

JOURNAL
OF THE
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

In the Sixth Session of the Twenty-Third
General Assembly



Holden at St. John's, in the Seventh Year of the reign of
His Majesty King George V., A.D., 1917.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.
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Journal and Proceedings

OF THE

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

Twenty-Third General Assembly of Newfoundland

Begun and holden at St. John's in the said Island of Newfoundland on Thursday the Sixteenth day of August, Anno Domini Nineteen Hundred and Seventeen, being the Seventh Year of the reign of His Majesty Our Sovereign Lord, George, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, etc., etc.

THURSDAY, August 16th, 1917.

His Excellency having fixed the hour at which he proposed to open the present Session of the Legislature at three of the clock in the afternoon of this Thursday the Sixteenth Day of August instant, the members of the House of Assembly met in the Assembly Room at a quarter to three of the clock in the afternoon when Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

At three of the clock 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 Chamber 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 the Governor had been pleased to make a gracious Speech to both branches of the Legislature of which for greater accuracy he had obtained a copy which he read, as follows:

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

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

I have called you together in this special session in order that proposals may be submitted to you which will remove the possibility of the recurrence of the difference of opinion between the two branches of the Legislature which arose at your last meeting. Proposals will be laid before you to define the relations between your two Houses in order to secure the undivided authority of the House of Assembly over financial matters.

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

In order to provide additional Revenue for the War requirements of the Colony, you will be invited to consider a measure for the imposition of a tax on business profits.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

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

I trust that in consideration of these important measures, Divine Wisdom may influence you to results advantageous to the Colony and its people.

It was moved by Mr. W. J. Higgins and seconded by Mr. J. F. Downey that an Address of Thanks be presented to His Excellency the Governor 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.

The following Committee was appointed to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, namely: Mr. Higgins, Mr. Downey, Mr. Hickman, Mr. Halfyard.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions dealing with the question of the taxation of Business Profits.

Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill to make provision with respect to the powers of the Legislative Council in relation to those of the House of Assembly.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, August 17, 1917.

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

A Petition was presented by:

Mr. W. J. Higgins from the International Grenfell Association.

Mr. Higgins on behalf of the Select Committee appointed to draft a Reply to His Excellency's Speech presented the Report of the Select Committee as follows:

To His Excellency Sir Walter Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G.

Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island 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.

W. J. HIGGINS,
J. F. DOWNEY,
A. E. HICKMAN,
W. W. HALFYARD.

Assembly Room, August 17, 1917.

Pursuant to notice 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 dealing with the question of the Taxation of Business Profits.

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, 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 Levy a Tax on Business Profits," was read a first time and by unanimous consent of the House was ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Levy a Tax on Business Profits" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill to make provision with respect to the Powers of the Legislative Council in relation to those of the House of Assembly was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Monday next, August 20th, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, August 20th, 1917.

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

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 Levy a Tax on Business Profits."

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, it was ordered that the Bill entitled "An Act to Levy a Tax on Business Profits," he read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Levy a Tax on Business Profits," 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 make provision with respect to the Powers of the Legislative Council in relation to those of the House of Assembly," was read a second time, and by unanimous consent of the House, it was 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 to make Provision with Respect to the Powers of the Legislative Council in relation to those of the House of Assembly.

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 it was ordered that the Bill entitled "An Act to Make Provision with Respect to the Powers of the Legislative Council in Relation to those of the House of Assembly," be read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Make Provision with Respect to the Powers of the Legislative Council in Relation to those of the House of Assembly," 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.

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

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, August 21st, 1917.

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

Mr. Speaker informed the House that His Excellency had received the Address of Thanks and had been pleased to reply thereto as follows:

Government House,
St. John's, Nfld.

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

I thank you for Your Address in Reply to the Speech with which your present Session was opened.

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

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 to Make Provision with Respect to the Powers of the Legislative Council in Relation to those of the House of Assembly," without amendment.

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 to Levy a Tax

on Business Profits," with a verbal amendment in which they request the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the said verbal amendment was read a first and second time and passed and it was ordered that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council that the House of Assembly had concurred in the said verbal amendment without amendment.

At three 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.

Mr. Speaker at the Bar of the Council Chamber addressed His Excellency as follows:

May it Please Your Excellency:

In the name of the House of Assembly, I present the following Bills for Your Excellency's assent:

"An Act to Levy a Tax on Business Profits."

"An Act to Make Provision With Respect to the Powers of the Legislative Council in Relation to those of the House of Assembly."

His Excellency was then pleased to make the following speech to both Branches of the Legislature:

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

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

I thank you for the promptness with which you have disposed of the business submitted to you at this special Session.

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

The additional financial provision made by you for the needs of the Public Service will assist my Ministers in meeting the demands on the Exchequer occasioned by the Colony's participation in the war, and will be employed with judgment and economy.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:

In relieving you from this second attendance within so short a period I trust that Providence may bless your individual concerns, and those of the Country as a whole, with a generous measure of prosperity.

After which the Honourable the President of the Legislative Council by command of His Excellency the Governor, said:

Gentlemen:

It is His Excellency's will and pleasure that this General Assembly be prorogued until Thursday the Twentieth day of September, next, then and here to be holden, and this General Assembly stands prorogued accordingly.

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