experience on the Council. Now I have had six, and apparently those six have been as profitably spent as his 17. Now what has he done? Three-quarters of a million have been spent on water and sewerage. Buried beneath the streets as a receptacle for "rats."

That does not solve the problem. But we, the citizens of this town, are prepared to solve this problem with the co-operation of the Government. It has been intimated through the press that they are looking for a loan of \$6,000,000, and that \$5,000,000 is to pick up maturing notes, and that one million is to be applied to local and other utilities. Now what do we find? We find obligations entered into for nearly half a million dollars. I am not objecting to this, but it shows what money is available. They are going to spend \$250,000 on the Lunatic Asylum wing; \$50,000 on a wing for the Fever Hospital; \$50,000 on an addition to the Court House; and a further \$50,000 on the Empire Building. In addition to that they are going to improve Bowcock's Sanatorium to the extent of \$50,000 more. Now that is an expenditure of \$450,000, and not one single cent for the improvement of housing in this community. This loan of \$6,000,000 is to be placed on the market at 5½%. If my hon. friend up to the present moment does not quite understand the position we are placed in, we may tell him that we have provisions for 6000 members at \$100 and 5500 at \$200 per year, making a total of \$2,000,000 of which half a million it is proposed to offer the Government. Now having gone fully into this question, after his 17 years experience, he has yet to see a solution. I can only repeat for his benefit that the Dominion Co-operation Building Association Ltd. is prepared to erect 600 houses for working men at 6% upon their construction cost. They are offering 5% on the debentures of the country. We are giving half a per cent higher! Now I am sure the public of this town should receive some consideration from a humane government in trying to better themselves. The bill we hope to have ready on Friday will be the means to some ex-



tent of relieving distress that is daily occurring in this town. I have heard of some conditions this morning, and if my hon. friend will refer to President McGrath of the L.S.P.U. or Mr. Jonas Barter of the T.P.U. he can verify them. Now I want nothing from the government for myself; I have asked for nothing, but I am making these appeals on behalf of thousands of people in this town, and this is the only way. I do not know what they intend doing, I have never heard them discuss it, with the exception of one member, and apparently the best thing they can do is what will best interest themselves personally. I want nothing from the government; I have never yet received a hearing from them except as a member of a deputation. Still if they would only put their heads together in a practical business way they could solve this matter in ten minutes. Yet here we have a balance of nearly five million dollars and up to the present not the slightest appropriation of the sum has been made for this purpose. Do something for the workingman; for the soldier. I was told of a case to-day by Mr. Jonas Barter, a gentleman everybody knows in this community, who was asked the other night if he would for seven dollars a load take the furniture of a woman and her daughter that was found on the street to the South Side Hills for storage. The father and son were both away from home, the furniture was bundled out on the street and the wife of the young man who is a returned soldier who married in the Old Country, who fought for you and me and was prepared to sacrifice his blood on the battlefield, is bundled out on the street and Jonas Barter asked for God's sake to come at twelve o'clock in the night and cart it away. That is not overdrawn; these things are going on day after day, and the government should do something now to help the

people of this town. Do not think it is any pleasure to me to come here day after day pleading for this, but it is evident the government do not care what happens the people of this town. I do not know if my hon. friend the leader of the government echoes the voices of his colleagues in the government or not, or whether he has given this matter serious thought, but if he had, many people here would be better off to-day. I hope something will be done and quickly; I am not talking day after day for any personal feeling in this matter. If the government has any better scheme I will give them all the credit due but for goodness sake do something, but so far as I am concerned, while I have breath within me, until such time as the government do something, I shall never refrain from pressing this matter which is so vitally important to the people of this town.

**HON. MR. POWER:**—I must take exception to the hon. gentleman's remarks about the sewers of the city, that they are holes for rats, as I happened to be a member of the City Council at the time the work was done, and a very important piece of work it was. The main sewer goes through the city and flows out near Chain Rock and the work was a splendid piece of work and as fine as ever done, and yet you turn around and say it is only a place for rats.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—What I did say was "why have we money buried under the ground which is only a place for rats." Of course it is essential in every way, but I want the people to get the benefit of it.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I am a great admirer of my hon. friend opposite, and a great sympathizer in the work he has now especially identified himself with, as well as with his other works, but we have spent an enormous amount of time this session listening to this question, and it is very indefinite

as far as we know and this house knows. We are told we are going to hear a great deal more about it. That the conditions of the housing in this town are bad everyone knows, and the problem is a serious one. We have had many cases and they can be quoted ad nauseam as long as we sit here; it has been the subject of thought not alone for the past year or two, but for the past fifty, but it has been pushed on public attention now perhaps more vigorously than ever. In the days of the A.P.C., when the visiting nurses were put on this town and kept doing loyal and hard work among the poor, we never made a report from the A.P.C. that the condition of the housing and conditions of child welfare or unwelfare were not dealt with, and I do not think it necessary to continue to put it to this House that conditions are bad. We know that; know that it is a disgrace to the town. I only rise to say that I hope it will be recognized by those pressing that matter that the housing is bad and we ought to rectify it. One trouble I have is in understanding clearly what is to be done to rectify it. I know the hon. gentleman has a plan, but that plan has never been clearly explained here. I do not know what the plan is. I do not see how houses can be rented at six per cent. No one is more anxious than I am to see the large number of people in this town properly housed. I do not believe it is a matter that can be dealt with on a charity basis; I do not believe the country would stand for the government providing a certain number of people with free houses. I do not think the fishing classes, our principle branch of industry would permit any government giving a free loan. I understand that is the plan the hon. gentleman proposes. I hope Hon. Mr. Anderson, with whom I am in hearty sympathy, will before dealing with any other matter in connection with this if

he wants to push it further will bring in a clear statement when he next addresses us on this subject.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—I am sure we all greatly admire the vim and enthusiasm which our hon. friend opposite puts into this matter, and while he was speaking I had supposed that his plan to which he had referred had been made known during my absence from the colony, but from the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Harvey I should judge that is not.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Pardon me. My hon. friend Mr. Harvey is one of the parties to whom I showed the prospectus, and gave a copy, and was one of those who promised his support. The matter has been put before the government; they have had a copy of it for nearly a year, and the matter has been ventilated in the press for months.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—It is evident, however, that Hon. Mr. Harvey does not understand this plan or scheme even if he has some knowledge of it. The Co-operative Building Society referred to by Hon. Mr. Anderson, if I heard him aright, is prepared to spend a hundred thousand dollars a year for ten years in the building of houses and upon that capital they look for only six per cent.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—No, nothing at all.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—Well I do not understand what his reference to six per cent can mean. I understand that it may not be very difficult for a large corporation being formed, if they are looking to the government to guarantee the interest upon their capital but it is not at present clear to me. In fact it is extremely foggy as to what it is that is expected from the government by my hon. friend, and I think with Hon. Mr. Harvey that it is desirable to make clear to the house what it is this company or any other desire of the government to bring about better

housing conditions in this city. Now we have had several cases cited of great hardship and distress, but up to the present I am not prepared to admit that the landlords of St. John's are more heartless than in other countries, and if many families have been put on the street surely there must be some strong reason why the landlords should so act. Is it suggested that a landlord owning houses is compelled to allow tenants to remain on his property who do not pay any rent? Even if houses are sold we cannot deprive the landlord of his rights. I think we are wasting time in talking in generalities from time to time in sessions of the legislature. Every one of us is desirous of doing what we can for the betterment of conditions; then let us have something that we can understand.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I am not responsible for the prospectus; I may have glanced over it once or twice and I have naturally been sympathetic and anxious to help my hon. friend, but have given no study to the matter at all. But I hope he will make his plan clear because I am sure if it is reasonable and clear to us all we will support it.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I may say that the government has not been asked to guarantee any interest, but have merely been asked to assist the movement just as they assist any enterprise of a public character, that is by admitting certain materials which cannot be manufactured here free of duty, and by a grant of a sum of money, not a large sum, towards helping the enterprise out. Now the policy of all governments has been to help out public workings and enterprises, and moneys have been appropriated for various purposes of this kind, and in fact for the purpose of assisting private enterprises also.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 25th, 1919.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Hon. President read a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the amendments of the Council to the bill entitled An Act to Extend the Term of the Present Legislature without amendment.

His Excellency the Governor then entered the Council Chamber, and the members of the Assembly having been summoned to attend, was pleased to give his assent to the said Bill.

His Excellency having retired the Order of the Day was begun.

Second reading of "Tenants" Bill.

**HON. JOHN ANDERSON:**—Mr. President, I would ask that the second reading of this bill (Tenants' Bill) be allowed to stand over until the bill is printed but in the meantime I would take the opportunity of briefly explaining the measure for the benefit of honourable gentlemen in this chamber. The object of the bill, as all honourable gentlemen are aware, is mainly to eliminate in so far as possible the inconvenience and distress which are occasioned to tenants by the present scarcity of dwelling houses in this city. It is also a well known fact that the scarcity of houses is being so keenly felt that people seeking them are prepared to pay almost any figure rather than find themselves on the streets and because of this many landlords are taking advantage of the present conditions to charge exorbitant rates for their houses and to put rents up to such an outrageous figure that tenants are forced, if unable to meet the unjust and I might say unlawful demands of these grasping landlords, to get out. The first section of the bill provides that when the rent of a dwelling house to which this act applies is hereafter

during the continuance of this act increased, such increase shall notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary not be recoverable by distress, action suit or other proceeding at law. On any improvements made, however, to the dwelling house an increase in rent of eight per cent. shall be allowed on the amount expended on such repairs, but this increase shall not be recoverable until the expiry of one month after the landlord has served a notice of his intention to increase the rent, which notice must be accompanied by a statement of the improvements and their cost. Section 2 of the act will provide that a person shall not in consideration of the renewal or continuation of a tenancy of any dwelling house to which the act applies, require the payment of any sum in addition to the rent. The main object of the bill is dealt with in section 3 which provides that so long as a tenant pays his rents regularly and otherwise lives up to the spirit of the agreement entered into by him with his landlord, no order of judgment for his ejection shall be made or entered, except on the ground that the tenant shall be guilty of any conduct which may be deemed a nuisance or annoyance to neighbouring occupiers. Section 5 provides that the act shall apply only to a house or part of a house within the Municipal limits of St. John's but as a separate dwelling from year to year or for a less period than a year at an annual rental not exceeding \$200. With respect to the amount of increase recoverable upon any improvements made to a dwelling house the act gives a Judge of the Central District Court the power, on application of either party, to fix the amount by which the rent shall be increased. It is proposed that this act shall continue in force until April 1920. This, Mr. President, is an outline of the bill which I hope shall go far to improve the present deplorable

condition of affairs in this city and to which I hope honourable gentlemen in this chamber will give their support when the bill comes before the House for its second reading.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Hon. Mr. President, the passing of such a measure as this cannot but be a sincere hardship upon owners of houses and I think that it would be manifestly unfair were we to make law a bill with such scope as this one undoubtedly has. There is a case which has come to my attention where a soldier recently returned from France, brought home with him his wife. They are now boarding and paying twenty-four dollars per week each while the income on which they have to depend is sixty dollars a month. Now sir, this soldier recently purchased a house which is at present occupied and if this bill becomes law he will be unable to get possession of the house which is his and will therefore be put to incalculable inconvenience and loss. There is another case of which I know where a man who owns the house in which he lives and whose son went overseas, found that he had more room than he needed during the absence of his boy, and he therefore decided to let the upper portion of his dwelling to a tenant. Now, the son has come home, and has also brought a wife and the father is naturally anxious to obtain possession of the rented portion of the house for their accommodation. With this act in force it would be impossible to get possession and consequently the son would literally be driven from his own home to seek quarters and it is not altogether unlikely that he would have to leave the country. In view of such hardships as these which are but instances of what would accrue from a bill of this kind. I think, sir, it must be apparent that it would be going too far to enforce such a measure.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. President,

would it not be a good idea to have a commission of say three or five members who could enquire into such cases as those just mentioned by my honourable friend, and determine the merits of each before any action, which may be a hardship or an injustice to either the landlord or tenant, be taken. It seems to me sir, that this would be the fairest as well as the most effective means of dealing with the matter. I merely put this forward, of course, as a suggestion.

**HON. JOHN HARVEY:**—It appears to me that we are dealing somewhat hurriedly with a matter which should be handled with extreme care. The measure before the House now is one which affects the rights of a large number of persons and I think the bill as it has been explained by the honourable introducer needs some modification. It would be well to go into this matter very carefully before we pass a bill of such importance as this.

Hon. President informed the Council that he had received messages from the House of Assembly that they had passed the following bills and asked the concurrence of the Legislative Council therein: An Act to prevent the Introduction of Rabies into Newfoundland," An Act Respecting Documentary Evidence and Extra-judicial Oaths," "An Act respecting the Department of Justice," "An Act respecting the Keeping of Dogs," and "An Act to Authorize the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval, Military and other Public Purposes."

These bills were severally read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House adjourned till to-morrow at 4 of the clock in the afternoon.

MONDAY, April 28th, 1919.

The House met at 4 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Second reading of Ejectment of Tenants Bill.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—The Bill before the House is a copy of that which I introduced at the last sitting and is in no way at all intended to deal harshly with anybody. Since we last met in this House, no less than three gentlemen waited on me, who are very largely interested in property in this town, of a class that is not worth much and they asserted that they had come to the conclusion in order to relieve the occupants of the property, they have made up their minds, that the houses are worth nothing and that the tenants can occupy them as long as they wish to do so, but they reserve the right to the land which they will tax at a nominal rate. One of the gentlemen would prefer that the tenant would vacate them at once when he might be in a position to get the land to build respectable houses thereon. The Bill is a reasonable and fair one and Section 1 reads: "1. Notwithstanding anything in any Act contained from and after the passing of this Act and during the continuance thereof, no tenant shall be ejected by process of law from the premises occupied by him as tenant provided always that he has in all respects complied with the terms and conditions under which he holds the said premises." This is a provision which is not new to the country. Great Britain was compelled to pass such a law in 1915 for the duration of the war, and afterwards discovered in January of the present year, that, in order to protect people in their homes, it was necessary to readopt the Bill for three years longer. There is a similar section to Section 1 in this Bill in the British Act. It was stated here the other day by my hon. friend Mr. Squires that there were one or two very hard cases which would be met in the application of this Bill and such might be fairly dealt with by a judicial

body, or by a commission as suggested by Hon. Mr. Mews. In some communities or towns like this with a population of 30,000 we need not have a very complicated Bill in a matter of this sort. Within the last 12 months many instances have arisen where tenants have been harshly dealt with. I need not dwell at any great length on this matter, and have already said nearly everything that could be possibly brought forward to justify such a Bill. We only ask for justice and fair play to people who occupy houses, who have paid rent and have complied with all reasonable requests made by landlords. During the last few weeks or the past month prices of houses have gone up and such an abnormal condition has arisen that many houses have been sold at twice their value, and the object with some was to get the highest price and get clear of their property. With that I have not so much objection, but I have full sympathy with people who are paying rents for decent houses but who are domiciled in places not fit to keep goats in. I am aware that many houses have been let out at rentals of \$3, \$5, \$7 and \$12 and the increase has been away up in proportion to the value of the property. In addition to that, as was pointed out the other day, there are many young men earning from \$800 to \$1500 per year who must pay a quarter or two-thirds of it for rent and taxes. I was informed of a case this morning where a young man has had a reasonable notice to leave his house, and up to the present moment he has not been able to secure another house, though he has sought everywhere, and I am sure there are none who would not sympathize with him. Another man came to me this morning and said he has to leave his house. He arranged to leave his furniture, with the provision that he should remove it on the night before the 1st of May, if he

did not it would be bundled out. This is what is called in Scotland "a moonlight flitting," but the accepted Scottish meaning is to clear out without paying the rent, though in this case the rent is paid. In addition to this there are many men who have to leave their homes in the city and where they are to go I do not know. If the Government can do anything in the matter I hope it will be of a nature that will interest the men of the town themselves to co-operate, and put up decent houses themselves and interest the public in a gigantic scheme which will be a success. But if the Government adopts a scheme, even if 5 per cent is charged upon the cost, it is away beyond the reach of those for whom the construction of workmen's houses is necessary. The workmen I know of here all want homes with a decent rent. They do not want to be bothered with fire insurance, repairs or mortgage. There is a great work to be done between the Government and the Council in making provision for a better class of houses up to \$300 per year, but the best solution of the difficulty can be arrived at by the workmen themselves. Now as I stated before this is not a Bill intended to deal harshly with either tenant or landlord but an attempt to frame a Bill that will be equitable and just to both parties and protect the tenant. It is nothing new. I saw by one of the papers it was "far-fetched," but we brought it from the Old Country and it is nothing new or original. It is a simple Bill adapted to St. John's, the Capital of Newfoundland, and to meet its local requirements. In the Old Country the British Government find it necessary to legislate for England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. It was stated it would be a great injustice to the landlords but there was a satisfactory answer to the charge. It has been introduced in Halifax. They found it

necessary in the interest of the citizens, on whom the rents were going up to such an extent that an American company dramatized the play "Going up" in Nova Scotia. There have been one or two instances mentioned to me where houses were sold for \$3000 where the property was only worth half of it, but the parties with the houses for sale said we do not want the money if we are paid half we will take the balance on a mortgage of 10 per cent. This of course is very nice. We had some Jews here some years ago who started business and became money lenders and I think they charged 10 per cent per month and these places had to be shut down. In the case I have cited the house is not worth 100 a year and by and by the unfortunate man loses the principal. Section 2 of the Bill reads: "2. If a tenant shall fail to pay to the landlord the rent due and payable in respect of the premises held by him as tenant on the days and times appointed for payment thereof and the landlord shall institute proceedings at law for the recovery of the possession of the said premises the tenant shall have the right before final adjudication to tender the amount of rent due and owing together with the costs of such proceedings and thereupon such proceedings shall be discontinued."

Sections 3 and 4 are as follows:

"3. Subject to the provisions of Section 4 of this Act it shall be unlawful for any landlord to increase the rent now payable by a tenant during the period for which this Act is in force."

"4. Any landlord who shall during the continuance of this Act make improvements other than repairs necessary for the keeping of the premises in a tenantable condition, shall be entitled to add a reasonable proportion of the cost of such improvements to the rent now payable by the tenant; such sum to be determined in the first

case by agreement between the parties and in case of dispute by the Judge of the Central District Court at St. John's."

There is what is called the "Old Home Scheme" in the Old Country and here the difficulty existing was solved by the payment of 25 per cent. and up and that upon high class property ranging from £42 to £75 stg., and in this case the people raise the money and pay it on an easy installment plan. If improvements are put into houses it stands to reason that reasonable compensation should be the return. There is one most important matter which must bear on the minds of the members of the Municipal Council to-day, and that is that they are spending \$55,000.00 per year at night carting away filth in those unsightly carts. The sympathy of the whole city of St. John's goes with this movement which aims to protect the people those who are industrious, provident, frugal and self-denying from exactions borne too patiently in the past and which it seems, unless public spirited citizens intervened to stop, would have been perpetuated. As regards the case cited by my hon. friend Mr. Squires, who I am sorry to say is ill, of a father and son, a returned soldier, in which the father had bought a house occupied by tenants and into which he wanted to place his son, if this law becomes effective the matter would come up for adjudication before the judges of the commission to the appointment of which my hon. friend Mr. Mews has made reference, and which might be an important and useful feature in connection with the measure. I have hastily outlined in these few remarks the salient features in the bill to which I would direct the favourable consideration of the hon. members of the chamber and the second reading of which I beg to move.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Before

the bill now occupying the earnest attention of this chamber, passes its second reading permit me Mr. President to congratulate my hon. friend Mr. Anderson for the zeal he has shown and the good work he evidently has put in on behalf of the people of St. John's, whose interests he intends to serve. In my estimation the claim he has set forth for the consideration of this House is purely a domestic concern and comes entirely within the domain of Municipal politics. It is primarily a matter interesting, civic representatives and I strongly oppose the granting of any monies from the public revenues for the purpose of providing accommodation for people living in St. John's. To me it would seem that in the accounts of present and projected ejections that it is a case for the poor law commissioners more than for us to deal with. The average labourer in St. John's is able to provide accommodation for himself and his family and in my estimation this bill will debar landlords from coming to build houses if people are to be subject to laws as drastic as those set forth in this bill. Quite a number of labourers houses have been built in St. John's recently by outport people who come here, who by industry and by saving money and working after hours, and after buying the land are able to build homes and live comfortably. This is the class of man we want to see helped out who build up an accommodation for themselves. The question itself seems to me to be one entirely for the Municipal body established to look after the Municipal affairs of the city and not one for the attention of the legislature. After the time I have spent in listening to our hon. friend in pleading for a class of workers in St. John's I think if this bill be passed as at present constituted it will be anything but a credit to the intelligence of this chamber. In perusing the sec-

tions of the act there is nothing so far as I can see for the protection of the landlord who does not put up the rental value of his property for the future and the second section is one that is really law to-day and is of no use in the bill. If there is a class of people who are without houses and who are able to pay for such accommodation, their enterprise should provide for them. It is a matter for themselves and purely and simply a question which should be regulated by the law of supply and demand. I do not see any particular merit in the bill and must oppose its second reading.

**HON. MR. McNAMARA:**—Mr. President, Section 4 of this act appeals to me more or less but I should like to ask what about the interest in the cost of repairs. I cannot understand when houses are being repaired at the cost of \$1,000 the interest of which would be 6 per cent. per annum, how people are to be reimbursed for their outlay. A hardship exists here, for I know of cases where widows and orphans who are living out of houses which they own if they are compelled to repair them must lose the interest of 6 per cent. which certainly should not be. Section 6 says that this act shall be in force and effect up to the 1st of November, 1922, and there is nothing provided in this act to make the landlord repair his house. Nor will any landlord repair his house if he doesn't get the interest on his money. Of course if he does not make repairs he does not get his interest. If Hon. Mr. Anderson speaks for the tenants I Mr. President speak for the widows and orphans, lots of whom are here. I respectfully submit that it will be necessary to include repairs with improvements for it is distinctly stated that owners of property should be allowed 6 per cent. on the outlay covering the cost of improvements.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—Mr. Presi-



dent, to begin with I wish to say that the term used by the Hon. Mr. Anderson "far-fetched" is a term with which I have been credited in each of two papers, but I really did not use these words. I also intend to call attention to the points raised by the last speaker. I can see that a house may require a new roof, and that roof may cost six, seven or eight hundred dollars, or at least three or four. Certainly enough should be added to the rental to enable the landlord to recover common interest on the repair. I shall also entirely object to this bill's being in force so long. I think one year at the outside is long enough. I cannot see any objection to such an amendment. We want to get more houses built and to see how it is going to work. We mustn't forget that there is another side to this question. I take it,—I do not know but I take it—that most of the annual rents of houses have been advanced, and in some cases greatly advanced since the war began in accordance with the general advance in prices. I take it rents have gone up. No doubt there have been excessive advances as the preamble sets out I have no doubt of that. I objected because there are cases where advances were quite proper; where I presume fair advances have been made. Now suppose the price of commodities advances 25 per cent. Rents are bound to go up. On the other day, you have deserving people who own houses; and as prices go up their rent is actually reduced. If you keep the rent of these houses where it is, and prices go up you are in actual fact reducing the rent. Rent is not money. Rent is what the money can fetch. A large number of tenants occupy houses that are owned by poor widows, who own these houses and are living out of the rents. These people are sufferers if you hold the rents down. You are putting them on a starvation basis. I am not op-

posing the bill. I am just pointing out the other side of it. I appreciate the hon. gentleman's sympathy for those, but sympathy is capable of doing a great deal of harm. I am impressed at the present moment by a totally different subject; but one of equal importance to the housing conditions of St. John's. What I have in my mind is the question of coastal contracts. Now out of the apparently good judgment and liberality towards the people of the outports the Government under the Bowring, Reid and Newfoundland Produce Company contracts pay these contractors subsidies; and allow them definite rates. Although the expenses of running were considerably increased these rates were found to be low, and what has been the result? The result has been that goods are not and cannot be carried by other lines, and the Government has been called upon to get the goods around the coast. All wholesale businesses in St. John's to-day, and most retail businesses, have had great difficulty in getting their goods shipped; and as there is always more than the ships can take, customers have to wait and in some cases whole settlements depend for their supplies upon their share of the load being shipped. Now what has happened is this. The Bowring contract and the Reid contract fixed a rate which is so far below cost rates that a very large number of coasters, small men in their line, have been cut out. No schooner can run to-day. That is a result of too much liberality towards the outports. They cannot get their supply. This situation last year was very serious, and will be again this year unless this policy is abandoned. I hope when the new Bowring contract comes before the legislature that there will be no restrictions on freight because it is so against the interest of the country. Now this sort of thing is going to act

in the same way with regard to housing in St. John's, if you persist that money so invested will return in results an interest far below the commercial returns which money ought to get. You are going to prevent building and repairing, as a result of which you are going to have a greater shortage of houses than you have to-day. No building scheme will be able to make up such a shortage. Referring back to coastal contracts, in regard to subsidies paid to coastal steamers, these ought to apply to mails and no doubt to passengers and travellers; these rates might be limited in the contract, for the reason that these steamers can carry probably all the passengers. We have on the whole sufficient accommodation to supply the trade, and can therefore do it cheaply; but when you come to an article such as freight, if you are unable to supply the needs, you ought to leave it to be determined by competition. It is far better not to have it carried by the steamer far below cost. So I say Mr. President, that the same situation is liable to arise in housing in St. John's unless you are able to raise sufficient money to give these houses to all requiring them. If you supply them only for some, the result can only be to make houses scarcer than they are now. Now I am not opposing the bill in any way; but I am disappointed. I was in hopes that the hon. member was going to bring in a bill along the lines indicated by Hon. Mr. Mews, with a Court of Appeal. It is my belief however that rents have already been advanced sufficiently to meet the general advance in commodities that makes me believe the time stated in this act should be very limited. I made a note here that there ought to be a clause in the bill that this act shall not apply to dwellings let to tenants for a greater period than one year. The case is possible where there has been a twenty years lease and the

house in question ought to be allowed a very considerable increase in rent. No act of Parliament should make an owner continue the lease or renew it at the same rates as contained in the lease made twenty years ago, just because the lease expires during the coming year. This is a matter, though, which can be attended to when the bill is in committee.

**HON. MR. POWER:**—I do not see, Mr. President, very much in this bill. Of course I do not know exactly the legal interpretation of the present law with regard to landlord and tenant; but one or two slight observations at this juncture might not be out of order. We must give protection to all people justly claiming our protection; and for this reason I would place before honorable members the case of a man who, having saved up his money decided to build two houses; the one for himself and the other for rental. He lives in the one; and the other provides remuneration for himself and his family. By and by though he feels a call on this money and he wants to realize on his investment. Is it fair to tell him now, in this abrupt fashion, that he cannot? We cannot take such a position; and some protection ought to be meted out to such a man. There is a very great demand, sir, for houses; and we must be very careful to protect our interests in this connection. We must not discourage prospective builders; and I would be very sorry to see anything detrimental to their interest placed on our Statute Books. At the same time, sir, the situation is so critical, so grave to-day, that I feel it is my duty, and the duty of all who see it in that light, to support the second reading of this bill. People have come to me looking for houses time and time again; and I am sure many other members of this house have been approached in the same fashion. Let us, therefore, while

this matter of housing is in its elementary state, assist as much as possible; so that our best interests may be conserved.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Mr. President, just a word or two before this bill is read a second time. I just wish to point out that this bill is not a bill to build houses. It is a bill purely and solely to protect tenants from having their rents increased abnormally; or from being thrown on the street. Under the law as it stands at present such a practice is not only possible but in many cases it is actually enforced. Houses not worth the lower rate have been rented at \$5 per month. The rent is jumped to \$10; and yet the people have to distribute buckets during every rain storm. We are not aiming to protect the wealthy; but those who are compelled to live in the cheaper houses. As for myself I do not care a button whether you give authority to the Magistrate or to a Commission; for what I want to have enforced is a law prohibiting the unnecessary raising of rents and execution of ejectment orders. Hon. members I feel sure will agree with this principle and support this reading of the bill.

The bill was then read a second time.

Second reading of Bill and Act to prevent the Introduction of Rabies into Newfoundland.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—The object of this bill is to give the Governor in Council power to prohibit the importation of dogs suffering from rabies into this country. In England at the present time dogs are suffering from various diseases, and the desire is to give the Governor in Council the right to prohibit the importation of dogs and so protect us from having this disease rampant in this country. Therefore, Mr. President, I move the second reading of this bill.

The Bill was thereupon read a second time.

A Bill to authorize the raising of a Loan for Naval and Military purposes.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. The object of the Bill is to authorize the Governor in Council to raise a loan amounting to six millions. The principle portion of the loan is for the purpose of paying off a loan due on the 30th of June next. The other one million is for public works and to pay some expenses in connection with Government Departments and for Naval and Military purposes. There is also a section which provides for the authorization of the amount by which the loan last year was oversubscribed last year. It will be remembered that the Government had no power to raise that amount and they now ask for it.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—Mr. President, I do not wish to oppose the second reading of this bill; but it's second reading to-day gives me an opportunity of referring to one or two matters in connection with the matters for which this money is required. I note here Naval and Military—\$400,000. This gives me an opportunity of saying here how sorry we all are that we are now losing from the country the services of Commander MacDermott who has been with us through all the period of the war; and who has through his position referred to our Naval Reserve in terms of praise that nobody else could give; and I express I may say the opinion of a very large number of people in this community when I say that we shall all miss him, and deeply regret his departure from us; so deeply do we appreciate the very valuable services that he has performed while here in the interest of our boys in blue. I wish further to ask a little information of the member in charge of this bill: I wish to let us have some details as to the addition to the sanatorium on Topsail Road

proposed here. I ask this because at the last session of the legislature I do not think that any report from the Tuberculosis Campaign was provided; or at least I cannot find a copy of it in the journal of the House. Another matter I want to touch on, because the bill gives me an opportunity, is the reference to light houses, and fog alarms. It is a long time now since the community was staggered by the loss of the "Florizel," and still nothing has been done to protect lives of seamen on our South Coast between this and Cape Pine. I think something should be done. Some time ago I proposed that guns be stationed along the coast, and that during foggy weather they might be fired at stated intervals. I hope the Government will take action in this connection before we are overtaken by another tragedy of this kind. I would like the hon. gentleman to state, when we get into committee, also, what extension the Government is going to have made to the Court House and the various other public buildings as set forth here.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—The Government plan to spend about \$50,000 on the Sanatorium. Some little time ago the Medical Society recommended to the Government the addition of a suitable ward for our returned men; and said that about 100 men needed treatment there. Accordingly the Government decided that it was expedient to enlarge the institution on Topsail Road. With regard to the matter of the coast this side of Cape Race I may say that this matter was before the Government a short time ago, when a communication was received from the Marconi Company with respect to instruments which they thought could be placed there. It is a direction finding instrument and they speak very highly of it as being a very valuable one. The Government accordingly delayed consideration of this matter un-

til it should hear further about these instruments. I understand that such an apparatus is here now, but I have not heard anything of its results. The claim is that it is able to discover a vessel almost in any direction, but it was not shown quite clearly how far from the land the vessel was, but they claimed it could make known her direction and in that way avoid danger. The matter was not considered at any great length at the time, and it was decided to wait and see what the results of the tests would be. Several propositions were made but nothing was done in the meantime.

The bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Ellis moved the second reading of the Act respecting Documentary Evidence. The object of this bill is to have the Royal Gazette admitted as evidence. At present it is necessary in order to prove a proclamation, to have a clerk of the Colonial Secretary's Department brought into Court to prove same, and this sometimes causes great inconvenience and expense, cases being on record where a clerk had to go to Hr. Grace to do this. We are now following precedent in the Old Country by asking that the Royal Gazette production be deemed sufficient evidence of the issuance of proclamation.

Bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Ellis moved second reading of the Act respecting the Department of Justice. This bill is to give the deputy head of this department greater powers than at present so that in the absence of the Minister all matters requiring attention may be proceeded with, the deputy head having the necessary powers under this act.

Bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Ellis moved second reading of the Keeping of Dogs amend-

ment Bill. This Bill is to provide for the transfer of monies from licenses over and above claims to the Municipal Council. At present all monies from licenses for the keeping of dogs are paid into the Treasury and claims for sheep killing, etc., paid thereout, the balance remaining for the use of the colony. This bill proposes that all balances be paid over to the St. John's Municipal Council.

Bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave notice of question.

House then adjourned until Wednesday next at four o'clock.

THURSDAY, May 1st, 1919.

The House met at 4 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Elections Amendment Bill, Hon. J. D. Ryan in the chair.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—In view of the fact that the holding of the general election has been deferred until the autumn season of the year and as the object of the amendment I moved to the bill was for the purpose of enabling the Legislature, in the event of a spring election being held to meet 14 days earlier than under the act as it stands now, I would ask the consent of the House to withdraw the amendment now as it can serve no good purpose. It was made so that the Government could meet the House earlier than otherwise. As the election has been postponed I would therefore ask the unanimous consent of the House to withdraw the amendment. And there is a second amendment following on the first which I would also for the same reason ask the consent of the House to withdraw.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Mr. Chairman, I seconded these amendments; and as I concur fully in the remarks

of my hon. friend wherein he states that these were necessary and desirable only in the event of a spring election, I second his motion that they be withdrawn. I would suggest that section 6 be deleted. It is now unnecessary.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that an election has been deferred I think it would be well for the Government to seriously consider taking another voters list. The last was taken two years ago and a great many of the young men of this country have since come into their right to vote, and I think ought to be considered.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, in reply to the last speaker I may say that I brought this matter before the Government and they have come to the conclusion that there is scarcely any necessity for such an expenditure. The lists of naval and military voters will be provided by the Department of Militia and the Government thinks that the few others who have become entitled are insufficient to warrant the expenditure required. To take another list would cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000 and the Government thinks that such an expenditure under the circumstances would be a useless one.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—\$20,000 is surely not enough to worry about.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—It is if the Government sees no necessity.

The committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

With the unanimous consent of the House the Bill was read a third time; and ordered to pass and be sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House has passed the same without amendment.

The House went into Committee on the Workman's Compensation Act.

Hon. Mr. Anderson in the chair.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, when this bill was before the House a

few days ago, I asked that it be deferred. I did this for the purpose of seeing certain insurance companies in relation to this matter. They however are not prepared to pay any amount over that stipulated in the act. In other words, the increased payment would be by the employer himself. The companies take the position that they are not responsible; and accordingly do not appear to be willing to assume the additional liability. I think though if some time were allowed to elapse before this act came into operation, this matter might in the meantime be adjusted.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I propose to meet the views of the hon. gentleman by adding a new section which says that the act shall not come into force until the first of October next. This will give managers insured in foreign companies time to increase their insurance under this act.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill with an amendment.

The Bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Committee on Bill re ejection of tenants.

On motion this order stood deferred until later on in the day.

Committee on Loan Bill. The House went into committee on this Bill. Hon. Mr. Bishop takes the chair of Committee.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Before this bill is passed I would like to know why the amount of the loan required has been reduced to \$6,000,000. We were told here a few days ago that the amount required would be five millions to pay off the loan and an additional four or five million for other purposes. Why is the reduction?

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, I must confess to an error. When the financial condition was considered by the Government, the Executive Government, I understood that the cost of

the war was thirteen or fourteen millions. We raised seven and a half millions last year and we borrowed a further one and one-half millions; so I concluded in my own mind that there were three millions or four millions still due for war purposes. I forgot at the time that the money raised in New York was for war expenditure; but I have since made full enquiries and I find this to be the amount required.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Then I can understand that there are no contemplated liabilities? My reason for asking is that there is a rumour around to the effect that the Government is going to endeavour to negotiate bonds for the Reid Company.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, as far as I am aware there is absolutely no truth in any such report. Absolutely none whatever.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—There is one other matter which should be considered and that is the question of an examining warehouse. This I think is a department of the Customs which requires an extension. When goods come in by express they are sent down there in large cases; and at the present time and indeed all the time, the place is terribly congested. If the Minister of Finance would come in and ask for \$250,000 to build an extension running if you like right down the wharf, I am sure we would all readily support him. At the present time you take your goods out of the case and you have to lay them on another case. In view of the greater use of this department than ever before I think it would be well for the minister to look into this matter. This place has not been enlarged since Mr. Jardine first went down there, and I think it might be well for the Government to give some consideration to this matter.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I may say in reference to this matter, that the Government had it under consideration last

year and had the site fully examined with a view to its extension. When however the Empire Building was taken over, it was thought that the Government would adapt it to the use of a Custom Warehouse after the soldiers were done with it. That was in fact one of the chief objects of the Government in taking over the building and it is hoped thereby to have a building sufficiently large and roomy to meet all the demands of the trade.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—This explanation Mr. Chairman is very satisfactory. Now there is also another matter which might be brought to the attention of the Government and that is the question of shipping facilities. We see examples of this every time freight is received for the steamers at Reids, Bowrings or the Newfoundland Produce Company's places. These facilities were alright at one time, but now that trade has developed they are entirely and absolutely useless. You see long lines of carts waiting for hours and hours, and apart from the unsatisfactory method we find that instead of having to pay sixty or seventy cents for a load it costs us nearer five or six dollars. It seems to me that it might be desirable to have some place where freight might be collected and stored to await shipment and so obviate the necessity of this very expensive method of shipping. The Hon. Mr. Harvey has referred to freight rates and expressed the hope that the companies would not be tied down. Now I think the Government should certainly control all freight rates. They have gone up tremendously since the war and I find it cheaper to get in goods by Express or by Post Office. I just bring up this matter so that it may be before the House if anything can be done in connection therewith.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—I want to draw a comparison between the coastal trade of the country and the matter of

houses being built to rent at too low a figure, and I would point out that the result of keeping the freight rate down low would be the complete failure of the colony to keep up its carrying requirements. The coastal steamers are bound down by a too low rate of freight to make it pay. That was the only point I was arguing, and I think it would be better in the coastal contract to leave the matter open. I think it better still to enable these rates to be supervised and controlled by the government. But to have your coastal rates fixed at fifty per cent more than now means that nothing else can carry. You cannot get anything else and the reason we have lines of carts right up Water Street is simply because you have tied down the contractors to carry freight cheaper than anybody else can do it. There is no use in having offers of three loads of freight for one steamer. The trouble is the steamers cannot carry the freight offered, and I do argue that it is a great mistake to keep these rates down to such a figure that will make it impossible for anyone else to carry.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—I do not altogether agree with Hon. Mr. Harvey. I think we should have some control. The fact that we are giving a subsidy does away with any opposition. No concern not receiving a subsidy can operate against one which does.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—My point is this. If you are going to supply a facility which can take all the freight offered by all means tie it down to a certain rate but where you are only going to supply twenty or thirty per cent of the room required then it is a great mistake to tie down the rate. I am not against the government seeing the rates are not overdone. I think the outports are suffering more than they are gaining by low rates. I say if you build houses or sell them away be-

low the cost of production you are going to have a great scarcity of houses, and if you can only supply one third of the carrying space required, and make low rates at that, then you are surely do more harm than good.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I contend that a government subsidizing a company to the extent the Bowring Company are subsidized should protect the public in the matter of freight, and further if they are subsidized and protected they should sell to the ordinary branches of the trade at the same price to one as to another. The only concern doing that from outset of its career to my knowledge is the Nfld. Boot & Shoe Co. The position is this that the retail trade was able to go to the large buyer and buy from them cheaper than from the subsidized factory. My hon. friend was able to sell to the retail trade his butterine by the tub cheaper than the ordinary retailer who went to the factory and bought it. Any government which subsidizes either a steamer or a local industry have a right to treat all alike. Now I know this because I have been a party to it myself. That is not fair. If they are not subsidized by the funds of the country they can do as they like, but when the firm of Bowring Bros. are subsidized by the funds of this colony then it is only right that they should be prohibited against overcharging on freight. But that the steamer should be confined to only mails and passengers that is another question.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:** — The Hon. Mr. Harvey's argument is a reasonable one that the fact of subsidized steamers being allowed to carry freight too cheaply will keep away competition. We have all put out the sailing coasters on account of the railway and steamer facilities. Hon. Mr. Harvey does not argue that the government should not look out for the freight rates, but he argues that by

cutting down the coastal rates there is no inducement to the man to buy a schooner and put her in the coasting trade, because he cannot charge sufficient to make it pay. Referring to the coastal steamers not being allowed to charge exorbitant rates, you may say the same about the railway. Of course they have not the same competition, but in some places where there is no competition the rates are almost prohibitive. As regards the long lines of carts approaching the premises of the steamers, the reason is that neither the Reid Co. nor Bowring Bros. nor the Produce Co. have the premises for taking the freight. The notice is usually put in the papers a very short time before the date of sailing, and before people have time to read the orders over, the notice is up that freight will not be taken any further. Consequently there is always a very great rush by everybody. A man starts early in the morning with a load of freight and it is sometimes late in the afternoon before he is able to ship one load of goods. Sometimes a carman has to be paid four or five dollars for shipping that one load on which there is only one dollar profit, and if that sort of thing is to continue it is just as well to shut up shop and do without the goods. I think something should be done to remedy that. Hon. Mr. Harvey said that there was no room to take three steamer loads in any premises here. Now I do not know if ever three or two steamer loads are offered for one sailing, but I do not see why the people having the contract should not be compelled to find room for the goods offering for their steamers, and I think it is time for the government to get their eyes opened or perhaps some day they may have them opened in a way they do not wish. Apparently they do not care. But apparently they have money for everything. I notice they have spent



fifty thousand dollars on an addition to the Court House. Is that coming out of the general revenue of the country. Was the Court House built out of that revenue. I asked the question the other day in reference to this addition and I was told it was a new office for a stenographer. As far as I remember that Court House cost three hundred thousand dollars, and it was built out of the revenue of the country, and still that apparently does not satisfy the people of the city. I think it is high time for the outport people of the country to rise up in rebellion against the government and compel them to do right. That court house is about five times too large now. If the government would build a few sheds to hold the people's freight it would be more satisfactory. The people shipping freight are not considered at all but the Bowrings and the Reids and the Crosbies are getting subsidies, and it is no matter whether I can get my goods or not, but by and by when I am wound up and pay fifty cents on the dollar, people will say "Oh look at that fellow, isn't it awful?" I am going to get coasters of my own and try to be independent of the Reids or anybody else. I thought when the railway was built to Bonavista it would be a great blessing, but it is the greatest curse in the country; only a humbug and a nuisance.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I cannot say what the court house cost, but I think a third of the amount stated by the hon. gentleman would be nearer the truth. Part of this fifty thousand is for a large addition to the Board of Works building which cost more than the Court House, and I think the amount includes work on the Lazaretto and other work as well. Perhaps I might explain a little further. When this work was started it was found that the tower of the Court House was on a very poor foundation, and in putting

in the addition we had to strengthen the tower on one side by putting a wall twelve feet deep on one side and eight feet on the other. The building containing the vaults was falling down and that cost a lot of the money. That was outside what the government contemplated in the first place.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:**—Last spring when I was going in and out of the Court House trying to get some salt, I noticed a fellow digging out the cement out of the steps just for want of a job; he was there all day long cutting out cement as hard as steel and it was not necessary at all; the man doing it said so. I am not a mechanic but I have a little bit of knowledge all the same, and I know that was solid work and was not necessary.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Allow me; I I say you know nothing at all about it. Underneath those steps is where the coal is kept and it was leaking in such a way that they had no satisfaction with the coal, until that job was done last year. It was not an unnecessary job at all.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:**—Do you mean to say that every step needed to be chipped away.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Yes.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:**—Then why was it not built right in the first place. I would not build a fishing stage that way.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Before we spend this six million dollars another thing occurs to me, and that is that there is no provision for a new workhouse, better known as the poor house. I was there some time ago and had dinner with the inmates and went through the building, and it is in a most deplorable condition. That building to-day is a trap for slow death. I counted twenty-one beds in one room and that room was only sufficient for a sitting room. Twenty-one men inhal-

ing the breath and foul air all the time. The women's accommodation is worse than the men's. I admit that the Board of Works and the Superintendent are doing the best they can with the building they have, but we have an amount here for \$250,000 for a new addition to the Lunatic Asylum. I suppose there must be reason for that but what the cause that necessitates it I do not know. Somebody must have gone mad, but they do not appear to have gone mad in their energies on behalf of the people who should spend the evening of their lives in comfort and happiness. I suppose it is for the people who are living in the place I speak of who have become degenerate with their mode of life they have to put up with. Now this is another matter I hope the leader of the government will make a special effort to have something done to benefit. Next Monday the people of the country will have the benefit of an extra hour of daylight, but there is nothing done to bring sunlight into the lives of these unfortunate people. Now I hope the leader of the government will not take my remarks amiss; he looks across the floor and glours and thinks I am antagonistic to him, but I am not; I am a friend of his and of the government, but when you have to spend \$250,000 for a wing to the Lunatic Asylum, then there is something wrong with the country. Now I am not cross questioning the leader of the government as to who has the contract for this, or whether it is too high or too little but I say there is more necessity for homes for the poor people of this town, than for this wing. It has been recommended to the Judges of the Supreme Court for the last half century to my knowledge.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. Chairman: I cannot but regard this whole thing as a most irregular proceeding and one which I trust will not

whole thing as a most irregular proceeding should not be permitted to continue. I desire to put on record my most emphatic protest against such an act on the part of the Government.

The Committee rose and reported that they had considered the matter, &c.

The Bill was then passed with amendments.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on a bill "An Act to authorize the raising of a sum of money by Loan for Naval, Military and other Public Purposes."

Hon. Mr. McNamara took the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on a bill entitled "An Act respecting Documentary Evidence and Extra-Judicial Oaths."

Hon. Dr. Skelton took the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 61 Victoria (1898), Cap. 18, entitled "An Act respecting the Department of Justice."

Hon. Mr. Knowling took the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on a bill "An Act to Amend Chapter 14 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second

Series), entitled of the "Keeping of Dogs."

Hon. Mr. Ryan took the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. John Anderson the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on a bill "An Act of Ejectment of Tenants."

Hon. Mr. Mews took the chair.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. Chairman, I should like to hear some further explanation than has been given thus far of the real nature of this measure. It seems to me that the Legislature in making this law is likely to do more harm than good, and it would be a very bad precedent to establish. I don't think we should go so far as to take all the protection from the landlord because in many cases he is faced with the problem of bad tenants and if we make this bill law we are certainly going to deprive those who own houses in this city of any rights of ownership which they might from time to time find it necessary to exercise in the safe guarding of their own interests. It does not seem to me that this is going to do any good whatever.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—I would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that this bill does not take away from the landlord the remedy he previously had when he found it difficult to collect his rents. He will be able to get his rent just as before and by the same means. The bill only means that he shall not have the right to eject a tenant who has complied with all the terms of the agreement covering his occupancy. The landlord is not prevented under this Act from suing for his rent if that is necessary, it merely provides that persons cannot be turned out on the street unless just cause is shown by the owner of a house for doing so. The

object of the bill is to put an end to a condition of things which has become chronic in this city. To-day tenants receive six months' or three months' or one month's notice as the case may be and even though they find it utterly impossible to get other houses they must get out or as the law at present stands the court may issue a notice of 7 days, after the expiry of which they are ejected and their belongings put upon the street.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Mr. Chairman, I would like to have my honorable friend explain how this bill would affect a hypothetical case which I shall cite. Suppose a man owns a house of which he occupies the downstairs portion himself and rents the upper flat or flats. Two or more of this man's sons return from the war after an absence of perhaps some years and the father wants to obtain possession of the upstairs portion of his house, can he get that for his boys? As the law now stands he can do so, but what would be the result of a similar attempt under the proposed act? I have a case of my own where a returned soldier having recently received from the Dept. of Militia the sum of \$500 and having been enabled by the aid of a friend, to raise an additional \$500 purchased a house which is at present occupied. The man earns \$60 per month and the house which he bought some weeks ago is occupied by a tenant, who was supposed to be out of it during the month of May. If the tenant gets out of it well and good, but if he does not the other man I presume has to go ahead and pay \$48 per month for his board, but how is he to meet the obligations he has assumed with the purchase of his property. He has only the income I refer to, and will not be able to put out the tenant and has only to wind up in the bankruptcy court to get clear of his obligations. He must pay out \$48 per month while

his earnings are only \$60, so that his position is absolutely hopeless if he cannot get into his house. The man who is in it should get another house. As a matter of business he received 3 months' notice to vacate the property. The tenant should be like the owner of the property, he should have gone out to the war and fought like that man who is one of those who should be shown every consideration. I consider that a boy who came back from the front ought not to be barred from getting into the house which he bought and paid for with money which came to him for the services he rendered in the war. It is impossible for the man and his wife to go on, under these circumstances, in an independent manner. The other man would have the same opportunity of getting a house as Hon. Mr. Gibbs would, if he looked for one. There are scores of houses to be rented in St. John's to-day and at reasonable rents and if Hon. Mr. Gibbs will send them along to me I will have no difficulty in securing houses for those who want them. I feel that the section under discussion in this particular form is not what the country wants. We should appoint a committee say of three to deal with cases of hardship to see that exorbitant rents are not charged and to make provision for a reasonable arrangement between tenants and landlords which should be just and equitable. John Jones cannot get his own house which he has bought and paid for, because someone else is in it and a law which says a man may not be permitted to raise his rents is not a fair law and is anything but just legislation. I do think that the situation as between landlord and tenant should be adjusted in some amicable way by a board which might be appointed by the Supreme Court, the Government or City Council or some representative body of citizens so that if unjust ejection of tenants were at-

tempted the matter might be dealt with by such tribunal. I agree with the hon. mover of the bill and Hon. Mr. Anderson in their desire to remedy conditions in a section of St. John's where workingmen have been summarily ejected for non-payment of rent, but I know of a section in which the landlords have permitted the tenants to remain over the winter free of rent and asked the owners not to take the houses down, though they are in a bad state so that the tenants could live in them all the winter. The landlords were not anxious to have them rented and would not accept the rents from the tenants who yet occupy them and in view of this situation I do not think we ought to pass a section which makes it impossible for justice to be done. The suggestion made by Hon. Mr. Mews for a board or commission to deal with all cases of hardship such as unfair treatment, extortion in rents, unreasonable ejection, unsanitary condition of houses, dilapidated condition of houses, is a good one. Some landlords are fair and reasonable, others most objectionable and for that class stringent legislation is necessary. In some cases outport men have built their own houses and some have rented them. In my experience of these men they are reasonable and fair in their demands and arrangements with tenants and I do not think that class should be subject to a provision of this sort. I certainly will support the suggestion made by Hon. Mr. Mews that cases between tenant and landlords be submitted to some board or judge.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—We all understand that the object of the hon. introducer of the bill is to secure some assistance for the poorer and labouring classes who hold tenement houses, but if we pass this bill as it is, it is an outrage in dealing not only with the poor but with a very different class. It will be noticed by section 7 of the bill deal-

ing with rentals not exceeding \$300 per annum there are many cases in town where owners of houses are in receipt of a smaller income than the tenants in the houses, and cases where people occupy houses under lease with unexpired terms of three years, and is it possible we are going to prevent the owners of these houses from demanding from such tenants the market value of their property. It is conceivable that some people are not paying more than \$150 for houses worth \$300, and why should the owners of such houses be debarred from their legitimate right to charge a fair and reasonable rent? I am of the opinion that the only thing we can do to effect what the introducer of the bill is aiming at is to provide for the board suggested by Hon. Mr. Mews.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—This Bill is not a permanent bill in the sense in which legislation is usually enacted. It will be enacted for no longer than 12 months. I think the period in the bill is too long—"till 1922." If this bill be enacted for 12 months, during that time the Council, with increased powers may find a solution of the difficulty presenting itself now, and I take it a full charter will be given the Council; and that in their hands will be placed sufficient powers to dispose of matters of this kind and not have them referred to the Legislature. This bill aims to protect the very class my hon. friend Mr. Squires alludes to. Many soldiers have returned from the war who have married and taken houses to live in and many of them have had to pay rent which has been increased, not once but twice since they took possession of their houses, and this bill prevents the landlord from taking advantage of the circumstances under which they find themselves or advancing rents unduly. Under this heading instances can be cited where landlords have taken advantage of these classes

for which this bill will be a protection. It does not effect the tenant who holds under lease; it has nothing to do with him. The argument that a man should not be prevented from getting the market value of his house is not reasonable. If the Government intervenes in the profiteering of foods, what is the difference between this and profiteering on house rents. Food is necessary to existence, a place to live in is absolutely essential to the welfare of man, and if we prevent profiteering in one thing why not the other? It should not be permitted, it is an outrage that the state will permit a landlord to take advantage of conditions because of an increased demand for houses brought about by no act of his and he gets immense profits. To a person importing foods during the war the same argument might be applied, that they should be permitted to sell at what the market demands as when a certain article is scarce and an abnormal demand arises. I am sorry to see such an argument advanced. It is reasonable that a man secure fair profits under normal conditions. He is honestly entitled to it. You cannot provide for a Board of Control in this bill, but something must be done in this bill to apply a remedy. If some hon. gentleman will present anything that will improve this bill I have no doubt that the introducer will gladly listen to his suggestions for the protection of both classes. I would afford scant protection to those who rent houses to people in which you would not put cattle to live. People now occupy houses under appalling conditions and I can show you houses to-day with 27 people living where there is not room for 8. Under such conditions the state has a duty to perform and we must apply the remedy. We must prevent increased hardships from arising. Man has a natural right to live and the state which denies him

that right is committing a wrong. He must have a home. The family existed before the state and is superior to the state. It was rights superior to the state and one of these rights is a home to live in. We must not increase the hardships and difficulties of the people. By not bringing in legislation of some kind we increase the hardships of the people who as conditions stood at present are in an impossible position.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I have no objection to accepting an amendment that will meet the wishes of the House to protect the people. I have embodied in section 6 the suggestions made by Hon. Mr. Harvey.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—We have no right to apply the monies of the colony to the purpose which the bill has in view.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—This Bill in no way asks for money of any kind. We do not seem to have grasped the real meaning and spirit of the bill. Why the British Government have enforced a similar bill for 6 years past. Hon. Mr. Squires has referred to section 1 of the bill as being a hard case. Here is how the British Government dealt with a very similar case. (Quotes from British Act.) In addition to this the British Government comes to the protection of householders—thus:—Quotes from British Act. My hon. friend Mr. Bishop has been effectively answered by Hon. Mr. Gibbs. Where there is a lease it does not affect it in any way.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—If it affects monthly tenants, why does it not affect a quarterly or yearly tenancy? I submit that section 1 as it stands covers a man who holds a house whether by word of mouth or by a written document. You must define the difference between tenant and lessee. Some 75 per cent of the ordinary houses held are not leasees, they are merely tenants, the ordinary occupiers of houses. Hon.

Mr. Bishop's point was that section 1 applies to documents under seal as well as verbal arrangements of ordinary agreements.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—As it is now nearing 6.30 by the clock and nearing the hour for adjournment I will not delay the House now but later would like to deal with the matter because I am in sympathy with the principle and believe that remedial measures must be adopted. But in my mind the procedure to be adopted is to appoint a commission or board as suggested by the Hon. Mr. Mews, or the putting of each case in the hands of the Judges of the Central District Court. This is a question which has been the subject of considerable debate in the House of Commons, the handsards of which I have at hand, and intended to bring in here this afternoon, but in view of the lateness of the hour I will not detain the house longer but will bring them along with me to-morrow, when I will read extracts which I believe will enlighten the House. The idea as expressed there is to consider every case on its merits; but there was a bill brought in in 1915 to prohibit raising rents by more than ten per cent on the pre war rates; unless justified before the commission appointed to go into each matter. Every person has full sympathy with the cases suggested by the Hon. Mr. Squires. These men ought to be protected. He ought not be kept out of his own house because there is somebody else in it. Even if somebody else is put in the street why should a man who has bought a house be compelled to board his family and himself because there is somebody in the house. I know of very grave cases of hardship and injustice, and can contribute one to the debate here to-day. A young man came to my office to-day. He is employed on Water Street and has been paying \$130 for his house.

That rent has just been jumped up to \$300. The house was bought by a new landlord who said that he proposed to double the value of the house. Those are actions which I do not think this house or this legislature ought to permit landlords to get away with. I appreciate the position of the Hon. Mr. Gibbs. If it was justifiable to appoint a Food Control Board it is equally justifiable to control rents. I would be quite satisfied to see this bill placed for its working in the hands of the Central District Court or a Board. I discussed this matter with Mr. Slattery and he says that altogether 150 to 200 houses will be affected. I would suggest that the bill be recasted, so that no increase made since January last would be allowed unless passed by the Judge of the Central District Court.

The Committee rose.

Hon. Mr. Squires gave notice of question.

Hon. Mr. Ellis tabled report of the R.N. Co.

Hon. Mr. Ellis moved that the House adjourn until Monday next.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON**—Mr. President, before the adjournment I wish to draw the attention of the House, to part of a speech, which appeared last evening in the official debates of this chamber—published in the Herald—giving me credit for saying “but steamers were sent by the Furness Withy Co. more for the benefit of private concerns than the public”—such a statement was not made by me, however mixed up—the facts are the reverse. The Furness Withy Co. have stuck faithfully to the trade and commerce of this Dominion, especially during the trying period of the submarine warfare, and lost three steamers running in connection with our country and Liverpool. This Dominion owes a deep debt of gratitude to the Furness Withy Co. for all they

have done in the past, and I earnestly hope the shipping trade relationship will continue as well in the future. I make this explanation to put the Company right with the public.

The House then adjourned.

MONDAY, May 5th, 1919.

The House met at four o'clock pursuant to adjournment.

**HON. MR. GIBBS** in the absence of the Hon. R. A. Squires asked the following questions:

#### NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Hon. R. A. Squires asks the Leader of the Government to lay upon the table of the Council a statement showing the total cost of the Port Union Railway Extension to date covering (a) The total amounts paid the Reid Newfoundland Company with respect thereto; (b) the total cost of right of way; (c) the total of all other costs, disbursements and expenses in connection therewith. What is the additional length of the Bonavista Branch Railway occasioned by this construction? Does the Reid Newfoundland Company receive any additional amounts, mail or other subsidy because of this Port Union additional line? If so, how much annually? Do passengers to and from Bonavista pay any additional fare or mileage because of additional length of line? Do goods carried by express or freight pay any additional charge because of increase in length of line? If so, how much?

Hon. R. A. Squires asks the Leader of the Government to lay upon the table of the Council a copy of the various Statements of Claims of the Reid Newfoundland Company and statements furnished by the Government Engineer in relation to the claim of the Reid Newfoundland Company against the Government for monies due for Branch Line Con-

struction, fencing and equipment, covering all statements made by both the Reid Newfoundland Company and the Government since August 1st, 1917. Has any report or reports been made by Committee of Council to the Government with respect to these claims or any of them? If so, when were reports made and furnish a copy of each. Who concurred in the reports and by whom were they signed? What sums of money (if any) were paid to the Reid Newfoundland Company with respect to these claims between August 1st, 1917, and January 1st, 1918, and on what authority were said payments (if any) made, and when? What sums of money have been paid the Reid Newfoundland Company with respect thereto since January 1st, 1918? On what authority and when?

Hon. R. A. Squires asks the Leader of the Government to lay upon the table of the Council a statement showing all payments made to Mr. John R. Bennett and all amounts due Mr. John R. Bennett with respect to telegraph, postal and all other censorships, since January 1st, 1918. Also all amounts paid or due Mr. John R. Goodison for censorship in connection with the Press or any other censorship since January 1st, 1918; also all amounts paid or due with respect to any matters in which Mr. Goodison may have been employed by the Government or any department of the Government since January 1st, 1918. When did Mr. Goodison's employment as Press Censor terminate? Also to lay upon the table of the House a statement as to the total cost of Press Censorship since the 1st of January, 1918, and copies of all orders, circulars and instructions issued by the Press Censor or issued from the office of the Press Censor since January 1st, 1918.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I beg to table as much of the information asked for as has thus far been prepared. There is some more to come, and I hope to have it at an early sitting.

An Act respecting Compensation to Workmen.

On motion Hon. Mr. Gibbs, this bill was read a third time and sent to the House of Assembly for their consent.

An Act respecting a Loan for Naval and Military purposes.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis this bill was read a third time and ordered to be engrossed.

The following bills were also read a third time and passed and ordered to be sent to the House of Assembly with a message saying that this Chamber had passed them:

An Act to Prohibit Rabies.

An Act respecting Documentary Evidence.

An Act respecting the Department of Justice.

An Act respecting the Keeping of Dogs.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the House went into Committee on bill an Act with respect to Existing Tenancies and the Ejectment of Tenants therefrom.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs the Committee rose, reported progress and asked that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

The President nominated the following Committee:—Hons. Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Squires, Mr. Bishop, Mr. McNamara and Mr. Mews.

Hon. President informed the House that he had received a message from the House of Assembly acquainting the Legislative Council that they had passed the amendments sent down by the Council and to the bill an Act respecting Elections in the Present Year.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the



House adjourned until Thursday next at 4 of the clock in the afternoon.

THURSDAY, May 8th, 1919.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

At 4.15, His Excellency the Governor arrived in the Chamber, and the members of the House of Assembly having been summoned to the bar of the house, H.E. was pleased to give his assent to the Bill providing for the raising of a sum of money by loan for Naval and Military and other purposes.

The report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the bill entitled "An Act of Ejectment of Tenants" was received and the bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

On motion of Hon. John Anderson the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on this bill.

Hon. S. Milley took the chair.

Hon. Mr. Anderson read the report of the Select Committee and moved that the recommendations be adopted.

The Committee then rose and reported the bill with some amendments.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

A bill to prevent the introduction and spread of insect pests was read a first time; as also were bills relating to the Central District Court of Hr. Grace, the Preservation of Deer and to second hand stores.

Hon. Mr. Ellis tabled reports of Council of Higher Education, 1918; Postmaster General, 1918; and Salvation Army schools, 1918.

On motion the House adjourned until to-morrow at four of the clock.

FRIDAY, MAY 9th, 1919.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson the Ejectment of Tenants Act was re-

committed and the House went into Committee upon the Bill. Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendments.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—With the consent of the House I beg leave to move the third reading of the Bill.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Lower House asking its concurrence.

Second reading of Bill to prevent the introduction or spreading of insects, pests and diseases destructive to vegetation.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**—This Bill, to prevent the introduction of insects, pests, and diseases destructive to vegetation, is a measure intended to further protect our agricultural industry. It forbids the bringing into this country of vegetable products such as trees, plants, seeds, etc., which contain insects, pests and disease-bearing matter destructive to vegetation. It may be remembered that a few years ago a serious potato blight arose here which ravaged the country and proved very costly, and detrimental. The purpose of this measure is to reduce, as much as possible, the chances of the introduction of similar pests into the country in future. I feel, therefore, in moving that it now be read a second time, that it will have a ready acceptance at the hands of the House.

The Bill was therefore read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee on to-morrow.

Second reading of Second Hand Stores Bill.

**MR. PRESIDENT:**—This Bill, of which I now propose the second reading, is entitled An Act respecting Second-Hand Stores, and it is designed to give the police authorities power

to enter and go through such establishments with the object of detecting stolen goods. It has been found latterly, that goods stolen from people in the city have been sold to some of these stores, and because of the lack of power by the police to enter, and examine them, detection of the sellers has become difficult, if not impossible. This legislation puts such establishments on the same footing as junk stores, requiring the proprietors to make a register of goods which they purchase second-hand, with the names of those who offer them for sale, and other particulars. The clauses are similar to those in the Act respecting junk stores, and the purpose is the same.

The Bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee on to-morrow.

Second reading of an Act relating to the Central and Hr. Grace District Courts.

This Bill, Mr. President, amends the District Court Acts. It provides, merely, that the period during which notice of an appeal may be given is extended, in the case of the Central District Court, from two days to three days, and in the case of the Hr. Grace District Court, from two days to seven days. At present if a case is tried before a magistrate, anywhere in the Island, the party who fails in the action has a right of appeal within fourteen days, but if it is tried before the District Court at St. John's or at Harbor Grace, the right of appeal is only two days. This does not, particularly in the case of Harbor Grace, allow time for a claimant to consult a solicitor, and, accordingly, it has been thought desirable, as I say, to give an extra day in St. John's and a week altogether in Harbor Grace, I think the fairness of the proposition will readily appeal to the

House and I move the second reading of the Bill accordingly.

The Bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee on to-morrow.

Second reading of the Act for the Protection of Domesticated Deer.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—In moving the second reading of this Bill an Act for the Protection of Domesticated Deer, I would say that its object is to prevent the killing of reindeer, caribou or other deer when known to be tame or domesticated. As the House is aware a herd of reindeer was imported into this country some years ago by Dr. Grenfell with the expectation that they would increase and multiply and eventually be transferred to Labrador to be used there as a substitute for the savage dogs which now are the draft animals of that region. As a result, however, in a large measure of the indiscriminate killing of these deer the permanent failed and the herd is now being transferred to Canadian Labrador, having been taken over by the Province of Quebec. I think all will agree that it is most regrettable that the country should have lost the advantage of the possession of these animals, and with a view to preventing further destruction in this way the Government is introducing this measure.

The Bill was now read a second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

The Weights and Measures Bill was introduced, read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until 4 o'clock p.m. to-morrow.

SATURDAY, May 10th, 1919.

The House met at 4 o'clock pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the bill entitled "An Act to Prevent the Introduction or Spreading of Insects, Pests and Diseases Destructive to Vegetation."

Hon. Mr. Knowling took the chair.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—I suppose, Mr. Chairman, it is the intention of the Government to give instructions to the people in the outports with regard to this matter so that they may have some idea of what they have to guard against.

**HON. J. D. RYAN:**—Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what the ordinary farmer can be expected to know about the matters contained in this bill. Is it a medical bill? Section six says that any person convicted of a breach of the Act will be fined \$100. I would like to know what is the object of the whole thing.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—The object of the bill as can be seen by a perusal of it, is to prevent the importation of diseases in crops. From time to time infected plants have been brought in here and whole crops have been spoiled in consequence.

**HON. MR. RYAN:**—I think any such matter as that should be advertised in the public press. The 1910 Act is repealed. Why? I do not wish however, to hold up this bill, though truly it seems to be one of those bills which we can do without. Section 6 is also objectionable.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—The Bill is not as objectionable as the Hon. Member believes. That provision is only for the punishment of those who contravene the act or regulations. If a man happens to have these shrubs or plants in his possession unknowingly nothing would be done; but this act is to give power to punish wrongdoers. I may say that the object of the bill is to provide protection

against diseases which are ravaging the neighboring Provinces and the United States. The disease is of the nature of canker in potatoes, and provision is made for the Department of Agriculture to make rules and orders whereby the importation of such may be prohibited; or limited together with provisions for treatment should same be necessary. All will remember the unfortunate potato canker; and should accordingly welcome this act. The fact that it comes from Canada, as had been suggested, is no reason why we should reject it. If they found that it was necessary and good that is all the more reason why we should accept it.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

House went into Committee on Bill respecting Second Hand Stores.

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was then ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

House went into Committee on Act for the Preservation of Deer.

Hon. Mr. Ryan in the chair.

At the request of Hon. Mr. Harvey the Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Second reading of Weights and Measures Bill.

This order was deferred.

House went into Committee on Hr. Grace District Court Amendment Bill.

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Mr. President read a message from the House of Assembly stating that that House had passed Bills entitled "An Act to amend the Business Profits Tax Act" and "An Act to amend the Income Tax Act"; in which they asked the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these Bills were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time tomorrow.

House adjourned until Monday, May 12th, at four o'clock.

MONDAY, May 12th, 1919.

The House opened at 4 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

- (a) Third Reading of Bill entitled "An Act to Prevent the Introduction of Insects, Pests and Diseases Destructive to Vegetation."
- (b) Third Reading of Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Second-Hand Stores."
- (c) Third Reading of Bill entitled "An Act to amend Chapter 52 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled 'Of the Central and Harbor Grace District Courts.'"

On motion these Bills were read a third time and were passed.

Committee on Bill an Act re Domesticated Deer.

The House went into Committee on this Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

Second reading of Weights and Measures Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—This bill proposes to amend Section 32 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1916, by inserting the following as a new rule section:

"It shall be a breach of this act to sell cod oil by the cask or otherwise than by weight or by guage or by the imperial gallon."

Trouble has arisen I understand from the practice of selling casks containing oil of a standard size such as kerosene oil or linseed oil cask—without guaging or measuring their contents. The result has been in some

cases that water or other substance has been mixed with the oil. The object of this amendment is to remedy this practice.

The second section propose a suspension of the enforcement of the Act passed last year which regulated the size and quality of fish cask and herring barrel hoops until the 30th of September. It will enable parties who cut hoops the past winter to dispose of them. A portion of last winter's cut may be regarded as not being up to the standard specified in the Act passed last year is due to the law not being published in the settlement it concerns. It was only published in the Royal Gazette which has no circulation in the outports.

The fact of the people asking for this concession shows a desire on their part to comply with the law. With the passing of this amendment all trouble will be removed.

The Bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

An Act to amend the Business Profits Tax Act, 1916.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to propose the second reading of this Bill, an Act to Extend and Amend the Business Profits Tax Act of 1917. This measure is intended to continue for the present year the Act already in force the past two years, levying a tax of twenty per cent. on the profits on every business enterprise after deducting an untaxed profit of \$3000. Honourable members are fully conversant with the nature and scope of this Act and it is unnecessary for me to speak at any length in advocating its continuance the present year.

As the House is aware the Colony's war expenditure up to the end of next December, by which time it is hoped

to have our military and naval forces demobilized, will have cost us about \$14,000,000; and this business profits tax has thus far furnished the money required to pay the interest on that expenditure.

The Government's view is that it is only fair and reasonable that profits made largely as a result of war conditions should continue to bear this particular part of the burden of debt which lies upon the Colony. Accordingly, the first section of this Bill continues the Act in its essential features for the present year.

The second and third sections provide a new method for collecting this tax from the Fire Insurance Companies doing business amongst us.

Under the Act as at present framed more than half these companies escape paying any tax whatever. It is now proposed to require every one of these companies to pay as a tax five per cent. on the amount of the premiums received by it each year. The total premiums in the city last year amounted to over six thousand dollars. By this new arrangement we should get fifteen thousand dollars. This amount I might explain does not go into the general revenue but is turned over to the Municipal Council.

I beg leave to move therefore that this Bill be now read a second time.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—After the struggle, which some of us remember so well, that we had two years ago, I am not going to oppose this Bill, but want to point out that we are exactly in the same position as then. Matters to some extent were improved by the Income Tax, but I wish that the Government had gone over it, and made it somewhat more equitable in regard to some of the inequalities that were pointed out. The bill still has a measure of inequality about it that is not fair, and I hope that if it comes

before us another year for further extension that the suggestions forcibly and honestly made in this chamber will be given due consideration by the Government.

**HON. MR. McNAMARA:**—Section two calls for a tax of five per cent. on insurance premiums. This, I think, is a very serious matter and should receive all consideration. We are all very conversant with the great fires of '46 and '92, and must realize that we are living in a wooden town and I think it unwise to tax these companies too much. We all know these insurance companies are wealthy concerns and may threaten to withdraw and discontinue doing business here altogether, and we can imagine what position business people and property owners would find themselves in if this should happen, and I think this requires a lot of consideration before passing. Since 1892 there have been hundreds of houses erected on the higher levels and at this moment people living in the lower portions of the town are under a veritable volcano which may burst out any day. Although the water service is better, we may be faced with a similar disaster some day to that of 1892.

The bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed on to-morrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg leave to move the second reading of this Bill entitled an Act to Amend the Income War Tax Act, 1918.

The re-enactment of this measure for the coming year is the logical consequence of the decision to continue the business profits tax act, which I have just moved. This tax on income was intended to enforce a contribution towards the Colony's revenue from those not affected by the business Profits Act, but whose

yearly earnings were large enough to warrant their being called upon to do their bit.

That obligation on their part is held to still continue as long as the business man is required to yield up a share of his earnings to the State.

There are two or three modifications proposed by this Bill in regard to last year's Act. The first wipes out the concession granted last year to the man who made investments abroad and enjoyed a revenue therefrom, by which he was relieved of paying the tax here if he paid it abroad. It was found that large amounts were being invested outside the Colony because of this fact and now it is proposed to make the tax payable at home as well as abroad.

Section 2 is an amendment rendered necessary because last year's bill was retroactive applying to 1917 as well as to 1918 and now the wording of the section must be changed because this situation no longer exists.

The third section is to make it possible to collect this tax from absentee landlords who under the law, as at present drafted, are able to escape paying this tax.

I trust that this explanation will satisfy the House as to reading the Bill the second time.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—All these subjects are ones that at times like these require very careful consideration indeed. I suppose that hon. gentlemen and the public generally appreciate how serious is the outlook for the Colony. To some of us who have been specially associated with the realisation of the Colony's produce during the past four months these difficulties have perhaps become more real than to those not more in touch with them than we have been. The problem of course has been one of exchange. That is

the real problem, the problem which the government, the mercantile community and the fishermen have to face. At the present moment, and for some time past, exchange has been unobtainable from Italy, and fish has had to leave there because exchange was unobtainable. Spain has it because she has not been in the war; Portugal has it at the present moment; Greece probably has not got it. If exchange is not forthcoming from the Mediterranean countries this country is going to be very much in the position of a man with a large stock of goods in his warehouse in a town very largely consisting of beggars. He wants to sell and they buy, but they have not the means. That is the danger confronting the Colony at present and it is going to be a continuous danger, for as we know the United States is exporting by the hundreds of millions of dollars worth every month and getting nothing in return, as these countries have no money and nothing is coming in return, and the whole outlook is fraught with anxiety. The exchange situation is one of great interest indeed. Before the war for instance, the exchange between Great Britain and the U.S. varied according to the time of the year as to its condition. England owned a very large amount of property in the U.S. and did a very large amount of carrying to that country and the result was at the end of the year when interest became due, the U.S. would owe England a large amount of money. When crops began to be shipped exchange went the other way and England would begin to owe the U.S. money. When the war broke out in August the American crops had not been harvested and shipped and the result was America owed the British a large amount of money, and as hon. gentlemen will recollect Great

Britain had immediately to enforce a moratorium and you could not borrow money in England and American bankers could not meet amounts owing in England at that time because they could not borrow the money to do it. Drafts were coming due and the result was exchange in New York went very high, well over \$5.00. They managed by shipping gold and extending credits one way and another to tide them over, and a few months after England began to buy large quantities of foodstuffs and munitions from the U.S. and trade went the other way, and the result was that England owed so much money they had to corral all the stocks, bonds, etc., owed in England and all the gold in England and send the mover, and in one way and another managed to keep the British exchange not far from par, about \$4.75 or \$4.76 until the armistice came, and then the British government had to stop the transactions and exchange went to down to \$4.50, and is back now to about \$4.65. That drop in sterling exchange, nothing to do with Europe at all, cost this colony about \$1.50 a quintal on all the fish shipped at that time. The position is this: The Italians would buy our fish and then have the money in London and then give us a draft on London. The Newfoundland merchant or bank takes this draft on London and sells it for money in the United States and the money there is used to pay for the imports we get here from the neighbouring continent. If the Italians have not the money in London and cannot give us exchange and we are not able to get the money for our fish, how is this country going to pay for the imports it wants from Canada and the U.S. all through the year. The way in which exchange cancelled out before the war was quite wonderful.

For instance, in the course of the year America shipped to Europe enormously larger quantities of goods than it received, but on the other hand received large quantities from the East, Japan, India, the Pacific Islands, etc., and sent it west, while the east owed London enormously large quantities of money all the time, and as a result of this triangular arrangement, the apex of which met in London, matters were adjusted satisfactorily. That equilibrium has been absolutely destroyed by the war and how it is going to recover in a generation it is difficult to see. The Canadians and Americans of course being rich people are enabling shipments to be made by private firms by giving government loans to these European countries and that is something even to them which has a very short limit. The only way that appears to me that this country can continue its shipments is by being permitted to obtain Canadian and Americans not only on the payment of American goods but on payment of our goods. We have a good case to put up, for this country took from the United States last year for every man, woman and child in it, fifty dollars worth of goods, and from Canada forty-five dollars worth. It is perfectly clear that no European customer is going to be so good on a per capita basis as we are. If we cease to buy from them then their export ceases that much. I think we should be able to show them that if they would allow a certain amount of these loans to be expended on Newfoundland produce, their export trade will increase. If they cut us off, the Canadians and Americans cannot continue to sell us goods. That is the position, and it is serious indeed. Regarding the present act before us, it may perhaps appear that this has very little

bearing on this bill, but it has a great deal. I think this bill as it stands is injudicious. It is not a matter of principle and I am not going to oppose it. If it was a matter of principle as the profits tax bill was I should take a strong stand against it and hold it up for a month if necessary, but I am only going to point out that I think it is injudicious. Of course there are people in this country who are getting off unfairly under direct taxation but you cannot enforce any sort of taxation that is going to be entirely equitable. Some class is going to get off no matter what form you have. Now there are a few people no doubt who are getting off on this tax but the question is what harm can it do if any. I am afraid a great deal of harm will be done. I do not like bringing up any personal matters in this chamber; I try to avoid addressing any hon. gentlemen in this house by name, and do not make personal references of any kind, but I cannot help referring to one hon. member who has been sitting next to me for many years, the present Trade Commissioner who is working for the Colony free of expense; I take him as a typical case. Sir Edgar Bowring derives most of his income from England. I am not speaking for him; naturally I spoke to none of his people. He is paying there one quarter per cent tax on his income. His firm is a valuable asset to this country; they are spending now I suppose \$20,000 a year in keeping up the Park a matter which would fall on the Municipal Council if they did not do it. The Coastal Contract as I presume is generally known has been operated throughout the war at a great loss partly owing to the quixotic attitude of Sir Edgar Bowring, and the renewal of the contract now is being done partly on the same

motive. For there is no question on the part of any business man that the paying thing would be to sell these steamers and put their money in government bonds. But I think that is very largely due to a spirit of loyalty to this country. Nobody has ever made a cent out of the coastal contract so far as I know. No one has ever gone to him for money without getting it; he has presented hospitals, etc., and his tie to this country is purely sentimental. He has a small cottage in Topsail, and if he is going to be taxed another twenty per cent for opening that cottage, what is going to be the result?

We faced the risk of a terrible catastrophe over the marketing of our Labrador fish and if great care is not exercised next year we may find ourselves in much the same box and the trade may have to face a loss of \$1,500,000. Had we not acquired the Bonds the loss to the trade certainly would be over \$1,000,000 and the fish would have remained in Spain, ruining our prospects altogether. Had we no bonds for the "Eskasonia" cargo there would have been a loss of over \$1,000,000 and gentlemen occupying seats in this chamber suffered very heavy losses on this fish. The whole matter is one fraught with much danger to the best business interests of Newfoundland.

**HON. MR. ANDESON:**—I have listened with some pleasure to the observations of Hon. Mr. Harvey regarding the possible outcome of the marketing of next season's produce and it strikes me that the Government and all parties must put their heads together to ensure a favorable termination to the season's activities. The Dominion of Canada has established credits in near and foreign countries and if the Government can arrange for reciprocity between itself



and the Bank of Commerce, Bank of Montreal and kindred financial institutions doing business here and with the agencies of banking institutions in New York that they may arrange to let us ship our fish in exchange for their flour, pork, butter, &c., from the States it will help us greatly in our trade with the outside world. It is a serious outlook which Hon. Mr. Harvey depicts for us and coming from a gentleman so intimately associated with the multifarious details of our commerce his words merit the earnest consideration of the best hearts in the country. We do not want antagonism with Water Street. We want harmony between fishermen, worker and merchant and if the arrangements I have alluded to can be made between the banks and exporters and if the latter can be protected by the Canadian and American financial people and an exchange of commodities effected it will rebound to the prosperity of the country. Since the war began our commerce has quadrupled though it does not take so long a time to look back to the period when our Finance Minister in bringing his budget before the House pointed with some show of justifiable satisfaction to the fact that the gross revenue was \$2,000,000 while now he complacently and without any sense of surprise in the record looks for a revenue of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  millions of dollars or \$30 per head of the whole population of the Island. At one time exchange went up to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent and an effort was made to establish a National Bank for the country but we know what the result was, the people had no sympathy with anything local and the movement came to nought. I have no doubt if those interested in that movement waited and saw what could be done with the banks I have mentioned the solution of our difficulties would be

easy. The Bank of Montreal has established a Branch in Paris and in addition Sir Thos. White says—"In order to increase the banking facilities of the Dominion of Canada I allowed the issue of 15 per cent in notes over and above the capital and reserve combined, so that the position of Canada is safe" and I hope such a solution will be found in this country. Now what will be the condition of this country next Fall. The men who conduct business along Water Street carry a great burden with very little assistance and co-operation but much could be done if we had a National Bank by which most beneficial results could be arrived at and with the co-operation and assistance of government and people the dangerous possibilities to which Hon. Mr. Harvey has alluded might be avoided.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—We have all, I am sure, listened with great advantage to the utterances of Hon. Mr. Harvey this afternoon. He has outlined a condition of affairs truly alarming and I must confess I share his opinion. It may not be a matter that would come within the province of this chamber but I would make the suggestion that a deputation of this chamber with the business people of the city meet to consider the consequences of the situation that confronts the country. I speak now with a grave sense of the responsibility which rests upon me. I am an old merchant who have seen days of prosperity as well as adversity, and cannot conceal from the House that with all the optimism of my nature, I stood appalled at the prospect that opens out, for, not alone the Colony, but the trade of the country, and difficulties almost unsurmountable. But goor fortune may be with us again and bring us through. But the main difficulty is that we are dealing largely with

bankrupt people and when we go to them to sell our products which are largely food commodities they will meet us in exchange with I.O.U's, or promissory notes which may be of no value. This Bill as it appears to me, will put a heavy weight upon the trade in adding to its burdens. It is necessary, of course, under the exceptional conditions prevailing, to raise revenue, but as Hon. Mr. Harvey put it it is impossible to put a heavier tax upon a people already heavily taxed, in order to embrace within the circumference of your notice some people when really they are not able to keep the pace. I have certain investments in the United States and England which are taxed heavily and since the war 25 per cent in addition. Now if the remains of these investments come out here and be subject to further taxation, this is no country to live in. I have reached a period of life when I would like to withdraw from this country but am compelled by something to remain and with regard to those who work with and for me are content to continue to do business, but honestly, this will ultimately drive me from carrying on the business of the country, and men occupying the head of a large exporting firm should be encouraged not discouraged. It is help and support he wants. For 7 or 8 months Hon. Mr. Harvey and myself have collaborated with the Minister of Shipping to try and avert financial disaster. But we have staved off a horrible disaster and have managed to relieve the markets of great quantities of codfish and have taken in exchange for payment bonds of indifferent value. They bear interest at 5 per cent and I would ask the question, throughout the length and breadth of the land how many can afford to do this? The country which

issued them is not in a financial condition to redeem them. And under these conditions every man will pull in his horns, will do less business, the laborer or fisherman will have less value because of less competition and prudent men will be afraid to take commodities that cannot be turned into cash. The embarrassment of Italy is a matter which concerns us very much. So necessary is it for them to raise money that the Government has formed a company of merchants whose province is to buy and sell, in other words we cannot buy or sell except through them. They are hostile to us and we have been obliged to take away from Italy the markets of our codfish and as far as I can see the consequences will be bad for the exporters. If a man wants to avoid disaster he requires to exercise prudence. If you increase the burdens already carried you discourage enterprise and we want more people with courage to export the produce of the country. If you discourage the merchants of the country and add to their burdens by fresh imports you will injure and financially ruin the trade of the Colony. For these reasons I hope that some *modus operandi* may be arrived at that we may make a request to the Minister of Finance to meet a deposition of the House to hear our views but if this measure becomes law the results accruing to the trade before the year is out will be very serious indeed.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—I do not intend to say more than a word or two, because I think Honourables Messrs. Harvey and Grieve have said much and with a full knowledge of the subject, and it is only too apparent that the position as they have shown it is by no means overdrawn, and that serious danger lies ahead. It is unfortunate that pronouncements by

hon. members of the House in the trade of the country are seldom received as intended. As regards the collection of taxes upon revenue derived outside the Colony, I would take the ground that it is not honest for our Minister of Finance to attempt to enforce the payment of a tax upon such earnings; earnings upon monies earned outside the Colony, invested outside the Colony and simply because the person who makes the investment has a residence here and after paying taxes abroad, must further contribute to the revenue of the Colony. It is not only unjust but dishonest. Hon. Mr. Grieve referred to the difficulty in Italy during the past year, compelling the Government of Italy to form a company to purchase their requirement of codfish to feed the Italian people. But Hon. Mr. Grieve might have said when he told us that company was hostile—he might have given the reason. It is because they were forced to pay such a price which enabled our fishermen to be paid such prices as were dreamt of before. And it is not to our credit that we availed of our opportunity in their extremity to quote such prices for them. I fear that the desire of the last speaker will not be effective, but the position is a most serious one and I hope it will be shown most clearly to the Minister of Finance so that he can more clearly see how we stand. It is not necessary to dwell further on the matter and I hope the second reading will be deferred until an attempt has been made to show the seriousness of the situation to the Government.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:**—I feel that any remarks of mine on a subject of such vital concern to the country would not be misplaced, coming as they do from one who has some little experience in the Colony's trade.

I must endorse the opinions of Honourables Messrs. Harvey, Grieve and Bishop, to whose interesting remarks I have given closest attention. I most emphatically agree with them that the situation is a serious one, so serious that it is a pity the public cannot see it. For many years past there has been hostility between the producers, the fishermen, and merchants, brought about many times by politicians and governments. I think it is most unwise, unfair, dishonest and unjust for any man seeking government offices to endeavour to impress upon the laboring man or fisherman the idea that the merchant is their enemy. Such propaganda is contemptible and dangerous as it is untrue. The merchants of this country in the past as well as the present have carried the burden of much undeserved blame, but speaking for myself if I had listened to much of the advice kindly and disinterestedly advanced by certain merchants, I would have been better off in the world's goods than I am to-day. Our fishermen should pay more attention to the fisheries and their friends and less attention to politicians. Everybody in the country has been led to believe that the merchant is a man not fit to live. It has been the cry ever since I had any experience in politics; it was I suppose before I was born; and will be I guess after I am dead. I think it is very unfortunate to have any such idea. The interests of the merchant are exactly the same as those of the fishermen. And the merchant deserves just the same protection. The outport merchant makes to-day less profit on flour and other commodities; makes a smaller percentage of profit in spite of increased cost than he did before the war. On the other hand a man getting \$400 before the war is getting \$800 now. A

barrel of flour still carries less profit. More money is turned over with less profit. And yet in the face of that the Government wants to tax the merchant; or in other words to do away with the merchant. Now sir, what we want here to-day is more merchants; not less; and though I did not intend to delay the House at all, I feel that I should support the motion of the Hon. Mr. Grieve that a deputation from this House consult with the Finance Minister before this bill passes through this House.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, after hearing the observations of the Hons. Messrs. Harvey, Grieve and Templeman as well as the other members who have spoken I sent for Mr. Cashin and had a talk with him and he informs me that the Bill is in line with those of the United States and England. Both these impose taxes on foreign investments; and he does not see in what way or for what reason the tax should be altered.

**HON. MR. HARVEY:**—Mr. President, I would just like to add one word. I am not going to oppose the second reading. But I take it that the fact that this is an act which has been passed in both the States and in England, is not reason for our accepting it in Newfoundland. It is not necessarily good on that account. In fact they have some very bad acts. But in this case the conditions are so different that there is in my opinion no comparison. A man who has property in England or in the States cannot get out. This country is very different. You can drive people out of here with a very small whip but not so in the States or in England. Above that still there is the unfairness of double taxation. I cannot believe that such exists in the States as it is not good for any country. It is antagonistic to the

best interests of any country and is a mistake.

**HON. MR. GIBBS:**—Mr. President, I would suggest to hon. gentlemen that in view of the arguments advanced by the various speakers no harm could result from the Government's receiving a deputation of members from this House. Personally I have no objection to this bill. It has been brought about through circumstances over which we may or we may not have control; but I would submit with all due respect that the wealth of the arguments advanced here this afternoon by the members certainly entitles them to lay the same before the Finance Minister; and the latter would be very ill-advised not to accept the same with an impartial mind. Now the Government as constituted has not the strength a cabinet usually has as the result of the presence of many commercial men of good judgment; and I think in view of that they should certainly accede to the request even if they find that the recommendations made cannot be accepted by them and engrafted into the Bill.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be deferred to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. President read a message from the House of Assembly saying that that House had passed a Bill respecting the Grand Bank Harbor in which they asked the concurrence of the Council.

On motion this Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion the House adjourned until to-morrow at four o'clock.

TUESDAY, May 13th, 1919.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Third reading of Bill re Domesticated Deer.

On motion this Bill was read a third time and passed.

Committee on Weights and Measures Bill.

The House went into Committee.

Committee rose, reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the Business Profits Tax Act. Hon. Mr. Bell in the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill which was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

On motion the House went into Committee on the Income War Tax Bill. Hon. Mr. Mews in the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment and it was ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

Second reading of the Bill respecting the Control and Management of the Harbor of Grand Bank.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—In moving the second reading of this Bill, the object of which is to enable the people of Grand Bank to collect further revenues for the maintenance of their harbor, I would say that while I was out of the colony recently a letter from the Committee established there to promote the erection of a new pier reached my office asking my support for this project. It affords me the greatest pleasure to express my entire approval of the project and my readiness to assist in every possible way the people of Grand Bank who have been an example to every section of the country in the industrial activity—and progress—which they have always shown—and never more so than in their effort to overcome the serious drawbacks to the carrying

on of their industry which are represented by the destruction of their pier through storm some little while ago. I think I am safe in saying that this House will agree that what we want is more communities of the go-a-head character of Grand Bank and that any money which the Colony finds it possible to provide for the development of communities of that kind will be money very well spent. I have much pleasure to move the second reading.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion for the second reading of this Bill. The hon. leader of the Government in proposing the second reading has made reference to the large number of schooners which prosecute the Bank fishery from this place and most of the hon. members in this chamber must know something of the development of the breakwater there and the wharf which are of so much importance in connection with the successful prosecution of this important branch of our great industry. I have had the pleasure of a cruise around that section of the S.W. coast and have seen ample evidences of the zeal and industry of the people of Grand Bank and examples of their energy and enterprise in their comfortable homes and general prosperous surroundings. As Hon. Mr. Ellis has said any money afforded them for harbor improvements will be money well spent and again I must express the pleasure it gives me to support this motion.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. President announced that he had received a message from the Assembly acquainting the Council that they had passed the following Bills, vzi.: A Bill relating to the

Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's; a Bill to Compensate Workmen for injuries received, and a Bill respecting the Refining of Codliver Oil; also a Bill respecting the Administration of Local Affairs, and a Bill re Inspection of Food on Sealing Steamers, in which they asked the concurrence of this chamber.

These Bills were then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, before moving the adjournment I wish to make a few remarks. I have listened with great patience to the remarks of the hon. gentleman opposite, the Hon. Mr. Anderson: (Speech as already published).

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Mr. President, I have no desire at the present moment to reply to the personal attack made upon me by the Hon. Mr. Ellis. When he refers to the serious financial crisis which arose early in the war when the whole world was withholding payment of its debts; and when there was a general moratorium all the world over; London itself, Sir, not excluded; but I thank God that the country or the Government never lost one cent by me. But it certainly ill-befits the gentleman or any gentleman either in this House or out of this House to make any such statement as he has made here to-day. If I have at any time said anything aggressively towards him, he knows as well as I do that the same was said in the heat of a debate or in the interest of the country; and that I am as much governed by a general desire to do what is best in the interests of the country as any member in this House. However he has fired his poisoned arrow, and as far as I am concerned he has missed his mark; and as long as I hold a seat in this chamber I intend

to do what I consider right on behalf of the people of this country. It is true, in all probability, that I referred to him personally from time to time, but that was because he was the leader of the Government and there was no one else to whom I could refer, and if he has been thinskinning enough to take what I have said in the form of an insult, I am sure there is no one here to-day who regrets it more than I do. As far as the general review of his associates which he gave us is concerned, I endorse everything that he has said; and I would go further and state that I question very much if we could have got together a combination of men better imbued with knowledge of the affairs of this country than were these men; and if in their official capacity they aided the firm with which I am connected or any other firm, they were well paid back every cent with good interest. And now then, Mr. President, if I have said anything that has hurt his feelings I am very sorry sir that he was thinskinning enough to take it personally. At the same time I thank him for his review. He has come here sir well fortified no doubt by a friend of mine; but as far as I am concerned he has failed in his errand.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I cannot allow the House to adjourn this evening without first giving expression to the absolute disgust which I feel, and which I am sure every member of this chamber must feel, at the conduct of the hon. leader of the Government in this chamber in his attempt to silence a member of this chamber by publishing private information concerning his business obtained from a Government department, and which every one knows are absolutely and strictly confidential. For such a grossly flagrant breach of trust on the part

of a public member of an executive government it would indeed be difficult to find a parallel. And all because the Hon. Mr. Anderson has dared to raise his voice in criticism of the hon. gentleman or his associates in office in their public capacity as managers of the affairs of this country. I feel, sir, I should not further continue to show the disgust I feel, which I have, and every man here must have, and every man worthy of being a Newfoundlander must have to secret service methods of that sort. The day of degradation must I am sure have arrived when Hon. Mr. Anderson said something to hurt Mr. Ellis, and Mr. Ellis should dig up something about the department in which hundreds of business people do business in connection with duty bonds, or other matters, income tax returns or profit tax returns and use it here in a sledge hammer way to compel him to silence. Is there a man on Water Street here to-day who dares attack the Government because his balance sheet must be sent to the bank and his business ruined? If that is so, then away with such a Government, and away with such conduct. Following the observations of Mr. Ellis I would give this notice of question.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave notice of question.

House then adjourned until to-morrow at four p.m.

WEDNESDAY, May 14th, 1919.

The House met at 4 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

#### NOTICES OF QUESTION.

(1) Hon. Mr. Squires asked the Leader of the Government to lay upon the Table of the Council a statement of all expenditures made by or under the authority of the Department of Justice under the head of civil and

criminal prosecutions account, giving names of the persons to whom payments were made, nature of services rendered, dates of payment and amounts paid; also like information relating to all payments made by the Department of Justice, Department of Finance and Customs, Department of Marine and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Mines, Department of Public Works, Militia Department, Board of Food Control, Press Censorship Committee, Shipping Committee, and all other Departments of Committees of the Government for professional services in connection with all matters including particularly commissions, administrations and probates, tax collecting, royalty, rental and bonus collecting, legal proceedings and all other matters in which fees or commissions have been paid for professional or expert services rendered the Government, the statement to date from the 1st of January, A.D. 1918.

(2) Hon. Mr. Squires asked the Leader of the Government to lay upon the Table of the Council a statement showing all sums of money paid during the years 1914-15-16-17-18-19, stating the total amount paid each each year by the Government out of public funds, or by any Department of the Government, any Government Board or Commission, out of public funds,

- (a) For advertising.
- (b) For job work.

To

- (a) The "Evening Telegram" newspaper and / or its proprietor.
- (b) The "Evening Herald" newspaper and / or its proprietor.
- (c) The "Mail and Advocate," "Evening Advocate," "Morning Advocate," "Weekly Advocate" and / or their proprietors.
- (d) The "Daily News," "Free

Press" and / or their proprietors.

(e) The "Daily Star" and / its proprietors.

What sums of money are estimated to be now due and unpaid to each of these publications and / or their proprietors with respect to

(a) Advertising.

(b) Job work.

(3) Hon. Mr. Squires asked the Hon. Leader of the Government to lay upon the Table of the Council a statement showing all payments made to all and each of the members of the Executive Government as Departmental or other salaries and incomes; also all payments made to each or to any firm or Company with which any member of the Council is connected as a shareholder, partner, manager, or office holder for any purpose whatever, giving amounts of payments, dates, persons to whom paid and services rendered, work done, goods supplied, and purposes for which payments were made, all particulars to be given covering period since January 1st, 1918.

(4) Hon. Mr. Gibbs asked the Honourable Leader of the Government to lay on the table of this House copies of all correspondence in relation to negotiations that took place between the Italian Government and the British Government or representatives of the Italian and the British Governments on the one hand and the Government of Newfoundland or the Executive Council of this Colony or any member or committee thereof or any Department of the Government on the other hand in relation to the export of codfish from this Colony to Italy during the Autumn of 1917.

If codfish was purchased in this country for the Italian Government directly or indirectly or through Agents during the Autumn of 1917 or at any

time during the year 1917, if so, by whom and what quantity.

What price did the Italian Government agree to pay for such codfish, and what price was actually paid for same in this country.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—As regards the questions yesterday by Hons. Messrs. Squires and Gibbs the information in regard to them will be made ready as quickly as possible.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill amending the Weights and Measures Act was read a third time, passed with some amendments and sent to the Assembly, as was the Bill relating to the Business Profits Tax, 1917, and the Act amending the Income War Tax Act, 1918, the latter two without amendment.

Committee on Control and Management of the Harbor of Grand Bank. On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment and it was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

Second reading of Bill relating to the Refining of Codliver Oil.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—This Bill provides a penalty for a breach of the regulations in connection with the refining of codliver oil, the penalty being \$100 and costs or in default of payment 6 months imprisonment.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House on to-morrow.

Second reading of Bill respecting the Administration of Local Affairs.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—This Bill makes regulations in regard to the keeping of dogs in settlements over which the Board has jurisdiction and the Act provides a penalty for breach of the regulations, which was thought to be necessary to make the Act effective.

The Bill was accordingly read a



time and referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Second reading of Bill entitled an Act to Provide for the Inspection of Food on Sealing Steamers. This order was deferred.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I have not the least objection to a postponement. I take it that the Bill itself is explanatory enough; but I will undertake to get the information for the House on to-morrow; I move therefore that this order stand deferred.

Hon. Mr. Mews gave notice of question.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I would like to call the attention of the Hon. W. J. Ellis to the fact that certain questions asked by me some little time ago have not yet been fully answered. Amongst the several questions, I would now refer to two particularly. The first relates to my request that reports of the Government Engineer on the condition of the Reid railway line be laid upon the table of the Council. The Government's answer is as follows:

"The statements made thereon by the Government Engineer to the Government are privileged interdepartmental documents which the Government do not consider in the public interest it would be advisable to disclose."

It is astounding to find that the report of the Government Engineer on the railway line is not a document which, in the opinion of the Government, should be laid upon the table of this Council. The railway is the property of the Government, operated by the Reid Newfoundland Company, who are under certain obligations to keep the line in maintenance and repair. This Council is entitled to the information as to whether, in the opinion of the Government Engineer,

the Reid Newfoundland Company have kept the line in maintenance and repair. The people of this country are entitled to know whether the Government Engineer considers it a safe line over which they may travel. Am I to understand from this answer that the reports of the Government Engineer upon the condition of this line are such that no person having knowledge of the nature of the reports would risk his life upon that line of railway? Is that the conclusion to which this Council must come from the statement that the Government does not consider that it is in the public interest to disclose the reports? These are not privileged interdepartmental documents. They are official reports of the Government Engineer, whose duty it is to see that that railway line is in such a condition that people will not be smashed up and burnt up, as has been a common occurrence on that line during recent years. I ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government to reconsider the answer which he has given to this question and see that, at an early date, the reports of the Government Engineer asked for be tabled.

I also asked that there be laid upon the table of the Council a copy of the claim made by the Reid Newfoundland Company against the Government in the autumn of 1917, relative to the amount which they claim to be due them by the Government under railroad construction contracts, together with the reply of the Government Engineer thereto, and any additional claims made by the Reid Newfoundland Company. The answer to that question is that because I was Colonial Secretary from August, 1917, to January, 1918, I had knowledge of the information which I asked to be tabled. That is not a reply to my

question. The fact that the documents forwarded to me officially by the Reid Newfoundland Company or their lawyers, Messrs. Conroy & Higgins, and the replies of the Government Engineer forwarded to me officially by him were perused by me as Colonial Secretary, and I consequently have some knowledge of their contents, is not an answer to my question that these documents be laid upon the table of the Council. These are official public documents dealing with large claims and demands by the Reid Newfoundland Company. I cannot understand the condition of affairs which justifies the leader of the Government in attempting to keep the Council in ignorance of the true position of affairs so far as the Reid Newfoundland Company is concerned, both as to the condition of their rail line and as to claims against the Government. I ask that the honourable gentleman reconsider the answer that he has given to this question also, and table the information sought.

The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, May 16th, 1919.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Ellis tabled reports of the Board of Pensions Commissioners; Marine and Fisheries Department and Militia Department.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, Harbor of Grand Bank Bill was read a third time and passed, and bills entitled Act respecting the Refining of Cod Liver Oil, and Act respecting the Administration of Local Affairs were committed and passed without amendment and ordered to be read a third time on to-morrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I rise to move the second reading of this Bill, an Act respecting the Municipal Affairs of

the Town of St. John's. This is a much discussed measure and it will perhaps involve further extensive discussion in this chamber. I might say, however, that it involves only two principles. The first is that of providing machinery whereby the Council can secure extra powers to open up lands suitable for building purposes. This principle is covered by the first eleven sections of the Bill which are the same number of sections taken from what is known as the "New Charter" with amendments proposed in connection thereto by the Citizens' Committee. The second principle is covered in the 13th section and simply continues the existence of the present Council which would otherwise expire on the 31st December until the 30th June next. Dealing with the latter first I would explain that the expectation is that at the next session of the Legislature after the General Election when St. John's is fully represented a new Municipal Bill, either the Charter in its present form or an amended one, will be enacted into law and that immediately thereafter a new Council will be chosen to carry the same into effect, otherwise the life of the Council would expire at the end of this year. A new election would have to be held before the first of January and all hope of commencing the new year with the new Council would have to be abandoned. It may be remembered that one of the most important and debated principles in the present Charter is whether the whole Council should go out of existence every four years or whether only three of the members should go out every two years and this is one of the many matters that will have to be settled in the meantime. The proposal to enact clauses empowering the Council to enter lands and to promote build-

ing purposes is one that the Charter provided for, that the Citizens' Committee approved and that a round table conference of clergymen endorsed very recently and waited upon the Government to recommend action. These eleven clauses provide that the Council can enter upon lands, expropriate strips for streets and assess against the owners property a proportionate part, according to the frontage, of the cost of the improvements. Some criticism has been directed against this policy, but I might say that in this form it is only an amplification of the existing law because the Municipal Statute now in effect provides that the cost of the sewerage can be assessed in the same fashion. Moreover this is an accepted principle on both sides of the Atlantic and British and Canadian Municipal enactments have reaffirmed the same principle. With regard to the complaint that there has been delay in the enactment of the Charter, I would point out that while this may be true in a superficial sense, it is decidedly not true in another sense. In other words every important principle in the Charter which met the unanimous or virtually unanimous endorsement of the Citizens' Committee and the Board of Commissioners appointed in 1914 has been enacted or will now be enacted and the only important sections of the Charter remaining to be dealt with are those upon which there was a conflict of opinion either in the Municipal Council, the Citizens' Committee or both. I might point out that the filing of the report of the Municipal Commissioners on what we know as the Charter showed that it was not unanimous. There were majority, minority and individual reports and there was a striking of opinion also on the question of whether the Municipal area

should be enlarged or not or whether the city limits should remain as they are or whether a suburban area should be taken in under the Municipal wing on different status from the town itself. I might add that the section dealing with the housing question have been exhaustively debated by the Municipal Commission, the Citizens' Committee, a Joint Select Committee of the Legislature and by the Lower House last week and may possibly occasion a great deal of discussion here when we go into Committee but I take it that there will be no objection to giving the Bill a second reading, particularly when I say that the members of the present Council have agreed to continue in office until the 30th June next.

**HON. MR. McNAMARA:**--Mr. President, having been connected with the City Council as Commissioner for two years I would like to say a few words on the second reading of the bill before the chamber and may be pardoned, if I claim after my experience that I speak on the subject with some little knowledge. In 1886 the City Council was inaugurated and the duties of the Board of Works was taken over by this body. Since that lengthy period some of the finest and ablest of our citizens have occupied seats at the council board and endeavored by their labors to forward the interest of the city and improve town conditions to the best of their ability. Such upright, honest, sterling men as the late Moses Monroe, the late Hon. John Harris, Mr. Kennedy, Frank St. John, John Carnell, C. F. Muir and others that I cannot at present recall.

And with us to-day who gave their services to city government is Hon. Mr. Ellis (Leader of the Government in this chamber), Hon. Mr. Power, Hon. Mr. Gibbs and Hon. Mr. Ander-

son The whole trouble, Mr President, I submit about city government can be summed up in one sentence, viz.: No. money; no funds.

Without money you cannot make city improvements and it is only by a policy of economy and cheesparing that the revenue of the Council can be made meet the expenditure. Under these circumstances no great city improvements may be looked for and unless and until the Council has a full charter and power to borrow money you cannot look for the improvements that are so essential to the health and comfort of our citizens. It is now humiliating under present conditions for any body of independent men to be compelled to call on the Government every time they want a few dollars for necessary new work such as laying water pipes, etc., and until present conditions are changed by the passing of the charter I fear that the town will be the sufferer and the residents of the town the victims of the present unbearable conditions. One of the most serious charges against city government and I make no exceptions when I include all city governments is the very large amount of money which is due for water and sewerage rates. This amount has been growing for years and years and to-day the sum outstanding is between \$90,000 and \$100,000.

This is a reflection on all city governments and tempts the average citizen to ask: Has Municipal government been a success?

My hon. friend Mr. Anderson stated early in the session that permits for houses were refused by the municipality. This is correct to some extent but not wholly correct as I will prove by stating that the only houses that were refused permits were to applicants who applied to build without installing the necessary water and

sewerage connections. Mayor Gosling took a firm stand from his inception of office to positively refuse permits for houses unless water and sewerage were installed. In this he was ably supported by nearly all the Councilors as everyone felt that if permits for unsewered houses were granted we would never get rid of the night-bar system and this blot on our town would go on perpetually.

Before I resume my seat I would like to say a word or two in appreciation of the splendid services Mayor Gosling has given the town for the past 5 or 6 years. No one not conversant with city affairs can have any idea of the volume of business that has to be attended to by the Mayor of the town and how Mr. Gosling could find time outside of his own business to attend to the duties of the city is most astonishing and I can only attribute it to his energy, ability and capacity for hard work. I am satisfied that the public or the thinking public at least appreciate Mayor Gosling's great services to the town and the great public spirit he has always shown in furthering the interests of his adopted country. Like all public men Mr. Gosling has been subjected to a good deal of criticism and misreprehension but being of a complacent disposition and knowing that he is in the right he takes it as the penalty a public man must be for endeavoring to improve the conditions of those criticising him.

I support the measure before the chair and hope when it is passed and put into operation that it will to some extent have the effect of bettering prevailing conditions in the city.

Said bill was then read a second time and ordered to be committed on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the second reading of Inspection of Food

on Sealing Steamers Bill was deferred.

Hon. President read message from the House of Assembly that they had passed accompanying bill entitled Act to amend the Beaver Act, 1819, in which they requested concurrence. Said bill was then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

House then adjourned until Monday next at four o'clock.

MONDAY, May 19th, 1919.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Cod Liver Oil Bill and Administration of Local Affairs Bill were read a third time, passed, and ordered that a message to that effect be sent the House of Assembly.

House went into Committee on the Municipal Affairs of Town of St. John's Bill. Hon. Dr. Skelton in the chair.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—As I view the Bill there is no provision made here for the representations of the owners of property and it is a matter which should be carefully considered by the Council. Supposing there was a disagreement or difference of opinion between the Municipal Council and the owners of lands is there anything in the Bill to provide for adjudication of the question, nothing with reference to arbitration in the event of such disagreement?

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—I would draw attention also to the fact that Section 4 provides that the cost of improvements shall be assessed upon the lands directly benefitted thereby on the frontage of land suitable for building purposes on streets may be opened or improved. Section 3 of the Bill I think also needs explanation for it seems to me you can force a man

to open up his lands, can take possession of them and he has no means of redress. You can also charge up to his lands all the costs of making new streets, widening or improving them, laying sidewalks, laying water pipes, gullies and gratings and other improvements and make him pay the cost of these improvements, notwithstanding that you take a strip or portion of his land and convert it into streets which become public property. It seems to me that to take a man's land and then tax him for the entire cost of improvements is most unfair. These costs I think should be borne by the city. This legislation I imagine has been hurried and not given the attention its importance merits.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I might say I cannot agree with Hon. Mr. Bishop when he says that this legislation has been hurried. As a matter of fact this very phase of the situation was considered by the Citizens' Committee and Council and the Commission of 1914 so that it has had a deal of careful consideration and the Citizens' Committee agreed to the principle of having the lands taken for street purposes without compensation. However, if the hon. gentleman so desire we can raise the Committee, in order that they may have further opportunity of considering the Bill.

The Committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again on to-morrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second of the Bill entitled an Act to extend the Beaver Act, 1918. I may say that this Bill provides for the extension of the time in which beavers are not allowed to be killed and its object is to further provide for the preservation of these animals so that they may increase and spread, as they have been becoming

extinct during recent years. The request is made by the Game and Inland Fisheries Board that the close season be extended from October 1919 to October 1920. I have much pleasure therefore, sir, in moving the second reading of this Bill.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. President informed the House that he had received a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the following bills:

"An Act Respecting the Bell Island Co-operative Company, Ltd."

"An Act Respecting the Peoples Electric Company Limited."

"An Act to Amend the Insurance Companies' Act, 1906."

"An Act to Amend the Act 61 Vic. (1898), Chapter 8, entitled 'An Act Respecting Salaries.'"

"An Act to Amend the Act 61 Vic. (1898), Chapter 47, entitled 'An Act Relating to the Constitution of the Supreme Court'; and 'An Act Respecting Certain Retiring Allowances'" in which they asked the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

These bills were then severally read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House then adjourned until Friday next at 4 of the o'clock.

FRIDAY, May 23rd, 1919.

The House met at 4 o'clock pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Act respecting the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—As there is some dispute about certain sections of the Bill and as some of us are not quite conversant with it I may say that these sections had been discussed

by a Commission of the City Council and Citizens' Committee some time ago. With these bodies there have been a difference of opinion and in order that we may arrive at what is fair and equitable to all concerned, I think if it is referred to a Select Committee that we might invite some of these gentlemen who discussed the matter before to come in and discuss it in a manner which will lead to a satisfactory settlement.

On motion the Committee rose, reported progress and asked that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Hon. Mr. President named the following to compose the Select Committee on the Bill:—Hons. Messrs. Ellis, Grieve, Goodridge, Power and Templeman.

Hon. W. J. Ellis moved the House into Committee of the Whole on the bill entitled "An Act to Extend the Beaver Act, 1918."

Hon. Mr. Power took the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

It was moved that this bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill an Act respecting the Bell Island Co-operative Company, Limited, which is a measure for enabling a lighting business there along the same lines as those which similar companies in other parts of the Island have been brought into existence in recent years. I think all will agree with me that it is highly desirable to develop such public utilities in different parts of the country, and to encourage by such concessions as are reasonable the public spirited citizens of the places who desire the same, and among these there are no more remarkable for their public spirit and enterprise than the people of Bell Island. I have much pleasure, Mr.

President, in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

The bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act respecting the People's Electric Company, Limited, which is similar to the previous bill with reference to Bell Island. It is designed to enable the people of Grand Bank to establish an electric lighting company in that place and gives them exclusive privileges to certain water powers in the vicinity. It is unnecessary for me to refer at any great length to this Bill because the House is familiar with the principle involved through the enactment of various similar measures in the past. I would merely say, as I have just said in relation to Bell Island, that the people of Grand Bank are among our most enterprising and progressive citizens who have left nothing undone not alone to promote the material interests of their community but to take a lead in every creditable public undertaking, and I feel sure that the House will very readily grant a second reading to this measure.

Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

The bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Insurance Companies' Amendment Bill. This Bill, which amends the Insurance Companies' Act, 1906, is merely designed to prevent companies giving rebates on premiums in connection with the writing up of insurance policies. The Bill is introduced at the instance of the various com-

panies doing business here and it is designed to prevent abuses that have grown up in connection with their operations in recent years, and which it is felt desirable should be terminated. A similar measure with the same object in view was recently enacted in Canada. The result of the present policy is that insurance agents are prepared to give people all sorts of inducements in order to get them to take out a policy and pay the first premium. In fact it is not unusual for half the amount to be offered to the 'prospect' as a rebate to take it out, and then when the next year comes round he finds himself in many cases unable to pay the full amount of the premium, the policy lapses, his money is gone, and the benefits of the insurance which he desired to obtain are lost.

I therefore beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

The bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of Salaries Bill. This Bill, which amends the Act respecting salaries, provides for the increase of the salaries of certain specified officials in accordance with the rates for an increase in the salaries of the civil servants which was adopted some months ago. As the House will remember, the schedule of increases was that officials receiving up to \$1000 were granted an increase of 25 per cent; those up to \$2000, twenty per cent, and those above \$2000, fifteen per cent.

This Bill merely proposes to amend the existing law so that these salaries, which are statutory ones, shall be set out in the Statutes at the new rates,

instead of those which are there at present.

I would ask, Mr. President, that this Bill be now given a second reading.

The Bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the bill respecting the Constitution of the Supreme Court.

This Bill, an Act amending the law in relation to the Constitution of the Supreme Court simply provides, as will be apparent on a perusal of its provisions, for an increase to the salaries to be paid the Judges of the Supreme Court. The salary of the Chief Justice is increased to \$7,000 and that of each of the Judges to \$6,000, these increases to become effective on the 1st July.

I might explain that during the winter the Judges presented a memorial to the Government pointing out that the Judges of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland were the poorest paid of those of any Federal or Provincial Court in the overseas possessions of the British Empire, and gave the salaries of all Courts of equivalent standing in Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand and the subsidiary divisions of these territories. The Government therefore felt that, under the circumstances, the least it could do was to increase the salaries of the Judges on the same basis as those of the minimum rates prevailing elsewhere, which are those provided in the Bill.

I have pleasure therefore in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a

Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, In moving the second reading of the Bill, entitled "An Act respecting Certain Retiring Allowances" I might say that it is merely the annual pension bill for the retirement of officials in the public service whose years or disabilities prevent their continuing in the effective enjoyment of their offices and who the Government have retired on the regular schedule, namely, two thirds of the salary attaching to the office. As the Bill involves no new principle, I feel sure the House will have no objection to giving it a second reading, which I would now move.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. President, before this Bill passes its second reading I should like to refer to the retiring of the late Sheriff Carter. Mr. Carter altho' placed on the retired list, was fully competent to perform the duties attaching to his office. He is now receiving \$1500 a year as a pension while his successor receives a salary of \$2500, a total of \$4000. I submit sir that this increase is altogether uncalled for and the expense is altogether unwarranted especially at a time when the country can ill afford to be extravagant in its expenditures. This increase would mean pensions for twenty-five more worn out fishermen. Mr. Carter did not want the pension which is being paid him but the economy which should be practiced by the Government in this and other similar matter is altogether lacking.

The bill was then read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House adjourned till Monday next at 4 of the clock.



TUESDAY, May 27th, 1919.

The House met at 4 o'clock pursuant to adjournment.

The Bill entitled "An Act to Extend the Beaver Act, 1918," was read a third time and passed.

Hon. W. J. Ellis moved the House into Committee of the Whole on a bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Bell Island Co-operative Company, Limited." Hon. Mr. Knowling took the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

With the consent of the House the Bill was thereupon read a third time and passed.

Hon. W. J. Ellis moved the House into Committee of the Whole on a bill entitled "An Act Respecting the People's Electric Company, Ltd. Hon. S. Milley took the chair.

**HON. R. K. BISHOP:**—Mr. Chairman, I was not in the House when this bill was given its second reading and therefore had no opportunity until now to make any observations upon it. I merely desire to point out that while only Grand Bank and Fortune are mentioned in the bill as the places to receive any benefit from the proposed project and the whole of Burin Peninsula as well as the Eastern side of the bay is excluded, this would give to the People's Electric Co. the exclusive right to practically all the water powers which could be of use in the running of such a plant in any part of the district referred to. I have no objection to the bill itself, but I should not like to prevent another company from coming in there and doing for the Eastern part of the district what this company proposes to do for Grand Bank and Fortune.

The Committee rose and reported the bill without amendment.

With the unanimous consent of the

House the Bill was read a third time and passed.

House went into Committee on "Salaries" Bill.

Committee rose and reported the Bill.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—Mr. President, I think there ought to be no particular hurry in connection with these bills. I raised no objection to the other bills, but I must object to money bills being so rushed through. I know we have no power to alter or amend these, but we can hold them up.

On motion it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

House went into Committee on Bill to amend Constitution of Supreme Court.

Committee rose and reported Bill without amendment.

On motion it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

House went into Committee on Bill re "Retiring Allowances."

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

On motion it was ordered that Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Second reading of Sealing Bill. On motion this order stood deferred.

Mr. President read report of Select Committee on "Municipal Bill."

On motion this report was received and ordered to a Committee of the Whole House. House went into Committee.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, I might explain that the Committee met and we had present the Mayor and the Chairman of the Citizens' Committee, who explained the matter fully. Both agreed to these sections, and the members of the Committee after hearing them decided to recommend the Bill as presented.

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

On motion it was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—We have been passing money bills this afternoon and I purposely refrained from any remarks. It will be noticed by hon. gentlemen that in various instances greatly increased salaries have been voted. In the retiring allowances list however the third item is for Wm. Power, late mail courier of Dunville, \$70. I want to register a protest against such a retiring allowance for any man who is worth a retiring allowance at all. We all know the value of a dollar at the present time, and presumably this is not a man who has reached the age of four score years, but probably a younger man, and he is asked to exist on the paltry sum of \$70. I think a minimum of at least a hundred dollars should be set. I know of course the rule applied is that of two thirds of the salary being given retiring civil servants, but that such a miserable and paltry allowance should be made I could not allow to pass without comment.

House then adjourned until Thursday next at four o'clock.

THURSDAY, May 29th, 1919.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Third reading of Salaries Bill.

Third reading of Supreme Court Bill.

Third reading of Retiring Allowances Bill.

Third reading of Municipal Bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these Bills were read a third time and passed without amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill respecting food on sealing steamers was read a second time, and the house

thereupon, with unanimous consent, resolved into Committee of the Whole thereon. Hon. Mr. MacNamara being in the chair.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—This section of this bill is one I could not support and is one which I think hampers an industry very unnecessarily. I think it a mistake to harass or torment any industry in which capital is required for its carrying on, more especially the sealing industry. If those who invest their money in this industry are to be harassed in a childish manner such as is contemplated in this bill, they will have hesitation in placing their money towards replacing the steamers which have been taken away during the past few years. I beg to move that section one be stricken out and the following substituted therefor: (Amendment read).

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—I think the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Goodridge is reasonable. It proposes to amend the third section of the act on the Statute Book by penalizing any owner, who fails to live up to the provisions of the act, and as an owner of sealing steamer and as probably representing the owners, in this House, I can see no objection to imposing a penalty for not carrying out the act. The other sections are unnecessary legislation, but the amendment proposed by my hon. friend is quite reasonable and I have no objection to its becoming law.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I have inquired somewhat regarding this bill, and find it originated in the F.P.U. convention last December, and it appears that for several years the food has not been up to requirements. I do not think this would apply to the line operated by my hon. friend who has just sat down, but there were several steamers the men of which have come to

me for instance with letters to be published saying they had not good proper food. I do not know what course the originators of the bill will take regarding this amendment; I do not know if they have been consulted on the matter. At first sight I do not see any objection to it, but would suggest that after the words "in sufficient quantity," the words "and of suitable quality" might be added.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—I cannot agree with the hon. gentleman. The quality and quantity of the food on every steamer is sufficient. I took the trouble to make a few calculations of the allowance of food per man on the steamers and I find that every man is provided daily with fifteen ounces of flour, 1 lb. 9ozs. of meat; 1 lb. 2oz. of bread; 2 1-5 oz. sugar; 1 1-10 oz. tea; 2 lbs. oz. potatoes; turnips, etc.; 6 3-5 oz. butter and other things in proportion. When we consider that under war regulations people in Great Britain were allowed one ounce of butter per week per head it cannot be argued that the quantity is not sufficient. The schedule some few years ago when the President of the F.P.U. visited the seal fishery and wrote his diary there-stated that the crew on board his ship were regaled with strawberry jam in addition to the other delicacies. Now the men on the sealing steamers live as well, or a little better, than they do at home and the mere insinuation that they are not properly fed is not worthy of a place on the Statute Book, and I do not consent to any amendment on the amendment proposed by Hon. Mr. Goodridge, because it carries out the act as it stands now. If I send a steamer to the sealfishery and it proves that the ship is not sufficiently found in provisions I not only subject myself to the penalty of \$500 but the opprobrium I should ex-

cite amongst all right thinking men I would feel more than the fine. I think you can rest assured that these steamers are better outfitted now than ever before, and every care is taken for the comfort and well-being of the men. I may say also that other conditions have improved during the past twenty years, such as sanitation, but here again difficulty was experienced as the men went so far as to plug up ventilators that were installed to make their quarters' more healthy. Nothing is left undone to give them good food and plenty of it, and the quantities landed after the voyage is sufficient evidence of this fait; sometimes forty to fifty per cent of the supply, which is put on board, of course, in case the ship should become jammed for any length of time.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I simply asked for the inclusion of these words. It will only hurt the men who are not disposed to carry out the law, and I know we all are certain the hon. gentleman is not one of them.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—I think there can be no reasonable to my hon. friend's amendment. I remember some three or four years ago when there was some very inferior butter or margarine put on board some steamers and the men who did that might do the same now and escape the act if we only put in "of sufficient quantity," but if the suggestion of my hon. friend is accepted and we make it "suitable quality" also they would lay themselves open to punishment if the food was not good. So that I think we ought to accept that amendment if it will do no harm towards carrying out the law.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—I was going to suggest the word "sound" instead of "suitable."

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:**—If we already have a law to that effect, I

fail to see what we want the bill for now.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—This bill is to provide for the food being of good quality.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—I think any such measure with regard to the quality of food put on board our sealing steamers is altogether superfluous, for the reason that the food supplied to them is superior in quality to that which the people purchase, as a general rule, with their own money.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—I have been always under the impression that the food supplied to the sealing steamers was of the most suitable quality and while I have reason to oppose this bill I have no objection to the amendment.

The amendment proposed by the Hon. Mr. Mews was then passed.

The Committee rose and reported the bill with some amendments.

By the unanimous consent of the House the bill was then read a third time and passed with the said amendment.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow:

“An Act Respecting the Exportation of Timber.”

“An Act to Authorize the Governor in Council to enter into a Contract for an Aerial Mail Service.”

“An Act to Authorize the Governor in Council to enter into a Contract for a Coastal Steam Service.”

“An Act further to Amend the Revenue Act, 1905.”

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I give notice that I will on to-morrow move the Suspension of Rule 33 and all other rules of the House.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. President, it has occurred to me to-day that in view of the Corsican's expected ar-

rival with a large draft of our boys who are returning after years of service on the battle front, this House should give some expression of welcome to these heroes and of the country's appreciation of their splendid efforts on behalf of right and freedom. I have drawn up the following resolutions which the House might adopt with any changes or improvements thought necessary.

(Resolutions already printed).

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. President, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of these resolutions and I think my honourable friend Mr. Mews is to be congratulated upon the thoughtfulness which has prompted his bringing in of the resolutions which should convey to our soldiers the thankfulness we feel for their return and our appreciation of their work.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The House then adjourned till to-morrow at 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, May 30th, 1919.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Pursuant to notice, I beg to move the suspension of the 33rd rule of this House and all other rules in relation to all matters now before the House, or to come before the House for the remainder of this session.

House resolved into Committee of the Whole on the Ejectment of Tenants Bill, Hon. Dr. Skelton in the chair.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, after which it was read a third time, passed and was sent to the House of Assembly.

Second reading of the Aerial Mail Service Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, the Bill, for which I now ask a second reading, is a novel measure for this country, but is the outgrowth of the air flight attempts now being carried out from here. This Bill is an Act to authorize the Governor-in-Council to enter into a contract for an Aerial Mail Service, and the history of it is that last week Major Kennedy, representing a British concern manufacturing airplanes arrived here for the purpose of submitting to the Government proposals for the adoption of aerial means of communication within this country. In an interview yesterday with one of daily papers Major Kennedy gave a very full forecast of his plans which are that mails and passengers are to be carried within the country by means of aircrafts and also that a service is to be maintained between Newfoundland and the nearby continent. As will be seen by a perusal of the Bill, it provides that the Company may obtain, free of charge, sites of buildings and landing places, power to take over private lands on the usual terms, and free entry for apparatus and materials along the lines customary in the case of new industries being established, and that the contract shall not extend beyond 25 years. This proposal, I might point out, involves no cost to the Colony whatever, but its adoption will mean a large expenditure by the Company in establishing stations for aircrafts and the creation of airdromes or flying fields across the Island, and any other ways which will suggest themselves to hon. members if this project undertakes shape. Possibly some may think that it is a visionary scheme, but in view of what we are seeing accomplished everyday, I think it will be agreed that we cannot dismiss any project of this kind, but are entitled rather to look for its being

realized before long. I have much pleasure, therefore, in moving the second reading of this bill.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—Before this Bill is put through I would like to ask the Leader of the Government does this confer an exclusive privilege on the people looking for this contract?

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Yes, for 25 years.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—Then I protest most strongly in view of the present conditions of aerial navigation that this Colony should be asked to enter into a contract of this kind and give an exclusive privilege to this company, a corporation of which we know nothing. To give these people exclusive privilege for 25 years is an outrage when we realize that the science of aeronautics is in its infancy and when it is impossible to even jointly forecast what may be in operation 5 years hence. Though not prepared to discuss this matter at length I have no hesitation in saying that this is utterly unwarranted and I submit that no member of the Government is qualified to form an opinion that would justify such a concession.

**HON. MR. ANDERSON:**—Though I have not seen the Bill I must concur with the remarks of Hon. Mr. Bishop. It is absurd to grant any company such concessions and if we are going to be generous in giving away lands than we can be liberal right here at home in giving grants to our brave soldier boys. And if this matter were even amenable to discussion it is too late in the session now to give it the consideration its importance deserves. I will not be a party to granting any such concessions.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I may say that a similar matter to this was placed before the Government a short time

ago. The principal in it was an English company who wished to erect an aerodrome at its own expense and which would be of great benefit to the country in expending so much money here in the giving of labor.

This company is merely asking for a contract for 25 years. The building of aerodromes will go into hundreds of thousands of dollars and will assure a great deal of continual employment to large numbers of our people. I think what they ask for is not at all exceptional and the ground they would require would be of no use to the Government while, of course, private lands would no doubt be well paid for. No company is going to undertake such an enterprise unless they are assured of a certain measure of protection.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—It would be with very much regret that I would find myself compelled to vote against the second reading of this bill intended as an authorization to His Excellency the Governor in Council to enter into a contract for aerial mail service. There are, however, two objections to this Bill so grave as to justify me in voting against its second reading, and I trust the leader of the Government will obviate the necessity for a division in this Chamber upon this Bill by a reconsideration of its terms and provisions so that it may be made acceptable in its entirety rather than objectionable as it now is in several vital particulars.

The Bill recites that negotiations are in progress between the Governor in Council and the Aircraft Manufacturing Company, of London, England, for the establishment of an aerial mail service in, to and from the Colony. It recites further that in the opinion of the Governor in Council it is desirable that a contract for that purpose should be entered into at an

early date. The operative sections of the Bill are intended to empower the Governor in Council to enter into a contract with the Aircraft Manufacturing Company or any other responsible person, firm or corporation "upon such terms and conditions as may be acceptable to the Governor in Council." These terms and conditions to include a grant to the company free of charge of sites, power to appropriate private lands, entry of plant, machinery and appliances free of duty, and expressly provides that the terms of such contract shall not apply for a longer period than twenty-five years from the date thereof.

The effect of that section is to give the Governor in Council power to enter into a contract of a monopolistic character, giving to a company the exclusive right to use the Island of Newfoundland for aircraft purposes for a period of twenty-five years. I cannot conceive of the possibility of any Executive Government, no matter how perverse or how subject to the control of financial interests, venturing to enter into such a contract, but, having regard to the record of the last year or two in the public affairs of this Colony, in view of the situation of to-day, which finds a conglomerate Executive Government, composed of a body of men who cannot be regarded as otherwise than an aggregation of undesirables, a body of men who are not the elected representatives of the people, gentlemen who hold office merely because they themselves have, time after time, passed Legislature Extension bills keeping them in office, a body of gentlemen of absolutely conflicting political views and party associations and alive only in the similar character of their unfortunate political records, I do not think the Executive Government should have such en-

ormous contractual powers conferred upon them.

The second section provides that any contract so entered into shall be valid and binding upon Newfoundland and its future Governments without any confirmation whatever by a resolution of the House or by Act of the Legislature. Never before was such a provision attempted in any power delegated by a legislature to an Executive Government. It is objectionable, contrary to constitutional procedure, and entirely pernicious. To permit an Executive Government to enter into a contract with any company, no matter how reputable, the Executive Government having the power to bind the entire Island of Newfoundland to one company as a monopolistic venture, for a period of twenty-five years, with power to insert in that contract a provision that no other firm, person, company or corporation, should use the Island of Newfoundland as the point of departure for aerial work, is an absurdity which cannot be tolerated by this Chamber.

I agree with the idea that His Excellency the Governor in Council should enter into negotiations with this Aircraft Manufacturing Company or any other responsible person or company with a view to developing the enormous possibilities of aerial traffic within the Island of Newfoundland, but principally to and from the Island of Newfoundland. Newfoundland's location in the Atlantic is such as to make it an important nest for this great mechanical bird of commerce. Newfoundland by its geographical situation may possibly be made the centre of aerial transportation between the Old World and the New. The development of the past few years has been enormous. The development of the next year or

two may be equally rapid. Just as five years ago the thought of sea planes journeying from New York to Trepassey and from Trepassey to the Azores would be regarded as the impossible vision of a dreamer, so the developments of the next five years may equally transcend that which is regarded to-day as within the vision of practical accomplishment. It is incongruous, then, that His Excellency the Governor in Council should ask for powers at this stage the session to enter into a contract at an early date with any company or concern binding itself even for a very limited period of years, much less for twenty-five years, and binding itself to a very limited extent, much less the monopolistic powers which this Bill would empower the Executive Government to confer. It will be remembered that a few years ago Mr. Marconi visited Newfoundland. His intention was to use Newfoundland as a wireless base; large operations were proposed. Nearly fifty years ago the Government of Newfoundland had granted a monopolistic power to the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, and that Company stepped in and insisted upon its rights as a monopolist. The Newfoundland Government found itself powerless, and Mr. Marconi and his wonderful projects for using Newfoundland as a base with which to span the Atlantic by wireless telegraphy and wireless telephone were frustrated and Mr. Marconi was driven from our shores. With such an illustration before this Chamber in the immediate past, I feel satisfied that a Bill granting these powers to an Executive Government will not receive the approval of this Chamber. I am astounded, Sir, that a complacent Government in the House of Assembly should have dared to put on record such a measure and should

have been bold enough to have sent it to this Chamber with a request for our concurrence.

**Hon. Mr. Bishop:**—Mr. President, I must agree with the previous speaker in opposing the bill, I might say that my objection to the bill is not to the granting of any lands that would be required either public or private but no other Country so far as I am aware has been asked to entertain such a proposition as this and I don't see why Newfoundland should be the first to enter with a contract that would give exclusive right to any Company.

**Hon. Mr. McNamara:**—Mr. President, I agree with the previous speakers that this House should exercise extreme care in dealing with a matter which may possibly have far reaching effects. Aircraft is still in its infancy, and I think it would be well to avoid at this stage especially, anything like a monopoly. We all know what monopolies are from past experience. Geographically we are a thousand miles better off than any other country on this side of the water as a starting point for a trans-atlantic trip and surely this fact should be some consideration. Again sir, it is not impossible that at some future date some local enterprise might want to enter the field and surely it would be the utmost injustice to see such an enterprise debarred because they could not get from their own country the concessions which had been given exclusively to strangers. Another objectionable clause in the bill is that it provides for the importation free of duty of all material and machinery to be used in connection with the venture. This is I think another concession which should not be given for obvious reasons.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. Chairman, I must also oppose the giving of an

exclusive right to this company. I think it would be well for us to advise the world that we are prepared to consider such proposition before we bind ourselves to such a contract with the first company that comes along, to the exclusion of all others. Would it not also be well for the Government to consider the using of a couple of seaplanes, one to go west and another north. Such a venture would not be so altogether expensive and would certainly prove a quick and feasible method of getting in touch with the remoter sections of the country.

By the unanimous consent of the House the second reading of the bill was deferred until to-morrow.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, this Bill, "An Act to Authorize the Governor-in-Council to enter into a Contract for a Coastal Steamship Service," is so familiar to you in its general features that I need not speak at any length upon it. The Bowring Service, operating the past fifteen years, expired on the 30th April last. Negotiations have been in progress for some time past for a new service, advertisements were published in the press inviting tenders, but only one reply was received. That was from the Bowring Company, and agreed to continue for ten years, but asked for an increased subsidy from \$72,500 to \$100,000, and this figure to be without any deductions for a reduced number of trips, contrary to the terms previously, when a deduction was made for every trip not carried out. The Company also asks to be allowed to increase the rates for freight and passage by fifty per cent., and to readjust rates in certain quarters before adding the fifty per cent. The Government is unwilling to bind the Colony for a longer period than five years, seeing that many changes may occur



within that time, and that is the stage at which matters are at present. Therefore, the Government asks to be permitted to complete a contract with the Bowring Company, or any other responsible person, firm or corporation, if the negotiations with the Bowring Co., fail, with the proviso, however, that the term of the contract shall not exceed ten years, and that the annual subsidy shall not exceed \$100,000. I therefore move that this Bill be now read a second time.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—The Hon. Mr. Ellis, in his remarks on this Bill, gave the most cogent argument against the adoption by this Chamber of the aerial mail service bill which was considered a few minutes ago. His support of this bill was based upon the fact that the Government was dealing with such a well-known and reputable firm of contractors as Messrs. Bowring Brothers, Ltd., a firm which has had the coastal mail contract in Newfoundland for probably twenty years that the Government were prepared to give Messrs. Bowring Brothers a contract for five years, but that Bowring Brothers wanted a contract for ten years, that the details of the negotiations had not been completed, but would have to be completed within the course of a few days, but perhaps not before the closing of the Legislature as that was planned for Monday or Tuesday, and that the Governor in Council should be authorised to complete that contract. He also pointed out that not only was the time limit named in the bill as being ten years, but the maximum subsidies to be granted were also named in the bill, and upon these reasons he based his support of this measure.

In view of that argument, Sir, I cannot see how it is possible for the Honourable the Leader of the Gov-

ernment to have appealed to this Chamber to support the Aerial Mail Service Bill as he did a few minutes ago. He told us that the reason why the Government desired to limit the Bowring contract to five years was that there might be such changes in conditions in relation to the northern coastal traffic within five years as to make a contract for longer than that undesirable. If, Sir, such changes are likely in ordinary sea travel on the northern coasts of Newfoundland and Newfoundland Labrador in a few years as to make a ten-year contract with such a well-known firm of contractors as Messrs. Bowring Brothers, Ltd., who have been carrying on this service for twenty or more years, an undesirable contract in point of time, five years being sufficient, how could he possibly justify a twenty-five year proposition, monopolistic at that, with an Aircraft Manufacturing Company concerning the personnel, standing and responsibility of which this Chamber has absolutely no information whatever, the very name of the company being presumably unknown to ninety per cent of the members of this Chamber.

This bill authorising the Governor in Council to enter into a contract for the coastal service is an entirely different proposition from the one previously discussed. In the first instance we are dealing with Messrs. Bowring Brothers, Ltd., whose years of satisfactory service in connection with this same mail and passenger service in Newfoundland and Newfoundland Labrador has met with public approbation. Then the question to be determined is whether the Government's position for a five-year term can be secured or whether the Bowring position that it should be a ten-year contract must be favorably considered. This is a proposition

which His Excellency the Governor in Council may well be left to determine. The chief other point of importance is the matter of subsidy. The Government offers \$75,000; Messrs. Bowring Brothers want \$100,000. The Bill expressly limits the amount to be given at \$100,000. The question of a settlement as to the difference between the Government on the one hand and Messrs. Bowring Brothers on the other may well be left to the Executive Government to decide. Then, too, this is a matter of which every member of this Chamber has full knowledge, a matter of which the country has full knowledge. It is merely the continuance with somewhat altered provisions of the contracts with Messrs. Bowring Brothers which have been in existence for some years. I feel that this Bill merits the sympathy and favorable consideration of this Chamber, just as I feel that the Aircraft Manufacturing Company bill is an utterly absurd proposition which should not be favorably entertained in the form in which it was submitted to us.

It is very reasonable that, in view of the imperative necessity of some contract in connection with this mail service being completed within the course of a very short year, so as to provide some facilities for fishermen and business men, that the Governor in Council should be fully authorised to deal therewith. The second clause, which makes any contract the Governor in Council may enter into binding without ratification by resolution of the House or by Act of the Legislature is certainly an objectionable feature, but, in view of the fact that the Government has through its utter incapacity to deal with business matters in a businesslike manner, let this matter drift along for the seven weeks that the House has been in

session without action, and considering the fact that this House must very shortly close if the session of the Legislature is not to interfere with important spring business in which so many of the members of both branches of the Legislature are directly engaged, I feel that even this very objectionable section might under the special circumstances of this case be permitted to pass. The House should not, however, have been put in the position in which it finds itself. Important legislation of this class should not have been left for seven weeks, and then introduced under suspended rules in the closing moments of the session. But that is the fact. The incompetence of the administration which has been and is in charge of affairs is responsible for the occurrence, and as members of the Legislative Council we have to face the situation as we find it and do the best that can be done to make sure that there will be service for the coasts of Newfoundland and Newfoundland Labrador during the coming summer.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

Hon. Mr. Mews took the chair.

**HON. MR. MacNAMARA:**—I may say, Mr Chairman, that I am quite satisfied the Government has acted wisely with regard to this bill. I would like, however, to see in it some clause which would do something to prevent the congestion which occurs now when steamers are taking freight. Hundreds of laden teams can be seen stretched along Water Street waiting their turn to get to the wharf with their loads and in many cases the freight is returned to the shipper.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—One of the great difficulties I see in the way of

this being remedied is that the plea of the contractor is that shippers of freight wait as a rule till the last hour to send their freight.

**HON. MR. MacNAMARA:**—That is all very well but in many cases the orders come on the steamers on this inward trip and the freight has to be sent out on their next sailing.

**HON. PRESIDENT:**—Yes, in a measure that contention is quite correct but you raise a difficult question. The same thing has applied in the past in the case of the railway contract and while the company takes one view of the matter the shipper takes another.

**HON. MR. WINTER:**—It is an utter impossibility now and it has been for years to ship by general steamers goods ordered to go by them. Speaking for myself I may say I had a large quantity of goods to ship by a local steamer and it was advertised that freight would be received from 9 o'clock. At 8.30 we commenced to ship a large quantity of stuff; but by the time it reached the line there was enough to fill two ships before it. It has been found necessary now to ship goods at six or seven o'clock in the morning if you are to get it off, and to pay the men who lose their time accordingly. The present steamers are altogether inadequate for the purpose as they are but half the size required. This applies to both the Northern and Western boats. Now that the trade we know is far too great for this service and that it is surely going to increase, we are doing a very foolish thing if we enter into a ten year contract. I believe we should have two or three steamers on this service. This applies not only to these steamers but to the boats of the Reid Newfoundland Company, who likewise advertise that they will receive freight from 9 and are full by

9.30; all of which must convince us that the present means of transportation is altogether inadequate. If we could get Messrs. Bowring Bros. to take goods when they are ordered, then everything would be O.K., but they will not receive a package; and the only thing is to send a cart to take its place in the long line, which before nine in the morning reaches from Bowrings' to the Court House. I do not think the remarks of the President as far as the trade is concerned are quite correct. In the first place steamers are not big enough to take the trade offering, and then the contractors have not got the room on their premises to take goods before the steamer is notified to sail; both of which I think they admit. However I do not know how this can be remedied, but yet it seems to me a big mistake to enter into a contract for ten years.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—Mr. Chairman, we have listened to a good deal of debate here but in my mind the whole question is this, that the merchants are looking to the Government to carry out their private affairs for them. They have dropped, using coasters because of the cheaper rates of the Government coastal boats; and want to adopt these Government mail boats as freight carriers. They forget that this is a matter for themselves. They should supply their own carriage. I have had an opportunity during the past year to become acquainted with conditions and have come to the conclusion that people think that the Government's chief duty is to find transportation for every pound of cod fish caught and brought into the country. These people have the audacity to suggest that extra ships, extra subsidized ships should be available to accommodate them and their desires and needs. If

those who are interested would only place some money in vessels in which to ship their supplies to these places there would be no such congestion as you have it to-day. As it is now you are confronted with the impossible position that to-day you have two to three hundred dollars worth of freight to be shipped; and to-morrow two or three thousand dollars worth. Now it is absolutely impossible to make any contract to cover such different conditions, and these can only be met by private action on the part of the firms in question. It is interesting in the view of the debate to know that week after week some of the Reid bay boats do not get sufficient freight to pay expenses, while at certain seasons these same subsidized boats are unable to carry the freight offered to them. The facts of the matter though are these, that the introduction of steamers drove a lot of people out of business who used to run coasting vessels, and now you haven't got sufficient accommodation to carry your business.

**HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:**—In reply to the hon. member I might say that these ships are engaged and subsidized to carry freight, and as such ought to have accommodation to receive freight and also room to carry it. If it is not intended that they shall carry freight let it be known and the people interested will take the matter up. If though it is the intention to have these steamers take freight, have them large enough and have them run frequently enough to manage all that there is to be shipped.

**HON. MR. McNAMARA:**—I wish to say that I am not opposed to Bowring Bros. I just brought up this question because I feel that there should have been some reference to it as this Bill went through. Another point brought up by the Hon. Mr. Winter might also

be answered; and that is that when we are called upon to pay double cartage, we charge that to the consignee, as we hold that it is not our fault. By not having room to accept these goods these contractors get off very easily and conveniently as it saves them all kinds of expense. My chief point though is that if they undertake to tender for this contract they should at least be prepared to arrange decent shipping facilities for the public. That is their worst feature.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, with regard to the question of congestion I wish to say a few words. I was one of a committee who interviewed Messrs. Bowring Bros. in connection with this matter, and I may say here that before we went I thought as some of the hon. members expressed themselves here to-day. Mr. Bowring stated that the ship's departure was advertized several days before her arrival here, but no freight was ever received before her arrival. He said his premises were large enough to accommodate the whole ship's load; but I said I didn't agree with him. He said that practically a week's notice of the ship's sailing was advertized; but that goods might be shipped earlier were never shipped until the last day; so the business people were at fault; they did not send their goods in on time. We talked the matter over after at the Executive meeting and thought that the increased rate might offer some inducement to the Company to give this matter their care and attention. We felt however that the best solution to this matter would be additional boats. Two boats are scarcely able to deal with this traffic; and if we can secure this contract for five years, perhaps before the expiration of that time we will be able to ar-

range for four steamers instead of two.

The committee on the Public Service Bill rose and reported the same without amendment. Said Bill was then read a third time and passed and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

Second reading of Revenue Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, This Bill, which covers the only amendments to the Revenue Act proposed this year, consists of three minor alterations. The first is a modification in the schedule regarding the duty on partly manufactured leather imported here, the idea being to give the local tanners some more protection than they enjoy at present in order that they may more effectively compete with the outside manufacturer, and at the same time ensure a better market for local hides, thereby helping the farmers and others. The second is to assist the local Soap Factory by granting increased facilities for the import of ingredients used in the manufacture of soap. The third proviso for the levying of a tax of five cents on every parcel imported by parcel post into the Colony and this is intended to cover the cost of handling, and is precisely the same arrangement that prevails in Britain, Canada and the United States to-day in regard to the same service.

With your permission, Mr. President, I would now move that this Bill be read a second time.

The said bill was then read a second time and House then went into committee thereon, Hon. Mr. Templeman in the chair.

The committee rose and reported the bill without amendment, which was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. President read a message

from the House of Assembly that they had passed the accompany bills entitled respectively: An Act for Arbitration for Coastal Contract, and An Act Authorising the Government to enter into a Contract regarding Telephone System.

Said bills were then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

House then adjourned until to-morrow at four o'clock.

SATURDAY, May 31st, 1919.

The House met at 4 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Act Authorizing the Governor-in-Council to enter into a Contract for an Aerial Mail Service." I explained this Bill to the House yesterday, but deferred the second reading at the request of some hon. gentlemen, who wished to familiarize themselves with its provision.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Exportation of Timber." It is introduced at the instance of the companies cutting wood for the making of pulp and paper. The companies find that under the present practice tops of trees, large branches, and other material which cannot be used for pulp making is left in the woods to rot, when it might be converted into a saleable product. They accordingly ask to be permitted to export it because, two results, will follow; first, because, the forest will be cleared of this material and the risk of fire thereby lessened and, second, because large amounts will be gained from the sales of this otherwise useless material and a great deal of employment afforded our people in handling it.

By reference to the Bill, it will be seen that the interests of the country are carefully protected, because it is provided that no person shall export any such timber if it exceeds five inches in the larger end and unless they are operating pulp and paper mills and a saw mill in connection with the same, and it is further provided that an export duty shall be paid on this material up to \$1 per cord so that the Treasury will gain some advantage from the arrangement as well as the people directly and the timber owners.

I trust that the House will now be ready to give this Bill a second reading.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I move that the second reading of this bill be deferred until to-morrow.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—Mr. President, I took exception to this bill yesterday and I think very properly so, as I did not think that it represented the ideas of the Government at all. I have since had an opportunity of examining the contract and I find that it contains all necessary safeguards and in fact all that it should contain. It gives the company priority and not a monopoly, and altogether I think the measure as it now stands is a very good one.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the bill. Hon. Mr. Power took the chair.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I should like to have Mr. Chairman, an interpretation of this act should the Government desire to initiate and run a mail air service of its own. Are they forbidden by the Act?

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—The question of the hon. gentleman deals with a later section in the Bill. We are now called upon to deal with the first section. As a matter of fact we are deal-

ing with a bill which has not been explained to us, which we do not understand, and which I doubt very much if the leader of the Government himself understands. While all honorable gentlemen are anxious as soon as possible to be relieved of their legislative duties, yet I feel that it is not well to push this matter. I for myself am not prepared as yet either to assent or dissent to its provisions. Without putting this suggestion in the shape of a motion, I would put forward the question as to whether or not we are in a position to debate and determine this question; which should be determined before proceeding further.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:** — Mr. Chairman, it may be of interest to the House to know that this Bill has been favourably commented upon by airmen here who are in no wise connected with the Bill; and they say that the project is launched by the largest Aeroplane Company in the British Empire, the A.M.C. Hope Thomas, was the pioneer man in aeroplane life, and to-day stands high in his profession. Another person connected with the Company is Major Haveland, a brilliant success at aeroplane work. It was he who devised the type of aeroplane which was after considerable research adopted by the Americans, and built by the thousand for use on the Western front. With such men at the helm, we must certainly have confidence in the Company planning this project. As to the question as to whether this House should deal with this matter to-day, personally I fail to see the desirability. Truly it is the desire to close the House, but I cannot imagine for a moment that the leader of the Government is so anxious to see it close as to have this Bill rushed through here to-day. I personally also feel that a great deal

of time would be saved by having a select committee deal with this matter, and would throw out a suggestion to that effect. Let this select committee meet and consult gentlemen in town if necessary and report to this House on Monday, when we will know where we stand. With respect to the question asked I would give it as my opinion, that of a layman, but one who has for a long time been connected with Governments, that the Government certainly can do as suggested by Hon. Mr. Mews. There is no prohibition for the Government's doing anything. The only proviso is in the case of other firms. However, members of the House may not be prepared to take up this matter now and therefore I would venture the suggestion that I have already outlined.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—I would like to point out to hon. members, Mr. Chairman, that paragraphs 12 and 13 and both salient ones and either now, or easily could be made to remove any ambiguity from Section 5. I agree with Hon. Mr. President that the Government undoubtedly have the right to inaugurate a postal service; but if there is any doubt upon this matter it can very easily be remedied by amending sections 12 and 13 accordingly. With very slight amendment this Bill ought to be acceptable, but at the same time the matter might be deferred and dealt with in the manner outlined by the President.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. Chairman, it is not my desire to rush this Bill. Perhaps after all it would be better to give hon. members an opportunity to read the bill. I would therefore propose that a select committee be appointed to consider this matter and report to this House on Monday.

The Committee.

Mr. President named the commit-

tee to consist of Hon. Messrs. Ellis, Bishop, Grieve, Mews and Templeman.

Second reading of Bill re Coastal Contract Arbitration.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis this Bill was read a second time.

The House went into Committee on this same Bill.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was thereupon read a third time and passed.

Second reading of Telephone Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, this Bill, authorizing a contract for a telephone service, is similar in principle to the measure adopted yesterday regarding the Coastal Contract. It may be asked why not have the contract made in the usual way and submitted to the Legislature? The answer is that it was only within the past few days that the parties who have promoted this enterprise found themselves in a position where the acquisition of the Anglo American Telegraph Company's telephone rights here could be obtained. On the acquiring of these the whole project hinged and now that their acquisition seems possible the interested parties are prepared to undertake the installation of a modern telephone system. The negotiations in regard thereto may take weeks and it was felt to be unnecessary to keep the House in session until they were completed. Of course it may be argued that the matter could stand over for another session, but the present telephone service is such a crying evil that I hope the House will feel there is no need to take this step, but rather that we should welcome this opportunity to get so necessary a service as a modern telephone system.

I beg to move therefore that this Bill be now read a second time.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—Mr. Presi-

dent, I hope I will not be regarded as Leader of the Opposition. But really sir, we are dealing with important legislation. We, all of us, know the immediate need of an improved telephone service; but I cannot say, sir, that we are prepared to regard a contract in connection with the same as of such trifling importance as to pass it over to the Governor in Council for execution. Personally I think such a principle is entirely wrong, and if that is to be the attitude of this House, we are wasting very valuable time and ought to resign and pass full control of everything over to the Executive Government. I am by no means opposed to a new telephone bill. We have suffered very great inconveniences for years and I can think of no men who could be more directly concerned than the members of this House. I think members should at least have an opportunity of reading this Bill before passing its second reading; and anxious though all are to be relieved of our duties, I think a day or two more will not seriously delay them. I would move as an amendment that the second reading be deferred.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I would second this motion. I think this contract has been prepared. It is only now a matter of printing. That should very easily be available on Monday.

On a decision by a vote of eight to five the second reading was deferred. . . Hon. Mr. President acquainted the House that he received a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the following bills: An Act respecting Coal Areas; An Act respecting the Judicature Act, 1904; Sawmills (Amendment) Act; C. B. Electric (Amendment) Act; Nfld. Products (Extension) Act; Election (Amendment) Act; Protection of Ani-

mals (Amendment, Act; War Pensions (Amendment) Act.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these Bills were read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Hon. President read messages from the Assembly that they had passed the amendments made by the Council in and upon the act respecting the inspection of food on sealing steamers without amendment; also the accompanying bills entitled respectively An Act respecting Industrial and Provident Societies, an Act respecting Newfoundland Notes, in which they requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

Said Bills were then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

House then adjourned until Monday at three o'clock.

MONDAY, June 2nd, 1919.

House opened at 3.30 pursuant to adjournment.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I beg to move the adjournment of the House to give the leader of the Government an opportunity to make an explanation as to certain rumours current on the street. It has been said that Bowring Bros. have thrown up their contract as a result of a letter received by them from the Colonial Secretary demanding a 5 year contract. I took the earliest opportunity of asking Mr. Halfyard, late Colonial Secretary, about this matter and he informed me that this contract was practically finalized when he left the office of Colonial Secretary, as a ten year one; but in view of rumours current I would like to have an explanation from the Hon. Leader of the Government before the sitting proceeds further.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President,



I have no information available for the Hon. member, but if the House will wait a few minutes, I will try to find out from the Ministers of the Government what truth there is in these rumours. The Assembly is not in session but I think most of its members are available.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. President, I do not wish to delay the House. If the Hon. Leader of the Government will explain the position to us before we adjourn, that will be quite satisfactory to me.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I will do that.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—This is a very serious matter for the country, Mr. President, but I do not know that on a mere rumour the Hon. Mr. Mews is entitled to move the adjournment of this House. He might by permission of the House ask leave to question the Leader of the Government. I take it his remarks are gathered from a letter in the morning newspaper from Capt. A. Kean. He did not assume the likelihood of there being no contract, but merely called attention to the satisfactory service given by Messrs. Bowring Bros' boats, and as an earnest of what they were trying to do, showed how they fitted up another boat, the best available to carry out their contract. If that is the case, it does not evidence any likelihood of the contract being broken. As far as I can understand, the contract has been agreed on, and the only party now likely to drop it is Messrs. Bowring Brothers, for some technicality on which as yet no decision has been reached. But unless the Hon. Mr. Mews has some more reliable information, it is not right for him to attempt in this manner to delay this House.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. President, I do not press my motion. I was merely making use of a form. The

rumour referred to by me came from one of the directors of Bowring Bros. on Saturday. It also came through one of Bowring's officials this morning. It is because of the origin of these rumours that I considered it advisable to bring up this matter. In relation to Capt. A. Kean letter in this morning's paper, I may say that that only adds to the seriousness of the position.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Mr. President, the matter to which hon. gentlemen have referred is one of very great importance, in so far as until this matter is determined, both our Northern and Western services are held up. The Hon. Mr. Ellis I think is right, when he undertakes to furnish this House at once with a statement in this connection. A matter of such exceedingly great moment as is this, should be immediately finalized.

The report of the Select Committee on the Aerial Bill was received.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the House went into Committee on this Bill.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—Mr. Chairman, might I enquire if this Select Committee had any legal advice except that of the Attorney General?

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—The Committee sought no advice apart from that of the Attorney General.

Committee rose and reported the same without amendment. Said bill was then read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Ellis tabled information asked for by hon. Mr. Squires.

**HON. MR. SQUIRES:**—I thank the hon. gentleman for the energy displayed in providing some of the information asked for by me, but would point out that much information ask-

ed for previously is not yet tabled. There is no reference to the large patronage from the Finance Office, thousands of dollars being expended thereon; items for printing the Consolidated Statutes, etc., and other amounts. While Hon. Mr. Ellis has succeeded in securing information with regard to small amounts, a thousand dollars or so here and there, there is no reference to the many thousands of dollars spent and for which I asked. There is also outstanding information as regards the Government Engineer's report and the reply was that the Government Engineer's report was of such a nature that it was not in the public interest that it should be tabled. This would refer to the railway service, but there has been paid to the Reid Nfld. Co. amounts between I think \$100,000 and \$200,000 regarding certain claims and of which I asked information. The answer I received was that as I had personal knowledge, as some of it occurred when I was Colonial Secretary, the information should not be tabled. Then there were certain other questions the answers to which I am not in receipt of. I do not blame the leader of the Government but when I have been told from Government sources that I was not going to get it at all, and when the House of Assembly is not supplied with it, and the House being about to close; I feel I should make a protest against such treatment. If the hon. leader can assure me he will produce this before the House closes I will accept his word, but if this information is not forthcoming I shall have to take the necessary steps to bring the matter to the attention of His Excellency the Governor, because these questions must be answered.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I may say in reply that I have done my best to get

them answered. Now I do not think I said the information would not be given but what I did say was that the Hon. Mr. Gibbs asked the same question last year, and I went down to the Colonial Secretary's office and talked the matter over with Mr. Hall, and the conclusion arrived at was that it would not be the right thing to place correspondence before the House where no decision had been arrived at.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Exportation of Timber Bill was read a second time.

House went into Committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Goodridge in the chair.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the Committee rose, reported progress and recommended that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Telephone Service Bill was read a second time.

House went into Committee on the Bill, rose and reported progress and recommended that it be referred to a Select Committee.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Judicature Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

House went into Committee on the Bill.

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was read a third time and passed without amendment.

Second reading of Saw Mills Amendment Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—This Bill, Mr. President, to amend the Saw Mills Act, is intended to provide facilities whereby the country can obtain a greater supply of lumber for building and other purposes than is possible at the present time. Under the existing Saw Mills Act only mills are allowed to go inside the three mile limit and

cut timber, which were in existence and operating there some years ago. The result of that has been to give the people owning these mills a complete monopoly with the result that the production of lumber is restricted and the price has been advanced to a figure that makes the purchase of lumber almost prohibitive at the present time. This Act, which is introduced at the request of the Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture and Mines, who feel that it is necessary in the interests of the general public, will make it possible for small mills which are limited at present to cutting 10,000 feet of lumber, that is to say the little mills set up along every brook access to the woods further inland, the outcome being that there will be more lumber available and the price will probably be reduced. There is certainly great need for such a Bill at the present time, as I think anybody who has to do with the using of lumber will agree, and I am fully satisfied that it should be operative for at least the next two or three years. To the objection which may be made that it would be unwise to continue it indefinitely, I would simply say that licenses to cut, which are issued at the present time to these small mills, and the further licenses which they would receive under this Bill, are only issued from year to year, and that therefore no continuing interest is enjoyed by the people who obtain same. I trust this explanation will induce the House to give the Bill a second reading.

The Bill was read a second time.

House went into Committee on the Bill.

On motion of Hon. President the Committee rose and reported progress and recommended that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the

Conception Bay Electric Company Bill was read a second time.

This Bill was read a second time.

The House went into Committee on this Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

The report of the Committee was received and the Bill was thereupon read a third time.

Newfoundland Products Corporation Extension Bill.

On motion this order was deferred.

Election Act, 1913, Amendment Act.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, This Bill proposes to amend the Election Act so as to eliminate the present proviso that a man must be residing in the Colony for two years immediately preceding his nomination before he is elected to stand as candidate. The reason for this measure, as you also well know is that the present Minister of Justice, Hon. A. B. Morine, though a resident of this Colony for very many years, will not, when the election comes next fall have been residing here for more than eighteen months, and, therefore, would be ineligible, though curiously enough, he could still retain his seat in the Executive Council and the portfolio of Justice. It is felt that the language of the present Bill is hardly in harmony with modern ideas of liberality in these matters. The Bill, for instance, would render it impossible for men like Lord Morris, Sir Edgar Bowring or Hon. Donald Morison to become candidate and it would also debar promising young men going abroad to acquire professional educations, such as lawyers, doctors and the like, from becoming candidates. The amendment proposes that it shall be possible for man who has resided in Newfoundland for a full period of two years at any time to become a candidate if he is an

actual resident of the country at the time of the election.

I trust the House will find itself ready to give this Bill a second reading.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. President, before this Bill passes its second reading might I ask if there is not a regulation which says that two amendments to the one act cannot be passed at one session. I understand that this matter came up once before and a legal authority gave it as his opinion that two amendments to the same act cannot be passed at the one session.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—I am not prepared off hand to give a decision on this question. This Bill had better in the meantime be deferred.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—Ifi this Act were amended and entitled "An Act further to amend" that would be an answer to the Hon. Mr. Mews.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—Not if the assumption of the Hon. Mr. Mews is valid.

An Act for the Protection of Animals.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, this is an act to amend the "Animals" Act passed a few sessions ago, and is designed to alter what must have been due to an oversight. It entitles police officers to destroy animals. If under that act the police killed a dog they were liable. The present amendment is designed to remove that restriction.

The House went into Committee on this Bill.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment.

The report of the Committee was received and the Bill thereupon read a third time.

Second reading War Pensions Act.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of

this Act. It will be remembered that the late Government through the then Minister of Finance Sir M. P. Cashin, now Prime Minister, promised our returned men pensions equivalent to those given in Canada. This is a measure designed to bring this to pass, and being an adopted copy of the Canadian Act, I feel sure this House will endorse it. I have much pleasure therefore in moving the second reading.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—Am I to understand that this is simply a copy of the Canadian Act, making exactly similar provisions?

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Yes.

The Bill received its second reading.

The House resolved itself into a Committee on this Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

The report of the Committee was received and the Bill read a third time.

Second reading of Bill re Provident and Industrial Societies.

On motion this order stands deferred.

Second reading of Bill re Newfoundland Notes.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, This Bill, an Act respecting Newfoundland Notes, is intended to provide for the issue of colonial notes instead of silver in order to provide small currency for the country. During the past ten years we have imported into Newfoundland nearly one and three quarter million dollars' worth of silver coin, all of which has been absorbed by the people, until today there is not a sufficient quantity available for the ordinary business requirements. Our outport people have got into the habit of accumulating this money and banks are always pressing for further issues. It is felt,

now that we have not sufficient silver in the country to meet our further needs in this regard, we should either issue Canadian Government one and two dollar bills or provide similar notes of our own. The Government has, very properly I think the House will agree, taken the position that instead of using Canadian notes we issue our own notes and derive for ourselves whatever profit may accrue therefrom. The Bill authorizes the issue of such notes up to a value of one million dollars and provides that they shall be offset by a gold security of \$250,000, it being felt that this would be ample reserve in view of the facilities which the country now possesses of promptly obtaining stocks of coin from the nearby Continent in the highly improbable contingency of any run being made on a bank here in future.

I trust the measure will commend itself to the House and that the Bill will be granted a second reading.

The House went into Committee on this Bill.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. Chairman, what does this mean. Does this mean that the Government can raise a loan of this million dollars for general revenue; depositing only to cover, the amount stated here?

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—That is practically what it amounts to, should all the money be taken up. Of course it will not be circulated until it is found necessary, and probably the full amount will not be needed. As regards the revenue returns, it will in all probability come in next year as a surplus; estimated as profit, just as the Minister returns annually a statement of "Profit on Silver." It is not desirable at the present time to issue any more silver coins. Owing to the hoarding in India silver is high, and a silver dollar would cost something

like \$1.20. To issue at this price would be exceedingly expensive. These notes will be held to convenience the trade; and when there is a scarcity of silver will be issued.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—As this is a very important Bill, on which there appears to be a general lack of knowledge, might I suggest that it be deferred. I personally cannot make head or tail out of it, and perhaps if we could sleep over it, we might just comprehend its object.

The Committee rose and reported progress, asking leave to sit again.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Might I ask the leader of the Government for his answer regarding the coastal contract.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—I am not at liberty to say much in regard to this matter. The Executive Council had the matter under discussion and it was thought inadvisable for this Council to discuss the matter at this juncture. I will not say anything regarding the rumors one way or the other, but the Government are of the opinion that it will impair matters rather than facilitate them.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—I do not think this House need entertain any very serious apprehension regarding the Bowring contract. To begin with we know how splendidly the Bowring concern has conducted that service for the past fifteen years. The difficulty is not so great and the controversy is not so great that we may not hope that a day or two will straighten matters out and the contract be entered into. It seems to resolve itself now down to the question as to whether the contract is to be for five or ten years. So far as rates of freight are concerned it seems to me other influences will settle that matter at the end of five years because so soon as it appears that good profit can be made on the rates at present in force

there will be many other persons operating boats. The fact is that the rates have been so small the past few years the coasting schooner has been driven off the route the men not being able to earn their bread and butter. I feel sure that at the next meeting of this House the leader of the Government will be able to assure us that the contract has been agreed upon and these boats will have been engaged on their work.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I would like to say that I am absolutely in favor of this Bowring contract because I cannot see anything else in front of us, and because I cannot see anything but disorder if it is taken out of their hands was the reason I mentioned the matter.

The House then adjourned until Wednesday at three o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, June 4th, 1919.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Ellis tabled report of school under R. C. Boards.

House went into committee on Nfld. Notes Bill, Hon. Mr. MacNamara in the chair.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I asked the question yesterday as to what became of the proceeds of the issues of these notes. Can the money be expended or not?

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—The notes are put into circulation and the money put to the credit of the Colony, i.e. 75%, the balance being held in gold as a guarantee for the notes. The proceeds can be expended.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—This is the first bill of its kind and that is why I am anxious to know what it means. These notes are issued at small cost, and I wondered if the money was held for their redemption, or can it be expended like the duty.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:**—If I understand as it is stated by the leader of the Government I think it is most objectionable. It is giving power to the Government to spend more money and our experiences of the past are not of such a character as to warrant this House in believing that it will be spent wisely or judiciously. I do not like these notes at all. I think if the colony has been making a large profit out of its silver currency it ought now to stand any loss that would be involved in the issuance of silver.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the bill (note issue) was read a third time and passed without amendment.

The report of the Select Committee on the bill "An Act Respecting the Exportation of Timber" was received and adopted and the House on motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill.

Hon. Mr. Goodridge took the chair.

The committee rose and reported the bill with some amendments.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the bill was read a third time and passed with some amendments.

The report the Select Committee on the bill "An Act Respecting Saw Mills" was received and adopted and on motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill.

Hon. Mr. Mews took the chair.

The committee rose and reported the bill with some amendments.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the bill was then read a third time and passed with some amendments.

**HON. W. J. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of a bill entitled "An Act to Authorize the Governor in Council to enter into a

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Contract for the Development of certain of the Coal Deposits of this Country." This bill requires no explanation as a perusal of its provision will make it plain to all. If any explanation is needed I shall be glad to give it when the bill is being discussed in committee.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Will the company satisfy the Government on the point that it will be able to supply the demands of the country before this bonus is given.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—This bill has been altered somewhat since the Government considered it. Instead of putting one dollar per ton duty on all coal coming in here as was first intended, the bill now waives a bonus of a similar amount for the coal produced by the company only when they are able to supply the demands of the local market.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—I feel that every encouragement should be given to a project of this kind, but it has been said that the present company may not fully develop these areas but may sell out to a foreign company. When the bill goes into committee I have an amendment to offer to the effect that the bonus be given until such time as the company is operating on a sound financial basis.

The bill was then read a second time.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill.

Hon. Dr. Skelton took the chair.

**HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:** — Mr. Chairman, I am heartily in accord with this bill in so far that I think every encouragement should be given to the development of our coal deposits, but I agree with Hon. Mr. Mews that some limit should be made as to the amount of financial assistance which should be given the com-

pany. It would be altogether wrong for the Government to give out perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars to a paying company. It should not be forgotten also that should the local company be able to meet the local demands, the country stands to lose the duty on coal importations.

Hon. Mr. Mews moves an amendment to the Act.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—I quite agree with the idea of Hon. Mr. Mews to limit the amount of the bonus to be paid by the Government and also to limit the time. Personally I should prefer to set a time limit as it might be difficult to ascertain when the company is operating profitably or when it is not.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—Mr. Chairman, I think in this matter we should read between the lines and look forward to the future developments in respect of the opening up of these coal areas. It looks to me as if it was our duty to make this proposition as attractive as we can to outside capital. If we adopt Mr. Mews' amendment we may not be doing justice to the company which is at present developing these areas. I feel that it is our duty to make the inducement to outside investors as great as we possibly can.

We must not do anything to discourage the outside investor. We must give them something that will suit them, and if they satisfy themselves that the coal is there, and that the Government will protect them, then you will get capital into the country. I would not limit it to a number of years, but rather to an aggregate tonnage, and if the company secures this amount they will then be in a position either to go on independently or to ask further assistance. I would suggest this to the hon. gentleman making the amendment, as per-

haps a better way out of the difficulty.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. Chairman, I feel better disposed towards the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Bishop; to limit it to 10 years. I am sorry to say I do not quite follow the line of argument of the Hon. Mr. Grieve.

**HON MR BISHOP:**—Just one word Mr. Chairman, as to whether I think the outside man wants a proposition more attractive, than if he felt he had a bounty for his extra output for a number of years. We must fix a time limit if we accept the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Grieve. Every inducement which it is in the interest of the country to give should be offered them and in the absence of stronger evidence than has been produced here, I still adhere to my idea to limit it to years rather than to the output. However, I only made the suggestion. I do not desire to move an amendment.

**HON. MR. PRESIDENT:**—Wouldn't it be better, Mr. Chairman, to refer this to a select committee? We have at least three different ideas thrown out here, one from Hon. Mr. Bishop, one from Hon. Mr. Grieve and one from Hon. Mr. Mews. A select committee might consider all three of these, and recommend one of them to this House. I am very much interested and want the best thing done. As far as I am aware the prospects are highly encouraging, and it would be a pity if any lack of encouragement should operate to the detriment of this venture. I might suggest this to the hon. members who have expressed their views.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—That seems to me a good suggestion, Mr. Chairman, and I would make a motion to that effect. I may say that since hearing the Hon. Mr. Bishop I have modified my opinions somewhat, and feel that a select committee would meet this situation fairly.

The committee rose and recommended the Bill to a select committee. This report was received and the following Select Committee appointed: Hon. Messrs. Ellis, Bishop, Mews, Grieve, Winter and Murphy.

Newfoundland Products Bill, second reading.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, this bill, Mr. President, relating to the Newfoundland Products Corporation, merely extends for a further three years the time granted this concern to go on with its work. It may be remembered that in the session before the war this very large venture was launched. It contemplated an expenditure of some ten millions of dollars in the establishment of a large industry at Bay of Islands. The war, of course, made it impossible for the promoters to get the necessary capital and that condition prevails up to the present moment. The Company have two years of their term, but as it is obviously impossible for people to spend ten million dollars in such a venture within two years, in view of the prospect that the present summer will probably be spent in securing the capital, it is felt to be only fair to them that a further three years should be given them or in other words that they should be put in a position partially as good as if the project was being set on foot now. I hope therefore that in view of all the facts the House will feel itself able to give this Bill a second reading.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Mr. President, may I ask the leader of the Government if any survey has been started or construction work done up to date. My reason for asking this question is because this is a bill to extend the time limits stated in an agreement which passed this House several years ago. Now under Sec. 18 of that Act the Company in question had to start sur-



vey and construction work before a stated time, otherwise the agreement was to be void and of no effect. Now if that is the case, if the agreement is void, how can we by such a Bill as that before us, revive it. Is it not necessary to re-enact the Act, otherwise, sir, we are giving the Government authority to amend an expired contract. If this contract is dead why not say so. It seems to me on the face of it that the contract is void.

**HON. MR. BISHOP:**—Mrs. President, I would submit that that statement of the Hon. Mr. Mews, is open to question. As to surveys, much money has been spent on preliminary work, and I understand some construction work has been done. Quite apart from this, however, I would urge that this intended enterprise has been upset by 4 1-2 years of war, and that that fact alone might be considered sufficient reason why this company did not continue further operations. It will be within the memory of members of this House, that early after the completion of this contract, the proprietor died, and that that necessarily greatly interfered with the progress of necessary negotiations for raising capital. It seems to me entirely reasonable for the company to ask an extension of time. As a matter of fact we all know that throughout Britain and other countries, no external investments were allowed; accordingly the intention of the company to raise capital abroad was unable to be realized. In view then, sir, of these circumstances, I think this extension is entirely reasonable, and I have very great pleasure in supporting this Bill.

**HON. MR. GRIEVE:**—If I read this Bill correctly, Mr. Chairman, I do not think the interpretation of the Hon. Mr. Mews is correct. It is within common knowledge that certain sur-

veys have been taken and I also understand that the company has built a wharf. That brings them within the scope of Sec. 2, which stipulates that within two years they should begin a survey, and now according to Section 18 of the schedule they have got to expend within five years, five millions of dollars. They have 3 years still before them and they have to find that money and expend it in this time. This bill is like other bills, such as the Coal Fields Bill, all of which take time to start. It takes time to get capitalists started and this House should not in any way bar the introduction of capital. Our country has suffered long from having too little capital and we should even overstep the limit to help such a corporation as this to succeed. I do not feel that this company has forfeited its charter in any way, and I would therefore support this reading.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—Of course, Mr. President, if the Company has really started survey, and construction work they come within the agreement, in which event I must have been misinformed.

The committee on the Nfld. Products Co. Contract (Amendment) Bill rose and reported the said bill without amendment. Said report was received and the bill was then read a third time and passed without amendment.

On second reading of the Act to amend the Election Act, 1913, Hon. President ruled in reference to Hon. Mr. Mews' objections of yesterday, that said bill was in order and gave his authority for said ruling.

**HON. MR. MEWS:**—The temptation is irresistible to bring the "Mikado," which has delighted the city recently, down to modern times. Here we have Mr. Morine, who was debarred from standing at the coming election decid-

ing on the fact that a bill should be introduced permitting him to do so. He consulted with himself as "Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Forces," who said at once that it must be done. He approached also the "Captain of the Walk-Overs" who agreed absolutely with the position. He sought the advice of the "Lord High Executioner of Other Days" who said he would see that it was done. He also went to himself as Head of the Police Dept. who thought there would be no harm in it. He then went to himself as Attorney General who gave as his opinion that the law might be changed. Finally Mr. Morine goes to the Minister of Justice who agrees that it should be done, and "all these distinguished persons being duly 'squared' or 'insulted,' the Minister of Justice comes in the House and introduces a Bill allowing Mr. Morine to qualify as a Candidate under the Election Act, making the law conform to the man instead of the man conforming to the law! And all this was done with a lack of sensitiveness that to him was astounding. No one had seconded or supported the Bill in the Lower House; this tampering of the Law was not even excused by the Prime Minister. I have no objection to Mr. Morine standing for Bonavista Bay, and I do not know if it is quite right to deprive these electors of the pleasure they would have in dealing with him in the way which is provided in the Ballot Act. A message from Bonavista that very day had expressed the desire of the electors there that they were anxious to give Mr. Morine his medicine. It may be said that "they've got him on the list," and they say further that "he never will be missed!" Mr. Mews said he could not vote for the Bill. Not because it referred to Mr. Morine, but because he could not take the responsibility of

changing a law which had been on the Statute Book for forty or fifty years, and which was now changed for the sake of political expediency. It would be setting the seal of approval on an act of political treachery. Here we have a man who but a few weeks ago was praising the F.P.U. and its work, deliberately stating in the House that he was going to use his position as Minister of Justice to look into the affairs of the Union Trading Co., a threat which concerns every local industry in the Colony. In the next breath, Mr. Morine had said that Mr. Coaker was doing such good business that he was making too much money for the shareholders. This Trading Company has become an institution of gigantic proportions; it handled 70,000 qtls. of fish last year, it had a turnover of nearly three million dollars, and purchased from Local Industries about a quarter of a million dollars. Is a Company of this magnitude to be the butt of a Minister of Justice, who has sprung into power overnight? Mr. Mews said that the House had been told that the amendment to the Election Law was in conformity with the English and Canadian law. But we were not told the history of the law here in Newfoundland, we were not told why it was thought necessary to insist that a man who sought the suffrages of the people should be residing here for the 2 years preceding an Election. One can imagine that the framers of the law thought if a man wished to become a legislator, he would at least be interested enough in his country to live here permanently, that he should at least be interested enough to have been living here for the two years preceding an election. The law was not, and could not have been made in a haphazard fashion. I must have meant something. At any rate, Mr.

Mews said, this last hour of a dying Session, and of, we trust a dying Government, is not the time to bring in an amendment so seriously affecting the purity of an Election Law. The amendment may be alright, and a proper one, but that is not the reason why it is brought forward now. Political Expediency is the sole reason for it. The "mushroom" Government which brings it in has only been formed a few weeks; it has not a mandate from the people, indeed it has the reverse. The proper procedure is for an elected and fully representative Assembly to discuss such an important amendment as this. Both Government and Opposition should agree upon the matter. The principle of thus, for political purposes, changing the Election Act of the Colony is wrong. Abuses might easily come this year. For instance, it is quite possible that a group of men who have at sometime resided here for two years, might come this Fall and contest the Election, being backed by millions of dollars put up by the advocates of confederation. They might pack the Lower House, and before we knew it, we should be sold out to Canada. I feel that the gravity of the principle at stake is not sufficiently considered in dealing lightly with the qualification of those who sought the suffrages of the people.

The bill was read a second time, and House then resolved into committee of the whole thereon; Hon. Mr. Templeman in the chair.

The committee reported the bill without amendment, and said bill was then read a third time and passed.

Second reading of Industrial and Provident Societies Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, this Bill, an Act Respecting Industrial and Provident Societies, is not so formidable as its name or volume

would indicate. It is merely an adoption into our Statutes of the English law on the same subject, and the reason for this is that it is felt to be desirable that provision should be made whereby such an organization could enjoy the advantages of legal protection at a cheaper cost than the present company law provides. The immediate reason for this Bill is that the N.I.W.A., a workmen's organization in the city, has established a co-operative store, and under the existing Company law would find it a rather expensive proposition to register. This measure simplifies and cheapens that process and also makes it possible for all sorts of industrial benefit and similar societies to enjoy the same advantages hereafter. I trust that the Bill will be acceptable and move its second reading accordingly.

The bill was thereupon read a second time. Hon. Mr. Cook in the chair. The committee reported the bill and it was then read a third time and passed without amendment.

Second reading of Public Service Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, I beg to move the seconding of this Bill, the **large engrossed roll on the clerk's table**, officially designated "An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money towards defraying certain expenses of the public service," and more commonly known as the "Supply Bill" or "Public Service Act." This is the measure which provides all the monies for carrying on the various forms of the public service for the next fiscal year, for paying all the salaries of the public officials, and for meeting all various obligations to the Colony. This Bill is never printed, as a Bill, but in the form of the Estimates, covering every item contained therein, it has already

been on the desks of hon. members for some time past; and I have no doubt has been fully studied by them. As the House is already fully aware of the nature of the Bill, and what it provides, it will be unnecessary, I take it, for me to refer to it at any length, and therefore, I shall content myself with simply moving that it be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time.

House went into committee on the Bill.

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, whereupon it was read a third time and passed.

Second reading of Revenue Amendment Bill.

**HON. MR. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, in moving the second reading of this Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Revenue Act, 1905," I would say that it deals merely with three minor matters. One of the sections alters the regulations respecting the duty to be paid on partly manufactured leather imported into this Colony, at present the rate operates to the disadvantage of the local tanners, and the change made here is to enable them to compete on more equal terms with the imported articles. The effect also, as the House will appreciate, will be to make local hides more valuable and to benefit the farming industry thereby. The second section deals in the same way with soap making industry, it affords greater facilities for the local manufacturer who at present suffers a serious handicap through the facilities enjoyed by the outside manufacturer who ships his material in here in very large quantities. The third provides for the levying of the rate of five cents on each parcel brought into the country from abroad by parcel post. This levy is made for the purpose of paying the cost of handling the packages which has now

increased to an enormous number, and the policy of imposing the special rate on these parcels is one that is already in effect in Canada, America and the Mother Country. I trust, therefore, that the House will see no objection in giving this Bill its second reading.

The Bill was read a second time.

House went into committee on the Bill.

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, whereupon it was read a third time and passed.

Report of Select Committee on Telephone Bill.

The clerk having read the report of the Select Committee on the Bill it was referred to a Committee of the Whole with Hon. Mr. Grieve in the chair.

On motion the Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendments.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed with some amendments.

Hon. Mr. President informed the House that he would vacate the chair for 15 minutes to enable the Select Committee on the Coal Deposits Bill to give consideration to the matter. The chamber accordingly took recess for that period.

The report of the Select Committee on bill entitled "An Act to Authorize the Governor in Council to enter into a Contract for the Development of certain of the Coal Deposits of this Country" was received and adopted and on motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the bill.

The Committee rose and reported the bill with some amendments.

On motion of Hon. W. J. Ellis the bill was then read a third time and passed with some amendments.

**HON. W. J. ELLIS:**—Mr. President, in moving the adjournment of the

House I may say that in all probability His Excellency the Governor will to-morrow afternoon prorogue the Legislature.

The House adjourned until to-morrow afternoon at 3.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, June 5th, 1919.

The House met at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

The President announced that he had received a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the amendments made by the

Council to the following Bills, viz.:

Telephone Service Bill;

Exportation of Timber Bill;

Coal Deposits Bill;

Saw Mills Amendment Bill;

all without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Ellis tabled the report of the Patriotic Association; also information in reply to questions asked by Hon. Mr. Squires.

The House rose until 3.30 p.m. when the session was formally prorogued by His Excellency the Governor.



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