

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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

1918.

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Proceedings

OF THE

House of Assembly of Newfoundland

SESSION 1918

Begun and holden at St. John's in the said Dominion on Tuesday, the twenty-third day of April, Anno Domini Nineteen Hundred and Eighteen, being in the Eighth 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.

TUESDAY, April 23rd., 1918.

His Excellency having fixed the hour at which he proposed to open the present Session of the Legislature at twelve of the clock in the forenoon of this Tuesday, the twenty-third day of April instant, the Members of the House of Assembly met in the Assembly Room at twelve of the clock in the forenoon.

Whereupon the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod appeared at the Bar and said:—

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

His Excellency the Governor requests your immediate attendance in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly the Members of the Assembly proceeded to the Council Chamber, wher the following Commission was read by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

COMMISSION

By His Excellency
**SIR CHARLES
ALEXANDER
HARRIS**, Knight
Commander of
the Most Dis-
tinguished Order
of St. Michael
and St. George,
Companion of
the Most Honor-
able Order of
the Bath, Com-
mander of the
Royal Victorian
Order, Governor
and Commander-
in-Chief, in and
over the Island
of Newfoundland
and its Depend-
encies:

C. ALEXANDER
HARRIS,
Governor.
[L. S.]

W. F. Lloyd,

Attorney General.

To the Honourable Sir Patrick T. McGrath, K. B. E., President of the Legislative Council; The Honourable Robert K. Bishop, and The Honourable John Harvey, Members of the Legislative Council.

Whereas I have deemed it expedient that the Seventh Session of the

Twenty-Third General Assembly should be opened for the dispatch of business on Tuesday, the twenty-third day of this instant month, whereof I have given notice in my Proclamation dated the twelfth day of April instant, and

Whereas it is not convenient that the purposes for which I have called the said General Assembly together should be declared on the said day until the Members of the House of Assembly have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, you, the said Honourable Sir Patrick T. McGrath, Honourable Robert K. Bishop, and Honourable John Harvey are hereby authorized and directed to signify to the Members of the said House of Assembly on the twenty-third day of April instant, that it is my pleasure that they should proceed to the choice of some proper person on the said day for my approbation.

Given under my Hand and Seal at the Government House, St. John's, this 22nd day of April, A.D., 1918.

By His Excellency's command.

W. W. HALFYARD,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable Sir Patrick T. McGrath, President of the Legislative Council, then said:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:

It is not convenient for His Excellency the Governor to declare the reasons of his calling this General Assembly at this time, and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Assembly should be first chosen, you Gentlemen of the House of Assembly will repair to the place wher you sit and there proceed to the appointment of some proper person to be your Speaker and present such person whom you shall choose

here at three of the clock this afternoon for His Excellency's approbation.

And the Members having returned to the Assembly Room the Honourable the Prime Minister addressing himself to the Clerk, who standing up pointed to him and then sat down, announced the resignation of John R. Goodison, Esquire, Speaker; and then moved that William J. Higgins, Member for the District of St. John's East, take the Chair of this House as Speaker; which motion was seconded by John R. Bennett, Esquire, Member for the District of St. John's West.

No other person being proposed as Speaker, Mr. Higgins was unanimously called to the Chair and was conducted to the Chair by the Members, who proposed and seconded him.

Whereupon Mr. Higgins, standing on the steps, addressed the House, expressing his gratitude to the Honourable Members for the high honour unananimously conferred on him.

The House then adjourned until this afternoon, Tuesday, at a quarter to three of the clock.

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

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.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker and the House attended His Excellency in the Council Chamber; and being returned to the Assembly Room Mr. Speaker informed the House that when in attendance upon His Excellency in the Council Chamber, His Excellency had been pleased to

approve of his election as Speaker of this House, and that in the name and on behalf of the House of Assembly he had by humble petition to His Excellency, laid claim to all their ancient rights and privileges which His Excellency had confirmed to them in as full and ample a manner as they have been heretofore granted or allowed by His Excellency or any of his predecessors. Mr. Speaker also expressed his respectful ack-

nowledgements for the high honour which the House had unanimously conferred upon him.

Mr. Speaker further announced that while in the Council Chamber His Excellency had been pleased to make a speech to both branches of the Legislature, of which speech he had for greater accuracy obtained a copy, which he then 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 :

On this, the first occasion of meeting you in session, I believe that you would wish me just to refer to the recent complete recognition of the status of Newfoundland as one of His Majesty's self-governing Dominions. I on my part am anxious to assure you that the welfare of this oldest and most loyal dependency of the Crown will be the daily object of my thoughts and solicitude.

The fisheries of the country have been conducted with more than the ordinary measure of success during the past year, and, thanks to the exertions of the Tonnage Committee, and to improved markets, the returns for the products exported have shown a marked improvement over past years.

This gratifying improvement has in turn resulted in an increase of imports so that the value of our total trade has increased from \$35,396,829 to \$43,700,072 for the twelve months ending June 30th, 1917.

The Seal Fishery, which has just closed, was successful, and has proved especially remunerative to the men engaged therein.

The outlook for the coming Codfishery is most encouraging. Every energy will, however, have to be bent to the purpose of securing sufficient tonnage to market the catch and ensure that those engaged shall obtain the full fruits of their activities.

The prospect of an insufficient supply of Salt for the fisheries is causing my Ministers serious concern. Both the material and the tonnage to carry it are difficult to obtain, but prospects appear to be improving and it is hoped that the conjoint efforts of the Salt Committee and the Ministry of Shipping will avert any serious shortage.

On Sunday, February the twenty-fourth last, the appalling disaster of the loss of the S.S. FLORIZEL brought sorrow and desolation into many homes in the Dominion. Especially did the business section of the capital city suffer the loss of some of the most prominent and successful members of the commercial body. The tragedy was accentuated by the helplessness of the onlookers who, on the Sunday, could do nothing in the boiling seas to save life, but the heroic work of the rescuers on the following day formed a record of which Newfoundland can for ever be proud. Of one hundred and thirty-seven passengers and crew only forty-four were rescued. It is a comfort and consolation to the bereaved relatives that most of the bodies of the lost have been recovered from the sea and restored to their loved ones for Christian burial. The loss of the ship, moreover, in view of the great scarcity of tonnage, is a serious blow to the trade of the country. My Ministers, without delay, appointed a Marine Court which is instituting a most searching enquiry into the causes of the wreck.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY :

The Revenue for the last financial year showed a substantial increase over the Expenditure, and the Surplus resulting was largely applied to the War expenditure of the Dominion. Another large Surplus is anticipated for the fiscal year shortly to terminate.

The Estimates for the several departments of the Public Service will be laid before you in due course and will, I am sure, receive your most favourable consideration, as they have been framed with due regard to economy and the exigencies of the extraordinary situation with which we are now confronted.

Your consideration will also be invited to the question of devising means for the raising of a Loan locally for War purposes.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL :

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY :

[Since the last session of the Legislature the titanic struggle raging in Europe, in which Great Britain and her Allies are engaged, has shown no sign of diminishing, but on the contrary has assumed even vaster proportions and more menacing aspects. The lamentable breakdown of Russia as an effective belligerent in the Entente's cause, which enabled the enemy to release vast armies from the eastern front

and hurl them against the Allied line in France, has brought about a crisis in the great struggle which cannot but cause the gravest anxiety. In this hour of destiny, fraught with the most momentous issues for the British Empire and the world, Newfoundland is called upon, in common with the Mother Country and the other Overseas Dominions, to make further sacrifices in order to avert disaster. The Imperial War Council is calling on all portions of the Empire for additional men to aid in winning the War. "Men! Men! Men!" is the cry of the Prime Minister of the Home Land. This cry is echoed by the members of the Newfoundland Regiment, whose valour has won approbation from His Majesty the King in the bestowal of the honourable prefix "ROYAL" to the Regiment. Confronted with these urgent appeals for assistance, Newfoundland must and will do her full duty.

Your immediate consideration will be asked to the need of enrolling men to replenish the ranks of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment by Selective Conscription, and a measure designed to accomplish that object will be laid before you without delay.

Varied and perplexing problems having arisen in connection with the social, commercial and industrial activities of the country as a result of the extraordinary conditions brought about by the operations of the War, a union of political parties arranged in July last, in order that the undivided strength of the community might be devoted to grappling with these difficulties and carrying on the public affairs. Committees to deal with the matters of procuring Tonnage and Salt were appointed, and also a Board of Food Control. These problems are becoming daily more pressing and accentuated and there is urgent need for united effort, undistracted by political turmoil, in order to cope with them. To ensure this aim a measure to extend the term of the present General Assembly will be submitted for your consideration.

The undying gratitude of the country is due to those who have given their loved ones to the cause of Empire in the great crusade now being waged against the hosts of tyranny and oppression. Our condolences go out to those whose sons have made the Supreme Sacrifice in defending their Empire and their native land, those "Martyrs in the cause of Liberty" who have died that others might live, and the memory of whose deeds will form an imperishable page in the history of this country for all time. To these men we all owe it that they shall not be found to have died in vain.

Our Sympathy is also with those who have fought the good fight

valiantly and well and who have returned to their homes unfit for further active service, bearing honourable scars sustained in action, mute testimonies to their courage and devotion to duty.

The Government recognizes the duty of the community to see that these men are enabled in their future life to overcome as far as possible the disabilities which their bravery and self sacrifice have inflicted upon them and they are already actively considering the matter.

Despite the trials and tribulations engendered by the Great War, Newfoundland has been especially blessed by Divine Providence. To the God of Battles I commend your efforts and sacrifices. I pray that he may inspire you with a high sense of duty in your deliberations, and protect our beloved country and our common Empire through the perilous ways through which we are now passing, till we arrive at a complete and enduring peace.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Speaker, the duty has devolved upon me to move for the appointment of a committee to draft an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech from the Throne. In doing so, I feel, Sir, my own shortcomings in doing justice to this very important occasion, for the speech is of such a character that abler minds than mine in this House would be necessary to deal with it as it requires. However, I know the honorable member for Hr. Grace will make up for my deficiency. Before dealing with the subject matter of the speech, I would with the permission of the House refer to two or three things. Since last we met here Sir Walter Davidson, our former Governor, has left our shores. Judging from the many resolutions of regret over his departure passed by various organizations in the city, he occupied a warm place in the hearts of many of our citizens. That Newfoundland has occupied a warm place in his heart has been shown by the deep interest he took in the Regiment and in other matters relating to Newfoundland after his arrival in England, and many believe that that interest, wher-

ever he may go, will continue. I also wish at this time to express the pleasure it affords me of welcoming heartily our new Governor, Sir Charles Harris. He is not a stranger to us, having spent the first ten years of his life in this city, after which he went to England and for a number of years past occupied the very important position of first clerk in the Colonial Office, so that he brings with him a knowledge of Colonial matters that fits him for the very important work of administering the affairs of Newfoundland, and which I have no doubt will be of great benefit to his advisers in the Executive Government. Democratic in manners and in thought I have learned from men of all classes who have already come in touch with His Excellency since his arrival here and who esteem him highly that we have in Sir Charles a man who will aid in everything that will make for the social, moral and economic benefit of the people. I also wish, Mr. Speaker, to extend to you my heartiest congratulations on the high honor conferred upon you by the members of this House in choosing you as Speaker. Your ability and fitness to

assume the new responsibilities which have been placed on your shoulders are too well known to hon. members present for me to comment upon them. We trust that you will be spared to occupy that position for many years, and that it may prove a stepping stone to higher honours.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to note in the Speech from the Throne, occupying a prominent place, are the causes which led up to the recent reverse the brave troops of our Allies have met on the French and Flanders front which have necessitated the Prime Minister of Great Britain to call on the Overseas Dominions, including Newfoundland, for men, more men; and that the Government in answer to that call has decided to introduce at this session of the Legislature a measure calling for Selective Conscription. I would take this opportunity of congratulating the Prime Minister and his Government upon the promptitude of their action and at the same time express my deepest appreciation of the work of the returned soldiers whose organized efforts are stirring up public opinion in favor of such a measure. Up until the time of the recent offensive I felt that a referendum was the proper course for the Government to adopt in dealing with the Conscription question, but the serious turn of affairs has changed my mind, and I believe, Sir, that many others throughout the country have altered their opinions for the same reason, and see the necessity like myself for prompt action. This is necessary, absolutely necessary, on our part to save the Regiment; to save the honor of the country, and to retain our reputation of being Britain's oldest and Most Loyal Colony. I have heard honorable gentlemen in this House and prominent men outside this House speaking eloquently upon the patriot-

ism and loyalty of Newfoundlanders. I say, Sir, their attitude on the matter of Conscription will answer that question once and for all. I spoke of a referendum. Will the forces of German despotism and tyranny await our referendum? No, Sir, they will strike their death blow quickly—if they can make it a death blow. What have they done with the referendum in the Provinces of Lithuania and Esthonia. Their peace plenipotentiaries at the Brest-Litovsk Conference agreed with the Russian plenipotentiaries on the principle of self-determination for these two provinces. In other words they were willing to allow the people of these two provinces to decide by a referendum, their own, Russia's, or Germany's. Have they kept their pledge? Their forces still remain in the two provinces. They are colonizing them with their own followers and are resorting to every device to make the referendum worthless so far as allowing it to be a free expression of the wishes of the people. We cannot, Sir, dilly dally with such a treacherous foe. For the sake of the Liberty and Freedom handed down to us by our forefathers to preserve, for the sake of our Country, for the sake of the Empire, for the sake of our Regiment, for those who have already suffered and died, we must and we will not fail at this crucial moment of the war. I believe from the many recruits now coming in that the predominant feeling in this country now may be summed up (with apologies to Punch) in these few lines:

"We did not like to fight,

But now there's nothing else to do;
We've got the men who've got the
grit,

To see Old Britain through."

After all, Mr. Speaker, Conscription is more democratic than the voluntary

system. The voluntary system allows the burdens of war to fall on the shoulders of a comparatively small number of the population, while Conscription would equalize the burden and sacrifice, and spread it out among a larger section. It means protecting parents who have three, four, five or six sons from losing them all, as happened under the voluntary system, and also providing against one section in a district or in the country giving their all while the other sections do nothing. A conscription law calling upon first, all unmarried eligible men from homes that have not contributed a recruit and who are not a sole support of that home may answer present needs. Whatever the enactment may call for, I believe it is up to us to see that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Under the British Flag, it is one man, one vote. The poor man's vote is as good as that of the rich man. In Prussia the poor man's vote is only 1-6, 1-4 or 1-3 as good as that of the wealthy landowner, according to the property qualification. No Government of the people there, Sir. No democracy in that. Rather is it a Government of wealthy by the wealthy and for the wealthy. Fishermen's Union and Labor Unions would exercise very little influence on a Government of that kind. May I ask what would happen to the fisheries of this country were Germany to win? Would they be conducted so prosperously as they are now? It would, Sir, be just as well to kill the whole population as to see the price of fish reduced down to three or four dollars a quintal or perhaps less, for no man could live on that. Let us put our every ounce of energy into this greatest of all fights, concentrate our minds upon the one purpose that democracy must

be made safe for the world, and that no political squabble will divert us from the path of duty.

It is also pleasing to note that the House is asked to consider the question of raising a loan locally for war purposes. With fifteen millions of dollars in the Savings Banks, I do not think any better way could be devised for raising the new loan. It will give a greater earning power to the people, for now they get only three per cent. on their money while under the new loan they could get six per centum. The saving it would mean to the Dominion would also be a great advantage, as I understand that to raise money outside the country we would be obliged to pay at least seven and one-half per cent. I trust the Finance Minister will see his way clear to let it out in small denominations, so that the men with the small saving will be placed on an equality with those better off.

Reference is made to the success which has attended the fisheries of the country, and thanks are given to the exertions of the Tonnage Committee and to improved markets for this result. Now, Sir, the Tonnage Committee has received a good deal of criticism. I think it will be admitted after a fair examination, that they handled the problems which they had to solve in a manner which deserves the highest praise. The finding of tonnage and the effecting of insurance on our fish cargoes were difficult problems. They were handled in a masterly manner. Every unprejudiced mind who is acquainted with the work of that Committee will recognize that much of the prosperity which Newfoundland is enjoying today is due to the labors of that committee. Supposing, Sir, that no vessels could have been found to take our fish across to the foreign markets, what

would have happened? The price of fish would have gone down considerably less than it is today, and everybody in the Island would have felt the effects. But instead of this, the earning power of the fishermen was increased; the price of fish was greater than at any time in the history of this country; and not only the fishermen and their families benefited, but everyone throughout the Colony also, because the increased earning power of the fishermen enabled them to spend much more than they would have under ordinary circumstances, and as a consequence every manufacture, every shop keeper, and every workshop in the country, and every employee engaged therein, participated in the general prosperity. The wheels of industry were kept going at a faster rate than ever before, wages increased and the job was looking for the man instead of the man looking for the job as in the past. Of course, Sir, I am not unmindful of the fact that there were other contributing factors. A beneficent Providence smiled upon us during the past year, and the gallant sailors of the British Navy still kept England in the proud position of Mistress of the Seas, keeping us in common with the other British Dominions in a position to carry on our commercial enterprises.

The next paragraph that I would deal with is that relating to the Seal Fishery, which has just closed, and which, as the Speech states, has proved especially remunerative to the men engaged therein. Now, why was that, Sir? Because the Government dared to interfere in a dispute between the shipowners and the sealers, and fixed the price of fat at a higher figure than the merchants were willing to give at first. As a consequence, \$60,000 which under ordinary circumstances would have gone into the pockets

of three or four men, has been distributed among two or three thousand men. Now I think that the sealers in this country, and not only the sealers but the wage earners generally, owe a great deal of thanks to the Government for the exertions that were put forth in this direction. It is no new thing for a Government to interfere in disputes between capital and labour. It happened in this country many years ago, when Justices of the court were allowed to fix the price of fish and other commodities, and also the rate of wages; and throughout Great Britain the same practice was observed. Since the war began it has become a very common practice for a Government to interfere in industrial disputes stipulating what shall be the wage, what shall be the price of a commodity, and what shall be the hours of labour. For instance, the Government of Great Britain fixed the price of coal, the wages of the miners, the wages and hours of workers in munition factories and on shipbuilding industries. Why? That the producer and the wage earner might be protected. We can congratulate the Government of this country upon having followed in the footsteps of those eminent statesmen who control the destinies of the Motherland.

The Speech also refers to the gratifying improvement in the increase of imports, the value of which has increased from \$35,396,829 to \$43,700,072 for the twelve months ending June 30th, 1917. That is indeed a very gratifying outlook for this country, especially in view of the fact that we know that there is great difficulty in obtaining much of the goods which we imported before the war. Many things that we got before the war we cannot get today, and in view of that fact it is indeed pleasing to know that the

value of our imports has increased so substantially.

In another paragraph I notice that the Governor refers to the difficulty of securing a sufficient supply of salt for the fisheries and of the tonnage to carry it. However, it is to be hoped that the combined efforts of the Salt Committee and the Minister of Shipping will be sufficient to meet the situation and provide against any serious shortage. I am very glad that this matter is receiving serious attention. There has been a great deal of discussion recently in the press and other places regarding the poor quality of the fish, and it has been attributed to various causes; but if you go around amongst the fishermen you will find that the consensus of opinion is that the cause, to a great extent, is the lack of salt. This applies particularly to the Labrador fishermen, and as many of the people of Conception Bay are engaged in that fishery, I trust that the Government will do everything in its power to see that a sufficient quantity of salt is obtained for the people who prosecute the fishery on the Labrador, and at the same time protect them against unnecessary high prices.

The speech also refers to the fact that the revenue for the last financial year showed a substantial increase over the expenditure, and the surplus resulting was largely applied to the war expenditure of the Dominion. Another large surplus, it is stated, is anticipated for the fiscal year shortly to terminate. This, Sir, has been due largely to the good fisheries, and, in some measure, to the War Profits tax, which, I understand, has netted the country \$350,000. I am glad, Sir, in this connection, that ~~Conscription of Wealth~~ preceded ~~Conscription of Person~~,

because it would have been a very strong argument for the anti-conscriptionists if conscription of person was being proceeded with without any conscription of wealth. Of course, it must be recognized that this Business War Profits tax is a little bit faulty. There are others besides business men who are earning \$3,000.00 a year and over. There are doctors and lawyers and brokers and others who are in that class, and I see no reason whatever why they should be exempt from the provisions of this Act. I think, Sir, it is only fair that everybody having a similar income should be treated in the same manner; and if the present Act cannot be made to deal with the matter, then introduce an Income Tax. An Act of this sort is in operation in Canada, and everybody earning over a certain income has to contribute four per cent of it for war purposes. There is no reason why the same thing should not apply here. I hope that the Finance Minister will see his way clear to deal with this matter in a similar way.

Reference is also made in the Speech to the appalling disaster of the S. S. Florizel. I do not intend, Sir, to make any extended remarks on that disaster; it is fresh in the mind of everybody present, but one thing about it is we lost men whom we could ill afford to lose in this country, men who had made a success of business and whose relationships with their employees were of such a character that their loss was as deeply felt by these employees as by their relatives. When we see such sorrow shown by the employees it is the very best evidence of the good qualities predominant in the employer and we can ill afford to ~~lose~~ men of that kind from our community. We want more of such men

that will help to make class hatred unknown in Newfoundland. One outstanding feature of that disaster was the bravery shown by those who went to the rescue of the survivors; and in this connection I trust, Sir, that suitable recognition will be awarded these men in the near future.

Reference is also made, sir, to the Board of Food Control. As a member of that Board, I wish to say that since it has come into existence it has done everything possible to get food into this country, and also to regulate the prices of certain necessities of life and to see that they were distributed as fairly as possible. Of course, I know there are some who think a great deal more could have been done, particularly in the matter of fixing the prices of certain commodities; but I do not think that anyone who has studied the situation carefully can arrive at that conclusion. For instance, take the question of potatoes. A good many people in this town to-day are complaining about the price. Well, in considering this matter we must not forget that a great many of those engaged in the growing of potatoes met with a big shortage during the past year, while on the other hand certain sections of the Island had their normal growth. It can be easily understood that these latter men could afford to sell their potatoes much cheaper than the others, who, in order to sell, had to keep down the price to that asked by the more fortunate grower. Now, supposing that the Board of Food Control had to fix the price of these potatoes, what was it to be governed by? By the man with the big crop, who could afford to sell at the cheaper price, or by the man with the small crop, who was compelled to ask the higher

price. Would not the man with the small crop have the right to complain of the injustice that was being done him if he were placed on the same level with the man who had the large crop? The only proper course to follow in cases of that kind is to let competition fix the price, and that is the course which was followed. All these various matters relating to foodstuffs are constantly engaging the attention of the Board which will be governed by conditions as they arise.

I am glad, Sir, to note that the Speech makes reference to the duty that the community owes to the returned soldiers and that the Government propose to see that they are enabled in their future life, as far as possible, to overcome the disabilities which their bravery and self-sacrifice have inflicted upon them. I think, sir, that it is high time that proper recognition was given to the returned soldiers. We can never repay the debt we owe to everyone of them for their willingness and readiness to die in our stead. No amount of money we can offer will do it, but let us do the best we can to provide them against want and unnecessary discomfort.

In conclusion, Sir, I would express the hope that every member of this House will determine to make this a Win-the-War Session. That we will leave all petty and party jealousies be like "sleeping dogs" until our higher duty to the country, to the Regiment, to the Empire and to the World has been faithfully discharged, the cause of human liberty and freedom vindicated and the world made safe for democracy.

MR. PARSONS—Mr. Speaker, in rising to second the motion before the Chair, I wish to say, in the first place, that my position is not exact-

ly as fortunate as I could wish, because it was not until late yesterday forenoon that the Hon. the Premier asked me if I would second this motion. I told him that the time was short and my mind a little distracted on account of just having arrived in town. However, sir, I felt that a duty devolved upon me to do this, and I consented.

To begin with, I desire to express a warm welcome to His Excellency Governor Harris and his wife and staff to this country. I hope that they will thoroughly enjoy their sojourn here, and that when their time comes to leave, they will take away with them the pleasantest recollections of the hospitality and loyalty of Britain's Oldest Colony. And also, sir, let me convey to you my congratulations upon the high honor which has come to you to-day in being elected to occupy the Chair of this House. I hope that you may be long spared to occupy the position which you now hold, and I know that you will fulfill the duties which devolve upon you with honour to yourself and with entire satisfaction to the members of this House.

With regard to the war situation, I would like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the splendid work of the Mercantile Marine. We have no idea of the sufferings and the hardships of those who are engaged in that all-important work; and while we have every reason to be grateful to a kind Providence for His beneficence, and to the British Navy for the support and protection which it has given us, we should not lose sight of the glorious work which is being performed by our Mercantile Marine, and I wish to take advantage of this opportunity of paying my tribute to them. Perhaps I may be permitted to cite one case which came

under my own notice. It was only a few days ago that I was speaking to one of the crew of the Hilda R., a schooner owned by R. D. McRae & Sons, which was torpedoed in the Mediterranean last year. The name of the man was John Sheehan of Hr. Grace. I asked him: "What about the Hilda R.? Did you suffer much when you were torpedoed?" and I shall give his story in his own words: "We were torpedoed," he said, "in the day. The captain and boy was taken on board the submarine. The mate, before the ship went down, jumped overboard and was drowned. A Scotchman, an Irishman and myself were in the water. I saw the jolly-boat, bottom-up, some hundreds of yards distant from where we were. The Scotchman and myself could swim, and we swam to the boat. The sea was not very heavy, but what they call a long swell. After we had climbed on the bottom of the boat, I observed a man in the water, hands up and head down, battling for life. We held a consultation on the bottom of the boat and decided to try and save him. When we got to him we found that it was our friend, the Irishman. We got him on the boat. He was very nearly exhausted when we got to him." Well, I said, what next? "Well," he said, "we did not exactly hold a consultation of war, but of safety. The Scotchman and myself helped the Irishman over on one side of the boat, and explained to him what we were going to do. Then we got on the other side, and on the crest of a wave we righted the boat and pulled the Irishman in." Now, I just mention this case in order to show you what these men have to go through. And this is only one case out of very many. "Well," I said, "What did you do then?" Well," he said, "we were in a rather bad

position. We had practically no clothes, but I had on a pair of long boots. I found I could swim with them, and I did not part with them, thinking they might be useful. When we got into the boat, I gave one of the boots to the Scotchman and took the other myself and we baled out the boat." Now, in that boat I see a great combination—a Newfoundlander, a Scotchman and an Irishman—the Rose, the Thistle and the Shamrock—making a combined effort to save their lives. Would to God we had the same combination to-day fighting shoulder to shoulder in the interests of the Empire, and there would be no question whatever as to what the outcome would be.

With regard to the matters relating to the fisheries, dealt with in the Speech, these have already been fully covered by my hon. friend, the member for Port de Grave, and I will not delay the House by further reference to them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to reopen a fresh wound in the hearts of so many in this city and country, but I would like on behalf of my constituents to tender a word of sympathy to the relatives and friends of those who lost their lives in that terrible disaster in connection with the Florizel. Three of those who lost their lives were natives of the town which I represent—Harbour Grace. They were J. S. Munn, Peter Guilfoyle and George Parmiter. With regard to Mr. Munn, he always took a very deep interest in Harbour Grace. I have personal knowledge of many cases in which he, working through the House of Bowring Bros., gave employment and opportunities of advancement to very many Harbour Grace boys, and his gift of Shannon Park to the people of Harbour Grace is an outstanding proof of

his generosity. With regard to Mr. Guilfoyle, he had come from the States to pay a visit to his father, who was very ill. The call of Duty had come to him while here, and he was returning to the States to answer it. Mr. Parmiter was in a similar position. He was a young man who had come here from Boston to spend the Christmas season with his father and mother. He went to Boston some time ago, went into the dental business, and made a success of it. He had a very fine position there, and had come back to Harbour Grace merely to spend the Christmas season with his parents. A day or two before leaving, he called into my store to say "Goodbye." He told me that he had heard the call, and was going to Halifax to join the R.A.M.C. I said: Goodbye, and God bless you. He was fated never to reach Halifax, but he died while answering the Call of Duty, and is entitled to a place with those who have given up their lives on the battlefields in defence of right and freedom.

With regard to other matters, it is very encouraging indeed to note the substantial increase in the revenue for the last fiscal year. I am also very glad to note that it is the intention of the Government to float a Liberty Loan in this country. I don't see why, if money is needed, it should not be raised here and our own people get the interest which in the past has been sent to other countries.

Since last session of the Legislature the titanic struggle raging in Europe, in which Great Britain and her Allies are engaged, has shown no sign of diminishing, but on the contrary has assumed even vaster proportions and more menacing aspects. This makes it all the more important for us that we should be ready to come in

here and do our part. We know that our boys who have gone over have done theirs. We know what they did in Gallipoli and again in France, particularly on the 1st of July and on other occasions when they took their stand against oppression. Now, Sir, I think it is only right for me to explain my position to the House and to the country. Last year when Sir Edward Morris resigned his leadership of the Government, if there were any responsibilities resting on members along party lines, they ceased. I stand here today free from any obligations to any Government, and I stand here today as a free man, and I come as a representative of a district, viz.: Harbor Grace, and I think if I did not give expression to my ideas and views on certain matters in connection with this war, I would have no business here, and I would not be entitled to the confidence of the people who sent me, for the simple reason that we come here for this purpose, to consider one great subject, and that is the mighty conflict now being waged in Europe, and I see here in the next paragraph of the Speech the following: "Your immediate consideration will be asked to the need of enrolling men to replenish the ranks of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment by Selective Conscription, and a measure designed to accomplish that object will be laid before you without delay." Now, Sir, I wish to explain my position here, and I perfectly realize the gravity of the situation and realize the necessity for our best efforts, and I came here today to state that I am out and out in favor of Conscription, and I hope that the Government will bring the Bill in this week and get it through this week, and a Bill that will meet the needs of the situation, and that before Friday evening that Bill will be the law of the country. If

you want an argument in favor of Conscription, go back to Gallipoli and see our lads there in frost and snow, where there were six hundred or more casualties, considering weather conditions and other matters, and go with the three hundred and odd men who were left in Egypt, and then follow that three hundred and odd men (the others were casualties at hospital and elsewhere) to France and see what they did there. What about the 1st of July and other battles that the boys fought and won more or less. I say today the need is for Conscription of a Selective character, that while thanking the Almighty for health and strength and neighbours and friends, yet the greatest obligations on any of us today is the boys, our children, who have gone forth to fight our battles and save our families from the Germans.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity of congratulating the soldiers and rejected men who have taken such an effective part in this matter, and in my own mind I accuse myself of having been "too easy in Zion," and the Government and the people have been "too easy in Zion" and these soldiers have shaken up their dry bones. I say, Mr. Speaker, that our boys did well. It is a matter of sadness to us when we hear of the death of our children, and we naturally want to know how they died, but we know that even though they were far removed from us and thrown into many dangers and temptations that the promptings of their home training stood to them to the last. I have proof of this in a little book that I have here. In this little book there is a message from the trenches from Gallipoli. The book was given to one of the Blue Puttee Boys who went forth to do his part in defence of the Empire. I find in it here things that must be a consolation to mothers who

have lost their boys. Some times when we see our boys full of life and blood, we are afraid that their wildness may have a bad effect when they get away from home, but we should not mind these things. We know that the ideas and training that they imbibed in early life do not leave them when they went forth from home. In this book there is first a note "Landed in Gallipoli September 9, 1915, nine hundred and thirty-three strong. Left on January 6, 1916, three hundred and thirty strong." I have already referred to this on my remarks on Gallipoli. Then I find in this little book the following notes:

"If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."

"Let not the waterfloods overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up."

Now, does anybody think that a boy is a coward because he gives expression to the promptings of his heart in this manner. Trust in God and do the right.

Mr. Speaker, I may say that before I close I would like to pay a tribute to the W.P.A. for the good work they have done, noble work, and if I may be excused for being personal, I would say that some of my own family have been the recipients of comforts sent forward by the W.P.A. to help our boys in the trenches.

Now, there is another matter to which I want to refer. In the next paragraph it is foreshadowed that a Bill will be introduced to extend the term of the present Parliament. I intend to support that Bill and I intend to stand by the National Government until I see some sufficient reason for changing my mind. I subscribed to the Government last July and I feel confident that my district will endorse my support of the National Administration.

I may say, sir, that the last paragraph here is almost—is in fact—a benediction: "Despite the trials and tribulations engendered by the great War, Newfoundland has been especially blessed by Divine Providence. To the God of Battles I commend your efforts and sacrifices. I pray that He may inspire you with a high sense of duty in your deliberations, and protect our beloved country and our common Empire through the perilous ways through which we are now passing, till we arrive at a complete and enduring peace," and I would like to add to that paragraph an expression of hope that when this Conscription Bill comes up that there will be no division and that it will pass unanimously and, Sir, in my ears there is sounding today an expression, and the country is hearing it, and that is that "England expects every man will do his duty."

I have much pleasure in seconding the motion before the Chair.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker, it is with no particular desire to be heard that I rise to offer a remarks upon the speech which His Excellency has been pleased to open this session of the Legislature, but it might seem discourteous if some observations did not come from this side of the House. Before referring to the speech, however, I should like to convey to you, sir, my congratulations—my very sincere congratulations—upon the honour that has been conferred upon you to-day. So far as fitness and ability are concerned, I think, sir, that if the Government had combed the House it could not find one better qualified to become the First Commoner in the land. My only regret is that one who has taken such a prominent part in the debates of the House should now become its most silent member.

We trust that in the exercise of your authority there will be no discrimination and that members on this side of the House will receive the same impartial treatment as those on the other. I desire to associate myself also with the welcome that has been extended to His Excellency the Governor by the previous speakers. There was some surprise when it was first learned that a gentleman who had been for so many years associated with the Colonial Office was coming to us, and I think that in some quarters it was feared that we should have to welcome a representative who would be the very personification of red-tape and officialism, but His Excellency's free and easy manner—which is a characteristic of the free life of the Colonies—has dispelled all these fears and already he has established himself in the hearts of the people. Sir Alexander Harris brings to his office many years of valuable experience, and I am sure that during his tenure of office he will maintain those high traditions which have been associated with the Governors of this Island.

I should also like to take advantage of the occasion to perform a duty which the mover and seconder of the motion for the Address in Reply overlooked, that is to extend congratulations to the Prime Minister of the Colony. I congratulate him heartily, although I find myself in opposition to him. However, I think it would have been much better, and I could have congratulated him much more heartily if the honor had come to him in somewhat different manner. Some of us at least have not been particularly struck with the methods by which the Honorable Prime Minister succeeded in obtaining the position, and I think the Colony would have been much

better served had the matter been left to the choice of the people, instead of having been worked by trickery and party intrigue. Nevertheless, I extend my congratulations to the honorable gentleman on the dignity and honour which has been conferred on him, as I would any gentleman who succeeds in reaching such an exalted position.

I should like also to extend my congratulations to the gentlemen who have already spoken to the speech. I am glad to see that the honourable member for Port de Grave has undergone conversion on several matters, and I am particularly pleased to know that he has undergone a change of heart with regard to conscription. But we shall deal with these later. It is obviously impossible, Mr. Speaker, having had but a few brief moments to glance at the speech, to adequately deal with the various matters referred to therein, but I must say that the Government is to be complimented on the boldness of the speech. At least they have placed their cards on the table and let the House and the country know exactly what to expect. That I think is gratifying, because it has rather been the custom in later years to make the Speech from the Throne full of generalities, and it is refreshing to find the Speech actually outlining rather than concealing the most important legislation to be introduced. Naturally there are some things in the Speech upon which we don't all agree. That is to be expected—all people don't think alike and it would be a sorry world if we did. I find early in the speech one reason for disagreement. Referring to the fact that the fisheries have been conducted with more than ordinary success and that as a result the total trade of the Dominion had

shown a large increase for the year ending June 30th., 1917, His Excellency attributes a large share of the credit to the Tonnage Committee. Remembering that the Tonnage Committee had not been appointed until after the fiscal year ending June 30th., 1917, had closed, it is difficult to see just how its activities could have affected the trade of the preceding year. The reference to the Tonnage Committee, of course, is an attempt to justify its existence and to gloss over some of the criticisms that have been directed against it. I do not agree that the Tonnage Committee had over much to do even with the marketing of our fish during the past Fall. If the merchants had not looked after their interests by going outside and purchasing additional shipping I fear the country would have been badly served. This is a matter that will naturally be dealt with as the session progresses, and it is not my intention at the present time to go into details, but one only has to remember the way the mercantile interests were served in the case of the "Rutjenfel" to discover how far the committee assisted the Trade in getting fish to market.

Reference is made to the loss of the Florizel, and I desire to associate myself with everything that has been said therewith. The disaster has been a stunning blow to the country. The loss of the ship is very great, but it is incomparable with the loss the country has sustained in the death of the splendid men who went down in her. We have lost some of our best citizens, a type of man we can ill afford. I join with the previous speakers in giving public expression of our sympathy for the bereaved relatives. There is one part of the paragraph referring to this disaster that I would like to refer to especially, and that is the reference to

the Enquiry. I think that the promptness with which the Government acted in this matter merits our appreciation. It was understood, however, that the Government intended to constitute another court with powers to make a complete survey of the rough and rugged coastline between here and Cape Race, known by the unenviable name of the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," in order that something might be done to render less dangerous to mariners the approach to this port. Year after year ships go to destruction in the neighborhood of Cape Race, and apparently we are content that it should continue, for we have made no effort to improve the marine safeguards there. Now that the loss of the Florizel has brought the matter home to us with such terrible force it is imperative that something should be done and immediately. The country cannot afford, nor under present shipping conditions can the Empire or the world afford, a continuance of those losses, and the Government should give this question the gravest consideration. More lights, more fog alarms, bell buoys, or other methods of warning may be needed. I am not in a position to say what we need, but something must be done, and without delay, to make this coast safer for our seamen and the travelling public.

As was to be expected, the Speech deals very largely with the war and matters pertaining thereto. The war occupies all our attention, it is in our thoughts day and night. Like the rest of the Empire we have been doing a share, but not as large a share as we might have done. In some things our indifference amounts to crime. The hon. member for Port de Grave in the course of his remarks referred to the work of the Food Control Board. As he has admitted, the work of the Board has not satisfied

verybody, and it was not expected that it would. In my opinion the Board has not gone as far as it should have gone in controlling the supplies for this country. There has been no limit to our food supply. We have been blessed with abundance of everything. We are the most favoured people on the earth today. We have not yet felt the strain of the war in any way, but we have made no effort to help those who are in distress on the other side of the Atlantic. In my opinion the time has come when the Food Board should consider seriously the question of rationing our people similarly to other countries. It seems to me to be a poor kind of loyalty that will take all while our brethren on the other side are limited to the point of starvation. One has only to follow the English newspapers or indeed read the letters from friends to realize the serious condition of affairs over there. I have recently seen letters from our own lads who left here with the second last draft telling of the privations there. They had left a land of plenty and are now glad to be careful of every crumb on their plates. It seems to me to be grossly wrong that we should make no sacrifices, do nothing to help provide for food for the Motherland in this hour of her extremity. The member for Port de Grave, who is himself a member of the Food Control Board, would do well to take this matter up and see if something cannot be done.

I notice that my friend avoided in his remarks all reference to that reference to that paragraph of the Speech from the Throne which refers to the extension of the term of the present assembly. This is another matter upon which he has undergone conversion. It is with a great deal of amusement that one remembers how, when this same

question was under debate in this Assembly on another occasion, he referred to what he termed the German methods which were being brought to bear in trying to force the extension of the life of Parliament without the consent of the people. But I will not comment extensively on that this afternoon. My hon. friend, like his prototypes in Germany, has been obedient to the whip and the principles which he once so profoundly professed are to-day cast to the winds, and his example is copied by other members on the other side of the House. In view of this change I was amused to hear him dilate on "Government of the people, by the people and for the people," which he has so often reiterated on other occasions, and which falls on our ears with an entirely different significance. We are told here to-day by the Speech that it is the intention of the Government to extend the life of Parliament. May I say that as far as I am concerned it is not my purpose to agree to any such extension.

I am aware that when this question was brought before the House on another occasion I gave it my support. I believed then that the best interests of the people would be served by so doing. I believed that we should cast aside political considerations and devote our sole attention to matters of Empire and particularly of recruiting. But I did not think that any man with any self respect can look back and congratulate the country on the result of the amalgamation or on the work that has been effected by those now in power. We were told that the amalgamation was for the benefit of the country, and to promote our war interests but for myself I have not heard of any single attempt being made to increase our war work. Certainly

nothing was done to help the Regiment. It is true that a Recruiting campaign was conducted here last Fall, but as far as the Government was concerned, they did nothing whatever to help forward the movement in any way. The work was done by private citizens and returned soldiers, who were sent out to do recruiting for the Regiment, while the leaders of the Government, who should have gone up and down the country, as everybody anticipated they would do, remained at home and devoted their time to political deals, which were no credit to the country or to them, or anybody associated therewith. Because of this breach of faith, I found myself unable at the end of the year to give my support to the reconstructed National Administration. Further, a change had taken place which the country was not justified in anticipating, a change which members of the late Government were assured would not take place a change which was effected without their knowledge or consent. The members of this House were not called upon to decide what they deemed best, but a half dozen men arranged outside this House what can only be called a most iniquitous deal and the National Government that is in power to-day is not in power by unanimous consent of this House. It is not in power with the consent of the people, because the people have not had the chance to pass their verdict upon it; and we can see by the Speech from the Throne to-day that if the Government can have their way, they will not have it.

Perhaps members on the other side of the House will say to me that I was in favour of this measure once and now I am not. Why do I object to it now? Those reasons I have

given in another place, and it is not fitting that I should this afternoon delay this House by going into details. It will suffice to say that conditions have changed materially since then, the membership of the House has decreased since we last met here; and though we are living in serious times, when the war had never a worse aspect, there is no justification whatever for the extension of the life of a House whose representation is incomplete, with only two-thirds of its membership present. The attendance to-day represents only half its membership. How can such a body take upon itself the responsibility of carrying on the affairs of this country without receiving the approbation of the people? How dare it? We are told the war may continue for a very long time yet. I think that that is quite probable, but it is the opinion of others whose utterances command attention that we are in the last stages of the war, that within the next five or six months a decision will be reached and the situation cleared up. A prominent French General declared only a day or two ago that it is impossible for the enemy to continue for a much longer period an offensive so intense and costly. In a few months the seriousness of the situation may be past, and so far as the Allies are concerned at any rate there will be no doubt whatever as to the outcome. But this is not a time when we should altogether neglect our local interests. Since we last met elections have been held in Australia and Canada. Their internal affairs have not interrupted their war work in any way, and I cannot possibly think what evil affect an election here could have on the progress of the war. I cannot, therefore, conscientiously support

any bill for further extension.

There is another matter in the Speech from the Throne to which I should like to make reference. That is the paragraph referring to Selective Conscription. I should like to congratulate the Government upon bold stand that they have taken upon this question, and to give my assurances that I shall not, personally, oppose this policy. Of course, we have not the details of the measure before us, and of those I cannot speak. But I would like to say that I am in thorough accord with the principle underlying Selective Conscription.

As a final word, I should like to assure the Government that everything that has for its aim the helping of the Regiment and the returned soldiers will meet with my most cordial support. There will be no opposition or carping criticism from this side of the House. In all matters I hope that we shall be able to conduct our differences without disturbing our personal relationship.

As far as my own position here in this House is concerned, I would like to state that it is my own will and choice. It is a matter of principle that has placed me on the opposite side of the House to where I sat last session. I was unable to agree with the deals that were being made last year and I felt that I could not associate myself with the responsibility that they necessitated. I am willing to take my seat on this side, where at least one feels more comfortable. On this side of the House one is not bound to the system of party policy which is so destructive to liberty of thought or action. In taking my seat, Mr. Speaker, let me again congratulate you on the honour which has been conferred upon you; and while I hope that your tenure of office will be happy, I cannot hope that it will be

long, but that when the House again is called to meet we shall see a new face in the place where we now see yours.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—Before proceeding to deal with the main topics of the Speech with His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to open the session of the Legislature, I shall spend a little time in replying to the political pin pricks of the member for Burin, who has just taken his seat. The Honourable Member tells us that he feels more comfortable in the cold shades of Opposition than he did on the Government side of the House. The satisfaction is mutual. We do not mourn his loss, for we also feel more comfortable and satisfied now that he has left us. Whilst expressing his complacency at his own change of views, he gibes at what he calls the change of heart of the Honourable Member for Port de Grave. Last year, both in this House and in the newspaper which he edits, he was vehemently outspoken against a general election, and claimed that war time was no time for politics. Now, however, he is all for politics and has no consideration for the war crisis or the National Government. He intimates to us that he is satisfied on the highest authority that the war will be over in time for a general election next fall. I question his authority. Everything that I have learned in the course of my official duties points directly to the contrary. I cannot conceive that either the Kaiser or the Allies will be so obliging to the honourable member as to stop the war in order that he may go to Burin for a contest next fall. He complains that the Government party were lacking in duty in regard to the participation of this Colony in the war last fall and that he made up

his mind, at the end of the year, to leave our ranks. It is somewhat strange, however, that the honourable gentleman has only just awakened up to this alleged dereliction of duty on the part of others, and that he himself, while charging the Government with delayed and tardy action, has neither visited his constituency nor any other constituency in order to appeal for recruits, and that he, of all men, has the least justification for charging others with remissness of duty. He went on also to hint at something wrong in connection with the Government's action concerning the S. S. Rutjenfell. I am not aware of there having been any wrongdoing in relation to this matter. I have nothing whatever to be ashamed of in this respect. Scandal mongers have endeavoured to excite suspicion, but I emphatically assert that nothing was done except with the fullest knowledge of those presiding over the Government.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Hickman does not say that.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — Mr. Hickman is satisfied that no wrongdoing is attributable to the Government in this connection. The hon. member for Burin is jumping to conclusions before he knows anything about the matter to which he refers, just as he jumped last Christmas before knowing where he was going to land. The honourable gentleman also states that he will not oppose conscription.

MR. CURRIE—I did not say that.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — That honourable gentleman said he was not going to oppose conscription. Is that the spirit with which he approaches the question of this crisis? What is wanted now is not a negative, colourless, indifferent spirit. We want men who are going to support it whole-

heartedly, not men who are not going to oppose it unless they can find fault with some part of the measure. We need men to-day determined to take off their coats and put the measure through, and press of public opinion, in order that the measure may be so enforced that Newfoundland will do her full duty in providing men for the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, we are going to put through conscription. I tell you, sir, we do not care whether the honourable gentleman is with it or not the measure will go through. This measure has been given the fullest consideration, and the Bill has been carefully prepared, and is now printed and ready to be brought before this House. The returned soldiers and rejected men are joining hand in hand in arousing the public conscience and forming public opinion that will not only aid in putting through conscription, but see that it is enforced without trouble.

I am informed by the honourable gentleman that he would have liked to congratulate me as a Prime Minister who had come back from the country by the will of the people. Last year before the present crisis arose, we were willing to go to the country, but the honourable gentleman was one of those who prevented any such appeal being made to the Electorate. We were willing to go to the country as a National Government, and obtain the endorsement of the people. He taunts me with obtaining my present office by "deals." I tell him there was no "dealing" or no "trade," but that I stand here to-day, supported by an overwhelming majority of the members of this House, as you will observe, sir, if you look at the number of members supporting me, and compare it with the

two solitary members on the opposition side of this Chamber. I would like to know where the trickery came in, and who were the tricksters. Are the members on this side of the House the tricksters?

MR. CURRIE—Certainly, some of them.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—Tell us their names. Why have not the rest gone over with you?

MR. CURRIE—We will discuss that later on.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—You can have all the discussion you like. The will of the country is represented by the majority on this side of the House, and not by the few who elected to go into opposition. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have done with the political aspects of the matter. So far as I am concerned, I do not intend to spend much time in political bickerings this session. This will be a "Win the War" policy. We have now reached the gravest crisis of the war. We need men and money and we intend to get both. We do not intend to have a General Election this year. We want the Conscription Bill put through and made the law of the land and we want the fullest opportunity to carry it into effect so that our Regiment may not be short of men, and that we may supply our full share of the reinforcements required so urgently on the other side. Conscription and extension of Parliament are two measures which are intimately bound together. We do not intend to fall into the trap the honourable gentlemen thinks we will be decoyed into. He congratulates us on our boldness in intimating that we shall bring in a Conscription Bill, but he insists on an election this fall so that political strife and partizan bitterness may be created at the very time that the men who return from

the codfishery will be called up under the Conscription measure. There, sir, is the trickster. There, sir, is the trickery. We are to be bold in bringing in the measure, but he and his associates want to benefit by the unpopularity they hope this measure will bring upon the Government in order to obtain power and control of our affairs. Who, sir, are his associates? What have they done for Conscription? What have they done for Recruiting? Amongst them are men notoriously opposed to Conscription, men who have been noted for taking no part whatever in the work of Recruiting from the very start of the war. Are these the men one would expect to enforce Conscription? Are they the men to see that the ranks of the Regiment are kept filled? Are they the men to see that Newfoundland shall do her duty to the Mother Country in supplying men to the fields of France and Flanders? No, sir. We do not intend to fall into the trap? We intend to ask this Legislature to pass a Conscription measure and to extend Parliament in order that we may carry out the provisions of the Bill. The Bill is already printed and ready for introduction. Before I leave the House to-day I shall give notice of it, and I hope it will be read a first time to-morrow, that we shall be able to read it a second time on Thursday, and, if all goes well, that it may be passed on to the Legislative Council early next week. It is the intention of the Government to send up both Bills to the Legislative Council and appeal to them to aid us by the one measure to make Conscription the law of the land, and by the other to enable us to carry it out as it should be carried out. As to the Conscription Bill, I may say that the Bill purposes to call up unmarried men be-

tween the ages of 19 and 40. These men will be divided into four classes. The term unmarried men will also include widowers without children and all men who have married after the 10th April 1918, the time when the Government, under the War Measures Act, gave notice that no unmarried men of military age should be allowed to leave the country. The first class to be called up includes those who have attained the age of nineteen years and who were not born earlier than the year 1894. The second class includes those born in the year 1889 to 1893 both inclusive. The third class includes those born in the years 1884 to 1888 both inclusive, and the fourth class those who were born in the years 1879 to 1883 both inclusive. The Bill provides that the Governor in Council may subdivide these classes if it appears to be so desirable and the men of the younger class will be called up first. The call will be made by Proclamation and from the date fixed in the Proclamation, without any other formal act, all the members of the class called up will become soldiers of the King and subject to the provisions of military law under the Army Act. Another important provision of the Act deals with those who claim exemption. The exemptions proposed are comparatively few. They are as follows:

- (1) Claim may be made for exemptions in the national interest.
- (2) Claim may be made on the ground that claimant has one or two brothers and that one of them is serving or has served in His Majesty's Naval or Military forces during the present war, or a claimant may show that he has three or four brothers and

that two of them are serving or have served in His Majesty's Naval or Military forces during the present war.

- (3) Unmarried men may also claim exemption on the ground that they have mainly dependent on them for support parents, brothers or sisters.
- (4) A claimant may also show that his health is such or his infirmity so great that his services would be of no military value.

But no certificate of exemption may be granted by the Court unless a claimant establishes to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that his claim is well grounded.

MR. CURRIE—May I interrupt the Prime Minister for a moment. In connection with applicants for exemption, must all single applicants come to St. John's to make their application, or can it be done by letter?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—That will be a matter of regulation to be framed by the Governor in Council under the powers conferred by the Act.

MR. CURRIE—It has not been decided?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—No, it will not be provided in the Act. This matter will be provided for by regulations. Men who are crippled, for instance, those who have lost an arm or leg or are otherwise obviously unfit for military service will not be called upon to come to St. John's. As to the Tribunal, the Government has been fortunate in securing the co-operation of the Judges of the Supreme Court. These gentlemen have consented to act as members of the Tribunal. They will not sit in their capacity as Judges, nor as a Supreme Court. They can sit sep-

arately or together, so that there may be three Tribunals at times working separately, and they may come together in order to review the findings of any single member; but no appeal from their decision will be allowed to the Supreme Court. I commend this feature of the Bill to the consideration of the House. I think we have been particularly happy in having been able to offer to the House a Tribunal of the nature I have outlined. Using the phrasing of my friend the Honourable Member for Port de Grave I repeat that we are conscripting both men and money. Last year we started with the conscription of money. Now we are making provision for the conscription of men and we shall make further provision for the conscription of money. It is the intention of the Government to introduce a war income tax on the lines of the Canadian Act so that those who do not pay anything in the way of war taxation under the Business Profits Tax will have an opportunity of doing so under this measure. I may tell you, sir, that I, and those associated with me, are not over anxious about the popularity or unpopularity of these measures, except in so far as it affects the enforcement of the law. We need public opinion strongly behind us in order that the measures may be carried out, but we are not much concerned as to how our political future may be affected by this measure. I have nailed my colours to the mast, and if I am to go down to political defeat because of my action in connection with this Conscription measure, I am prepared to accept my doom. In the meantime, however, whilst I am leading the Government, I am determined that these measures shall go through and shall be carried out faithfully, be-

cause I am convinced of their urgent and pressing necessity. As a member of the Imperial War Cabinet I know how serious is the crisis through which we are now passing. I know the need of men. I know that the call which is being made on us is one to which we cannot fail to respond. The soldiers in the trenches are calling on us to go over and help them. We need more and more men. We need more and more money. I have no doubt whatever we shall get both. When the time comes for an appeal to the country, and those who sent me here are dissatisfied with what I have done in this connection, I am prepared to accept their verdict uncomplainingly, and I shall deem the sacrifice as small indeed compared to the sufferings and sacrifices made by the brave men who have given their lives in the cause which we are battling for to-day. This session, sir, I hope will be a business session. I trust that matters will be dealt with promptly and that the session may be short. I have been invited to attend the Imperial War Council and the Imperial War Conference in order that I may have a better opportunity of proving things as they really are, but I know sufficient now to realize the urgency of the call for men. Both men and money are crying needs. We need men to win the victory; we need money to achieve victory. To-day is St. George's Day. It is a most auspicious occasion on which to open a War Parliament in England's oldest Colony. We are in the fight for St. George and England. As St. George valiantly fought and slew the dragon which then oppressed the world so are the men of Newfoundland to-day called upon to assist in exterminating the modern dragon of German

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tyranny and despotism. This day shall be a memorable one in our history. It is in this hope and in this belief that we here and now resolve to do our part to the fullest extent to uphold the glorious record which our soldiers and sailors have achieved for us on land and sea, to see that those who have died in the common cause have not yet yielded their lives in vain and to ensure that since we have entered the war we intend to be in it to a finish.

The motion then passing, it was ordered accordingly and that the following gentlemen be such Committee: Messrs. Grimes, Parsons, Currie, Moore, Winsor.

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Military Service."

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to further Extend the Term of the Present Legislature."

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6, George V. (1915) Chapter 17, entitled 'An Act respecting the Establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund.'"

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners."

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Education Act."

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Inflammable Substances Act, 1916."

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Apply to this Dominion the Provisions of the Imperial Act, The Marine Conventions Act, 1911."

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Nine of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of Patents."

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 3, Edward VII (1903) Chapter 6 entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals."

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Publication of the Consolidated Statutes, Third Series."

The Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Department of Shipping."

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

Hon. the Colonial Secretary tabled the following reports:—

Annual Report of Government Savings Bank.

Report of St. Johns General Hospital (1917).

Report of Public Schools, under Church of England Boards (1917).

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until to-morrow, Wednesday, April 24th

at three of the clerk in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, April 24, 1918.

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

HON. PRIME MINISTER — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a numerous signed petition from the inhabitants of Rocky Harbor, asking for telegraph extension. Also a petition from Scilly Cove, Brownsdale and neighborhood, in the district of Trinity, in reference to the mail service. Also a petition from John French and others of Carbonear, in relation to fishery matters. I ask that these several petitions be received and referred to the Departments to which they relate.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — Mr. Speaker, with your permission, and the indulgence of the House, I would ask that the House meet in Secret Session on tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock, in order that I may lay before the House a despatch which I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in relation to war conditions.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Military Service" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to further Extend the term of the present Legislature" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of the Minister of

Marine and Fisheries, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 Geo. V. (1915) Chapter 17, entitled "An Act respecting the Establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Education Act, 1916," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Inflammable Substances Act, 1916," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Apply to this Dominion the Provisions of the Imperial Act, The Maritime Conventions Act, 1911," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Nine of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of Patents," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime

Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Publication of the Consolidated Statutes, Third Series," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting a Department of Shipping" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to further 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 tomorrow.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the amount of the loan raised by him during his recent visit to Canada and the terms on which the loan was raised.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—I have no statement to lay on the table, Mr. Speaker, as no loan was raised by me during my visit to Canada and the United States.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Acting Minister of Shipping to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the receipts, if any, and the expenditures of the Shipping Committee

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—I beg to say, in reply to that question, Mr. Speaker, that the

answer is being prepared and will be tabled in a few days.

Hon. the Prime Minister moved that when the House rises, it adjourn until three of the clock tomorrow, Thursday, then to meet in secret session, and that Members of the Legislative Council be invited through Mr. Speaker to be present.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, April 25h., 1918.

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

Mr. Speaker directed the Sergeant at Arms to invite Mr. President and Members of the Legislative Council to attend.

The Prime Minister read a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Right Hon. Walter Long, setting out the grave nature of the military situation on the western front and the urgent need of increased man power. The situation in regard to submarine warfare and shortage of tonnage was also dealt with.

Mr. Speaker directed that strangers be admitted.

Mr. Grimes 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 Charles Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., C.B., 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.

George F. Grimes, Edward Parsons,

R. G. Winsor, P. F. Moore, J. S. Currie.

Assembly Room, April 25th., 1918.

On motion this report was received.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker, I desire to say a few words on the matter that is now before the House. Before doing so, however, I will take this opportunity of extending to you my hearty congratulations on your elevation to the highest position in the gift of this House, and I feel sure, sir, that the high traditions of the office will be well sustained by you, and that the same spirit of fair play in debate will be given by you as was extended by your predecessors.

Since this Assembly last met for discussion of business, a great many changes have taken place in the personnel. The old familiar figure of the late Prime Minister no longer addresses the Speaker's chair. The manly voice that echoed in this chamber for nearly thirty years is now still, at least so far as the debates of this Assembly are concerned. And right here, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay what is to my mind a well earned tribute to the splendid industry and ability of Sir Edward Morris; because, although we may question the means employed by him in his advancement or elevation to the peerage, still, none of us can or would wish to deny that during his thirty years of service to this country, by his energy, ability and hard work he accomplished much for this country, more, I think, than will ever be accomplished by any one man again in this country. His achievement may be equalled, but it will never be surpassed. The pity is that the closing hours of such a brilliant career were not employed in a different direction, and that the gentlemen who now occupy the seats of

Government should owe their positions to double dealing, duplicity and deceit.

When this Assembly was last in session, I occupied a seat opposite to the one I now occupy. There is a reason why I am not over there to-day, and it is my intention to explain to this House in a few brief words, the reason why I occupy a seat in the Opposition to-day. I came into his House in 1913 as a follower of Sir Edward Morris and a believer in his policy, and it is now ancient history how well this policy, as inaugurated by him in 1907-8, was received by the people. On the occasion of three general elections his policy was endorsed, and a strong following was sent into this Assembly, of whom I happened to be one. Last year, before Sir Edward Morris's temporary retirement, as I understood it to be, took place, I remember one afternoon attending a meeting of this Assembly when an allusion was made by one of the honourable members now present regarding a report that was being circulated in different parts of the country to the effect that there was a possibility that Sir Edward Morris would not return to this country to continue the leadership of this House. That matter was brought to the attention of the Prime Minister, and he absolutely denied the truth of the statement. He said that neither by writing nor verbally had he made any statement of suggestion to any party or parties, with reference to his retirement, and that no party or parties had ever, verbally or by writing, intimated such a thing to him; and he went further and said that if any overtures should be made to him, he would absolutely refuse to have anything to do with them, as he had not the slightest intention of retiring un-

til the party or the country had first made that decision. But events have happened since which prove conclusively, to me at least, that when he was giving this statement, he was even then in negotiation with parties, with a view to bidding adieu to this country and handing over its affairs to men who were then his opponents, and who had not been sent here by the people of the country. Personally, I have no desire to criticize any individual who had made up his mind that he was doing the right thing. If Sir Edward Morris wished to elect a new leader, that was his own business, but I for one, do not agree with and cannot support the leadership of the Hon. the Prime Minister. So, Mr. Speaker, I wish to convey to the House and the country the reason I am to-day sitting in opposition.

The Speech from the Throne is a fairly lengthy one, and I have not had the time I would wish to give to its perusal, so I will content myself with making very short reference to one or two of what I consider the more important paragraphs. On the question of Conscription, I understand from the announcement of the leader of the House that the Government intends to bring down a bill to enact conscription. I think it is a pity that this country, with its splendid record, a record that any country may well be proud of, should have to resort to such a measure; and if some of the leaders who are now so anxious to pass conscription had taken a different attitude in 1914 and 1915, when the call came forth just as strongly and urgently as to-day for help, and if they had then done what they should have done, there would not now be any necessity to come into this House and introduce a measure whereby the manhood

of the country is to be conscripted. When Sir Edward Morris saw the need in 1914, and I take it he was well informed from the other side as to how serious the situation was then, an appeal went forth to form the Regiment, and men who should have taken an active part in doing this work, thought that a sufficient contribution from this country would have been a few cases of lobsters and a few quintals of fish. Now they are prepared to come in here and pass a measure to conscript all the manhood of the country, without any reservation. I agree, Mr. Speaker, that if the case is so serious as we are led to believe, everything that lies in our power to do should be done in defence of the Empire. My attitude ever since the declaration of war is one that I am not ashamed of. When war was declared I had the honor of being the president of one of the oldest societies in the country. Our total membership was less than 200 men, and when I resigned from that society a year ago, I am proud to say that out of this membership we had an honor roll of 115 men, and on that honour roll, I am sorry to say, were twenty-two men whose bones are to-day bleaching in France and Belgium, who went there and died in defence of the principles of freedom and justice. So I submit, Mr. Speaker, although I do not want to claim any personal credit, that as the President of this society, my attitude towards this question has not been one to be ashamed of, and there has never been a call for financial help for anything patriotic, to which I have not subscribed as liberally as I could, and more liberally, perhaps, than my means would allow. And I will continue to do so. The point I wish to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, in connection with this measure, is that,

if it had been introduced by an assembly representative of the people, who had been sent here by the people and would have to go back to the people, it would be a different matter. This measure is being introduced by men who have not the slightest intention of ever offering themselves for re-election, men who have come here with their commissions in their pockets, men who have been taken out of one office, because there was not sufficient work there and put into another office, so that they might be retained to give the appearance of a representative assembly to pass his measure or any other measure. I say, sir, it is unconstitutional, un-British, unfair, and the country will not have it. When the people of this country are aroused and find out the tactics of this administration there is going to be trouble. It is not for love of the British Empire that this bill is being put through, and it is not for the good of the country that these gentlemen are now roused to this pitch of patriotism. When our returned soldiers came home, some of them maimed for life, having lost an arm, or a leg, what did the Government do for them? If there was a position in the gift of the Government, who got it? Not any of these men. On the contrary, if it was whispered around that there was any likelihood of a returned soldier making application for a position, it was the signal for some heeler to get busy and worm his way into this position. I say, sir, that if the Government had looked after these men when they came home, and had made an occasional vacancy to give a living to some maimed soldier, it would have been a different story, as to recruiting. No right thinking man would object to having an office created in such a case. I know a man, a personal

friend of mine, and one of the hundred and twenty I spoke about, who came home with a bullet in his lung, and no more good for anything, who was paid off with \$50.00. Is that the kind of treatment to hand out to these men who have offered their all to fight for their country? If these tactics had not been the order of the day, we would not now have to pass a conscription measure. What further proof do you want than the attitude of the returned soldiers, who have taken up the matter recently. The response to the appeal made by the soldiers is sufficient proof to me that there is no necessity for any such measure. There are hearts beating in Newfoundland to-day that are just as loyal as those in France, and the men of Newfoundland would not need to have been conscripted if the matter had been put to them squarely, and if the Government had done its duty by those who came back after having lost their health and strength in defence of their country. The conversation that usually took place between the returned men and their friends was something like this: "Well, Jack, welcome home, how are you feeling. Would you advise me to have a try at it?" "Well, if you don't get any better treatment than I have got, I would advise you to stay as far away from it as you can." If the returned men had been properly treated it would have encouraged others to take their places, but such did not happen. And I say that if the Government had taken no open part in the recruiting campaign, but had let it be done by those who could make the most effective appeal, they would have had more recruits than they would know what to do with. As soon as the Government identified itself with the campaign, good night to it. When

the bill comes down I will have a better opportunity of discussing it. I haven't yet seen the bill, and until I see it I reserve to myself the right to oppose it or support it.

The other sections of the Speech to which I would like to make a short reference here, is that which deals with the attempt that is going to be made to bring down a bill to prolong the life of Parliament. Well, it is amusing, when one comes to think of it, to hear these gentlemen giving reasons why the life of Parliament should be prolonged, in view of some of the speeches that were made in this Chamber last Session. I propose, when the measure comes down, to bring down some of these speeches and read them, if I can get the time of the House, so that we can compare notes. We are asked to prolong the life of Parliament, so that these gentlemen may retain their seats in the House for a while longer, and then when the Assembly closes go into permanent positions for life so that they need never worry if there is ever an election again or not. Has this country fallen so low that the life of Parliament is to be prolonged just for the sake of letting these gentlemen retain their grasp on the spoils of office. And the price is the blood of our soldiers. The young men of the country are asked to go over and sacrifice their lives in defence of the principles of democracy, but this House of Assembly as constituted is more typical of the iron heel and the mailed fist. Is this the spirit of the British Constitution. I don't believe yet that the honorable leader is really serious. I think it must be a huge joke, this announcement that he intends to further prolong the life of Parliament.

I will defer any further comments until the Bill comes in. I want to as-

sure the Government that I am prepared to stay here for six weeks (and I am able to talk for a few hours, especially if I am armed with a bundle of 'Advocates') before I will submit to let this measure go through just to gratify a few people who want to hang on to the spoils of office, and who have no interest in the affairs of Empire. We have heard a lot about picnics during the last few years, and it seems rather inconsistent that one of the first actions of the present Government should be to provide a picnic for the Prime Minister. The House is to be closed early so that the Prime Minister may get across to the other side. Now, I think, with all due respect to the importance of the Prime Minister's being over near the seat of war, that his work would be better done if he remained in this country. If we are going to have the serious condition of affairs that has been outlined in the speech, I think he would be a great acquisition to the Tonnage Committee. His work would be better done if he remained at home to see that there is no lack of salt for the fishery and that our products will be safely marketed and everything on a firm basis. Then during the winter months he can be better done without and a little trip over to England and his own home would be satisfactory to all concerned. It is a long time since he has been home, and it would undoubtedly be nice if he could return as the Prime Minister of one of His Majesty's Dominions.

On motion the report was adopted.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Mr. Walsh gave notice of question.

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act respecting the Ministry of Shipping.

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave

to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 8, Edward VII (1908) Chapter five, entitled "An Act with respect to Compensation to Workmen for Injuries Suffered in the Course of their Employment."

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Military Service" was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — In rising to move the second reading of this Bill in reference to Military Service, I wish to say that I have not any intention of making a lengthy speech. On the opening day of the session I gave in a general way my views in reference to the crisis in the military situation (and those who read the newspapers know that the gravest crisis of the war is facing us). The gentlemen who were present this afternoon have also learned that the situation in authoritative quarters is regarded as extremely serious, and there is no need for me to go into great detail. I wish to make no more than a plain statement that we are facing a serious crisis and that we in Newfoundland are called upon to do our part in meeting that crisis and to do our duty. It is very easy for any of us to point the finger of blame at others and say we think they have not done what they should have done. I have had something to do with recruiting committees. I undertook the work of Secretary of a Recruiting Committee and I can well appreciate from the knowledge I acquired in that capacity the splendid and noble response made by the Star of the Sea Society of which my hon. friend across is President. I can also recall an endeavour with which he was connected, to form a recruiting campaign for recruiting in his district, when a motor boat was hired and expenses secured and everything was ready, but

my hon. friend failed at the last moment and never undertook the trip. It was at the very last moment that he came to that decision. When my hon. friend failed Mr. Fitzpatrick was asked to go.

MR. WALSH—I did not go because I believed it was better to keep politics out of the matter; and because I did not believe that a member of a district was the right one to go there recruiting. Why did you not go to your district?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I did go. I spoke in Harbor Main District also.

MR. WALSH—Did you go to Trinity District?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—Yes. I have addressed meetings there.

MR. WALSH—I did not hear anything about it.

HON. PRIME MINISTER. — But I am not blaming the hon. member. The explanation that he has given was satisfactory in itself. The real explanation however is this. Out of the goodness of his heart he thought it better not to go recruiting himself and stayed away. However, the blame he has been trying to throw on members of this side of the House against the party with which he was previously associated and against the opposition in the past is that if they had done their duty there would be no need for this measure.

MR. WALSH—I merely said that I thought it a mistake for any member to go to his own district.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I will leave it to the House whether or not the hon. member was blaming us. I think he said that if every member of the Government had done his duty there would be no need for this Bill. And in reference to the matter of returned soldiers I may say that I had the opportunity of creating a job for a constituent of my friend. But he has

forgotten that. He will find out that we have tried to do something. I would like to remind my hon. friend that we are all of the same blood and of the same spirit as far as matters of Empire are concerned, and that we are as anxious to do our duty as he is. I may congratulate my friend that he represents a capital of a district that has done extremely well as regards recruiting. Indeed if all parts of the island had done as well as Placentia as regards recruiting there would be no need for the measure under discussion today. It is unfortunate that some places have not. Some settlements like Chance Cove in Trinity Bay where every young man almost has been in the Navy since the beginning of the war stand out, compare strongly against those who are going free and doing nothing. That is the reason that we are bringing in this Conscription Bill. Great honor is due the returned soldiers in connection with the splendid work that they have done in aiding recruiting and it is a noteworthy fact that they are the ones who insist on this measure.

These are the very men who are calling for it, and are doing good work at the present time in Newfoundland in creating public opinion which will enable this Act to be carried into practice. Sir, I am proposing the second reading of this measure because first, right by principle; secondly, called for and demanded by the returned soldiers themselves; and thirdly and lastly, because it is absolutely essential to keep up the Regiment and to keep it in the field until the finish. I say, Sir, it is a gratifying situation that the soldiers who have returned have put their back to the proposition; and are exerting their fullest to make it possible to carry out this bill. On an occasion, Sir, a month or more ago, I was asked

what the Government intended to do I declined to answer. I said I was not prepared to state what the Government was prepared to do. At that time I had Conscription Acts in my possession that I was studying and getting ready for this Legislature. I was not prepared to make a pronouncement because for one reason it was necessary to have public opinion stirred on the matter, and by the greatest good fortune during the interval we have had public opinion stirred up by those who are best able to do it, and those were the returned soldiers.

I said on that occasion I believe, that I wasted public opinion in this matter. I was not prompted by those who wanted to make political pinpricks out of any statement I might make; who were anxious about the future of themselves and their party. I was not then concerned, and am not to-day concerned about my political future. I have a hope for a future in political life, but I am prepared to let that future pass. It will not weigh with me one bit. What I wanted then was public opinion to let the Act be carried out in the spirit in which it was enacted; and I believe to-day that public opinion has been stirred up and is being stirred up, and that the future is auspicious for the carrying out of this measure.

Now, sir, on Tuesday last I gave a brief resume of the features of this act. I wish now to draw further attention to the principal features of this Act. I may say first of all that the measure is largely drafted along the Canadian enactment; not entirely of course, but so along its principal features.

I would draw attention first of all to paragraph 2 on page 2. That section deals with the scope of the Bill, that is those subject to Conscription.

The principal feature is that it is not the intention to conscript the whole man-hood as has been suggested here this afternoon. That has never been considered by the Government. Immediately the Home Government called attention to the serious situation at present, the Government put forward regulations under the War Measures Act, forbidding unmarried men of military age to leave the country; and that was an indication of the intention of the Government and the scope of the measure. That is borne out in the main by Section 2, which says that: "Every unmarried male British subject who comes within one of the classes described in section 3 of this Act, and who (A) is ordinarily resident in Newfoundland, or (b) has been at any time since the fourth day of August, 1914 resident in Newfoundland, shall be liable to be called out as hereinafter provided on active service in the Regiment, either in or beyond Newfoundland, unless he:—(a) comes within the exemptions set out in the schedule, or (b) reached the age of forty before the class to which he belongs, as described in section three is called out. If one becomes forty before his class is called out, he will not have to respond.

Now, with reference to the exemptions. You will notice that there are exemptions to those men who are ordinarily resident or who have resided in Newfoundland since August 4th., 1914. These will be found on page 10. It is merely necessary to set them out in order that the law on the subject may be fairly clear.

The first section deals with men who hold a certificate granted under this Act; which means men who have been before a tribunal and have received a certificate of exemption which stands good; for certificates

may be temporary or permanent as the circumstances of the case may require. The second exemption is obvious, and includes members of His Majesty's Army. The third includes members of the military forces raised by the Governments of any of His Majesty's other Dominions, or by the Government of India. These three it will be seen cover men who may be described as men at present serving His Majesty's Government in either the Army or the Navy.

Section 5 exempts those who have served and are honorably discharged therefrom, while Section 6 exempts the clergy. With the exception of these six classes men who hold exemption certificates, all other unmarried men of military age come under this Act. Section 3 of page 2 shows how the men who come under the Act have been classified. The first class includes those who have attained the age of 19 years and were born not earlier than 1894. The second class includes those who were born in the years 1889 to 1893 both inclusive. The third class includes those who were born in the years 1884 to 1888, both inclusive. Class four includes those who were born in the years 1879 to 1883, both inclusive. The object is this: that when the proclamation issues it will set forth which class is to respond; class one will be called first; class two before class three; and class three before class four. If necessary the Governor in Council will have power under the Act to subdivide these classes, and call up the earlier class first.

I would then call attention to page 5. I am taking merely the salient features of this Act because these bring out its general principles. The exemption clauses are exceedingly important for these exemptions and the spirit in which the exemptions are handled by

the tribunal will largely govern the success of this measure. With your permission I will read Section 8:

At any time before a date to be fixed in the proclamation mentioned in section 4—Section 4 states that the Governor in Council may from time to time by Proclamation call out on active service either in Newfoundland or beyond Newfoundland, any class sub-class of men described in section three, and all men within th class or sub-class so called out shall from the date of this proclamation, be deemed to be soldiers enlisted in the military forces of Newfoundland and subject to military law for the duration of the war—or within further time, if any, as may be permitted by the tribunal, an application may be made by or in respect of any man in the class or sub-class called out by such proclamation, to the Tribunal for a certificate of exemption, on any of the following grounds:

(a) That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be engaged otherwise.

(b) That he has one or two brothers, and one of them is serving, or has served in His Majesty's Naval or Military forces during the present war.

(c) That he has three or more brothers, and two of them are serving or have served in His Majesty's Naval or Military forces during the present war.

(d) That he has persons mainly dependent upon him for support, such as brothers, parents or sisters.

(e) Ill health or infirmity.

And if any of the grounds of such application be established, a certificate of exemption shall be granted to such man.

Section four provides that immediately the proclamation becomes

law all men of that class from the date set forth, become soldiers of the King and subject to the Army Act and the Kings Regulations although not enrolled or under pay. And any man who has good ground for being exempted from military law must make appeal to the tribunal to obtain certificate of exemption. That certificate may be a certificate granted either absolutely or it may be conditional as to time or otherwise. For instance suppose a man is called up and it is found that some public interest was suffering; there would be sufficient grounds for claiming exemption, for a time or otherwise, as the tribunal can determine. On the impartiality, fairness and public spirit of that Tribunal will depend the success of the Act; and it is because of that fact that we feel gratified that the Judges of the Supreme Court, in whom we have the fullest confidence, have undertaken this onerous and difficult work.

The second class of exemptions applies to those who have one or two brothers and one of them is serving or has served in His Majesty's naval or military forces during the present war. If there are three or more brothers in a family, and two of them are serving, or has served, than the others can claim a certificate of exemption.

The next class refers to unmarried men who are, for all domestic purposes, in the position of married men; who have aged or sick parents or younger brothers or sisters to support; and these will be able to claim exemption. But all those claiming exemptions will have to establish their claims to the satisfaction of the tribunal before certificates will be issued to them. Of course in addition to this there will be cases of men in ill-health and infirmity,

the blind and the maim, unfit for military service. These men are, of course, clearly unfit for service, and provision will have to be made so that they will not be unduly disturbed in following their avocations in life.

Coming now to the Tribunal, I don't think it is necessary to say more than this, that upon its impartiality depends the honest carrying out of the measure. Because of that fact, the Judges of the Supreme Court were selected, and I feel assured, and everybody may feel assured, that they will see that exemptions are granted on fair grounds, and only on proper grounds.

Now, sir, I have indicated roughly the principal features of this measure, and I ask that the Bill be read a second time. The need for it is unmistakable; the call has come from those responsible for the military situation on the other side. There is no question, sir, that the military situation is critical, and will remain critical for an extended period; and unless there is absolute assurance that for a considerable time reserves and reinforcements will be coming in in good measure, those responsible for the conduct of the war may have to be very sparing of men, and that sparing may make all the difference between winning and losing this terrible war. Newfoundland has been called upon to do its duty; and because I feel that the measure is necessary—absolutely necessary—and that this Legislature will do its duty; and because I feel that the measure will be received in the spirit in which it is enacted, that it will be enforced impartially, and that the people at large will recognize the necessity of it, I, Mr. Speaker, move that the bill be now read a second time.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate all that the Prime Minister has said with regard to putting this Bill through this House as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, I would be very glad if he would hold the second reading over until tomorrow, so that I may have an opportunity of examining the Bill carefully. Then, if necessary, I would be prepared to agree to a suspension of the Rules of the House in relation to this measure, so that its passage would not be in any way delayed a moment longer than is necessary. I may say that I admit the principle of the Bill. I agree entirely with Conscription; but I would like to have an opportunity of reading through the Bill and getting a thorough grasp of its contents before making any remarks in reference to it. I have only one or two remarks to make today. In the first place, I would be glad if the Minister of Militia would let me have by tomorrow a copy of the report of the recruiting committee, which I understand was submitted to the Department last year. I should like to have the privilege of reading that report before the Bill comes up tomorrow.

With regard to the question of Conscription, I believe in the principle. My hon. friend the Prime Minister, the other day, was unkind enough to misinterpret my remarks in that connection, because under peculiar circumstances I made my statement in a negative instead of in a positive manner. I want to say that so far as I am personally concerned I am a firm believer in Conscription, and always have been. I believe it is the only fair and proper way of dealing with a matter of this kind. I must dissent, however, from the Prime Minister's statement that the Government have been considering for some time the question of Conscription, and that they were merely

waiting for public opinion to be stirred up upon the matter. If that is correct, then most extraordinary measures have been adopted to stir up public opinion, because it has only been within very recent weeks that certain associates of the Hon. Prime Minister have been stirring the country quite the other way. The papers supporting him have been accusing the Opposition press of endeavoring to force the Government's hand in this matter and of trying to drive the country into conscription so that the fishermen would be taken out of their boats and sent over to France. That is the kind of stirring up that has been going on up to a very recent date, and in view of that it seems to be a most extraordinary statement for my hon. friend to make that he was merely waiting for public opinion to be stirred up in order to come in and introduce the bill that is presented to the House this afternoon. Last year we were promised such a bill.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—May I ask, by whom?

MR. CURRIE—We were practically promised it by the late Prime Minister, Sir Edward Morris. We had two or three meetings with him before he went to England, and he gave us to understand that if the recruiting campaign which was undertaken last year failed to bring in the necessary number of soldiers, that the Government would adopt some additional measures; and my hon. friend, the Minister of Militia, in a proclamation that he issued to the people at about the same time, made similar statements. Nobody was under any misunderstanding as to what the words meant. The whole country accepted the position that if the number of soldiers necessary were not forthcoming, then Conscription would be adopted. I know as a matter of fact that many of

the recruits that offered in response to the appeal made last year, came in because they preferred to be volunteers to conscripts. I think that is an acknowledged fact. Many of the soldiers told me that they had come in because they did not want to be conscripted. In fact, a great deal of the success of last year's campaign was due to the threat of conscription which was held over the country. The Recruiting Committee, when canvassing the country, used that threat extensively. We anticipated, had been anticipating, a conscription measure for some time. From the beginning of the war up to the present time I have held only one opinion on the matter, and that is that this House should use every bit of power that it has to keep the Newfoundland Regiment maintained to the fullest strength and efficiency. As far as I am personally concerned, I am in the same position as my hon. friend, that whether this measure has any political effect or not I don't care a snap of my fingers. If I have to lose my seat in this House because of my support of conscription I am willing to lose it tomorrow. If the boys who have gone to represent this country can go over there and give their lives for so sacred a cause, we should be pretty small men if we refused to sacrifice even our political lives for that same cause; and I am prepared to stand in this House and support conscription whether it means my defeat at the ensuing election or not. I am quite willing to face my district on the question at any time—next month or next fall, or next year—and abide the consequences, and if I am defeated because of my support of conscription, then I will be glad to be defeated.

I am very glad to note that under this Bill no men under 19 will be called up. I think that is a move in

the right direction. During the past year we have been getting a lot of boys and sending them across, and it would have been much better if we had left them where they were. They are unfitted for the work, for the strain, and it is impossible to make good soldiers out of them. I think it was Field Marshal Haig who said that the best men in his army were those of about 25 years of age. Most of the lads that we have sent across have been under 20. A great many have left school to join the Regiment, and it would have been better for themselves and for the Empire if they had been left where they were instead of being sent over to make what I consider to be a useless and unnecessary sacrifice. If the time should ever come when we should have to call up boys of that age, then by all means call them up, but in the meantime get the men who are able to stand the strain and send them over. We have not been getting them, and it seems to me that the correct way of getting them is by enforcing an act of this sort. If the Prime Minister would be good enough to let the matter stand over until tomorrow, I would be very much obliged. Of course, as I have said, I entirely agree with the principle, but I would like to have an opportunity of examining the provisions of the Bill carefully.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — I would ask my hon. friend not to press the point. After all, this Bill is merely affirming the principle of compulsory service, with which my friend agrees.

MR. CURRIE—I will not press it, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA (Mr Bennett)—Mr. Speaker: I would like to avail of this opportunity of expressing my congratulations to you, sir, upon your attaining to the high-

est position which this Legislature can confer on one of its members. Your elevation to the Chair of this House has been referred to by every member who has spoken since the opening day, and I can only express to you the full confidence that I know every member of this House has in you as its Speaker. Your well-known spirit of fair play and power of judgment recommend you particularly for the position which you now hold, and I am convinced that the choice of you as Speaker of this House will be endorsed by the whole country.

The Prime Minister on the opening day intimated that this was to be a war session and a business session. I think that is the crux of the situation. I don't think the members of this House or the people of this country want to have any trifling with important matters at this juncture; and I feel sure that the House will see to it that every matter that comes before it during this session will be considered in a prompt and business like manner, and in a manner that will help to win the war.

We have before us this afternoon the most important Bill that will be brought forward this session. As a matter of fact I think it is one of the most important measures that were ever brought before this country; and whilst we are anxious to facilitate its passage, I think that it should call for an expression of opinion from every member of the House. This Bill involves a very broad principle, and one that was never put to the test in this country before; and I think that no member should cast his vote without giving the matter every possible consideration and satisfying himself that his conscience warrants him in sup-

porting it. Personally, I have been an advocate of conscription ever since the war started. I realized from the very beginning that it was the only right and proper way to carry on the war. I was of the opinion that those who could be best spared were those who should first go to fight. In common with Great Britain and the rest of the British Empire, we did not in our wisdom have such a law upon our Statute books. We depended upon the patriotism and loyalty of our people to answer the call to arms and see us through the struggle; and, Sir, I think that under the circumstances we in Newfoundland have done fairly well. When one considers that this country never had any military, or, with the exception of the Royal Naval Reserve, naval organization; that we were never identified with any fighting movement, or had been called upon to do anything towards helping to uphold the bulwarks of the Empire; I don't think we need be ashamed of what we have done. When the sudden call to arms came, the people of Newfoundland, in common with every other part of the Empire, responded to the extent which they thought the occasion required. When we first started out, we thought that 500 men would be adequate to meet our share of the requirements. Some thought that the war would be over in three months or less, and that then our 500 would be returning again, after the conclusion of a victorious peace. But the history of the war has revealed to us the fact that we were not alive to the situation. We did not appreciate the magnitude of the struggle which we had undertaken. As time went on we raised the number of our regiment from 500 to 1,000. The volunteers poured in in magnificent numbers in the early

days of the war, and at intervals since; so that up to the present, in spite of very serious losses, we have been enabled to keep the regiment in the field up to fairly good fighting strength. The credit for this work may be given, to a large extent, to a number of gentlemen in St. John's, and all over the country, who formed what is known as the Patriotic Association.

They were the Administrative body, and on them devolved the work of enlisting and transporting our men to the scene of the conflict. As time went on the necessity for men became greater, and greater efforts had to be made to fill up the gaps that had begun to occur. Up to the early part of last year an adequate number of recruits was forthcoming for all the requirements of the Regiment, but about twelve months ago a marked falling off occurred, and it was seen that unless the war was speedily over, a sufficient number of recruits would not be available to keep the Regiment up to fighting strength. Then, at the last session of the Legislature the Government established a Department with the responsibility of taking over the administration of our military affairs. I had the honor to be appointed Minister of that Department, and when I took the matter up, started to organize the Department, and had had an opportunity of going fully into the matters appertaining to the Regiment, I readily saw that some special effort would have to be made to procure sufficient recruits.

I would like to say, in passing, that I think that what has been done by the Committees of the Patriotic Association, and particularly by the Recruiting Committee, deserves the highest commendation and praise in this Legislature. They ungrudgingly gave their time to the work, and held

and spoke at meetings all over the Island, and up to a certain time they were at least partially successful; but, with all their efforts and eloquence, they at length got to the point where they could no longer get that response which was necessary. After the formation of the Militia Department, I decided to inaugurate another effort, under the auspices of the Department, and to get the assistance of returned soldiers in the work. We started out early in October of last year with the idea of securing 500 men between the first of October and the end of the year. We considered that that number was necessary, and that anything below that would not be adequate to meet the requirements, and with the consent and approval of the Governor in Council I issued an appeal, as Minister of the Department, to the whole country, calling upon the young men to enlist. As my hon. friend, Mr. Currie, said this afternoon in dealing with this matter, I said in that appeal that if we did not secure 500 men by the end of the year, we would be at the parting of the ways, and the Government might be reluctantly compelled to take measures to get men by other means. Now, Sir, I submit that the occasion required such a statement. At the end of the year we had not achieved the number which we set out to get, although every possible means was used. Returned soldiers were sent through the country, meetings were held, newspaper appeals, posters and advertisements were put up, and everything was done that could be done to awaken the young men of the country to a realization of their duties, but the effort was not an entire success. At the same time the effort could not be considered a failure. We did get 350 men for the Regiment and 100 for the Forestry, and between the

end of December and before the end of January we got another hundred. But, Sir, we have now arrived at the point where it is absolutely impossible to know what the requirements of the Regiment will be. It all depends on what the casualties happen to be, and therefore it is our duty to prepare for all eventualities. It is not a question of wanting 300 men. Why, 300 men are required for immediate needs. I know that the request from the other side has been for 300 men, but that is the number required immediately. That is the number required to fill the gaps at present, but what about the gaps that are going to occur in the future?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have watched this matter of recruiting very closely since I have been immediately identified with it, and I am in a position to know the requirements; and I say that nothing less than a thousand men is required to keep the regiment up to full strength. Barracks will be opened in the rinks next week, and there will be accommodation there for 800 men, perhaps a thousand. We won't have that many men in barracks at one time, as we will send across drafts as soon as they are ready. We are arranging now for the transportation of three or four hundred, and we want three or four hundred more without delay, and this country must be prepared to have those men come forward. We want men, not alone to go over and fill the gaps, but to take the places of the boys who have been there since the beginning of the war. There is a young man in this afternoon's casualty list, one of the first five hundred, Hon. Tasker Cook's son, who has been wounded two or three times. Now, if those men have to be in action all the time, it is merely a question of time when they will all be wiped out.

They get wounded, go to hospital, come out and go into action again, get wounded and go to hospital again, and so on. If this continues it is only a question of time when every one of them will be gone. It is not fair and not creditable to this country that a man should have to fight and fight and fight and die at last, while others are staying home and not doing their share. That is the position we are up against, and this bill is the best bill ever brought into this Assembly, so far as fair play is concerned. The Newfoundland Regiment has made Newfoundland, and put her in a position which she never occupied before, and which the most sanguine of her sons never thought that she would occupy. This country has to be awakened still further. Dr. Lloyd has said that the Government wanted to have public sentiment awakened on this very important question. There were difficulties in the way. It was not politics. Some people thought that the urgency of the case was not sufficiently great to take such a step, but it should be emphasized beyond measure, and no man will take issue on this question, that the need is very great. I had an opportunity last year, when I was in Canada, of listening to an address in the Board of Trade in Toronto. A military man there was explaining the military service act of Canada, and I was just as wise after he had finished as when he started, and I don't think he was much wiser himself. I never saw or heard of such an impossible measure as the military service act of Canada. There was hardly a man in Canada but could claim exemption under some clause or other, and what was the result. The act absolutely broke down, and the other day they had to pass a minute of council for submission to

the Legislature for endorsement to make the act workable. They set to get 100,000 men and they could not get 30,000. Practically everybody claimed exemption and got it.

I must congratulate the Prime Minister on this bill, because I think he has a workable measure. Any child can understand it, and any man can understand his duties and what he has to do. This measure will not impose any hardship on the country. It will not take the widow's only son, nor go into the fishing boat and take the assistant of the aged father, or the sole support of the aged or helpless, but it takes those first who can best be spared, and that is what we are going to carry out. There is no desire or intention to impose any hardship or any burden on any family in this country that they cannot bear, and although provision is made for dependents, it is not the intention of the Act to take those who are the support of a family, but to take young men between the ages of 19 and 40 who are in the prime of life to go in their strength and protect those who are weak. If any country can find fault with that idea surely that country has no high ideals. I should be very much surprised if any district in the island should have the least hesitation in saying that this measure is just and right. We don't want to do anything unjust or unfair, or impose any hardship on those who are unable to help themselves, but we must insist that those whose duty it is to go should go and take their part without any further hesitation. Another matter that I must mention is the matter of tribunals. I talked over this matter with the Prime Minister on several occasions, and we agreed that it was a very serious matter. In Canada tribunals were established all over the Dominion, and

there was a tribunal in every town. In a country like Canada it would be very much easier, but Mr. Speaker you can imagine the difficulty there would be in establishing tribunals in the remote part of Newfoundland to decide military qualifications and exemptions. The thing looked almost impossible, but I am proud to say that the difficulty was gotten over, and I must congratulate the Prime Minister on the achievement. The decision of the judges of the Supreme Court would be beyond question, and any decision they give will be satisfactory to all concerned.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, before concluding, that I wish to express my highest admiration of the work of the returned soldiers. We have talked of public opinion being aroused, and they have accomplished it in a manner and degree that no department or Government could have done. They went about it in the right way, and they have aroused the people from a state of indifference to enthusiastic loyalty. They went over grounds that we had gone over with no result, and been successful. They went to places where many honorable members of this House have gone in vain, and got recruits. Well, Sir, it shows the spirit of the times. If the people were not ready to be awakened they would not respond so promptly, and indications every day show that the movement is further flung than ever before. Every district is sending in recruits. This is a favorable sign, and I have no doubt that within the next week or ten days we will have such a return as will satisfy all concerned. I am glad to see that the returned soldiers have formed an association of a permanent character which will enable any member who has a grievance about his pension or his treatment in any way to have it

attended to. The association will take these matters up with the Government or the department concerned. This will be a great help, and will have the effect of centralizing all these matters.

The Prime Minister has said that every man who is fit, between the ages of 19 and 40, automatically becomes a soldier on the passing of this Act. That is a piece of information that I think should be promulgated through the country, so that those who are eligible will understand that they are not to await until they are brought in, but they have to obey military laws and either report for duty or make claim for exemption. Every man must come in here and report for duty, and his fate will be decided by the tribunal, as to whether he is to serve or not. I think the system is simple, workable and effective, and I anticipate that before another two months we will have a thousand men or more here in St. John's ready to embark for foreign service.

There are a great many features in this bill, Mr. Speaker, that might be emphasized, but I don't intend to delay the House now. As the Prime Minister has said, this is a war session, and we don't want any delay. However, there are one or two things that might be pointed out and emphasized. For instance, a young man who has a brother serving in the forces is not compelled to go. If there are two brothers and one is serving, neither is compelled to go. Of course, there is always the opportunity to enlist voluntarily, if he should want to do so, but there is nothing to compel him. The same thing applies to a young man who may be within the age limit, but who has an aged mother, sisters, or young children depending on him. He would be in the same category as a married man, and would be entitled to exemption.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to support the second reading of this bill, and I do so with the conviction that I am merely doing the duty that the people who sent me here want me to do. I believe my district wishes to support conscription, particularly a measure which is absolutely fair, impartial and just. I don't fear going down in defeat on account of this Bill, but on the contrary I have a high enough opinion of the loyalty and true British spirit of the people of my district to think that they want to see this bill put through. I therefore desire to record my full support of the measure.

The Bill 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 of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Further Extend the Term of the present Legislature" was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — Mr. Speaker, the policy of the Government on this matter is to ensure the carrying out of the Military Service Act. The Government has taken the responsibility of urging the passing of that Act, and we now ask the Legislature to ensure to us an opportunity of enforcing it. We are pledged to the passing of the Conscription Bill, and we are also pledged to its enforcement. The policy of the Government is to carry it out with as little hardship as possible to the country, and at the same time consistent with the raising of the required number of men to keep our Regiment in the field. We wish to do this with as little inconvenience to the fishery as possible. I hope, Sir, we shall succeed in obtaining a large number of men voluntarily before the date on which men of the first class will respond as conscripts. I think the re-

sponse will be large and voluntary. It is our intention to issue a Proclamation as soon as possible after the Military Service Bill becomes law, and under that Proclamation will call up men of the first class! and, further, when the fishery closes, to issue a call for men of the second class. This would not be an opportune time for a general election, as I think will be apparent to everybody. Moreover, our experience of last year showed us that the time of the Government and the Ministers of the various departmental offices relating to shipping, the obtaining of food supplies, the export of fish, and other public activities, was fully occupied, and they had all they could do to cope with the many and varying demands upon their time. Members of the Government should be present in St. John's, and there will be no opportunity for spending weeks at a time in the several electoral districts, when all energies should be bent on the problems daily arising in connection with public matters. It may be retorted that last year we strenuously opposed the extension of Parliament and asked for an election in the fall of that year. That is proof, Sir, that during last summer we had enough experience to show that an election in these critical times would be most inopportune and would distract attention from the great matter in hand. In spite of all that has been said to the contrary, the Government has been fully occupied in aiding the trade of the country. We gave all the assistance we could render, and aided the trade extensively in various ways. There may be an opportunity of discussing this matter later. I am glad to find out the attitude of my hon. friend the Member for Burin on Conscription. I heartily congratulate him on it. If I misinterpreted that gentleman's actions or

intentions I am very sorry, but we must recollect that, after all, my hon. friend on the opening day of the present session gave but a cold support to the Conscription Bill and the policy of the Government, and the spirit he manifested then was totally different from that which he shows this afternoon. He gave no idea that he would really support the Bill. All he said was that he would not oppose it, unless there were some features to which he objected. Surely here is a case where those who are not with us are against us. I would like to point out, too, that in the opposition to the present Government there are some members who do oppose Conscription, and strongly object not alone to its enactment but also to its enforcement. I repeat, Sir, that we ask for the prolongation of the life of Parliament for another year in order that we may have ample time and opportunity to enforce the Military Service Act, in order that we may be assured that the object of this legislation will be carried out, and that Newfoundland may be able to say she has done her part fully in the present struggle. I move, therefore, that this Bill be read a second time.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the most extraordinary address that I have ever heard. It is not my intention to speak a length on this bill this afternoon, but I notice that it is, so far as I can see, practically a copy of the act of last year.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—You will observe, first of all, that there are three sections. The first section is almost identical with the first section in last year's Act, the only difference being that it is 1919 instead of 1918. The second clause is changed considerably. This clause in last year's bill was very broad

and went further than I think I for one, intended. The act of last year provided that any member of the House taking office before the end of December, 1918, would, notwithstanding taking the office, still retain his seat in the House. Now, this bill does not provide that. It merely provides that what we call the political heads of departments, like the Minister of Agriculture and Mines or the Colonial Secretary, do not need to go to the country for the acceptance of the office. That is the main difference between the wording and effect of section of this bill and section 2 of the act of last year. The third section is the name of the bill.

MR. CURRIE—I am very glad to note this change in the Bill because, I speak for myself, it comes as a very great surprise to me to learn that after the House closed an Act such as that as that was found on the statute-book of last year. I admit my carelessness. I was under the impression that that Act had been framed as it had been intimated to us that would be framed. I can assure the House that I never would have voted for a Bill as broad as this one of last year was. As a matter of fact I left town and was not present when this Bill passed through most of its stages.

I think that we have listened to the most extraordinary speech this afternoon that has ever been made on the floor of this Assembly. The one excuse given for this measure is that the Government is desirous of seeing the Military Service Bill carried out. I think this is a most extraordinary excuse. Hereafter any Government may say "We are very desirous of putting through this "Dog Act" and propose to remain in power in order to see it effectually carried out." My hon. friend implies that if

an election was held and there was a change of Government that the incoming Government would not put this measure into effect.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I know the men associated with the movement.

MR. CURRIE—I do not. As far as I am concerned and any people with whom I would be associated, no Government would receive my support that would not put into effect a statute upon the book, as this one presumably will be. The hon. the Prime Minister assumes that no Government would put this Bill into effect. And further my hon. friend admits that he is not going to put it into force until he has cause.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I said no such thing. I can excuse the hon member who admits that he has not had time to prepare his remarks and is not ready. If he will but read the Act he will find that it is not possible for us to do anything of the kind.

MR. CURRIE—I certainly understood my hon. friend to say that they were not going to put this Act into effect until this fall.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—What I said was this. That we should call out a class immediately, but that the response to that calling out would be very largely voluntary, because most of the men coming would appear before they were compulsorily called up as soldiers of the King, and there would consequently be no need for resorting to compulsion at first. But in the Fall it would be different.

MR. CURRIE—The Prime Minister says that he is going to call up what would come voluntarily. What does he mean? Does he refer to that class of men that will make no claim for exemption? Does he mean that he

will not put the Act into force?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—If the hon. member is blind, I cannot make him see. A fortnight or so ago, a notice was inserted in the papers to the effect that no unmarried man was to leave the country, which notice was an intimation that we were considering a measure of this kind. Since that time, the returned soldiers and the rejected men by their attitude and energy have succeeded in bringing three hundred men into the Regiment.

MR. CURRIE—Does the hon. the Prime Minister think that once this Bill comes into force that there will be any volunteering. I think that once the Act is on the statute book, men will wait until they are called up. After the next fortnight the majority, say 90 percent, will be engaged in the fisheries or else gone away, anyway they will not be obtainable. So it will be impossible to put the Act into force as regards these until the autumn. That will mean discrimination between the different classes of men in the community. The Bill is discriminatory in itself and only calls up men of a certain age.

Now last year the hon. the Prime Minister said that he was vigorously opposed to extending the life of Parliament. But the sweets of office were to him then unknown, and rather than forgo them my friend decided that he would not go out until he was forced to. It is a sort of political expediency. The hon. the Colonial Secretary used to dilate upon what he was pleased to term political expediency and we are very tempted in the light of late events to wonder whether even he has not been induced to sacrifice political principles to political expediency. If I know anything of the workings of

the Government (and I flatter myself that I know a little) I think I may say that he has in fact done so. It is impossible to run a Government without sinking one's personal opinions somewhat.

Now, there is no need for extending the life of this present Parliament. Certainly the present Government thought so a few weeks back, when they were preparing for another election. It is a notorious fact that when this new Government was brought into power in January of last year they intended to make an appeal to the country, whether the conditions were serious or not. Only a few days ago, the member for Port de Grave told his constituents that he was absolutely sure that the Government was going to have an election. He said that he spoke on the authority of his leader. They were preparing the way for an election up to within a few weeks ago.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I might point out that the present crisis in the war was not on them.

MR. CURRIE—This crisis is not likely to be on in October. Certainly we are justified in expecting a change in the situation by that time if we can judge by the newspapers and reports of Parliamentary speeches. Certainly if we do have an election, it cannot possibly affect the conduct of the war, if one may judge by the events in Canada and Australia.

What affect would a general election here in Newfoundland have on the war in France?

HON. MR. COAKER—Why didn't you say that last year?

MR. CURRIE—I never consented to such a proceeding, and if my own wishes had their way such a bill would not have been passed. I was always against it and the coalition until urged into it by the other side. I was

always ready, and I am always ready to go to the country and was accordingly in favor of a General Election last year. I admit I favored an extension on an agreement that we were to have election this year. Everybody then hoped that the war would be over before the year passed, and yet it was under such an agreement that I agreed to prolong the life of this Legislature last year.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — What agreement?

MR. CURRIE—The agreement made between the parties. That was a part of the agreement and one of its terms.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — There was no such terms in the agreement.

MR. CURRIE—Then Sir Edward Morris did not tell us the truth. I only know the conditions as they were handed out to me. I was saying, Sir, that we have a notable illustration in Canada. In Canada they had their general election while the Military Service Act was in action, and there was no trouble; and in spite of that fact Canada has gone through an election and the Government has come back stronger; and if my friends can go to the country and come back as a strong Government, I will be glad to see them there, because the Government for the next four years will have serious difficulties to face, such difficulties as can best be faced by a Government strong in itself with the people of the country behind it. I say now, as I did when I was beginning, that any extended remarks I may care to make will be made later on when this bill gets to committee. In the meantime I dissent to the second reading because I hold it is not a necessary measure, and I think that its adoption is the adoption of a principle that is wrong. We have no understanding of any sort or kind that

even if the war is over next year the Government will not make the excuse that the serious conditions arising from the war have made it necessary for a further extension of Parliament. It is the establishment of a most pernicious principle which should never have been established to permit a Government to extend its own life indiscriminately, and I maintain that it is a violation of the Constitution and so I do not agree with the second reading of the bill.

HON. MR. COAKER—I wish to make a few remarks, Mr. Speaker, in reply to the honorable member for Burin. I would like to know whether he really is leader of the Opposition. If I knew that, I would know just how to treat him and handle him with regard to statements coming from that side of the House this afternoon. Whether he is sitting with somebody else or by himself I have not yet discovered. Perhaps a little later on he may see fit to tell us. At the present time it does not seem clear whether or not he is associated with anybody. Those who followed Mr. Walsh will remember his attitude on Conscription. The honorable gentleman will remember that Mr. Walsh spoke against it.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Walsh made no such statement.

HON. MR. COAKER—Mr. Walsh as much as said it. The records of what he said will show that plainly enough. Not only did he say it, but didn't Mr. Gibbs in the Upper House also oppose Conscription? What will your friend Mr. Squires say?

MR. CURRIE—I didn't hear Mr. Gibbs' address, and Mr. Squires has not yet spoken.

HON. MR. COAKER—No, but you read the report of what Mr. Gibbs said. The member wants to know why we are not going to have an elec-

tion, and asks if it is true that we were going to have an election up to a week ago.

MR. CURRIE—I know it to be true.

HON. MR. COAKER—Allow me to inform you the people that wanted an election last year were the members of the F. P. U. The members of the F. P. U. wanted an election after Dr. Lloyd became Premier, and the men who, up to a few weeks ago wanted an election were the same members of the F. P. U. The reason we are not going to have an election therefore, which all the members of the F. P. U. wanted up to a few weeks ago, is that since that time a great offensive has taken place in France. The crisis of the war has come. The struggle for the life of the Empire is upon us. Men are wanted for the front to stand by the lads of Newfoundland now doing their bit, and we have resolved that no dishonour will come to Newfoundland by disbanding the Regiment through any want of courage on our parts. We stand or fall to protect the honour of our country and in doing our part to defend the Empire and our Liberty and Freedom.

The member thinks the war will be over by October. Well, the offensive may be over, but we have nothing to indicate that it will, we have much to show that the war will not be over by October. As I have said this is the crisis of the war. This is a year when Newfoundland will have to make sacrifices. Conditions are far worse than they were last year, or any year since 1914. There will be less men to go to the fishery. Less fish caught, and we are going to find it hard to get supplies and tonnage. Who is going to go into the fisheries extensively without knowing whether or not he will be able to market his fish. Who knows whether there will be a sufficient salt supply?

Does not the honorable member not see the clouds hanging over us today, blacker than ever before owing to war conditions, and those clouds will hang over us for the rest of the year. Do we want a General Election under such circumstances. Do the people want elections during such conditions as will have to be faced the coming fall? We are passing a Conscription measure which will call out our young men for war service. This act will be taking full effect in October. Do you want us to go to the people then asking for their votes on the one hand and taking their sons with the other. The effect of such would be obvious. What we want today is all to pull together, if such was necessary in July it is much more necessary now. During the past while this Government has been in charge, it has done its best in everything that came before it. We come here with a perfectly clean record. Everything that has been done has been done in the interest and benefit of the whole country. If the honourable member or anyone else prove one single instance of wrongdoing on our part since we had control of the Government I will personally resign my seat. I do not want to stay here unless everything is done straight.

MR. CURRIE—We have heard that before.

HON. MR. COAKER—I have said that before, and I say it again now. I challenge you to prove one single iota of any wrong doing either directly or indirectly. Is that challenge not strong enough for you? If you want elections, resign your seat for Burin and I will take it upon me to see that the District is opened at once and that you are beaten.

MR. CURRIE—Why not open some of the other Districts?

HON. MR. COAKER—Other districts

will not be forgotten. You ought to take Burin District by storm. Elected four years ago with a majority of some four hundred votes you should not fear an election there now if the electors prefer you to us. If you resign your seat and go to Burin today I will see that a candidate from the National Government faces you at an election. I am prepared personally to oppose you in Burin District and would be willing to resign my seat to undertake it and give you the licking of your life. Later in the session I will refer to some insinuations which you cast this way on opening day, which cannot be discussed on the second reading of the Bill now before the House.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The Bill 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 of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6, George V. (1915) Chapter 17 entitled "An Act respecting the Establishment of a Permanent Disasters Fund" was read a second time.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the second reading of this Bill I wish merely to point out that the object of the Bill is to include others than fishermen into the benefits of the Marine Disasters Fund. Under the present Act that is not the case to-day. For instance if two brothers were lost on some steamship or vessel, one being a carpenter and the other a fisherman, and the carpenter leaving a widow and dependents in much worse circumstances than those of his fisherman brother, under the Act as it is, no benefits are allowed to the depend-

ents of the Carpenter. The object of the Act therefore is to amend this Act so as to allow it to include others than fishermen in its provisions. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House on to-morrow.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "A Act to Amend the Education Act 1916" was read a second time.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, there is not very much to this measure. It is purely an addition to the schedule of the Education Act. It was found that through some oversight in the drafting of the act of 1916 Consolidating the Education Acts, an Act of 1914 re the retiring of teachers was not repealed although the subject matter of the amending Act in question had been consolidated into the Act. It was evidently an oversight.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker: There is just one matter in connection with this Education Bill. Two years ago, when the Education Act was before this House for consolidation, the question was raised concerning the age at which pupils should take the Primary Examination, and I think the promise was made at that time that the matter would be taken up when the Act was next being amended. I remember we had a joint meeting with the members of the Upper House, at which it was agreed that it was time to deal with the matter. I know of my own knowledge of children who have suffered by taking it too early, and I think the time has come when we ought take this question up and deal with it. I think the age at which children are expected to

take the primary examination is altogether too young. I know of one child so affected by the nervous strain that she is a physical wreck, and it is doubtful if she will ever recover. I think the Prime Minister should look into the matter.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I remember something about it. I know there was a meeting of both Houses, and this question was brought up, by the present Postmaster General, if I remember rightly. When the Bill goes to Committee we can draft an amendment to meet my friend's views.

On motion the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Inflammable Substances Act, 1916," was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—The object of this amendment is very simple. It deals with the specific gravity of oils of an inflammable nature, and the intention is to prohibit the importation of oils over 8 17-100. When the Bill was being drafted I got into communication with the Government Analyst on the matter, and he assured me that the amendment does not add to the risk of explosion. The object of the measure is to bring the section in accordance with the provisions of what I understand is the Canadian and American law upon the matter.

The Bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Apply to this Dominion the Provisions of the Imperial Act, the Maritime Conventions Act, 1911," was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—This, Mr. Speaker, is an Imperial Act which is at present law in the United Kingdom, Canada and some of the other Dominions, and is being introduced at the request of the Colonial Office. The main object of the measure will be found in Clause 1, sub-section 1. That is a principle which has been agreed upon between the chief maritime nations, and this Bill is merely to give effect to it in Newfoundland, as the British Government desires that the provisions of the Convention should apply to the whole of the Empire. It is a question of ascertaining damage to vessels which have been in collision. I move the second reading of the Bill.

The Bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Nine of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of Patents," was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER.—This is merely to rectify an omission in the old Act. It is provided in the Act as it now stands that an applicant for a patent shall make an affidavit that his patent is not in use in any other country; but the Act contains certain exceptions in reference to that; because, as may be easily understood, applicants for patents do not as a rule come to Newfoundland first. This amendment does not in any way change the law, but merely makes it read more clearly. That is, the applicant states that his patent is not in use in Newfoundland or in any other country, except as provided in section 10. I move the second reading.

The Bill was ordered to be referred

to a Committee of the whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of the Keeping of Dogs" was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER.—This is also merely to correct an omission in the present Act. Under this Act as it reads at present, a proclamation goes forth, upon petition, prohibiting the keeping of dogs within a certain area; and that the proclamation shall be continued in force until, the Act says, "A petition is presented in the manner hereinafter provided." These are the last words of the last section of the Act. There is no section hereinafter. This amendment is merely to remedy that defect. I move the second reading.

On motion the Bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

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 entitled "An Act respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night" in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of the Acting Minister of Militia the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night" was 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 tomorrow, Friday, April 26th, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, April 26th., 1918.

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

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker: I beg to present a petition for the District of Placentia, at St. Mary's, asking for an improvement in the Coastal Steam Service. This petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by the Rev. Fr. O'Driscoll, Dr. Hogan and about a thousand of the residents of the section of the district which the petition covers. There are only three places on all this coast served by a coastal boat, Trepassey, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. The idea of this petition is that as there is a railway terminus at Trepassey and another at Placentia, a small boat between those places would be an immense benefit and would serve all those settlements. I think the request is a just one, and one that should receive the impartial consideration of every man in this House who has the interests of the fishermen at heart. After all, if we want to develop the fisheries, we should help those engaged in the fishery, by every means possible to increase their catch, and a matter of this kind is one of the necessities. I bespeak for this petition the consideration and support of every member of this House. I hope the Government will see its way clear to place a small boat on this service. I can appreciate that way clear to place a small boat on owing to the extraordinary conditions and the lack of tonnage, it is not an easy matter, but we don't expect anything elaborate. If we see that a honest attempt is being made to handle this matter, we won't attempt to criticize. I bespeak the sympathy of the Government on this matter, and I have much pleasure in passing over the petition, so that it

may be referred to the proper department.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker, I desire to support this petition in regard to steam service on the southwest coast. It seems to me that we want a much better and more complete service for that Bay. So far as Burin is concerned, some ports are well served and other ports are practically not served at all. It is only occasionally that a steamer calls at Lamaline. If it is stormy she does not call, and in fact almost any excuse is sufficient. Recently, a period of four or five weeks passed during which not even a mail reached Lamaline. There ought to be some way by which the steam service in that bay should be improved, so as to give a continuous service. One steamer cannot possibly do the work, as it gives the boat no chance to lie up for repairs or to clean the engines. These boats are overworked, and there ought to be some way of making arrangements so that Burin district would have a much better service than is given at present. The same thing applies to the eastern part of Placentia Bay. There is no service at all from Placentia to Trepassey, and no communication. For three or four years we have been trying to get something done, but the excuses of the war and shortage of funds have been given and nothing has been done. It seems to me that the time has come when some action should be taken to give a better service, for the sake of the business people and the residents of this most important section of the country.

MR. GRIMES—I beg leave, Mr. Speaker, to present a petition from the residents of Port de Grave District regarding the price of fish. The petition is very largely signed, and points out that \$1.50 to \$3.00 more is

being paid for fish in Green Bay, Bonavista Bay and Trinity Bay than the fishermen of Coception Bay are receiving. If this is so, it shows that a great injustice is being done to the fishermen of Conception Bay. I would ask the Government to give this matter their very careful consideration. There is no doubt about it that the fishermen of Conception Bay are just as hard working and industrious as those of any other part of the country, and this distinction should not be drawn between them and the people of the other districts. At any rate the petitioners seem quite clear that an injustice has been done them, and I would ask the Government to give the matter their consideration, and that the matter be referred to the proper department.

MR. PARSONS—Mr. Speaker, I rise to heartily support this petition. It affects the people of Conception Bay, and I am interested in it, as I will make known to the House in a moment or two.

MR. PARSONS—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition on a similar subject to that outlined by Mr. Grimes, and I trust that the Government will take his matter up. This petition is signed by about two hundred fishermen, who consider it very unfair that they should be discriminated against in the matter of the price of fish. I would ask that this petition be referred to the department to which it relates.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the people of Fleur-de-Lys, in St. Barbe District, asking that a telegraph office be opened in that settlement. The nearest office at present is in Coachman's Cove, which is seven miles distant. In the winter season it is extremely

inconvenient for the people to get back and forth, and as there is at present a mine working in this place I have no doubt that it would be a paying station. There are a large number of fishing schooners going back and forth in the summer time, and they want to be able to report their whereabouts, as this is a place where schooners frequent very often. This office would also be invaluable to the sealing captains in the spring of the year, as it is an important centre for giving information in relation to ice conditions and seals. The expense of this office would not be great, as the site would be given by parties down there who are interested in the mine and the wood could be got on the spot. I hope that the Government will see its way clear to grant this request, which is largely signed.

I beg to present a petition also from the people of Little Heart's Ease in the district of Trinity, asking that a telegraph office be erected at that settlement, and a petition from the inhabitants of White Rock, in the District of Trinity, asking that a sum of \$200 be granted for the purpose of building a road to the saw mills. There are about twenty-five to thirty men interested in the saw-mills, and they want a road to get back and forth. I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant the request of the petitioners.

MR. JENNINGS—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the people of Port Anson, asking for a small sum of money to make a road to the church which has lately been erected there. Port Anson is comparatively a new settlement, but there are quite a few people there who are interested in agriculture and the fishery. They are a very industrious class of people, and I

think that a small sum of money to help them out would be well placed. I give my hearty support to the petition, and I would ask that it be received and referred to the department of Public Works.

MR. MOORE—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the trap fishermen of Ferryland in the district of Ferryland, asking that rule 48 of the Fishery Rules be repealed, as owing to ice and the high cost of twine it is a great inconvenience to them just now. I would ask that the petition be referred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and if the request is a reasonable one that it be granted.

RT. HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Pacquet who ask that the use of trawls be prohibited there. This petition is very largely signed and I beg leave to refer it to the Department to which it relates. I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Wild Cove, who ask me that that place be made a port of call. I beg leave to refer it to the Department to which it relates.

HON. MR. COAKER—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Jackson's Cove, Silverdale, Nick's Nose Cove, Langdon's Cove and Birchy Cove asking that the sum of eight hundred dollars be granted for the purpose of building a public wharf. The amount granted for that purpose last year was insufficient for the purpose and this petition asks for the further sum of \$800 to complete it.

I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Fortune Harbour who ask that a ferry be placed at that place. This petition is largely signed. A similar petition was presented last year but the Govern-

ment was unable to accede to the prayer of the petition.

I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Jackson's Cove and Herring Neck asking for the appointment of a harbour master at those places.

I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Summerford and its vicinity asking that a telephone connection be extended to that place. I beg that these several petitions be referred to the Departments which they relate.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Winterton in Trinity Bay asking for the appointment of a stipendiary magistrate in that place. This same request has been made several times to this House since I have been here but the Government so far has never seen its way clear to grant it. There are about eight thousand inhabitants in that part of the district and no stipendiary magistrate is there in the south side of Trinity Bay at all, and the people of Winterton have to travel a distance of twelve miles to consult the nearest one. I hope that the Government will see its way clear to accede to the prayer of this petition.

I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of New Perlican asking for the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to make a road at that place. The inhabitants of that place are desirous of cultivating their lands. But are at present unable to get there. I beg leave to refer these petitions to the departments to which they relate.

MR. WINSOR—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a number of petitions from Bonavista Bay asking for telegraph connection. As it is extremely necessary for the people living along that shore to have the prayer

of these petitions granted. I beg leave to refer them to the Department to which they relate.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Mr. Walsh gave notice of question.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to continue for a further period of five years after the termination of the present war certain powers in relation to imports and exports."

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 8, Edward VII (1908) Chapter five, entitled "An Act with Respect to Compensation to Workmen for Injuries suffered in the Course of their Employment" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Notice of Question

MR. CURRIE asked the Acting Minister of Militia to lay upon the table of the House a detailed statement showing the expenditure incurred in connection with the recruiting campaign of last year, between the months of August and December.

ACTING MINISTER OF MILITIA—That is under consideration.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary if any correspondence has taken place between the Reid-Newfoundland Co. and the Government relating to an increase in the subsidies paid that company under the 1898 Contract, and if so, to lay on the table of the House a copy of any such correspondence.

HON. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—That is under consideration. I shall be pleased to give the hon. member all correspondence and information available as soon as I am in a position so to do.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. Minister of Public Works to lay upon the table of the House a detailed statement showing (a) to whom the contract for the erection of the addition to the Public Works building was awarded; (b) the amount of such contract; (c) the amount of the plumbing contract and to whom awarded.

HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—I will do so at the next session of the House.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. Minister of Public Works to lay upon the table of the House a detailed statement showing the cost of rebuilding and refurnishing the Stott building for the use of the Department of Militia; whether such rebuilding was done by contract, if so, to whom such contract was awarded; also a statement giving the amount paid to James Stott for the building.

HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—I shall do so on Monday.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary if any correspondence has taken place between the Government and the Reid Newfoundland Co. in relation to the establishment of a direct train service with Catalina and St. John's, and if so, to lay upon the table of the House a copy of any such correspondence.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to this question I may say that nothing further has been done. There is a direct train service from St. John's now. Trains run down there six times a week.

MR. WALSH asked the Acting Minister of Marine and Fisheries if it is the intention of the Government to construct a railway terminus wharf at Port Union, and if said wharf is in course of construction the cost to date.

MR. CURRIE—I understood from

some notices that were in the papers that Catalina was to be made the terminus of a direct line. I know there is a daily service. The trains connect with the cross country train or the express at Clarendville. I understand however that it is the intention of the Government to have a service between Port Union and St John's.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—There is no correspondence on the matter.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—As far as that is concerned I may say that it has not been decided and not even talked about.

MR. WALSH asked the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement showing all expenses incurred by the Food Control Board.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—I will do so as soon as they are prepared.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Military Service."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker: I think in view of the serious character of this bill as a matter of fact of these two bills, I wish to make a request to the Hon. Prime Minister that both these bills be deferred until Monday. He has told us that the Government have been seriously considering this bill for the past three weeks, while the first we saw about it was a day or so again and I think it is only reasonable that the matter be deferred until Monday so that we may have an opportunity of studying every aspect of this Bill. I notice in

the Military Service Bill that in the exemptions, under section 6, Clergy are exempted. I think that ecclesiastical students should also be included in the exemptions, because we have in this country quite a number of ecclesiastical students, some of whom have two or three years at college, some having taken minor orders. This and other sections of the Bill might well be considered and I trust that the Prime Minister will see his way clear to grant this request. So as due consideration can be given the Bill, a few hours delay can do no serious harm.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry I am unable to comply with the request of the hon. member who has just taken his seat. I would make quite clear that it is the intention of the Government to have the Proclamation out as soon as possible; that is immediately after this Act passes. Immediately this Statute passes and goes on the Statute Book, and we hope to have it on the Statute Book before next week goes out, it is the intention of the Government to issue the Proclamation. The Government is anxious to have this measure put through immediately. I am very sorry I cannot comply with the request of my hon. friend but this is a matter of National importance, urgently needed at the present time. We want men and we want them immediately; and we accordingly cannot delay. I would therefore ask that we now go into committee on this Bill.

MR. WALSH—I do not see, Mr. Speaker, why what I consider a most reasonable request to have both these bills deferred until Monday should be refused. I have not said I opposed this bill, although I think that that was said of me yesterday when I was not here to contradict it. I have not

made any such statement in this House and I think it is most unfair and most un-British to have this request refused. I must say I remember when the Hon the Prime Minister was on this side of the House that whenever he made a request for a postponement of any Bill, no matter how insignificant, his request was always granted. This on the other hand is one of the most serious bills ever introduced in any House of Assembly under the British Constitution. We are asked her to-day to conscript blood, and I do not think in view of the nature of the Bill that it is reasonable to have this request refused. It is unfair to myself and to the opposition. The opposition made any such statement in this may not be numerically large, but we represent a large number of people. I know I represent a very large district, and I think that it is only fair that this request of mine sir, to better treatment. I only asked that these matters stand until Monday and practically no time has been lost on these Bills or will be lost as a result of this request being granted. There has been ample time since the outbreak of the war to consider Bills of this nature, and if my friends on the other side, who have been in the late party, had started a little earlier, there would be no need to rush this measure through at the eleventh hour. I must ask, sir, that my comments on this matter be noted, for I feel that to refuse it is most unreasonable.

The Committee proceeded to read and pass sections of the bill.

Exemptions—(a) "That it is expedient in the national interest that the man should, instead of being employed in military service, be otherwise engaged."

MR. CURRIE—May I ask the Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, to ex-

plain what in his opinion is the meaning of that sub-section? It seems to me to be altogether too broad.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—As to just what grounds will be considered sufficient for exemption in the national interest will be a matter for the Tribunal to decide. It will not be decided by the Governor in Council or by anyone other than the tribunal appointed under this Act. But I will give what might be a case in point. Supposing a wireless operator were called up by the proclamation, and supposing he were required to go on a patrol boat, the Tribunal might consider that he had a good case for exemption in the national interest. The same thing might apply to men in the employ of cable companies. You will note that the certificates may either be absolute or conditional. For instance, in certain cases the tribunal might grant a certificate for a month, or two months, or three months. But the service on which the applicant is engaged must be of national importance. Personal would not be sufficient.

MR. CURRIE—But the section is very broad.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I quite realize that, and the difficulties of dealing with it. Our only protection is that the Tribunal must be fully satisfied before a certificate will be granted.

MR. CURRIE—I was going on to say that I think the section entirely too broad. For instance, a man engaged in farming might, in view of the shortage of food, be justified in taking the position that he was engaged in a service of national interest and claiming exemption on that ground. And the same thing applies to fishermen. Now, if this position become general, it might cause end-

less trouble, in view of the fact that the tribunal can only hear one case at a time, unless they were to come to some decision in regard to certain occupations.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I do not see any way of getting over it. Of course, immediately a case comes up, a ruling will be made, which will be a precedent for future cases. I do not think that the mere fact that a man was engaged in the farming or fishing industries would be considered a ground for exemption within the meaning of this section.

REGULATIONS

(2). "All proclamations and regulations shall be published fortnightly in the Royal Gazette, and in such other manner, if any, as the Governor in Council may find necessary to ensure knowledge thereof by all persons concerned; and shall forthwith be laid before the Legislature if then in session, and if not in session, then within ten days after the next meeting thereof."

MR. CURRIE—With reference to that section, Mr. Chairman, how will it affect men who have engaged to serve for the fishing season? For instance, at the present time, on the West Coast, there are quite a number of men engaged, and some of them already at work. How is it proposed to deal with them?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—They will come under the Act. But that might be a ground upon which to base an application for exemption until the end of the fishing voyage.

MR. CURRIE—That would apply to men who are already engaged?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—Yes.

MR. CURRIE—But how about men who during the week have engaged themselves for the fishery?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—That case is different. These men have

had full notice during the past three weeks that something was going to be done in the way of compulsion. I can understand that this Act will have to be enforced tactfully, and there may be a lot of difficulties which will have to be arranged; but I don't think that anybody who engaged for the fishery during the past few days, in view of what they knew was coming, is entitled to any consideration.

MR. CURRIE—But I would point out that all arrangements are usually made for the fishery long before the 1st of May, and that the men start to work on the 1st of May. At least, I don't know just how it is now, but that is how it was as I remember it. Take the case of men going to the Labrador. They may have engaged themselves and be on the Labrador at the time the proclamation is made. It seems to me that some pronouncement should be made in this Act as to when the first call will be made.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—A proclamation will go out immediately the Act is passed.

MR. CURRIE—Perhaps some arrangement could be made whereby the boat which will be on the Labrador service can notify the men there.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—It is proposed to have the first call made immediately, and then not to make any second call until the fishing season is over, in order not to disturb the fishery. I am in hopes that the first call will give us sufficient men to keep us going until the fishery is over, because it is desirable in the general interests to disturb matters as little as possible. The immediate issuing of the proclamation will be notice to the men liable to serve that they should not engage for the fishery. For the same reason there is a provision here that unmarried men

shall include men who have got married since the 10th April, when the proclamation was given that unmarried men of military age should not leave the country, because that proclamation was a clear notice that something was going to be done in the way of conscription, and it would be inadvisable to allow men to escape by getting married, and, of course, it would be equally inadvisable to allow men to escape by engaging themselves for the fishery.

MR. WALSH—Does this Act exempt ecclesiastical students? I understand that they are in the Old Country and the United States.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—No, the fact that a man is an ecclesiastical student would not be a cause for exemption. We are following along the same lines as the Canadian Act, and they are not exempt in Canada.

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 amendments.

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

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Further 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 it was ordered that

the Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V (1915) Chapter 17, entitled "An Act respecting the Establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters' Fund."

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 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.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Education Act, 1916"

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 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.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Apply to this Dominion the Provisions of the Imperial Act, the Maritime Conventions Act, 1911."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CURRIE—(Coming into the House after a short absence). Has the Parliament Bill gone through Committee?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—Yes.

MR. CURRIE—I think that we are entitled to a little more consideration than that. Of course it is impossible for me to speak on that measure now. I asked for a postponement and it was not granted; but I thought the Prime Minister would at least have the courtesy to wait till I got back. I have sat for six sessions in this House and have never seen an opposition treated with such scant courtesy before. I told the Prime Minister that I intended to debate that Bill and I think I was entitled to at least five minutes consideration. I had no intention of stopping public business, but there were certain observations I wanted to make on the Bill, and the opportunity is now lost; and I wish to utter my protest against rushing such legislation through without more consideration. The honourable members themselves sat on the opposition side of the House for five or six sessions and every request they made was acceded to by the late Prime Minister. If anybody was going to debate a measure and was absent while the debate was in progress it was adjourned to give him an opportunity to speak. My friend Mr. Walsh, the member for Placentia and St. Mary's, asked that the Military Service Bill and Parliament Bill be deferred till Monday. This request was refused. I was prepared to accept the Prime Minister's statement as to the desirability of passing the Military Service Bill as quickly as possible; but the same does not apply to the Parliament Bill. I certainly think that we are entitled to more con-

sideration than we are receiving from the Government. We might at least have been allowed a few minutes to give us a chance to speak. I cannot understand this haste, and I must protest against it. With regard to the Education Bill, the Prime Minister definitely promised yesterday when I brought up the matter of the amendment as to age, that he would have it incorporated in the Bill, and I must protest against this treatment as very unfair.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—I said yesterday that I would support this amendment if it should be brought in, and I had no notion whatever that Mr. Currie was coming back. If I had, he would have had an opportunity to speak. So far as what he says about not being able to make any remarks is concerned, he will have the fullest opportunity to make any speech he likes on the third reading of the Bill.

MR. CURRIE—Nevertheless, I must still protest.

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 Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Nine of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of Patents."

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 Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act Further 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 of the Hon. Mr. Bennett, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night" was read a second time.

ACTING MINISTER OF MILITIA.

—In moving the second reading of this Bill, I desire to say that the Bill is practically in conformity with the Bill that was passed last year, except that the Bill of last year was a temporary one, and the Bill we have before us today a permanent one. The experience that we gained through the so-called Daylight Bill warrants us, I think, in coming to the conclusion that we should have a permanent measure upon the statute book. As the session of the Legislature last year was late, the Bill did not come into into operation until the second Sunday in June. This year, as set forth in the seventh section of the Bill, we propose to bring the Bill into effect upon the first Sunday in May.

On that date, therefore, the clocks will be put back from eleven in the night to ten, and the time as set then will continue throughout the summer until the first Sunday in October, when the clocks will be reverted back to their original time. It is, I think, obvious that the Bill which was in effect

last year was a great success. All parties and interests have advocated the passing of this permanent measure. It is meant that we should live more in the daylight and sleep in the darkness, and this is the object of this Bill. I have nothing further to say in reference to this matter. The matter has been fully ventilated by those who identified themselves with the measure both here in this House and in the Press, and particularly by the father of this Bill, Hon. John Anderson, and in view of the fact that the Upper House has put through this Bill under suspended rules in order that it come into effect on Sunday week, I would beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker having received the following correspondence from His Excellency the Governor, read it to the House:

The Governor has the honour to communicate to the Honourable House of Assembly the appointment of Commissioners 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 Honourable Executive Council approved by the Governor on the 23rd instant.

C. ALEXANDER HARRIS,
Governor.

25th April, 1918.

Certified Copy of Minutes of the Honourable Executive Council approved by His Excellency the Governor on the 23rd April, 1918.

22nd April, 1918.

Under the provisions of Section 4 of the Internal Economy Act 61 Vic. Cap 1, the following to be the Commission of Internal Economy of the Legislature, viz.:—Hon. Sir P. T. McGrath, K.B.E., LL.D., Hon. R. K. Bishop, Hon. W. J. Ellis, His Honour

the Speaker, Hon. W. F. Lloyd, K.C., D.C.L., Hon. J. C. Crosbie, Hon. W. F. Coaker.

Certified True Copy.

ARTHUR MEWS,
Deputy Colonial Secretary

Hon. the Prime Minister tabled reports of the Recruiting Officer.

The Minister tabled the annual report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

The remaining orders of the day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until tomorrow, Saturday, the 27th instant, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

SATURDAY, April 27th., 1918.

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

Hon. Minister of Finance tabled the Public Accounts 1916-1917.

MR. PARSONS—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Spaniard's Bay and other places on the same subject as I spoke of yesterday—the price of fish. I trust the Government will give this their attention.

Also a petition from the inhabitants of Harbor Grace South, asking for a sum of money to repair the government wharf. This wharf has been broken down by ice and weather conditions, and has not been repaired for a number of years. I would ask that a sum of money be voted for this purpose, and I trust that the Government will do its best to allocate same.

MR. WALSH—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Placentia and vicinity, on the matter of changing the railway station

from its present most undesirable position and moving the coastal wharf to the beach on this side of the gut. The gentlemen in this House and the travelling public at large are well aware of the very many disadvantages incident to the conditions now existing, and I think that the removal of the railway station down to the level land on the Jersey Side and the erection of the coastal wharf inside the gut would be the means of allowing Placentia Bay and in fact the whole south-west coast a better coastal service. On a great many occasions the boats have been hung up owing to storms and have had to leave the pier and put to sea. I think the granting of this request would be a boon to the general public, and I have much pleasure in supporting this petition and passing it over to the Government. I trust they will give it their most serious consideration. The petition is signed by Rt. Rev. Mgr. Reardon, Magistrate O'Reilly and practically all the citizens in and around Placentia.

MR. COAKER—I rise to support this petition. The matter has been drawn to my attention by the people of Placentia for several months past, and I think it is one of great importance. I don't think this coastal service will ever be a success unless this is done, and so far as I am concerned, I will do all in my power to hasten the matter.

MR. CURRIE—I wish to give this petition my hearty support. If Placentia is to continue to be the terminus of the western boats it is essential that some change should be made. It is a long dreary walk from the station at Placentia to the boat, and it is nearly always difficult to get accommodation. I find it hard to understand how this mistake came to be made. The present system is not

any convenience to Placentia or to anybody. There is a great deal of jealousy in Placentia over the matter. Some people think the terminus should be at Argentia, and some think it should be at the Jersey Side in Placentia, but wherever the terminus is, if any change is made it should be made for the greatest convenience of the people and the travelling public. The people, not alone of Placentia Bay, but of the whole west coast, are interested in this matter, and something should be done. I hope the Government will take action on this matter at an early date.

MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES—I rise to present a petition from the people of Hillview and adjacent settlements, asking that a telephone service be given them from the telegraph office in Hillview to the railway station. It is a distance of about five miles, and the people are very greatly handicapped, when they want to connect with the train in having to walk this distance and then, in a great number of cases, missing their train. I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant the request of the petitions. I ask that the petition be received, and passed over to the department of the Colonial Secretary.

MR. TARGETT—I beg to support this petition, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GRIMES—I beg to present a petition from the district of Port de Grave on the matter of regulating the price of fish. I presented a similar petition yesterday. I would ask that this be received and passed over to the Department to which it relates.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An

Years after the termination of the Present War Certain Powers in Relation to Imports and Exports," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Acting Minister of Shipping to lay upon the table of the House a copy of all correspondence which took place last year between the Newfoundland Charterers Association and the Chairman of the Tonnage Committee regarding the S. S. Rutjenvel.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—The matter will be attended to on Monday.

MR. WALSH asked the Hon. Minister of Shipping to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement showing the cost of the patrol service to date, giving the names of patrol ships employed and the amount paid for each ship, and all other amounts paid, or authorized to be paid, by his department, giving names of persons who received such amounts.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—I beg to inform the honorable member that the matter is not in my Department.

MR. WALSH asked the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement showing the number of telegraph or telephone offices opened in the Dominion from January 1st., 1916, to date; also a statement showing cost of such offices.

HON. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—The answer to the question is being prepared.

MR. WALSH asked the Acting Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement showing (a) the log, or daily location, of the dredge Priestman, from the time he took office to

date; and (b) if it is his intention to have the dredge remain in St. John's this summer to dredge up by the Reid-Nfld. Co.'s dock.

ACTING MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES—I beg to table the information.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Military Service" 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 the Prime Minister moved the third reading of the Bill entitled "An Act to Further Extend the Term of the Present Legislature."

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention at this stage of the proceedings to delay the House with any lengthy remarks. I intended to do so yesterday, but for reasons known to the House I was unable to do so. It is futile to make any extended remarks on the third reading of a Bill. What I intended to say was that I could see no possible reason whatever for such a bill. The excuse has been given that the Government wanted to see the Military Service Bill enacted. That is as I have already stated no reason at all, because any Government that came in after this would be bound to put the Act into force. The Prime Minister has stated that the Act is going into force at once as far as Class One is concerned, and if there is to be an election in the fall, I fail to see what chance any Government would have to withhold it. The Government in power today is in power entirely without the consent of the people. It is true that as regards individual members they have been

sent here, but the country as a whole has as yet had no opportunity of passing an opinion and saying that it is willing that they should remain in power. The Prime Minister is Prime Minister without consent of the people. He is Prime Minister through political manipulation, in no other sense. He does not represent the people. Indeed I very much question whether we have the right or the power to put the act into force at the present time as this House as at present constituted cannot even amend its own rules; it requires 24 members of the House to amend a rule of the House and there are not 24 members present here at this session. We are not likely to have 24 members at any time. A House that cannot amend its own rules now takes upon itself the power to alter the constitution. This seems to me to be a gross injustice to the country. The people ought to be given an opportunity of expressing their opinion upon the Government as it is. If the war continues for another year they will again come in here and pass a similar measure, exercise the same power, effect the same alterations and we must submit. We must submit while these gentlemen effect what last year they held the House up three weeks for lest the late Administration pass. They threatened all kinds of slaughter if the late Administration passed it, when the matter had not even arisen for discussion. They threatened all kinds of revolt; threatened to bring men together and force the Government to have an election. Now the unfortunate situation on the Western Front is made the excuse.

I was unable to be present when the Bill passed its second reading. I can only say that I intend to vote against it when it is read the third time.

MR. GRIMES—I intend to delay the time of the House only for a short while. The Hon. Member for Burin, Mr. Currie, on the opening day of the House stated that I carefully avoided that part of the speech which had reference to the postponement of a general election. I wish to say for the benefit of the hon. member that I strongly endorse the measure now before the House, and compliment the Government on its decision calling for an extension of Parliament for one year. The war situation is altogether different now from what it was this time last year. Then it had a very favorable outlook. The Allied troops were taking prisoners, territory and guns. It is the very reverse today. Last year an election would not have interfered with the part we were then playing in the war. Sufficient recruits were coming in to make up for casualties.

But that has not been the case during the last few months. Now the great crisis in the war has come. The Allied armies are being driven back, their backs are to the wall, and the call is men, more men, to save the Empire and Democracy for the disaster which threatens. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, an entirely different situation from last year.

The Hon. Member for Burin last year favored the extension of Parliament, today he opposes it and tries to justify his position on the action of the Canadian and Australian Governments in conducting elections last year. I doubt very much if either of these Dominions would have held elections were the circumstances as we find them today. I do not believe that any Opposition party in either country would adopt so unpatriotic a course.

You do not know what may happen

in the fall. Conditions may be worse in the country. To force a general election upon the country at such a critical moment in the war is a crime. We should sink our differences, join hand in hand, and help out our brave boys who stand between us and the enemy, forgetting politics until we have seen them through. Is the hon. gentleman allowing politics to come before the national interest? Not alone his attitude in this House but his editorials in the "Daily News" show that his hostility towards the National Government is purely personal. He objects to the National Government because Dr. Lloyd is Prime Minister, and his friendliness to the F.P.U.

MR. CURRIE—He's a servant of the Union.

MR. GRIMES—He is a servant of the country. What the hon. gentleman really opposes is that a Union should have a say in the affairs of the Government. He forgets that in the early stages of the war the Labor Party's co-operation was asked for by both ex-Premier Asquith and by Lloyd George, which was given. But the hon. gentleman objects to this in this country and said in the "Daily News" he would fight bitterly the right of fishermen or labor organizations to have a say in the Government of the country.

MR. CURRIE—Oh, no! They have rights but not the right of control.

MR. GRIMES—He objects to such organizations having control. I submit, Sir, they have a right to a say. Now, Sir, the hon. member is only playing politics, and he knows as well as I do this is no time to play a game of that kind, and that such conduct is unworthy of one who professes to be such a loyal citizen of the Empire. He says, "Because we plead the different conditions existing today as a justifiable reason for extending the

life of Parliament we are trying to ease our conscience." That is true to this extent, that we cannot take any other course whereby our conscience would be at ease. Mine certainly would not permit me to favor an election this year, with the situation as we find it today. I would not be acting in the interest of the country or the Empire, not to speak of Liberty, Democracy and Justice, which are at stake as much as anything else, and after all is the most important.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words before this cause I know it is going to pass the House; but I feel as I stand here today and rise to oppose this measure, as Robert Emmet must have felt as he stood in the dock and the Chief Justice asked him if he had anything to say that the sentence of death should not be passed upon him. He knew that he was going to his doom; but he did not shirk the issue. He said all that he had to say. I, Sir, intend to say what I have to say. I have strongly opposed this Bill from the start, and it cannot be said by an honorable member that I am opposing it from a selfish motive. It cannot be said, Sir, that I am anxious to receive the spoils of office. I left those, Sir, on the other side of this House for the purpose of coming to this side of the House. I left that side, Sir, and the spoils of office which are on that side of the House because I considered the action of the party there as unconstitutional, un-British and unfair. I consider it unconstitutional, un-British and unfair for any body of men such as the present Assembly, to pass such a measure as this which will disenfranchise one-third of the whole country. I am surprised, Sir, to hear members like the honorable member who has just sat down, speak along the lines that they have spoken along.

They act like men participating in a hat debate; men who are obliged to support any question they have the fortune or misfortune to draw from the hat. They say now the very opposite from what they said ten months ago, and they give as their excuse the fact that conditions have changed. Last year they were sitting on this side of the House. Today they are on that side. That, Sir, is the change of conditions which they intend using. All their talk is purely a matter of political expediency. For this reason, Sir I know that it is useless for me to continue speaking here. I know that my words will fall on deaf ears. I know that the Government has decided to prolong the life of this Assembly and that they will do it even if I talk here for three weeks. The life of this Parliament will certainly be prolonged; but, Sir, it will not be prolonged for the patriotic reasons that my friends on the other side have tried to set forth to us. Not for the reason that it is in the interests of the country or Empire; but for the sole reason that they desire to continue in office. They know that they have a sufficient following in this House to continue here, so they fight to maintain the spoils of office. This, Sir, is their patriotism. This, Sir, is their reason maintaining themselves in office at a time when they know they have not the confidence of the people. They are afraid, Sir, to go to the people and the selfish interests of personal power and personal bank accounts have prevailed upon them to maintain themselves in office. I repeat, Sir, the present Government has not the confidence of the people. During my absence, Sir, the other day, the honorable member for Bonavista, Mr. Coaker, challenged my colleague Mr. Currie to resign his seat and fight for re-election. Now, Sir, I will take up

the challenge of the honorable gentleman in my district. I will resign my seat, Sir, and you close this House in the meantime and tomorrow—no, we won't start on Sunday, we will let it wait till Monday—I will face you for re-election in the District of Placentia. I will stake my seat in this House, Sir, and I challenge the honorable member who talks so big to take up that challenge. I challenge, Sir, any member of his party. Yes, Sir, himself or any member of his party; aye. Sir, and I challenge every member of his party. He can bring down the whole bunch of them if he likes. I will beat them all. If they come back well and good. I am prepared to take my medicine; but I know the members will be afraid to take up my challenge. Now, Sir, I have nailed my flag to the mast. I have chosen my ship, and will go down with the ship if she goes down. That, Sir, is my challenge — a straight challenge to the Government. I am at the present moment prepared to resign my seat and go to my district tomorrow; and I defy any member of that party or every member of it to accept my challenge. I will show the leader of the Government if he has the confidence of the people. He comes under the challenge if he will accept it. I know, Sir, that it is the intention of the Government to force this measure, but, Sir, you know what you can expect the people of the country to say about it. When a bunch of men such as the present Assembly which represents the people, commits such actions and these sections, Sir, are in conformity with the British Constitution, then, Sir, it does not look well for the British Constitution. This, Sir, is what might have happened in the olden days in France, but, Sir, as being in conformity with the British Constitution, never. If you make this

measure law, as I know you intend doing, you will not only be breaking our grand old Constitution, you will be, Sir, riding an automobile through it.

A division being demanded, the House divided, and there appeared in favour of the motion Hons. the Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Customs, Acting Colonial Secretary, W. F. Coaker, Acting Minister of Militia, Acting Minister Marine and Fisheries, and Messrs. Grimes, Moore, Parsons, Jennings, Targett, Winsor, Abbott. And against it Messrs. Currie and Walsh.

So it passed in the affirmative and was ordered accordingly.

On motion 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.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Mr. Bennett, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night."

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CURRIE—I notice that it is the intention to make the Bill permanent. Is that the idea?

MINISTER OF MILITIA—Yes.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

It was ordered that this Report be received and adopted and that the 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 un-

til Monday, the 29th. inst. at three of the clock in the afternoon.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — If it suits the convenience of my hon. friend opposite, I will move the Education Bill back to Committee on Monday.

MR. CURRIE.—I would like to discuss the amendment.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — Mr. Speaker: In moving the adjournment of the House, I wish to inform the House that the Government has to-day taken charge of the 'Plaindealer' office, so far as the Plaindealer is concerned, and put the police in charge. The Government will not interfere with the job work. The whole of to-day's issue has been suppressed, and the Postmaster General has been instructed not to allow any of the issue to go through the post. This action has been taken in consequence of to-day's issue being directed against Conscription. The Government will not hesitate to use its full power and strength against any effort made to hinder recruiting or in any way impede the carrying out of Conscription. I make this announcement in order that the public may understand fully the Government's attitude in the matter. I move that the House adjourn until Monday next, at 3 o'clock.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, April 29th., 1918.

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

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker: I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Whitbourne, asking that a sum of money be granted for the purpose of making a well there. Whitbourne is boggy and a very poor place for water, and I trust the Gov-

ernment will grant this request for a well.

I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of George's Brook and Shoal Harbour, asking that the train be prevented from travelling on Sundays, as it interferes with the laboring men and takes away his day of rest, interferes also with the public service, and is a sin against God. It seems a pity that the train should travel on Sunday in a small country like this, as it interferes with Divine worship, and interferes in many cases with the people of these places; and I trust the Government will see to the matter. I would ask that the petition be referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Canaille, in the District of Bonavista, asking for a sum of \$75.00 to build a road to agricultural property.

Also a petition from the inhabitants of Port Blandford, asking for the sum of \$50 for a road, in each end of that place.

Also a petition from the inhabitants of Squid Tickle, Salvage Bay and Salvage asking that the telephone service be extended five miles in order to connect Squid Tickle with the main telegraph line Salvage.

All of these petitions are largely signed, and as the requests are reasonable ones, I trust the Government will see its way clear to grant them. I would ask that they be received and referred to the proper departments.

MR. PARSONS—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Bryant's Cove asking that all allocations for public works be spent by the Board. This petition is signed by about fifty people, and I think it is only right that they should be allow-

ed to exercise their prerogative. I trust the Government will see to the matter.

MR. WINSOR—I beg to present a petition from the people of Greenspond, Ship Island and Newell's Island asking for a ferry service between these places.

Also a petition from the people of Newtown, asking that the dredge be sent there. The dredge was there a few years ago, but was not allowed to finish the work, and the people would like to have it finished now.

Also a petition from the people of Valleyfield and Badger Quay asking for a main road to connect this place with Valleyfield West. These are most important settlements, and I think the request should be granted.

I would ask that these petitions be received and referred to the departments to which they relate.

MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES—I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Hant's Harbour, in the district of Trinity Bay, who ask that the sum of three hundred dollars be allocated for the purpose of effecting certain repairs to the breakwater in that place. This petition is largely signed about one hundred and forty-one names being attached to the document. This harbour is very much exposed to the North East wind, and the breakwater is required by the fishermen for their safety. I hope the Government will give this matter their very careful consideration. I ask that it be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

MR. LEFEUVRE—I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Lamaline East, asking that a post office be granted that place, and a courier to bring the mail from Lamaline West.

Also a petition from the same place,

asking that a fog alarm be erected at the entrance to the harbour. It is a well known fact that the entrance to the harbour of Lamaline is intricate and dangerous, and although the dredge was working then, she did not deepen the entrance much, owing to the hard nature of the bottom, and a fog alarm would be a great benefit to the people.

I have much pleasure in supporting these petitions, and ask that they be referred to the departments to which they relate.

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the Port au Port section of St. George's District. This petition is unusually important in character and has very strong features to recommend it to careful consideration. Its importance warrants my trespassing upon the time of the House for a few moments that I may briefly refer to these in detail.

The petition asks that a sum of \$3000 be granted to effect a re-alignment of a portion of the main line of road between Stephenville Crossing and Aguathuna—the seat of the Dominion Iron & Coal Co.'s limestone operations in St. George's District, great encouragement was held out to them in connection therewith. At that time two ports in St. George's Bay were ports of call for the western coastal boat, but in the year following the establishment of the industry at Aguathuna the steamer schedule was arbitrarily changed and these two ports of call cut out, which leaves the Dominion Iron & Steel Company without any direct communication with the other districts from which they procure a large proportion of the labor required in operating the quarries.

At present they procure a considerable proportion of their labor from Fortune Bay and from St. Barbe Dis-

district. The men from Fortune Bay and elsewhere who leave their homes to proceed to Aguathuna, where the rate of wages is comparatively high, find that they must first proceed to Port aux Basques by steamer, and go from thence by rail to Stephenville Crossing, and from Stephenville Crossing face a walk of 22 miles to Aguathuna. They probably do not discover that this journey on foot is ahead of them until they actually reach Port aux Basques, and on their learning of this journey, and finding that they can proceed to Sydney direct by steamer from Port aux Basques and obtain immediate employment within an hour of their landing there, they abandon Aguathuna as a destination and proceed to Sydney, and consequently Aguathuna is perennially short of the volume of labour that it requires.

A year ago the Government endeavoured, at my request, to induce the Coastal Company to restore one of these ports to their schedule, but Messrs. Bowring Bros. absolutely refused to entertain the idea of so doing.

The Dominion Iron & Steel Company are under contract with the British War Board for the supply of a very large quantity of steel, for shells, for railway rails, and for barbed wire for entanglements, and the quantity of Bell Island ore that they require to convert into steel will this year call for 330,000 tons of limestone from St. George's District, which is used in the fluxing of the ore to enable its conversion into steel, and it will be absolutely impossible for the Company to quarry and ship this prodigious quantity of limestone the present season unless they can very largely augment the number of operatives that are now available.

As a means towards the bettering

of conditions, the Company have decided to invest some \$16,000 in the purchase of motor passenger vans which they purpose operating between Aguathuna and Stephenville Crossing, which is the nearest railway station, in order to bring the men who may come to them by rail, free of cost, from the Crossing to the works, as this journey was the chief impediment to their procuring sufficient labor in the past. The Company have ordered these vans, but now they find that a section of the main line of road, known as McIsaac's Hill, in the vicinity of Romaine's River, which was recently bridged by a very fine re-enforced concrete structure, is absolutely impracticable for motor traffic owing to its gradient, and this portion of the hill will have to be re-aligned in order to permit of the operation of this motor van passenger service, and if this service be not inaugurated the Company will be unable to meet its obligations in the supply of steel and, consequently, must inevitably fail to fulfil its war contract and very much, in the way of winning the war, may hinge upon a failure of this character and I don't think that we, as a people, will care to take the responsibility of being in any way connected with any impeding or hampering of operations to the successful prosecution of the war that any effort of ours may succeed in removing.

The sum involved in the petition as being required to cover the cost of the re-alignment of McIsaac's Hill is only \$3,000, and I believe that when the importance of the interests involved are realised this Legislature will not hesitate for a moment in authorising an expenditure, the results from which are of so far reaching consequence. I beg to request that the petition be forwarded to the De-

partment to which it pertains and that it be given immediate attention.

I also beg to present to-day a petition from the residents of Lark Hr., asking for a small grant to open a road to a certain area of good agricultural land situate in the vicinity of Lark Harbour.

Lark Harbor has been essentially a fishing settlement in the past, but now the people are supplementing their fishery activities by agricultural operations, and as there is no land in the immediate vicinity of the Harbor sufficiently promising for such purpose, they ask that a small sum be allocated to cover the cost of building a road to the promising agricultural area that I have referred to, and which is situate a mile or more from Lark Harbor settlement.

I also ask that this petition be referred to the Department of Public Works and that an effort be made to meet the prayer of the petitioners.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. Colonial Secretary to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing why the Light Keepers at Cape Bonavista, White and Abbott, were dismissed forthwith from that position on March 2nd; why John Miffen, Light Keeper, Squarry Head, was dismissed; why William Devine, mail courier at King's Cove for twenty years was dismissed also; said statement to show the nature of the charges against them; if any enquiry was made, and if so to lay upon the table of the House a copy of such enquiry; and further to state if any pension has been provided for any of them, and if not is it going to be provided.

HON. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—The information is being prepared.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. the Prime Minister in the absence of

the Minister of Agriculture and Mines to lay upon the table of the House a statement, showing the cost of the Spur Line to Port Union, said statement to include the amount paid in arbitrations and cost thereof.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — This statement is in preparation.

MR. CURRIE asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the Table of the House a statement showing the amount paid the Reid Nfld Co. for constructing the terminus Wharf at Heart's Content.

MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES—This statement is in preparation.

Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs tabled: Report of Auditor General under Section 33; Report of Comptroller and Auditor General on Revenue and Appropriation; Report of Auditor General on Municipal Council Accounts.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Fire Patrol Act Cap. 16, 1 George V. (1911)."

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Identification of Criminals."

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Restrict Temporarily the persons who may engage in business connected with certain non-ferrous metals."

Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs tabled the following financial statements:

War Loan Trust Account, 1916-1917.

Public Debt to June 1916-1917.

Railway Account, 1916-1917.

Balance Account of Treasury Accounts for the year ended 30th. June, 1917.

Colonial Secretary's Trust Account 1916-1917.

Departmental Trust Account, Marine Works, 1916-1917.

Public Works Cash Notes Trust Fund, 1916-1917.

Redemption Commercial Bank Note Account 1916-1917.

Surplus Trust, 1916-1917.

Death Duties Account, 1916-1917.

Public Works Trust Fund, 1916-1917.

Game and Inland Fisheries Board Trust Account, 1916-1917.

Trust Accounts, 1916-1917.

Public Works Trust Fund, 1916-1917.

Teachers' Pension Fund Account for 1916-1917.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to apply to this Dominion the Provisions of the Imperial Act, the Maritime Conventions Act 1911" 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 Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Nine of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of Patents" 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 Prime Minister the Bill sent down entitled "An Act respecting

Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night" was read a third 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 Bill without amendment.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. (1915) Chapter 17 entitled "An Act respecting the establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund."

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 Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Further 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.

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 that the Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of

Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Inflammable Substances Act, 1916."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—The object of the first section I explained at the second reading. The second section is necessary to enable the police to deal with the storing of inflammable oils in other buildings. Difficulties have arisen in the past and this measure will enable the police to have control over ground, for the storing of oils, when such oils are a menace to the community. At the present time the police have great difficulty in carrying out the act.

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 Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Acting Minister of Marine and Fisheries the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners" was read a second time.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker, In moving the second reading of this Bill I wish to merely point out to the House the object for so doing. As a matter of fact from the 15th of September to the 31st of December in any year, the schooners which are plying as a rule between sections of the country north and south, sometimes through stress of weather, get into ports and are detained by headwinds and sea for one day, a week, and sometimes for a fortnight, and the people at home are aw-

fully anxious as to their whereabouts. As a matter of fact a schooner may leave Seldom Come Bye for St. John's and through stress of weather be compelled to ut up at Shambler's Cove, Greenspond or some other place; often lying there within 500 yards of a telegraph office, and the skipper fails to make his whereabouts known. The result is that the folks at home are unable to find out anything of this schooner supposed to be missing, simply because she has not reached her destination.

Very often the Department is put to a great deal of trouble. If the schooner happens to be bound to St. John's, we have to search the entire water front and the stream to try and find out whether she has arrived; and if we do not find her, we have to send service messages to the various places where she is likely to be. Then, it sometimes happens that she is not in any port but is driving out to sea; and it is with the object of safeguarding these men that we are putting this Bill into force.

In the first place we wish to compel the master of every schooner owned in Newfoundland, when through stress of weather or for any other reason he is forced to run into any port other than his destination, to wire the Department the name of the schooner, the master's name, the name of the port which he left, and his port of destination. This will give us the necessary information to allay the anxiety of the relatives of those who "go down to the sea in ships," in cases where the vessels are safely in port; and within a reasonable distance of a telegraph office there is nothing to prevent the skippers from reporting. For instance, last fall I received a message from Admiral's Cove, in the district of Ferryland, saying that a small

schooner, with her foremast broken off, was driving to sea in a helpless condition, and to send a steamer to her assistance immediately. Arrangements were promptly made, and a steamer was sent, but unfortunately, before she reached Cape Spear, the conditions were such that she had to come back. We then got in touch by way of Cape Race with another ship that was on her way to Halifax, and instructions were also sent to the *Glencoe*, which was in the neighborhood, to keep a look-out for the schooner; but no trace could be found of her. Not satisfied, we then got the *Portia* to take up the search; and ultimately the schooner was found anchored within a short distance. We received a message from a schooner which had put into Catalina, saying that they were quite certain that something had happened to a little vessel which they had passed, and which had put into Catalina. We sent a telegraph message to every place where we thought she would likely be, but could not locate her, and after having the *Fogota* search for her, she was located at one of the places to which we had wired, although we had received a message from the operator at that place saying she was not there. Now, the effect of putting this Bill into force will be to do away with all that trouble and expense; Mr. Speaker I therefore move that this Bill be read a second time.

The Bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Publication of the Consolidated Statutes, Third Series," was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — Mr.

Speaker: The object of this Bill is to provide for the publication of the Consolidation of the statutes. This consolidation was authorised some years ago to take the place of the second series, which has now been in use for over twenty years. The work is well advanced, a good deal of it is already printed, and, I understand, before many months the whole consolidation will be printed. This publication will be of very great convenience to practitioners, and will also materially assist the Administration of Justice, because copies of the Second Series are now very scarce, and the Acts passed during the last twenty years are also difficult to obtain, with the result that Magistrates and Justices of the Peace throughout the colony are at a very great disadvantage, not having access to statutes which they should have to enable them to discharge their duties satisfactorily. I move the second reading of this Bill.

The Bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting a Department of Shipping" was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER — Mr. Speaker: We have had, under Order in Council, a Department of Shipping for some months past. We, in common with every other part of the Empire, found it desirable, in fact essential, during the past year to pay particular attention to the question of tonnage, which has become very acute, and which with every passing day grows more acute. We have not yet reached that stage of the war when the Old Land and its allies are in a position to cope satisfactorily with the submarine warfare, and to

build sufficient tonnage to equal the losses caused by German submarines; and it is to be expected that during the coming summer, and well on into next fall, the situation will not grow very much better, particularly when we remember that a great deal of the tonnage will be devoted to sending troops and supplies from America and Canada. As a matter of fact we have reached a stage in Newfoundland, with regard to steam communication with the Old Land, where the rates have been made absolutely prohibitive, in order to check the sending of goods to the other side. It is only a few weeks ago that the rates were made five-fold what they were previously, with the object of stopping so far as possible the sending of freight across, as little tonnage is not available to carry it. And it is with the object of meeting the present situation, and dealing with it in the best way possible, that this Department was created. I move the second reading of the Bill.

The Bill was ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Continue for a Period of Five Years after the Termination of the Present War Certain Powers in relation to Imports and Exports," was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER. — Mr. Speaker, this is a transcript of an Imperial Act, which the Imperial Government has asked all the Dominions to pass. Its main object is to control sea trade after the war terminates. At the present time all the industrial plants in Germany are intact. Indeed, in this respect they are better off than they were at the beginning of the

struggle, because they have removed from Belgium, which was a very important manufacturing country, almost all the manufacturing plants, and what they have not removed they have destroyed. They are manufacturing with the object, immediately peace is declared, of dumping all their products on the markets of the world and carrying on an economic warfare after the present struggle terminates. The Allies have considered this matter, and they have no intention of allowing the Germans to be in a position to ruin their trade. There will be millions of soldiers for whom work will have to be found after the demobilization of the armies, and industrial changes will have to be put on a proper and effective basis, and one of the greatest difficulties that will have to be met and dealt with while these changes are being made will be the dumping of German goods on the markets of the world. The object of the present measure, then, is to give the Governments of the various allied countries power to surmount this difficulty when it arises. I move the second reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS gave notice that he would on to-morrow move that Supply be granted to His Majesty.

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Military Forces of Newfoundland."

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises, it adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, the 30th inst., at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, April 30th, 1918.

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

Mr. Speaker informed the House that in accordance with the intimation received His Excellency would receive the Address of Thanks presently.

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:

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.

(Sgd.) C. ALEXANDER HARRIS,
Governor.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of St. Brendan's, asking for the sum of \$200.00 to repair a road leading from the Cross Road of Hayward's Cove to the Cemetery.

I also ask leave to present a petition from Canning's Cove, in the District of Bonavista, asking for telephone connection with Musgrave Town, a distance of about 3 miles.

Also a petition from the inhabitants of Squid Tickle, asking for the sum of \$1000.00 to lay out a road to Salvage Bay.

Each of these petitions is very largely signed, and I hope that the Government will see its way clear to grants the requests of the petitioners. I now ask that they be received and referred to the Departments to which they relate.

MR. WINSOR—Mr. Speaker, I ask

leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Gambo, asking for a sum of money to repair a road at that place. The petition states that this road is required to enable the people to carry on their agricultural work. The request is a very reasonable one and I hope that the Government will see its way clear to grant it.

I also ask leave to present a petition from Badger's Quay, Pool's Island and Safe Harbor, asking that a light be placed on Pool's Island Point. This light will be of very great service to schooners going north, and also coming south.

Both these petitions are signed by practically all the inhabitants of the places named; and I now ask that they be referred to the Departments to which they relate.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in supporting the petitions which have just been presented by my colleague, Mr. Winsor.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present a petition from the residents of Dunville, asking that the road leading from Dunville to the Jersey Side, Placentia, be given a main line grant. The distance is about seven miles. Dunville has a large population, and this road not only serves the people in the immediate vicinity, but owing to the fact that small timber suitable for fishery purposes is procurable there, the people from the nearby settlements such as Argentia and Marquise, also use it considerably. At the present time there is no main line grant, and the local grants are not sufficient to keep up the small connecting roads, and I consequently think that the request of the petitioners is a very reasonable one, and I hope that the Government will see its way clear to granting a few hundred dollars to be used on this very important road. I have much

pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition, and I ask that it be referred to the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Fire Patrol Act, Cap. 16, 1 Geo. V. (1911)" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Identification of Criminals" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Restrict Temporarily the Persons who may Engage in Business connected with certain Non-Ferrous Metals and Metallic Ores," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of the Acting Minister of Militia, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Military Forces of Newfoundland" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the Table of the House a statement showing in detail the expenditure of \$142,558.21 paid the Newfoundland Produce Co. under the heading of Home Defence during 1916-1917; also details of the amount of \$37,810.15 paid the Reid Newfoundland Co. under the same heading.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The answer to that question is being prepared.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. the

Prime Minister to lay upon the Table of the House copies of all correspondence that took place between the Nfld. Charters Association and his Department regarding the S. S. Rutjenvel.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I will forward the answer to the hon. member.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Education Act 1916" 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.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill, entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 6, George V. (1915) Chapter 17, entitled "An Act respecting the Establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund" 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.

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

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Inflammable Substances Act 1916" 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.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Acting Minister of Marine and Fisheries the House resolved itself in to Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Chairman: I may say in the first place that I give my hearty support to the principle of this Bill, or any other Bill that may be brought before this House that has for its purpose the alleviation of anxiety or the lessening of hardship of our people who go down to the sea in ships or who are called upon to suffer. In connection with the first section I think there should be some amendment made or explanation given or otherwise there is bound to be trouble for or hardship inflicted upon owners of schooners or vessels. I notice that it is absolutely necessary to report upon arrival at a harbour to the Department of Marine & Fisheries. That is a splendid idea; but there is a number of harbours that have neither telegraphic nor telephonic communication; and most of them are splendid harbours where vessels may seek shelter out of a storm and remain there quite a while. To comply with this Act the master would sometimes have to go ten, or fifteen and in some cases twenty miles to get in touch with a telegraph station. I have in mind a very important harbor in my own district—North Harbour, in St. Marys

Bay. In the late Fall vessels coming from St. John's very often run in there out of the weather; and though we have repeatedly made appeals to this House to have a telegraph or telephone station erected there, we have not been successful in having one installed. I think if the Government sees its way clear to extending these services to Harbours of this sort there would be no necessity for any amendment to the Act; but if not I think there will be difficulty if the Bill is not amended. I merely point this out, not in the way of criticism, because as I have said at the start, I am thoroughly in accord with the measure or any other measure that may be brought down for the bettering of conditions for our toilers, but I draw the attention of the House to it because I think there is reason for the suggestion. I would like to compliment the Minister for bringing down such a humanitarian Bill; and I ask that my suggestion be accepted in the spirit in which it is offered.

MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES—Mr. Chairman: I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the amendment he wishes to have inserted is already covered by section 2 (reads)

MR. WALSH—That to my mind does not cover it; because a man may wish to report a vessel but because of weather conditions or the state of the roads he may not be in a position to travel fifteen or twenty miles to a telegraph office.

MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES—There may be an office within a mile or two. I think if we put in a "reasonable distance" it would cover the objection.

MR. CURRIE—What would you consider a reasonable distance?

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Two or three miles.

RT HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—If we introduce distance limitations there is bound to be trouble. The penalty is only intended for cases in which there is wilful or neglectful omission. If an amendment were made in the section that no prosecution shall be taken except with the consent of the Minister of Marine & Fisheries, I think we would cover the whole case. If it were clear that there has been no neglect and the Minister is satisfied that the master has not wilfully omitted to notify the Department, I think the circumstances of the case would be met. The whole point is to cast the duty on those who can send a message in order that the Colony may not be put to the cost—very often thousands of dollars—of ascertaining where the vessel is; and also to relieve natural anxiety that follows the non-reporting of an overdue vessel.

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 an amendment.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Publication of the Consolidated Statutes, Third Series."

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 Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act respecting a Department of Shipping."

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 Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Continue for a Period of Five Years after the Termination of the Present War Certain Powers in relation to Imports and Exports."

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 Bill be read a third time on to-morrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 8 Edward VII (1908) Chapter Five entitled "An Act with Respect to Compensation to Workmen for Injuries

Anderson, Milley, Goodridge and the Hon. President.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the remaining orders were deferred.

Hon. President informed the House that he had received messages from the Assembly that they had passed the accompanying bills, in which they asked the concurrence of the Council, namely, An Act to amend the Education Act, 1916; An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund; an Act to amend the act entitled of the Keeping of Dogs; an Act to amend the Inflammable Substances Act 1916; An Act respecting the reporting of Missing Schooners; An Act respecting the publication of the Consolidated Statutes; An Act respecting the Ministry of Shipping; An Act to continue in force for a period of five years after the termination of the war the act in relation to certain powers in relation to exports; An Act to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, these bills were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Hon. President read a message from the House of Assembly that in response to the Council's request they had appointed the following select committee to meet the Council's committee in relation to the Military Service Bill; viz., Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Finance, Acting Minister of Militia, Acting Col. Secretary, Acting Minister of Shipping, Messrs. Goodison, Parsons, Moore and Currie.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT — I beg leave to inform the House that it is the intention of His Excellency the Governor to attend here to-morrow at 3 p.m. to give his assent to the Daylight Saving Bill. It is proposed to

adjourn the House till then and to transact such business as may be necessary at 4 p.m. The Hon. gentlemen nominees of the Joint Select Committee on the Military Service Bill will meet their confreres from the Lower House and undertake discussion of the business.

On motion of Hon. M. Ellis the House adjourned until 2.50 p.m. to-morrow.

FRIDAY, May 3d.

House opened at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

His Excellency the Governor having arrived, the Members of the House of Assembly having been summoned to the Bar of the House, His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the Bill Respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night.

Second reading of the Bill to Amend the Patents Act.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is merely a formal amendment to make two sections of the Act read uniformly. At present persons applying for a patent are obliged to take an oath that the patent has not been known or used in any other country. The object of this amendment is to allow applicants to state in their oath that a patent has been applied for in other countries.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Second Reading of Publication of Consolidated Statutes.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This Act will put the third series of the Consolidated Statutes into force as soon as the Consolidation Committee submits its report to the Governor in Council. The Roll of the Statutes will be deposited in the Colonial Secretary's Office and countersigned by the Col-

onial Secretary and Attorney General. This Act avoids the necessity of passing the whole Act through the Legislature section by section. It is mainly a reprint of the Acts which placed the first and second series of the Consolidated Statutes in force. The principal exception being that when the Acts are completed, which will be in about eight months' time, they may be put in force by the Governor in Council after scrutiny by the Attorney General.

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

Second reading of Imports and Exports Restriction Act, 1918.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is a bill which is introduced at the request of the Imperial Government for the purpose of controlling imports and exports after the conclusion of the war. At the present time the factories of Germany and the shipping in her harbors are not being affected by the war. Germany is in a position to dump her surplus stock in the Empire or the Allied countries immediately on the conclusion of the war, unless some such way as this is taken to regulate imports and exports. This Bill is a result of the discussions at the Imperial Conferences.

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

Second Reading of An Act Respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This Bill has been introduced at the request of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to avoid the unnecessary expense which is yearly caused the Government by sending steamers in search of schooners alleged to be missing. It often happens that the schooners which are

supposed to be missing have been safely anchored in some harbor. To avoid this the Minister suggested to the master of every schooner when wind or weather bound in any port to telegraph his whereabouts to the Department of Marine and Fisheries under a penalty. Appropriate penalties have been provided and a duty has been imposed upon every Customs Officer when clearing schooners to bring notice of the sections of this Act before masters of schooners.

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

Second reading of an Act Respecting the Ministry of Shipping.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This Act creates a Department of Shipping for the purpose of organizing and maintaining the supply of shipping and dealing with matters of transportation by land or sea, freight rates, marine insurance and all questions relating to the movement of freight in connection with the present war. It gives the Governor in Council power to appoint a Minister of Shipping, define the duties of the Minister, ratifies the appointment of the present Minister and confirms all things done by him as Minister.

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

Second reading of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1908, to enable an employer who has been served with notice of an accident apply to the Court at his own cost and to pay the amount he considers himself liable for, before any action has been taken against him. Under the law as

now stands he has to wait until the employee or the dependants of the deceased employee institute proceedings against him. The second section of the Bill gives the Rule Committee of the Supreme Court power to make rules regulating the practice and costs.

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

Second Reading of an Act to Amend the Education Act.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is merely a formal amendment. When the Education Act was consolidated in 1916 it included a pension scheme which was practically the same as the scheme introduced in the Act 2, George V, Cap. 4, but in the repealing clause of the Consolidated Act the pension scheme of 1912 was omitted. The intention of this Act is to remedy this difficulty and to repeal the pension scheme of 1912.

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

Second Reading of An Act Respecting the Marine Disasters Fund.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is an amendment of that Act to enable necessitous persons such as artisans or laborers to benefit from the fund. At present it is confined to fishermen and seamen.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Second Reading of Inflammable Substances Act.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is an Act to increase the specific gravity of illuminating oil from 8.05 to 8.17. There is another section which prohibits the keeping of more than two

casks of oil in any place in St. John's, Harbour Grace, Carbonear, Brigus. This is to prevent persons storing oil in open spaces which may be a danger to the public.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Second Reading of An Amendment to the Law Relating to the Keeping of Dogs.

HON. MR. ELLIS—The object of this amendment is to enable persons living in an area where the keeping of dogs is now prohibited to send a petition to the Governor in Council to have the proclamation revoked. Under the Act as it now stands no provision is made for the revocation of the proclamation and once the Act is in force it apparently remains in force forever, owing to the lack of the necessary machinery being provided in the Act except by implication.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until Monday next at 4 p.m.

MONDAY, May 6th., 1918.

The House met at 4 o'clock p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT informed the House that he had received a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the following Bills, in which they asked the concurrence of the Council: "An Act to Restrict Temporarily the persons who may engage in Business Connected with Certain Non-Ferrous Metals and Metallic Ores," and "An Act Respecting the Identification of Criminals."

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these

Bills were read a first time and were ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Military Service Bill was read.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President I have the honor to lay on the table of the House the report of the Joint Committee on the Military Service Bill which sets out that the said Bill has been considered by the Committee and various amendments recommended.

These amendments are embodied in a draft copy of the Bill attached hereto.

For the benefit of Hon. members who were not on the Joint Committee I would say that these amendments are as follows:

First it is proposed to create a Military Service Board to enforce the Act.

The second point is that the age for inclusion in the First Class liable for onscription is raised to 25 years instead of being left at twenty four as in the original bill.

This should give us an extra 200 men, if it assumed as I think it may be fairly be, that the original five year class from 19 to 24 would yield us a thousand men.

By this arrangement the younger lads, those from 19 to 20 who are not physically matured, can be maintained here until they grow stronger, while the other lads can be sent overseas as soon as sufficiently trained.

The third point is that an agreement has been reached whereby, the date originally set for the Proclamation, namely, Empire Day, May 24, is to stand, with the idea that thereby we may be able to get a great number of men to offer themselves during the intervening days.

The fourth is that in order to avoid the bringing into St. John's men obviously unfit for overseas service such as those with visible deformities or again those who would come under the exemption clause by reason of having relatives already in the Regiment, the Judges of the Supreme Court in their capacity as Tribunals under the Act may appoint Magistrates and others in the outports to act as Commissioners, for the purpose of granting conditional exemptions, until the judges can give their final decision themselves.

Finally, as already stated, we propose to exempt Theological Students.

Before closing, Mr. President, I would like to say a word in recognition of the spirit displayed by every member of the Joint Committee in the effort to perfect this Bill, and I think all will agree that the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Bishop that the reference of the matter to such a Committee was a very happy one, and I think that in view of the very great importance of this measure to the whole country—the success of the labors of this Joint Committee is something for which we have cause to be thankful.

I would now move that the report be received and that a draft Bill be referred to a Committee of the Whole House, and if any further information is desired I shall be glad to give it.

HON. MR. BISHOP—Was it not understood in the Joint Committee that the proclamation was to be issued forthwith on the passing of this Bill, and that a Board should be appointed to be called the Military Service Board, to whom would be relegated the carrying out of the Act under the proclamation, that the working of the Act after the Government had issued the Proclamation would be handed to this Board.

HON. PRESIDENT—That I think is

true in its essentials, but hardly so in its details.

HON. MR. BISHOP—If we leave this as it is at present that could not be done.

HON. PRESIDENT—The difficult, that appears, as I see it, is that the Military Service Board, if given such power, might call out all four classes at once. I do not think they would do so, but no such power ought to be vested in any Board. The change my hon. friend suggests would appear to be based on the contingency that the Government may not intend to carry out the Bill loyally. For my part I do not doubt their sincerity and therefore I would not put too many obstacles in their way. I think the Military Service Board should have the right to make recommendations as to the calling out of classes or sub-classes, but it ought not to have the power to call out men on its own motion. I suggest we might insert the word "forthwith," which would require that class one be called out immediately, but after that I would allow the Government to have the power to divide future classes into sub-classes, so that if it were not necessary the full number in a class need not be called out.

HON. MR. SQUIRES, K.C. — The point at issue between the Honorable the President and the Hon. Mr. Bishop appears to be clearly defined. It is now understood that the proclamation shall issue immediately upon the passing of the Bill, and that the proclamation shall set the 24th of the present month of May as the time limit for Class 1, which is to be called up under the proclamation to be immediately issued to report. The actual date at which Class 1 shall be called on to St. John's for active service being left in the hands of the Military Service Board. Mr. Bishop's

contention is that the date upon which Class 2 shall be called up should be determined by the Military Service Board. The President takes the position that that date should be determined by the Governor in Council. I fully appreciate the fact that the Governor in Council, which is the body responsible for the introduction of this conscription measure and responsible for its enforcement, might not be prepared to hand over their powers in that connection to a Military Service Board. On the other hand I am of the opinion that it would be in the interests of the enforcement of the Act if the calling up of the various classes were left in the hands of the Military Service Board instead of in the hands of the Governor in Council. The Military Service Board would be appointed by the Governor in Council, and while not under their control in the absolute sense, would nevertheless be under the guidance of the Governor in Council and would act in harmony with the will of the Governor in Council. I feel that there would be more public confidence in the just enforcement of the Act and in the freedom of its operations from political and personal influence if the carrying out of the Conscription measure were left in the hands of a responsible and representative Board rather than in the hands of the Department of Justice or Executive Government. It is understood that the Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Justice, will within a few weeks be leaving Newfoundland for England. He will consequently be absent from Newfoundland during the months when the enforcement of this Act will be undertaken and largely carried out. I consequently feel that the Bill would be strengthened and would command a larger measure of

sympathy and support if its operation was, so far as possible, left in the hands of an independent Board rather than in the hands of the politicians who constitute the Executive Government.

HON. THE PRESIDENT—I am not here to speak for the Government, but I strongly maintain that no Government can be expected to abrogate its functions and put in the hands of irresponsible people so momentous a matter as that of calling out of any class or classes of men under the provisions of this Act. When I use the term irresponsible, I do not mean it in any offensive sense, but in the sense that a Military Service Board appointed under this Act would have no responsibility to the people such as a Government has, and for which it has to answer to them at the polls. Several gentlemen of this Chamber and both Hon. members who have just spoken, have been members of Executive Councils, and would be loth, I feel sure, to part with the powers which it is here suggested should be given to a subordinate Board. This Board, influenced, solely by a desire to get men, might feel that the whole four classes ought to be called up at once, whereas the Government, having not alone to consider our requirements from a military view point, but also the carrying on of the Colonys trade and the maintaining of its sound, economic position, might feel that the need could be met by calling up only a few hundred. The Governments view would have to prevail, else the whole theory of responsible administration would collapse. In no country that I am aware of, and I have given a good deal of study to these problems, is such power vested in any Board as my Hon. friends suggest placing in

the hands of this new Military Service Board. In England every class of men is called up by order-in-council, and in Canada the same practice prevails. We saw only a few days ago the whole system of exemptions in relation to Canadian citizens of 20, 21 and 22, wiped out and these men called up peremptorily, not by the Military Service Board in that country, but by an Order in Council framed and passed by the Government itself. In the United States, again, the calling up of men by the various drafts is ordered by the President and his Cabinet, not by the organization created under the Selective Conscription Act. Under these circumstances, I think that we cannot assume for a moment that the Government would consent to have its functions invaded and its good faith impugned by any suggestion to take out of its hands the power to call up classes or sub-classes from time to time, and vest such power in any four or five men appointed under this section for the purpose of carrying out the Act.

HON. MR. HARVEY—This clause which deals with offences against the Act is another example of a matter I have taken exception to every year for probably ten years, that is this absolute lack of discretionary power by the Courts. Just fancy a man, a labourer without education unable to read or write, without malice or any intention of defying the law, failing to carry out the Act in this regard and being liable to imprisonment for not less than one year. I object to that entirely. Suppose a man's mother or wife begs him not to go—there will be many such cases—that woman is subjected to a penalty of not less than one years imprisonment. And again if no action is to be taken without the assent of the

Minister of Justice, it means that no action at all will be taken, because no Minister of Justice will sue a woman if he knows she is to be sentenced to a years' imprisonment for such an offence. I dislike these penalties of "not less than" and think they should be cut out.

HON. MR. POWER—I quite agree with Hon. Mr. Harvey. I can conceive of such cases where there might be a delicate woman, and the very fact of her man's going would be enough to cause her to make use of some expression and if it came to the ears of a policeman and she was reported, she would be liable to this terrible penalty. I must object to such a law.

HON. PRESIDENT—I was going to suggest that we put in also a money fine. Cases as suggested by my hon. friend might be met by a fine of say \$50, and not be sent to prison. If we put in a money fine it might be left to the discretion of the Magistrate.

HON. MR. ELLIS—I do not think that is the class of person referred to at all, these mentioned by Hon. Mr. Harvey and the President; but to the out-and-out anti-Conscriptionist.

HON. THE PRESIDENT—As a further precaution, so that no undue penalty be inflicted I propose that a section be included to provide for fines.

The committee rose and reported the Bill passed with some amendment, which report was received, and on motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis it was ordered to be read a third time on tomorrow.

Second reading of the Legislature Extension Bill

HON. MR. ELLIS—I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. As I stated a few days ago the necessity

for this Bill is to give the Government time to carry out this Conscription Bill, and to solve the many problems that will come before us during the next year by reason of the lack of tonnage, shortage of coal and food. These are principal reasons why the Government ask for an extension of their term. If the measure fails to pass and the Government are compelled to go to the Conscription Bill; I believe it would be nullified completely. If we are sincere in the carrying out of this I think the measure should pass unanimously. I beg to move the second reading.

HON. MR. MILLEY — My reasons for opposing the second reading of this Bill are because it has come to us from only 13 members of the House of Assembly, also, and very important too because the City of St. John's is now unrepresented in the House. I am aware that St. John's West is represented by the Minister of Militia, but he is under pay of the Government, and has (or ought to have), all his time taken up in administering the affairs of his very important department. I am also aware that St. John's East is represented by Mr. Higgins, but he has recently accepted the position of Speaker and we all know that in accordance with long established procedure the Speaker's voice is very seldom heard in the House of Assembly on any occasions except those pertaining to the exercise of his office. It is therefore patent to everybody that St. John's is not represented, while other parts of the Island have their full quota of representatives.

The oft-repeated and common sense maxim "No taxation without representation" should not be lost sight of by this or any other government. St. John's has never objected to taxation, it has borne a large share of

all taxation imposed by this and all preceding Governments. Last year when this House rejected the Profits Tax Bill, it was sent broadcast over the world that the wealthy men of the Upper House objected to taxation. Those who were responsible for such reports knew full well how maliciously untrue they were, and some of them have since admitted the fairness of the attitude of those of us whose sense of fair play actuated us to do as we did last year. The very fact that the Government intends adding an income tax to the Profits Bill Tax is eloquent proof of the wisdom of this House last year in urging a fairer and more reasonable system of taxation than the one we considered it wise to reject. As a result of this wise action on our part last year we are now deprived of any power to deal with money bills. We therefore demand that we have as far as St. John's is concerned, proper representatives in the House of Assembly which is the only place where we can be heard when matters of taxation are being discussed. I consider it will be manifestly unfair if another system of taxation is imposed upon St. John's while we are without any proper representation in Parliament. I do not wish to be misunderstood, and here I wish to call the attention of the representatives of the press here present to what I say. I am in favor of taxation and plenty of it, to meet the conditions due to the war, but I am not in favor of taxation without proper representation being allowed to those whose right it is to decide the basis upon which such taxation shall be levied.

I have spoken chiefly of St. John's. I have no doubt other gentlemen present will press the same claim for other unrepresented districts. I would be willing to support an ex-

tension of Parliament if all (or nearly all) the members were sitting; but I cannot assent to an alteration of our constitution when the request for it comes from less than half the members of the Lower House.

Sir Robert Borden wished an extension of Parliament last year and could have secured it by a party vote, but because the opposition would not make it unanimous he appealed to the country, rather than alter the constitution by a mere party vote.

HON. MR. ELLIS—As the hour is late, I move the debate on this Bill be adjourned until to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the remaining orders were deferred, and the House then adjourned until to-morrow at 3.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, May 7th., 1918.

The House met at 3.30 pursuant to adjournment.

The Military Service Bill as amended was read a third time, passed and ordered to be sent to the House of Assembly with a message asking for their concurrence in the amendments.

Second Reading of Legislature (Extension) 1918 Bill.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE—Mr. President before this Bill is read a second time I would like to say a few words. I will be brief. The Bill is a very important one and requires of all very serious reflection and consideration. There was nothing more or less than an attempt on the part of the Government to bracket this Bill with the Conscription one. I personally fail to see any kinship between them. I do not see any affinity between these two bills. The one is a very proper one. One most necessary in order to do our duty towards the Mother Country and ourselves, and very properly it has passed through

all its stages in this House unani-
mously. But this Bill is one that I
do not feel I ought to allow to pass
without recording my strong opposi-
tion to it. We have not an elective
Government. We have not an elect-
ive Assembly. They are there as a
Government simply by process of un-
scrupulous conduct—conduct which
ought to make this House very care-
ful of the powers which it is asked
to place in their hands, for about two
years. A Government composed as it
is of a majority made up of ser-
vants of the Government or officials
deriving emolumentary benefit from
the existence of this Government.
According to the Constitution the
House of Assembly should consist of
thirty-six members, while as it now
stands five of these seats are vacant;
two are dead, and four are absent
from the country. Mr. Morine I notice
has come back, which reduces this
number to three. Taking this eleven
from the normal 36 you have but 25;
of that 25 the majority are office
holders, whose interests are to hold
on to office as long as possible. It
is true they claim to have taken the
positions from patriotic motives, but
why should they continue it longer?
Why not let them appeal to the coun-
try now? Why are they not pre-
pared now as I believe they were last
spring? Having taken a Registration
and shown themselves ready for an
election there is no reason why such
should not be held here now. Why
not do here as they have done in
Canada and Australia; and why re-
gard the Military Service Act as an
excuse for making it necessary to
hold themselves in office over their
time. Why need the Government stay
in power on account of this Act. They
have carefully provided themselves
for the future by getting depart-
ments created to look after this. We

have for carrying out the Conscrip-
tion Act a department. We have a
department also to look after the
Tonnage question. We have a body
for Food Control, Sir, a body of which
you yourself are Chairman,—and I
fail to see how we have been so af-
fected in Newfoundland as to be un-
able to hold an election.

Now, Sir, this Bill comes up to us
and it is for us to see how it is sent
up. It was created and passed in
the Lower House by 13 to 2. Thirteen
is one vote above a quorum which is
twelve. There were ten members
absent from the House when the vote
was taken, and we cannot but as-
sume that their absence was purpose-
fully arranged to save them from voting
in favor of this measure; otherwise
they were grossly negligent in their
duties and we may fairly assume that
they were opposed to this Bill.

Now these are serious considera-
tions for us to think over before we
grant an extension of Parliament.

It is contrary to the Constitution
that the term of Parliament should
be extended, but it was in the Im-
perial Parliament, but that case is as
different from ours as chalk is from
cheese. It prides itself upon its hon-
our, and the government is not a
matter of bargaining as it was in this
case. They have extended their Par-
liament, it is true, but if it is so it
is only the exigencies of the case that
made it so. This Bill comes to this
House as the act of a body of men,
all of whom are office holders who
are anxious to hold on to the spoils
of office for another two years, as if
the election is postponed it will near-
ly be that period before they require
to meet, and yet we are asked to
continue the power in the hands of
these men. Now, Sir, we know very
well what has been said and written
that there are members of that gov-

ernment very fond of that cry known as Confederation. We know they have been associated with outside men of very great influence who are in favor of Confederation, and what is to prevent these thirteen men from carrying Confederation into existence. They have the power but lack the principle. I say again the Government is not an elected one and not representative. They are there simply through false and improper use of their power. There is no more difficulty in an election in Newfoundland where the people are more law-abiding than in any other colony. This election ought to come off next October, and if people are seriously considering their position they will throw out this bill and let the Government go to the country, and if the people then sustain them, let them stay there; they will then be there by the voice of the people. Some may say the people do not want a change, but how do they know that; let the people choose. It is one of the glorious principles of our Constitution that we should have representation. I say again we have no similarity to the British Parliament, where a very large number of the members are engaged in doing their duty on the fields of France and Flanders, and many of them unfortunately have been killed. The same power that these men here have displayed in barring the people from their proper representation is that by which we are now asked to entrust them with power for another two years. The election was postponed last fall on the score of economy. Economy! Economy associated with this Government, when we look and see how money is daily squandered; how parts of the country are favored at the expense of others, and for the benefit of associations or companies. Every

vacancy that occurs in the Old Country is immediately filled, and there is no reason why we cannot have an election here in October. I do not know that I need enlarge on this matter now, when we go into Committee I may have more to say. I beg to record my strong opposition to this Bill.

HON. MR. GIBBS—I desire to make some references with respect to the measure now before this House. I would point out to honourable gentlemen that in considering this Bill and in coming to a decision as to how they shall record their votes, it would be well for them to reflect upon the fact that a very grave constitutional question is at stake. The history of representative government down through the ages has been one of bitter sacrifice and struggle upon the part of men who set duty before self interest; who put the interest of the state before their ease and indulgence in order that those who come after them might enjoy a greater measure of freedom. The rights which we enjoy today have not been won without much sacrifice, trial and tribulation. We are asked in this legislation, which now comes before us, to give up that which is so surrounded by heroism and sacrifice upon the part of men who strove to do their duty and to give to the world representative government and democratic institutions such as we now enjoy in this country. It is true, Sir, that inroads have been made from time to time upon representative government and that some who enjoyed privileges endeavoured to retain them at the expense of the people, but it is the proudest boast of English history that there have always been found men who braved danger and rose superior to their own private considerations in order that they might win from the

privileged classes that which was necessary for the betterment of the masses.

If we are asked, what are the practical results of the work of these men, we have to tell the questioner to look around him, and in the sight which meets his eyes will be found the ready answer. On every side he will see liberty, prosperity and happiness. In our system of Government we intrust in the hands of the majority for a limited period certain rights and duties. We have in this Dominion, as in other parts of the Empire, what is known as party government. Parties seek the vote of the electorate upon certain defined policies, and the electors in turn pass judgment upon those policies and select by secret ballot the party and political principles by which to carry out a certain line of policy. It is returned for a specific period, and it must abide by the laws and customs of the country. In the powers that are conferred we keep alive the spirit of liberty, because if the constitution of the country did not limit and define the period for which a Government can exist, then of course there would be no liberty in that country, where rights and duties of Governments are not limited.

Let us examine what are the limitations which we place upon Governments in this country? If we looked at the law we will find that it is expressly laid down that "The House of Assembly shall continue, notwithstanding the demise of His Majesty, for four years from the day on which it shall by proclamation be appointed to meet, unless sooner dissolved, and no longer." It is not possible to put into the English language words which more clearly define and lay down the principle that the House of Assembly shall continue for four years and no longer, unless sooner

dissolved. That is the law, and are we, who are supposed to be law makers going to be law breakers? Are we going to set an example in the making of laws, and then be breakers of them? This, Sir, is the position we are asked to place ourselves. The words respecting the death of His Majesty are there because years ago his death dissolved the legislature, and as that was undesirable the law was amended.

Now let us go further into this question. The law also provides that whenever a vacancy occurs in a seat in the House of Assembly, the Governor shall within six months issue a writ for a bye election. It does not say he may, but it plainly states that he shall. It is imperative. There is no discretion in the matter. This law has been openly and fragrantly violated for some time past, and we are now asked to continue and to acquiesce in the violation of these laws further.

Let us proceed and examine the conditions of affairs in this country. The law very clearly says that "no person, except Departmental heads, shall be eligible to be elected or shall sit or vote as a member of the House of Assembly, who shall hold any office, place or appointment of profit or emolument, under the Government of the Colony, or from any board or public body connected with it, or who shall directly or indirectly by himself or by any person in trust for him, or for his use and benefit, or on his account, undertake, execute or enter in whole or in part, and contract or agreement for or on account of the public services." Now has this law been carried out? It is just as well for honourable gentlemen to look this matter squarely in the face. Honourable gentlemen know quite well that there are men who have been

appointed to positions by the Government of this country who are still members of the Legislature, who retain their seats in the lower chamber in open violation of the very law which I have just quoted. Three gentlemen were appointed to different positions, one a Purchasing Agent, one a Judge of the Central District Court, and the third as Controller; yet each of these are today members of the House of Assembly, notwithstanding the fact that it is a gross violation of the law. I desire to ask honourable gentlemen in this House if they are prepared to vote for a continuance of this disgraceful condition of affairs, for a violation of public rights that would not be tolerated for twenty-four hours in any part of the Empire except this country. Was public opinion fallen so low; are we so apathetic and indifferent to our rights, to purity of our representatives, to the necessities of electing men who are not the paid servants of governments. Are we going to permit representation of the people by men who are holding their positions at the will of authority who must of necessity do as their masters tell them in order to hold their positions. This is the condition of affairs which this bill asks us to continue.

The law which is as clear as it is possible for the English language to make it, further provides that "whenever any member of the House of Assembly of this Colony shall accept any office, place, or appointment of profit under the Crown or under the Government of this Colony, he shall by writing under his hand, tender to the Government his resignation of his seat as a member of the House of Assembly." Now! has this law been observed? All honourable gentlemen need do is to let their minds go back a short while, and as

I have already pointed out, they will remember that members of the House of Assembly were appointed to public positions notwithstanding the fact that the Act says, that in such cases they shall tender their resignation. They have not done so up to the present time. In fact one of them in open hostility to the very spirit of the Act has taken his seat in the House of Assembly this present session. Are we going to tolerate this state of affairs? Is that the example we are going to set to the country and to the rising generation? Is this the precedent we would set to the youth of to-day, who are growing to the manhood of to-morrow.

We are asked to extend the life of a Legislature whose councils are controlled, which is not free to pass legislation and to do work that is essential and necessary for the welfare of this country. I submit, Mr. President, that it must therefore be apparent to honorable gentlemen that the Constitution limits the life of a parliament to a period of four years, beyond which it cannot be extended without the consent of those who made it. Those who made that Constitution can abrogate it, amend it or extend it as the case may be. The people of the country are the makers of the Constitution and they are the only ones who can alter it, amend it or extend it. It may be said by some honourable gentlemen who do not agree with me in my opposition to this measure that the people of this country elected the present legislature. That is correct but not the present government. The people of this country never elected them. The present government is the result of a dishonest and corrupt bargain made by politicians in this country in order to carry their ambitious schemes and designs. Our Government, like all

other representative governments within the Empire, is elected for a specific period. When that period expires it ceases to be representative and its continuance is in opposition to the law and the constitution of the country. A legislature must represent the whole people, not a part, or a section of it; but the whole people. What is the composition of the present legislature? Does it represent the people according to the spirit of the Constitution? It does not, for a large number of the electors of this country are not represented at all; they have no voice whatever in the enactment of legislation. As has been pointed out by the honourable member on my left, in a house now composed of fifteen members thirteen out of thirty-six have sent this legislation here to us for our approval. Thirteen of them have sent this bill here and have asked us to pass and seal it with our approval.

The Districts of St. Barbe, Fortune Bay, Placentia Bay, Bonavista Bay, St. John's East and West are either not represented at all or only partially so. Notre Dame Bay, Bay de Verde and Harbor Main are short of their representation in the Legislature at the time this Bill was before them, and consequently the people of the districts I have named were not consulted about it, and had no voice in the enactment of this legislation in the House of Assembly.

Now if we compute the population of the constituencies I have named, we find that in the aggregate, they form a majority of the population of the whole country. This, Sir, is a very serious aspect of affairs.

According to the last census Bonavista District has a population of 22,894 persons; Bay de Verde has 10,213; Carbonear 5,114; St. John's East 25,35; St. John's West 20,550; Placen-

tia and St. Mary's 16,099;; Hr. Main 9,471; Fortune Bay, 9,889; Burgeo and La Poile 7,193, and St. Barbe 10,481. These figures show a total population of 137,639, or more than half the population of Newfoundland.

If we compute the population of districts which are short of their full representation in the Legislature, and those districts with no representation at all in the Assembly, we will find that 90,246 citizens had no voice or part whatever in the enactment of this legislation. It is not possible to find such a condition of affairs existing in any part of the world, even in countries where autocracy is ruling. It would be difficult to find a Legislature which does not represent one-half the electorate asking for the enactment of this Bill.

Conditions such as I have described demand the serious attention of all irrespective of political views and party affiliations. Nothing can do more harm or give affairs a more unsatisfactory aspect than the passage of this bill without the people's seal and approval being first placed upon it.

We find in the present Legislature members who have no intention whatever of again seeking re-election, men who have been promised positions, or who have their commissions in their pockets. If you eliminate those who are promised positions, or who have promises of positions in writing, I do not think you will find more than nine members of that body who voted for this bill now before us, because, any man there with a promise of a position or with his commission in his pocket, ceases to be a member and has no right to vote on a bill of this character.

Another section of the representatives are the servants of industrial corporations. The aims of these cor-

porations are known to all of us. It is not necessary for me to refer to that. These men cannot exercise the free-will which their positions as representatives of the Legislature not only calls for, but demands. I now refer to members who are supposed to represent the Fishermen's Protective Union, and in referring to them I do not do so in their personal capacity. I speak only of their public character, as public servants, as representatives of the people. Messrs. Abbott and Winsor, members for Bonavista, I understand, are employed by the Union Trading Company. Mr. Grimes, member for Port de Grave, is in the employ of the Union Trading Company as well. Mr. Halfyard, the present Acting Colonial Secretary, was until quite recently an employee. The Prime Minister, Dr. Lloyd, was likewise until recently the solicitor of the F. P. U. and its subsidiary companies. Mr. Jennings, member for Twillingate, is another employee of the Trading Company. The President of the Trading Company does not mince words when he says "the aims and objects of the Union are represented by him and have for their object the domination of the public life of this country."

The paid servants of the Industrial and Trading Companies are some of the members who voted for the extension of the life of this Parliament.

In a House of fifteen members there are, I think, nine members who are not connected with companies referred to, who voted for this bill. There is still another serious view of the question to which perhaps Honourable gentlemen have not given a thought. It is this: The members of the Fishermen's Protective Union who are at present in the Legislature, according to some rule of that association, when seeking the support of the

organization must pledge themselves under oath that they will obey the dictates of the Council, which nominated them.

In connection with this matter, I do not ask Honourable gentlemen to take my word for the correctness of the statement. They need only turn to the official organ of the organization, the "Evening Advocate," and in the issue of November 19th last, we find there stated in the report of the Convention held at Catalina, the following: "Every candidate selected by the F. P. U. is now to sign a pledge to resign seats in the Assembly when called upon to do so by a petition properly signed by a majority of the electorate of a District. No Union support will be given any candidate that refuses to sign such a pledge. Union members are by their oath bound to resign seats in the Assembly when called upon to do so by the District Council that selected them as well as by a petition signed by a majority of their constituents. Members by their oath are bound to resign their seats in the Legislature should they be called upon to do so by the District Council that nominated them."

The oath they take is not alone illegal, but it strikes at the very foundation of the freedom of the Legislature. These members are not free agents, a restraint is placed by that oath upon their liberty of action; they do not and cannot represent the country, they are subject to the dictation and control of the council that nominates them.

In a legislature, of the composition of the present, can it be said that the welfare of the country is the object aimed at in legislation emanating from such a source. Honourable gentlemen in this branch of the Legislature are supposed, when occasion

demands, to rise superior to party and political affiliations and deal with Bills from the view-point of the best interests and welfare of the country. The time has now arrived, as never before, when it becomes imperative for us to act and deal with this question from a constitutional standpoint; otherwise, what is going to become of our representative government? Is it to exist in name only? Are we to have the shadow and not the substance?

We are told that, because of the tremendous struggle now raging in Europe an election is not desirable. A distinguished cleric some time ago sounded a note of warning in this country when he said: "Let the people therefore take warning and beware lest the well-meaning sacrifices made by citizens of every class and party in the public interest be exploited for their own ends by those who are always found ready to use even the gravest national emergencies for their own advantage." Whether the distinguished gentleman, when he uttered those words, had such a state of affairs in view as now confronts us it is difficult for us to determine, but he at least foresaw with the wisdom of a seer, the condition of affairs that we are now dealing with. Upwards of six months ago he warned the country of what is now taking place.

The war I contend, and honestly so, is made to serve a kind of camouflage to cover the designs and aims of those who today control the Government. Many of us have read that in all ages and lands national crises and disturbed conditions have been taken advantage of by designing men for ulterior motives, and we have history repeating itself today in our own country. In other countries, as pointed out by the Honourable Mr. Goodridge, elec-

tions have taken place. They have been able to find time notwithstanding their magnificent contributions to Empire to place public matters before the people and to ask their opinion on the public questions that confront them, and the people in all instances have given satisfactory answers. Why should we here not have an election. What is there going on here in this country that the people should not be given the right to say who shall rule and control the destinies of the country? There is nothing that should engage our attention more seriously than matters of this kind. We are told that we are not to have an election because it is unpatriotic to do so. Not patriotic! Is patriotism of a different type here from that found in other parts of the Empire

This comes from a House that is absolutely controlled by Ministers of the Crown. Out of thirteen who voted for this measure in the Lower House, eight are Ministers of the Crown. Even though the Legislature had not thus lost its independence of character, we might under the circumstances very rightly ask, what right have we to violate the law under which it came into existence? Its very existence depends upon that law, it could not exist one moment without that law being there. Everything we do in life is subject to the control of some kind of order, either of national or divine origin. If we had no law, for that is what this bill means we must eventually revert to chaos, and anarchy must prevail.

Perhaps some hon. gentlemen may say that they see no harm in consenting to the passage of this bill by voting for it, but I would remind the House that when you establish a precedent you do not know where it will end.

It may be an invasion of the Consti-

tutional rights of the country and the people today, it may be a violation of property rights tomorrow. Once you admit a vicious principle of this character you do not know where it will stop. The viciousness of this principle can be seen if the hon. gentlemen will only think over the matter seriously. We are asked to establish a precedent that is foreign to the spirit of legislation in the Empire. It has never before been attempted in the other Dominions. Once we admit that the political expediency or a crisis such as we are now passing through may be used to violate the Constitution under which we live, then we are standing on very dangerous ground. All we have to do is to read the lesson of English history, and learn for ourselves that invasions of this character have always been attended with dangerous consequences. The brightest pages of English history are those in which such encroachments have been resisted. Men have gone to their death resisting invasions of their rights, such as are being attempted here today.

I think it was Sir Philip Francis, in his appeal to the people of England when they were struggling and making sacrifices to wrest from the privileged classes the rights essential for the welfare of England and its people, who said: "Never suffer an invasion of your political constitution however minute the instance may appear, to pass by without determined persevering resistance. One precedent creates another. They soon accumulate and constitute law. What yesterday is fact, today is doctrine. Examples are supposed to justify the most dangerous measures and when they do not suit exactly the defect is supplied by analogy. Be assured the laws which protect us in our civil rights grow out of the constitution

and they must fall or flourish with it."

He warns the people never to suffer an invasion of their rights no matter how minute, without a determined resistance against it.

Now this Bill, as I have said, is the outcome of a dishonest and corrupt bargain between politicians. It does not date from to-day or yesterday, but goes back further, before the war commenced. We are asked to prolong the life of the Legislature because it suits the designs and ambitions of scheming politicians.

Another eminent man whose name will be cherished as long as the great Republic of the United States lives, Daniel Webster, in a celebrated speech of his said: "The spirit of liberty is indeed a bold and fearless spirit, but it is also a sharp-sighted spirit, it is cautious, sagacious, discriminating far-seeing, intelligent; it is jealous of encroachment, jealous of power, jealous of man. It demands checks, it seeks for guards, it insists on securities, it entrenches itself in strong defences, and fortifies itself with all possible care against the assaults of ambition and passion. It does not trust the amiable weakness of human nature, and therefore it will not permit us to overstep its prescribed limits, though benevolence, good intent, and patriotic purposes come along with it."

The principle introduced in this Bill is a far reaching one in its application, because the right of election is of the very essence of the Constitution under which we live, and if you take away this treasured right of choosing representatives and deprive the people of it you throw down and dismantle an edifice reared by the sacrifices of men in other ages. To admit the right, to change the Constitution without the consent of

he Committee have leave to sit again on Monday.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. the Prime Minister to inform the House (a) if there are any claims against the Dominion by the late Prime Minister, Baron Morris; (b) if so, to table a statement showing the amount of such claim or claims, and what for?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I know of no such claim. The Baron has no claims against the Dominion that I know of.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary (a) whether the Voters List taken throughout the Dominion last fall were completed; (b) the cost of the said work, and the names of the parties to which payments were paid or will be paid on account of the said work.

Mr. Walsh asked the Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement showing the nature of the work performed by Mr. Bennett for the sum of \$962.50 which appears in the public accounts under the heading of War Expenses for the year ending June 30th, 1917.

MR. CURRIE—I may say that these questions have already been answered.

The remaining orders of the day were deferred.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises, it adjourn until tomorrow, Saturday, May 4th, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

SATURDAY, May 4th, 1918.

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

HON. MR. CROSBIE—Mr. Speaker I beg to present a petition from the

inhabitants of Freshwater in connection with the Fishery Rules. They ask that the rule passed last season with reference to Carbonear Islands be rescinded and that the date for setting traps may be June 5th. The petition has been signed by nearly all the inhabitants of Freshwater; and it has been made to obviate the trouble which has arisen almost every season. I ask that it be referred to the Department of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

MR. ABBOTT—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from Somerville, Bonavista District, asking that Somerville be connected by telephone or telegraph with Southern Bay.

I also beg to present a petition from the same locality asking that a post office be placed in a central place in Somerville. The petition also asks that a man from Somerville be appointed to carry the mails from Somerville to Princetown.

These two petitions are largely signed, practically by all the inhabitants of Somerville, and I think the requests are reasonable. I hope the Government will see its way clear to accede to the prayers of the petitioners. I ask that they be referred to the departments to which they relate.

Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary gave notices of motion.

MR. GOODISON—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present three petitions from Carbonear on the subject of the price of fish shipped from the coast, asking that the Government take some steps so that the people need not carry the fish home. I will not read these petitions as they are along lines similar to other petitions already presented to this House. I ask that they be referred to the Department to which they relate.

Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary gave notice that he would on tomor-

row ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act, Cap. 10, 6 George (1916.)"

Hon. the Prime Minister on behalf of the Select Committee presented the following report:

"The Select Committee appointed to consider and enquire into the petition of the Reverend William H. Thomas, and others with respect to a proposed bill to vest in the Congregational Home Missionary Society of Newfoundland certain lands and property within the Colony, beg to report: That they have considered the same and beg to present the accompanying Bill for the consideration of the Legislature.

(Sgd.) W. F. LLOYD,
J. R. GOODISON,
J. S. CURRIE.

Assembly Rooms,
May 4th, 1918."

On motion this report was received and adopted, and the Bill entitled "An Act for the more effectual transfer of certain properties to the Congregational Home Missionary Society of Newfoundland" was introduced and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Act respecting the Wills and Estates of Members of the Newfoundland Regiment, and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve and other Volunteers, Cap. XVI., 8 George V."

Acting Minister of Militia gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to amend the War Pensions Act, 1917."

Minister of Marine and Fisheries gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill en-

itled "An Act to amend the Shipbuilding Act, 1916."

Pursuant to notice and on motion of the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval and Military Purposes."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Mr. Chairman, in moving these resolutions, it may perhaps be well for me to review to the House our financial position with reference to War expenditures from August 14th up to the present time. As you all know, the War broke out on August 4th, 1914. Immediately the Government, on behalf of the Colony, offered certain naval and military forces, and the Imperial authorities accepted the same. Then, early in September, we called a session of the Legislature to take the necessary steps for raising a contingent for service overseas, for enlarging the Naval Reserve, and for the enactment of such laws as were required in view of the crisis confronting us. To meet our initial war outlay, it became necessary for us to have money at once, so a loan was obtained from the British Government, and also one from the Bank of Montreal. The total amount was about two million dollars which carried us along for practically two years. At the end of that period we were asked to pay the money back and you may remember that in the session of 1916 a Loan Bill was passed authorizing the raising of five million dollars, two million for railway purposes and three millions for war purposes, two millions of the latter sum to be devoted to repaying the Imperial authorities and the Bank of

Montreal, and the balance to be used in meeting our war obligations for the ensuing twelve months, together with the surplus revenue accruing during that period. In the autumn of 1916 Sir Edward Morris visited the United States and effected that Loan at terms which were regarded as satisfactory. When this amount was exhausted early last year, we borrowed a further sum from the Imperial authorities of about one and a half millions and at the last session passed a measure authorizing the raising of a loan of three million dollars for naval and military purposes. It was the intention then that our former Premier should endeavour to raise this loan also in the United States, or in the Mother Country, but when he visited America last spring he found that the second "Liberty Loan" was being placed on the market by the American Government themselves, and that they were unwilling that outside Governments should try to effect loans in their country under the conditions which then existed. Sir Edward Morris after studying the whole situation came to the conclusion that it would not be wise to attempt the flotation of any loan at that time, but wait until the American market should be normal again. Unfortunately, however America is now in the war to such an extent, and her participation is calling for such enormous outlays by her that she is virtually a bidder in the money market the whole time. Twice last year she has had to raise Liberty Loans and once already this year she has done so, and will undoubtedly have to make another attempt later in 1918, and in between she is always selling Treasury Bonds, War Savings Bonds, and other collateral for moneys which she absolutely needs to make good her efforts to play an important part in this struggle. As a

consequence there is little or no chance for any outside agency to secure money in America today. Indeed things have now got to a stage there where the Federal Government has taken over complete control of the matter of permitting the raising of loans by State, City or other Governments, or even the raising of loans for corporation, business or other commercial purposes. At the same time, because of the great demand for money by the Entente Nations, the price of interest has gone up so that loans easily command today from 6 to 7 per cent. interest, and in some cases even more than that. For instance, Canada's Victory Loan, floated last September, really cost that country 7 per cent. according to a statement made by the Acting Minister of Finance of Canada in the House of Commons, Ottawa, last month, on April 12th to be precise. He showed that the loan itself cost 5.70 to raise and that the expenses in connection therewith amounted to 1 1-4 per cent. being 6.97 altogether, or say 7 per cent. for the money. What I mean by 5.70 is that a 5 1-2 per cent. bond was sold at a discount equivalent to 5.70 and the 1 1-4 per cent. extra was to cover the cost of the loan campaign throughout the Dominion, namely, advertising, canvassing, etc. You can see therefore that this means that Newfoundland cannot expect today to get money at anything less than 7 per cent. and probably 7 1-4, because we have not the standing before the world that Canada has and cannot hope to make as good a bargain. When Sir Edward Morris resigned the Premiership, withdrew from public life, and decided to remain in England permanently, I had to take up the work of dealing with this loan matter, and accordingly I visited Canada some time ago and

also America in relation to money matters. I had no difficulty either in Montreal or in New York in finding people ready to handle this loan for us, but when I took into consideration the amount I would have to pay for it, the market price in Canada and America today and the difficulties in the way, I advised the Prime Minister, Dr. Lloyd, that before we took up the loan at the figures ruling in the neighbouring countries, it would perhaps be in the interests of all concerned if we gave our own people a chance to invest their money in a Newfoundland loan at similar rates of interest. I formed this conclusion from the fact that there are in the Savings Banks of this country today about sixteen million dollars, and there must be many more millions in the homes of the people all around the country. The money in the Savings Banks is only bringing 3 per cent and it occurred to me that with the inducement of 6 or 7 per cent. held out to them, many people would be willing, for reasons of business and patriotism combined, to invest their money in War Bonds at so satisfactory a rate of interest as I have indicated. I felt that if I went outside and placed this Loan in Canada or America at these rates, I would be justly open to the charge that instead of giving the interest on this money to our own people I would be giving it to strangers, and that if our people were prepared to invest their money in the Loan, do a patriotic service, and double the interest at the same time, it was my bounden duty to do so.

I know of no reason why our people should not invest their money in this loan. A man without money naturally looks round him and asks: "What security have I got if I lend my money?" The answer to that,

Mr. Chairman, is that the security of the Dominion of Newfoundland is the best possible security. This is War time and we know that if Britain goes under, Canada goes under, Newfoundland goes under, and the whole Empire goes under.

On the other hand, if Britain floats, all the Dominions will float, and we will float with them. There is no reason whatever why our people should not take hold of this loan. Newfoundland is financially in as good a position as any other dependency of the Empire and possibly in a better position than some. We all know that the banks amongst us are making lots of money, that the country is enjoying unequalled prosperity, and that times were never so good as at present; and if that is the case, who are benefitting but our own people. Since the days of the Bank Crash there has been no money invested locally in banks but large sums of money have been invested in loans, bonds and other securities outside the Colony; indeed a goodly portion of it in sections of Canada from which no return will ever be received. All the profit made on the money deposited in our local banks is sent to Canada and the United States. All the surplus money held in the four Canadian Banks doing business in this country today, which is not needed for the commercial requirements of the Colony, is sent away and loaned out to people in Canada and America at 6 and 7 per cent., while the people who own the money have to be satisfied with 3 per cent. Therefore it is only a case of looking the proposition straight in the face and asking ourselves are we prepared to take the chance of lending our moneys to our own country and receiving the big interest which is certain to come back to us. It is an oppor-

tunity, I think, that each and every one of us ought to take. It is an opportunity that I think each and every business man in this country will agree with me we should take. Every right-thinking man will admit that it is the proper thing for us to offer the loan locally, and the proper thing for the people here to subscribe to it and take it up. I found when I was in Canada that I could get all the money we wanted under this loan in 24 hours if I was prepared to pay the market price, but when I thought of the sixteen million dollars in the banks here only earning 3 per cent., I felt it my duty to first place this proposal before our own people, saying to myself that if I did not give them the opportunity to finance this loan, I would deserve to be hooted from this House. I laid my views before the Government, and they coincided with me, so I decided to return and offer the loan in the local market, so if our people are not satisfied to take their money from the banks and buy our bonds, we can go to Canada and the United States and raise that loan at the market price and distribute amongst strangers the large interest which our own people would not accept. That is the reason why I am here today asking for a loan of six million dollars, a sum which I could obtain tomorrow by telegraphing to Canada, and it now rests with our people as to whether they will do their duty or not. The total amount spent to date by this country for war purposes is about five and a half million dollars. That is our full war bill to date, and when we spread that amount over the number of months since the beginning of hostilities. I think you will agree with me that it is a very small outlay compared with other countries. But if we are to continue to do our duty as we ought

to do it, and hope to do it, we will need more money. We shall have at least another one thousand or two thousand men in khaki within the next twelve months and that will mean an expenditure of two or three million dollars within that period. We are in this fight to stand by the British Empire until the last ditch. That is our duty, and so we intend to do it, and I think it is the bounden duty of every man in the Colony to-day when this loan is placed before him, to come forward with his money and give it to the Government on the terms prescribed in the Act. The need of the hour is more men and more money. But have we done our full duty in either respect in the past? To me it is doubtful. We read the news that has come in since yesterday, and what do we find? A message to the Minister of Militia that the Regiment has been withdrawn for lack of men to help it up to strength. The time has therefore arrived for us to do more. We have been told frequently of late that we lack the courage to do our duty. I take issue with that. I am prepared to do my duty in this House and outside, and to stand or fall with what I conceive to be right, and when this Loan is offered I will ask every man in the country to come forward and do his part likewise. It is just as imperative for the man with the money to lend it to his country as it is for the widow's son to go out and spill his blood on the battlefield for us.

We are asking in these Resolutions or six million dollars. I know some wiseacres will shrug their shoulders and say it is impossible to get that amount in Newfoundland. So it was thought to be in Canada two years ago, and yet when the first local loan of fifty millions was asked for and a cam-

paign was started, the result was that nearly one hundred millions had been subscribed instead of the fifty sought. A second Loan for one hundred millions was offered and two hundred millions was subscribed. A third Loan of one hundred and fifty millions was then sought and two hundred and fifty millions was subscribed. Last spring a further loan of one hundred and fifty millions was asked and it seemed doubtful if the people of Canada, much as they would like to do so, could respond to this appeal, but a campaign was organized from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the debentures were issued in figures of \$50 to \$5000. Every Post Office and Telegraph Office throughout Canada was authorized to sell the Loan and every branch Bank was given similar power. Demonstrations were got up in the principal cities of Canada on the lines of what we saw here recently organized by the Returned Soldiers, and promoted by the principal men of the Dominion. Fifty thousand people took part in the one in Montreal, amongst them Sir Vincent Meredith, President of the Bank of Montreal, while leading professional and business men of every class did their part there and elsewhere throughout the country. The result was that over four hundred millions was rolled up in response to the request for one hundred and fifty millions. Four hundred millions were given by the people of Canada or about \$50 per head of the population. That Loan, as I said before, was advertised from coast to coast, and I received a circular from a telegraph operator in British Columbia, sent to me from the Pacific Coast, asking me to subscribe \$50 for a Baby Bond for Canada's War Loan. I may say that I responded, as I felt that a call from

such a distance ought to merit recognition. I mention this because it only goes to show how the Canadian people went into this matter, and how the result justified all the work that was put into it, and I believe we are going to do something of the same kind here. Indeed we are asking for less than half that amount of money from each one amongst us. A loan of six millions here will require only about \$20 per head, and that is all that we ask for in these Resolutions. I have no fear as to or getting it if the matter is placed before our people in the right way and if they respond, and if they have the spirit I know they have, and I feel certain that as was the case in Canada the response here, will be equally satisfactory. But we must go about it properly. We cannot have half the people fighting the other half, or for the people to be told in the daily papers during the next few weeks that if they give the money to the Government they will never see it again. We must drop politics altogether for this time. It is a serious matter and I am sure the House and the country will accept my views in the right spirit.

It must not be thought that the raising of this Loan is likely to injure the banks. That was the first impression in Canada and it was thought that if one hundred or two hundred millions were taken out of the banks, it would ruin them, but as a matter of fact they found that after a few months all the money went back to the banks again. People saved in other ways to get the money to subscribe to the loans and the banks increased their holdings at the same time. Next fall Canada is going to ask for five hundred millions and they expect no difficulty in getting it. When that Loan is sub-

scribed Canada's public debt will be \$500 per head and surely if Canada can ride the storm with such a debt, there is no reason why Newfoundland should not get along with \$150, or less per head than the Municipal debt of Canada. When I was discussing this matter with the Canadian Finance Minister he was so surprised to find that our per capita debt was only \$150 that I had to show him that this was so from statistics in my possession, and that being so, can there be any doubt as to the security which this country offers. The fact is that the matter has to be placed before the investor in the right light, otherwise the effort will fail. Consequently, as I have said before, if the Loan is to be made a success, politics must be dropped. Friction must cease and any efforts that may end to lessen our stake, and even our little loan may help to turn the scale. Therefore it is our duty to unite in the effort to make this Loan a success.

The interest rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent stated in the Resolutions may seem very high, but I might point out that in Montreal a few days ago, though this is one of the richest cities in the world, and certainly the richest in Canada, with a population of three quarters of a million, they asked for a Loan and had to pay 9 per cent, yet this is looked upon as being one of the best investments in Canada. I think that the investment we propose to the people of Newfoundland to-day is as good a one in every respect. We do not ask any one to distress himself by purchasing our War Bonds, but we think the people who have money in the savings banks and who have money lying in their homes without earning any interest at all, are patriotic enough and intelligent enough to give

us six million dollars, and thus double their present interest or secure large interest where at present they are receiving none. Indeed I am inclined to think that if we had all the gold and silver and bank notes that are in the homes and secret hordes all round this country, we would not need the money in the savings banks at all. Occasionally one reads that a house was destroyed by fire and a certain amount of money was lost, a fact going to prove there is a great amount of money in the homes of the people of this country at the risk of total destruction. We know that the Canadian banks have brought in three and a half millions in gold since they began operations here 25 years ago, which they have paid out and have never got back, and there can be no other place that this has gone but into the homes of the people. Similarly the Colony has imported in the past 20 years over one and a half millions in silver and put it in circulation in the same way, and it has never come back. There is a total of five million dollars, and I do not doubt that bank notes and other valuables will represent another million; or, lumping the whole sum, just the amount we ask for.

I trust that my proposals will appeal to the House and ultimately to the country, so that we may be able, before many weeks have passed, to congratulate ourselves on securing the money we are now about to seek.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman: I listened with a great deal of interest to the Hon. Minister of Finance's statement with regard to the Loan. I gather that the Loan of six million dollars we are asking for we owe to the British Government. Incorporated in this Loan Bill is $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars borrowed from the British

Government and spent last year and three million dollars authorized to be raised last by Sir Edward Morris. Next year there will be need for a three million dollar loan in addition to war expenses. So far as we are concerned on this side of the House there will be no opposition to the loan. I do not think the Finance Minister need fear any politics being played with the loan outside this House. So far as I am concerned personally, I believe in the loan and regret that the Government did not put it on the market before. The vigorous campaign carried on in Canada for the raising of the Anglo French Loan and the methods used in the United States to raise the Liberty Bonds were highly successful and I think that the Loan will be a success here if placed on the market in the proper way and if the Finance Minister does what was done in Canada. There is no reason why we cannot carry on a similar campaign here. It will not do to have a small advertisement run in the newspapers and let the matter rest there. A campaign must be undertaken with the spirit that the returned soldiers got recruits for the Regiment. I think it will be necessary also to issue scrip in small denominations as much as possible, and made negotiable.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—It is not necessary to put these matters in the Bill.

MR. CURRIE—I would suggest that the Governor in Council make arrangements to issue in small denominations. A great many of our people are interested in the Banks because they can get their money when they need it. Many people prefer the small interest paid by the Bank to the large returns of a permanent investment, because they know they obtain their money whenever needed.

Eighty per cent of our people are fishermen, and this year may be a bad year for them and it would be an additional inducement for them to subscribe to the Loan if the investor was able to negotiate his bonds. I know of a number of cases where people had money invested, but when they started to realize on the shares they held they found it impossible to do so. I think it a good idea if the government made some arrangements for the establishment of a sinking fund for the benefit of those who held scrip under \$500. It will be difficult sometimes to sell scrip on the market. I know of two or three cases where Newfoundland Debentures were sold as low as 82 at 3 and 3½ per cent; 6½ per cent is a more attractive investment for people with money to spare and not in immediate need of it. I think a man would be a fool if he did not take advantage of this Loan on the market to invest his money. I think the Finance Minister is doing the right thing to give the people of the country the first opportunity to invest their money.

If they do not do that then there is nothing left but to go abroad. Our people would be very unwise if they did not take advantage of this extraordinary offer. It is a very attractive proposition and, as I said in the beginning, I am prepared to give the matter my hearty support both in the House and outside of it. And if the campaign is undertaken in the proper way the people will get the earnings derived from the investment of the Loan. I do not think that the Finance Minister's reference to Montreal helped to strengthen his argument any.

HON. FINANCE MINISTER—You cannot deny that it is the richest city in Canada.

MR. CURRIE—The city government there is a by-word and a reproach, and the Bank of Montreal there deterred people from investing in the Canadian bonds. As the Finance Minister has said, we are in this war and we got to stick it to the end. In all matters of war the government will have my hearty support. May I ask the Finance Minister if it is the intention to issue at Par?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—Yes, at Par.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

The Chairman 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 authorize the Raising of a sum of money by loan for Naval and Military Purposes" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Identification of Criminals" 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 Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to restrict temporarily the Persons who may engage in Business connected with certain Non-Ferrous Metals and Metallic Ores," 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 con-

currence of that Body in its provisions.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Acting Minister of Militia, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Military Forces of 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 Bill with some amendment.

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

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Hon. Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to extend and amend the Act 3 George V. (1913) Chapter 26, entitled 'An Act respecting the Preservation of Beavers,'" 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 of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Act 1 (George V. (1911) Chapter 16, entitled 'An Act respecting a Fire Patrol,'" was read a second time.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. — Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. The whole point about the Bill is to extend the old Act and to allot the moneys collected under it for the support of the Game and Inland Fisheries Board. The practice has been to pay these moneys over to the Board; but heretofore there has been an absence of authority to do so; and this Bill rectifies this.

The Bill was ordered to be referred

to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

The remaining Orders of the day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Monday next, the 6th instant, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, May 6th, 1918.

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

The Acting Minister of Militia tabled report of presentation of aeroplane to Newfoundland at Liverpool England, May 4th, 1918.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act, Cap. 10 6 Geo. V. (1916) was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Act respecting the Wills and Estates of members of the Newfoundland Regiment and of the Newfoundland Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve and other Volunteers, Cap. XVI. 8 George V. "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 the Acting Minister of Militia, the Bill entitled "An Act to amend the War Pensions Act, 1917," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Shipbuilding

Act, 1916," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a statement showing the salary paid Mr. J. R. Bennett, the Minister of Militia.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Acting Minister of Militia the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Military Forces of Newfoundland" was read a third time.

MR. CURRIE—I regret that I have been unable to do more than glance at this Bill. However, there is one point to which I would like to make reference and that is with regard to Sec. 11. Does the Government mean to enforce the death penalty in this country?

HON. ACTING MINISTER MILITIA—In cases where it shall be found necessary.

MR. CURRIE—I think this is worthy of consideration. In some of the Colonies this death penalty does not apply except in very extreme cases.

The Bill was 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 Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman, in connection with Deputy Heads of Departments, increases have been made this year, though the salary of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines still remains the same. The position of Deputy Heads should all be put on the same scale. We have

at the present time the Deputy Colonial Secretary getting \$2000; the Deputy Minister of Finance \$1800; the Deputy Minister of Public Works \$1800; the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries \$1400, and the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines \$1250. Where does the difference come in? Take the case of Mr. Keating, who is a most excellent official, and one of the best in the country, but he has no more work to do than Mr. Turner although his salary is down for \$550 more. Perhaps it may be a perquisite. If that is it, it is a serious practice and should be cut out and the salary put on a standard basis. It seems absurd to any stranger to pick up our estimates and find one Deputy Head of a Department down for \$1250 and another for \$2000. Personally I think it is about time that the Government put the salaries of all the heads of departments on the same scale.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—

Mr. Chairman, I beg to say in reply to the objections raised by Mr. Currie that Mr. Turner for the past number of years received fees to the amount of hundreds of dollars for work done by his Department in connection with railway arbitration from time to time. Some years he made \$400. In the case of Mr. Keating he got no extras.

MR. MORINE.—Mr. Chairman, it appears to me that the difficulty is one arising from allowing fees to any of the staff. It is very likely that Mr. Turner sometimes gets far more than the difference in his salary and that is the excuse for maintaining the difference in salary. If any official has any work to do in his department it ought to be covered by a fixed salary. Some years ago an attempt was made to eliminate altogether the fee idea, as it results in unfairness, but

without success. Besides it is irregular and open to objection, and any work in any particular department ought to be done by an official in the time for which he receives his salary. It is apparent that the unfairness in salary has always appeared in the Estimates. It is much better and in the public interest that a fixed salary should be paid civil servants for their work. The iniquitous practice of paying fees should not be allowed, especially when one remembers very well the practice for a great many years of giving fees to the Minister himself of the Department of Agriculture and Mines. I object and do strongly object to this practice that is going on from year to year. I am quite satisfied that the suggestion of the member for Burin ought to be considered by the Finance Minister to fix the salaries on a plain straight basis and allow no fees for the work done by Government officials for the Colony. Fees that come into all the departments from outside should go into the Treasury Department. That principle ought not to be departed from.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—

Mr. Chairman, I am very much in sympathy with the views expressed by the member for Burin as well as the member for Bonavista. I think, in accepting these views, that neither the Ministers nor Deputy Ministers should be allowed any fees. I may say that so far as I am concerned I insisted that should be the position. Whatever the nature of the salary there should be no fees, and I think that we ought by the time we meet in this House again, have the adoption of a rigid adherence to that principle.

MR. CURRIE.—I am glad to hear that the Prime Minister made that statement. I noticed in the Estimates

\$3000 for the Prime Minister, and when I got the report of the Auditor General I noticed, under section 33B of the Audit Act, a statement with reference to the salary of Minister of Justice being fixed at \$5000, while that gentleman occupied the post of Prime Minister. It is an awkward way of putting it.

HON THE PRIME MINISTER.—Have you got the whole of the matter? There was an addition somewhere that makes all the difference in the world.

MR CURRIE—That does not change the effect of the first part of the section that the salary of the Minister of Justice should be \$5000. It's a most amusing way of putting it. But there is no provision made here for the fees of the Colonial Secretary or the Minister of Finance. Simply the Minister of Justice when he becomes Prime Minister gets an addition. I notice also that the \$3000 is put separate for the Prime Minister. I take it that it means to override the effect. I think it is almost a pity, after the expenses of the first four or five years in particular, and a great responsibility on the part of the Finance Minister, to have these positions combined. I think that the Prime Minister has sufficient to do to look after one department. I may say that I have no objection to the vote that is in the Estimates for the Premier. He has not overstepped the mark so far as the figure is concerned. If the Minister of Militia is entitled to \$3000 I think the Prime Minister is entitled to \$5000. I wish to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to this unique statement in the Auditor General's report so that there will be no misunderstanding in the matter.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—I have not seen this report. There are no fees that come to the Minister

of Justice. There is a straight salary for both offices combined. I may point out that a recent Attorney General received \$12,000 as a fee in a single matter.

MR. CURRIE—In this country?

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—Yes, in this country, and a friend of my hon. friend. I may go further and say that I have been assured by another Attorney General that his average income of that office during his term was \$8000 included in fees.

MR. MORINE—Has this salary been provided by statute?

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—It is simply temporary.

MR. MORINE—As Mr. Currie has mentioned the matter now I wish to say that I was gratified to hear as I approached the city that an endeavour had been made to put the Premier's salary in its proper proportion. I would suggest, however, as has already been suggested by Mr. Currie, that the salary of this office and that of Minister of Justice ought not to be combined. I am satisfied that the duties of a Prime Minister as such are not those that work well with the duties of an Attorney General, who attends to his business. Such work would be enough for a man with even greater experience than the present Prime Minister. It is not economy to have Ministers badly paid. That is a matter which ought to receive early attention. Bad pay means bad service, as a rule. I suggest to the Minister that while dealing with it, to deal with it only as regards one office. The duties of a President of a Council are akin to those of the Prime Minister. Minister of Justice and Attorney General ought to be strictly confined to the administration of justice throughout the country, and giving it a devotion which would make it impossible to

attend to any other office. I don't now mean only in the courts, but also in following and becoming familiar with the legislation of other countries and dealing with large legal matters, civil as well as criminal. That work, especially in these troublesome times, would require the entire attention of the best man, and I would suggest to the Government whether at this stage it would not be well to consider the creation of the office of President of the Council, to be held by the Premier and to attach to it a salary of not less than \$5000 a year. No man can live in this country and discharge the duties of his office with the dignity becoming the country, especially in these expensive times, on a less salary than that; and if he does not get it honestly, then he must get it dishonestly, or else leave his creditors unpaid or his duties unperformed. It is high time that in this Dominion the Premier's salary should be sufficiently large to enable him to keep up his office with dignity both at home and abroad, when he has to represent the Colony abroad; and therefore, irrespective of the occupant of that office at the present time, I congratulate the Government upon the courage which they have shown in this matter, and I also congratulate the hon. gentlemen opposite who especially represent the fishermen—upon the breadth of view which they have shown in this matter—a breadth of view which, I am satisfied, they will also show in many other matters—in recognizing that men in high offices, with great responsibilities, must be adequately paid.

I hope that the Government will seriously consider this matter of making the Prime Minister President of the Council, and giving him for that office, a salary of not less than \$5000; and then they will be entitled to look

to him for good service, and he will be able to give his time to the duties of his office without feeling that the wolf is always at the door. This matter of fees has been a cancer eating upon the body politic in this country. The reason has been that the salaries have always been inadequate, and gentlemen have been compelled in the past to supplement them in this way. Take, for instance, the position of Attorney General and Minister of Justice, at \$2000—a mere retaining fee. I am satisfied that the institution which the hon. member for Twillingate leads, would expect, if they had a counsel, to pay him a retainer of at least \$2000. Now, let us do away with this matter of fees. Let the Government take its courage in its hands and bring in a bill providing for adequate salaries for its Ministers, without fees, and I feel sure that it will receive the fullest support. With regard to the joining of the offices of Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and Attorney General, I do not think that this should be continued. The Attorney General's business, to receive the attention which it ought to receive, not merely with regard to its criminal side but with regard to its civil side, would require the entire attention of the best man you can get, and if the work is not efficiently done it is not worth while having it done at all.

I am satisfied the Prime Minister will not have the time at his disposal to attend to these duties properly. He may be called away from the country—I understand that he is being called away within the next few weeks—in which event he has to leave the work of the Department to his Deputy, who has not the responsibility nor the authority to perform the services which the head of that Department should perform. Therefore,

I think that it is a serious mistake to join this office with any other.

(Re Public Health.)

MR. MORINE—I would like to ask the Colonial Secretary if he would briefly explain just what the arrangements are now with reference to vaccination at North Sydney.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the hon. member for Bonavista I may say that instructions have been issued that all persons coming from the Dominion of Canada to Newfoundland have to show a vaccination mark, 14 days old, I think; or they have to produce a certificate of vaccination.

MR. MORINE—Are you referring now to the notice that was published in the Sydney papers over your name?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—I believe that is the effect of the notice.

MR. MORINE—Let me explain. At North Sydney I found a great deal of confusion as to what was really the law in force and as to just what had to be done. I had a discussion with some of the doctors there who were acting for the Government and with some who were not, and some of the difficulties in connection with the matter were called to my attention. Perhaps I can best explain by saying just what I found myself. In the first place I found that the agent of the Reid Newfoundland Company had received an order from Dr. Frazer, Acting Public Health Officer, that everybody had to be vaccinated before coming across. He wired Reid's office, as he had received no instructions from them, and after some delay he received a reply telling him to follow out that course. Upon further enquiry I found that the purser of the steamer had been ordered to allow nobody to come across who had not been vaccinated, without any limit as

to time one way or the other. Then in the North Sydney papers an order appeared, apparently telegraphed from the Department of the Colonial Secretary, signed by the Colonial Secretary, to the effect that no person "resident" in the provinces of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick would be allowed to come to Newfoundland unless he had been vaccinated within seventeen years and more than fourteen days. A Dr. Smith had been appointed by somebody to see to this matter of vaccination, and he had engaged somebody else to assist him; but neither one of these men knew—at least, I spoke to one of them—that this particular order had been issued. I conveyed the first intimation of it to the man to whom I spoke, telling him I had seen it in the papers, and asking him whether it superceded any previous orders which he had received or not. He said he had received no information or instructions, he simply knew that Dr. Smith had been asked to see to the vaccination. Then I went back to the Reid Newfoundland Co. people and asked them if they had seen this order. They said no; that as far as they were concerned, they were acting upon orders received from the Head Office, and they would not recognize any other. Now, the difference between the Reid Nfld. Co. officials and the authorities appointed by the Government is this: The Reid Co. will accept anybody who will produce a vaccination certificate, or show the marks, and there is no time limit as regards the vaccination certificate, or show the marks, and there is no time limit as regards the vaccination; and they will not receive anybody from anywhere unless he has a certificate or can show the marks; and they will accept a certificate from anybody at all purporting to be a doctor, whether

he is a local doctor or not. If a man produces a certificate signed, for instance, by a doctor at Halifax, they will accept that certificate.

In fact, we have no authority of any kind whatever, even if it were possible to get it; and the present regulations seek to apply the order to persons residing in the Province of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the reason they are confined to these provinces is that they have found that small pox is epidemic about these places. I want to say that it is also epidemic in the Province of Quebec. As you know, the boundaries of these Provinces touch one another, and particularly with the working class there is constant inter-communication. It is, I think, safe to say that small pox is almost continuously epidemic in the Province of Quebec, and we can be absolutely certain that if there is small pox in the Province of Nova Scotia there is also small pox in the Province of Quebec. Now what do you mean by the expression "resident" in the province named. Take my own case, for instance, I came down from Ontario, but legally I was not resident there. A man who leaves his wife and child in Newfoundland and goes to work say in Halifax is not resident in Nova Scotia. The act which prevents residents of Canada from leaving the Dominion would not apply to him in law. He is not resident, because he is there merely as a workman. The result is that so far as the legal effect of the regulation is concerned they are absolutely nugatory, and if it were not for the officials of the Reid Nfld. Co. they would be merely waste paper. Another point about this order is the attempt to enforce a quarantine of 14 days. It is intolerable to think that a man coming down from Canada on business is delayed 14 days in order

to satisfy a regulation which has no medical authority. It amounts simply to an embarrassment on trade and business with this country as far as these people are concerned. I say it would be intolerable to think of being kept at North Sydney for 14 days to carry out the letter of a regulation for which there is no legal or medical sanction. Then again, what do you mean by "vaccination." A man is not vaccinated merely because an instrument containing vaccine is stuck in his arm. If the operation is performed but the vaccine does not take he has to wait until there is a reaction; and in some cases there is no re-action at all. Consequently, the mere fact of his receiving this attention is no proof that he has been vaccinated. When I was coming down I said to the doctors—and mind you they were your own doctors—“Why is a period of seven years prescribed; do you know of any medical reason why a man who has not been vaccinated for 7 years should have to undergo vaccination?” And they both said “No.” Both these doctors had great experience of small pox, and I asked them if they ever knew of a man who was effectively vaccinated taking small pox and they said no. That I take it would be the opinion of the majority of medical men. When a man has been effectively vaccinated there is no necessity for treating him again. Mind you there are exceptions. I have heard of a woman who had had small pox. In fact, her face was so badly pitted that she needed no certificate of vaccination from the doctors on the supposition that a person who has had smallpox never contracts the disease again. Consequently, she passed two boards of health on her way up to Canada, shortly after she sickened and died from small pox.

That was an exceptional case, of course, and merely shows that we cannot be certain that even authoritative opinions widely recognized will be verified in every instance.

There is another feature that I wish to draw your attention to and that is the positive danger that may result from a hurried vaccination of a large number of people. The other day I heard of a large crowd of people who were crowded down at the sheds in North Sydney waiting to go on board the boat to cross to Newfoundland. Some of these people were quite old. The doctors proceeded to vaccinate the whole crowd, and on account of the large number and the short time they had to perform the work the vaccination had to be done under more or less improper conditions. There was no chance to properly sterilize the instruments or to guarantee that they were done under the proper antiseptic methods. One doctor said to me: "If you came to me and asked me to vaccinate you I would take you into my office would sterilize the instrument, carefully prepare your arm, and after I had inserted the vaccine would take care that you allowed it at least 15 minutes to sink in." Now just consider the difference between these two cases. That is to say, what is done in the ordinary case and what is done under these harassing conditions as I have pointed out. It is easy to see what a danger there is in performing a treatment of this sort without proper precaution. It is not a fancy picture that I have painted. I have the doctor's assertions that vaccination done under these circumstances was extremely dangerous to human life. Vaccination performed under proper conditions is not at all injurious but under improper conditions it is highly dangerous.

This state of affairs is discreditable

from the top to the bottom. I would suggest that if you have no other regulation but this, to appoint by name two doctors of N. Sydney who would not allow anybody to come to Newfoundland unless they be satisfied that he or she has been effectively vaccinated. The doctors will be satisfied from looking at the arm of the person and receiving a proped certificate from a recognized authority that effective vaccination has been performed. You will then not require to enforce a detention of 14 days because once a man is effectively vaccinated the vaccination is operative as far as small pox is concerned the day after it has taken place and there is no need to wait 14 days to be convinced of a reaction. I suggest to the Colonial Secretary that if the R. N. Co. agents let people pass upon the authority of the doctors in Sydney that the public health interests will be safeguarded. Let the regulations simply provide that nobody shall come here unless he can show that he has satisfied the doctors that he has been effectively vaccinated. I asked the doctors how they could be satisfied and they told me what I have already stated. I think you will agree with me from what I have said it is apparent there is need for an alteration in the regulations. The present regulations as I have said are ineffective from a legal point of view and could not be carried out except for the co-operation of the R. N. Co. agents. If it were not for these officials the residents of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick could come here scot free. I fancy if it had been drafted under the supervision of a lawyer that that point would not have been overlooked.

HON. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. Chairman, I am very much obliged for the observations of

the Honourable member who has just sat down. With his practical experience of conditions in the Dominion of Canada, his remarks deserve sympathetic consideration and attention. The regulations he speaks about like others, have been made in the interests of the general public, and possibly experience may show the necessity for some amendment. I may say, they were made at the instance of the Public Health Officer, who after giving the matter the most serious consideration, and in view of the fact that the Maritime Provinces were a hot bed of smallpox, decided that some such regulations should be enforced. In regard to the period of fourteen days prescribed after vaccination, I may say that a case has been known where smallpox developed within fourteen days after the patient had been vaccinated. I am delighted to have these suggestions from the hon. member, and I will be glad to consider them, and carry out the amendments he suggests, if it is found they will meet the situation. With regard to the appointment of doctors at Sydney, we as a Government have nothing to do with that as far as I know at the present time.

MR. MORINE—Excuse me, if I interrupt. The instructions came from Newfoundland. The doctors attend to Newfoundlanders or people going to Newfoundland, and I know they expect to be paid by Newfoundland. They spoke to me about it and asked me to find out how and in what way they were going to be paid. A very simple solution would be that two doctors be named there, and if they are satisfied and give certificates the passengers should be allowed to proceed.

HON. PRIME MINISTER.—It is quite news to me that any doctors in Sydney have been doing work on be-

half of the Newfoundland Government. If the matter is enquired into I think it will be found that no such authority has ever been given by the Newfoundland Government or any official of the Newfoundland Government to doctors in Sydney to vaccinate Newfoundlanders. I have never seen any such authority. The report should be enquired into. I know, however, that no order has been given from anyone in Newfoundland to the doctors in Sydney to vaccinate anyone. The order that has been published is merely to the effect that no person who cannot show vaccination marks or who is not certified to be free from any chance of smallpox shall be allowed to proceed by the Reid boats to Newfoundland. Now I have not seen the order, but the Public Health Officer has spoken to me on the matter and I am really relating information given by him to me. The order is intended to apply to all parties proceeding by way of Sydney to Port aux Basques. The question whether a person is a resident or not is, of course, absurd. It is merely a question whether he is a dangerous person to come into the country. Now the Medical Officer tells me that persons who have been vaccinated in Sydney have been allowed to proceed immediately on the Reid boats to Channel with the danger of our having to hold them at Channel, where we would have to take charge of them if they were without accommodation. In order to obviate that danger the order was amended that vaccination ought to be made at least fourteen days before they were taken on the boat. At all events the discussion raised by the honourable member for Bonavista has brought the whole condition of affairs up for consideration, and it can be enquired into.

MR. MORINE—I shall be glad to

give any help to anyone who may wish to consult me in this matter, as have had practical experience of the conditions.

MR. CURRIE—Under the act passed last year we should have some reports from the Controller's Department. We have not yet got these reports. I think we should have them before we pass allowance for his department. Now some of them seem extraordinarily high. For instance the Public Works Department only has \$400 for postage and telegrams. The Controller has \$1000. Again the Controller has \$1500 for printing and stationery. The Colonial Secretary's Department, which does an enormous amount of printing in the way of advertising, etc., only has \$2400. Then what is this vote for \$300 for incidentals supposed to cover. I would suggest that the Minister allow these votes stand over till we have last year's reports.

MR. CURRIE—Can the Prime Minister give us any information with respect to the coal situation.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I have nothing in the way of actual facts. I am sorry that the Minister of Shipping, who is in close touch with the question, is not in the House at the moment. I believe that the situation is very serious. The loss of the "Louisburg" creates a very difficult situation. I know it was the intention to issue further regulations limiting the amount of coal to a quarter of a ton. Through negotiations we were enabled to obtain a cargo of two thousand tons, but that has now been lost, which materially adds to the difficulty of the situation. The Minister is now present and he will probably make a statement as to the position of affairs.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—The situation is very ser-

ious. The "Louisburg" that was coming here with a cargo of 2,050 tons was lost at Cape English in St Mary's Bay. The Dominion Coal Company is endeavouring to give us all the supplies that are possible, but the Scotia people do not seem inclined to do anything. Between now and Thursday morning there are four steamers leaving Sydney or Louisburg and I do not know how much coal we will get; but by the end of the week I hope to have 1600 tons in. The great difficulty is tonnage. I do not think we will get any more steamers from the Dominion Company because of the loss of the Louisburg. The only solution that suggests itself is to use the sealing steamers. We hope in that way to remedy the situation. However, if all the sealing steamers were used it would not be sufficient tonnage to meet the situation. If the Scotia Co. refuses to give us coal, which at present seems to be their intention it will be very awkward, but I feel perfectly certain that the Dominion people will do their best.

We sent a cable Saturday and gave them our requirements, and we should get a reply tomorrow. I should be glad if some honourable member would ask for the messages that have passed in the past ten days to be cabled. That would give some idea of the situation.

We have also cabled over to the other side asking if they could give us a couple of steamers coming this way to bring out English coal; but personally I do not expect any result from that; because there is a very great shortage in coal mined on the other side. I hope to be in a position before the House closes to have some definite information as to what the Dominion and Scotia Companies intend to do. If they do not give us the

necessary supplies we shall have to ask the Government to use such pressure as they can bring to bear to get these supplies.

MR. CURRIE—Have the Scotia people given you an answer?

HON. MINISTER OF SHIPPING.—There is a cable of three hundred words, but it does not give much information, beyond saying that owing to the closing of the Acadia Mine they have only sufficient for their own needs. We only have a thousand tons on hand today and we hope to have about another two thousand by the end of the week. Now as regards the using of the sealing steamers the trouble is that they are so small; and the freight on the coal is very high. We have had a statement from the owners and have gone into it very fully and I am convinced that they cannot freight coal less than six dollars a ton. That brings it up to sixteen dollars.

These boats consume so much coal themselves that it is almost impossible for them to bring any here.

MR. CURRIE—There are, I understand, four boats which come to Bell Island, and come down empty. Can no arrangements be made so that they can bring coal?

HON. MINISTER OF SHIPPING.—These boats carry about five thousand tons of ore, and they cost a lot each day. It would be impracticable to have them come in here with coal, on account of the loss of time. All this has been gone into, and we have done everything we could. You have no idea as to how desperate the position is regarding shipping. The Scotia Company is asking for some of the sealing steamers, Halifax is asking for the Diana, the Seal is likely to be taken from us.

MR. CURRIE—Perhaps the Minister will table the messages in connection with this matter.

HON. MINISTER OF SHIPPING.

I shall be glad to do so tomorrow.

MR. MORINE—When I was at Sydney I discovered practically what the Minister has said to be the case. The Nova Scotia Co. is now controlled by American interests, and they want to increase the manufacturing production and do not, therefore, want to send away any of their coal. The D. I. S. Co. has notified the brokers around Sydney that they are prepared to supply the usual amount of coal, but there is a danger of their putting an embargo on the export of coal. The Nova Scotia Company refuses to supply any. Now, Sir, both of these companies are dependent on Newfoundland and they have no right to discriminate between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia; and I believe the Government is in a position to force them to supply enough for domestic purposes here. Our command of the ore and the labor, as well as the equities of the situation, enable the Government to put up a position, which they will understand, that while an increased production may be important for them, it is more important for this country to have coal, and it is a question of treating this country right. I am satisfied that the Government will bring pressure to bear on these gentlemen.

HON. MINISTER OF SHIPPING.—

I may say in reply to the honourable gentleman that, with the consent of the Government, I practically sent the Nova Scotia Company an ultimatum this morning.

Department of Justice.

MR. CURRIE—I understand that the allowance for food and fuel for the outport jails is about 60c. a day per prisoner. Under present conditions, this amount is insufficient, and I think it is wrong to expect the

poorly paid policemen to pay anything out of his own pocket to keep the prisoners in jail. I should be glad if the Government would look into the matter.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—I have not been Minister of Justice for a very long period of time, but nevertheless I think it peculiar that if this hardship exists, it has never been drawn to my attention, and I have never heard anything of it.

MR. CURRIE—In connection with the vote for the House of Assembly, I wish to point out that the amount spent is always three or four times as much as the amount voted. The amount extra has to come out of contingencies or some other vote, and I think we should get somewhat nearer the proper vote. Where does the extra money come from?

MR. CURRIE—While we are on this matter, I would like to know if the report of the Internal Economy Commission has yet been tabled?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—It will be tabled tomorrow.

Public Charities.

MR. CURRIE—I should like to ask if the Government is contemplating any addition to the General Hospital?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Not that I know of.

MR. CURRIE—Last year a Bill went through this House providing that fees should be paid to the hospital by those who could afford to do so, but no fees have since been paid. There are always a number of people here awaiting admission to the hospital, and boarding at the expense of the Government, and this state of affairs would be remedied to some extent if the Government would compel those who can to pay something towards the upkeep of the hospital. This is unfair to the Institution, un-

fair to the people waiting to get in, and unfair to those who have the responsibility of looking after them, which duty usually falls on the shoulders of the member for the district. I cannot see any reason why the matter should not be attended to.

There are many who go into the hospital specially to receive electrical treatment, from a very expensive apparatus which is kept there, and under the rules of the Hospital are unable to give anything in return for the treatment they receive. Only recently I have been acquainted with several cases of this sort, and at this present time there is a gentleman there who is very anxious to pay something for the attention which he receives. I certainly think that the question of payment is one which ought to be taken up immediately as it is a matter of more than ordinary importance.

MR. WALSH—While this matter is under discussion there are one or two matters that I would like to bring before the attention of this House. There is the question of the poor on their way to and from hospital; for instance. Considerable trouble and annoyance is caused by the fact that the allowance made by the Department of Public Charities is totally inadequate to defray the expenses of the people coming and going to the Hospital. During my residence in Placentia I have become aware of several cases where serious inconvenience arises out of this matter. People who had just been under operation and who were forced to remain unexpectedly longer in St. John's than they had anticipated owing to the delay of the Coastal Boat, were very much inconvenienced by the smallness of the sum allowed them by the Relieving Officer, who did not have authority either to in-

crease the amount or assume the responsibility of taking them to boarding houses. The sum of seventy-five cents which is the amount allocated by the Department of Public Charities to each patient per diem might have been sufficient some eight or ten years ago when the cost of living was considerably less, but at this present time the cost of food is so high that the amount is totally inadequate.

There is one other matter to which I would like to refer while this matter is receiving the attention of the House. That is the question of wrecked seamen. I think that we owe a debt to these men that go down to the sea in ships. Their vocation entitles them to more consideration than they now receive at the hands of the Government. When these unfortunate seamen are wrecked, the people who take them in afford them every kindness and nothing that they can do seems too much. Surely they ought to receive adequate remuneration for the trouble they go to. I think it would be a matter of little difficulty to make provision for these cases and ascertain an amount that would be reasonable to defray the expenses of these people. They do not expect to receive luxuries. But a dollar a day now will hardly suffice to feed a man on bread and butter and tea at the rate food is today.

I have availed myself of this opportunity of presenting these matters before the committee in the hope that the Government may see its way clear to attend to them and that they may be eliminated in future.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. — In reference to the matter raised by my hon. friend the member for Burin as to outport jails, I would like to say that I have just been making inquiries thereupon and learn that it is a matter appertaining to the Board of

Works and not the Department of Justice. The allowance in question varies from twenty-five to thirty-four cents a day. At the present time it ranges from seventy-five cents to a dollar, as it was increased some time ago. At least this is the impression I received over the telephone.

MR. CURRIE—I thought that it was sixty cents. But with regard to the question of the hospital, I may say that the matter is a pressing one, as the hospital is a big expense on the taxpayer. Persons desirous of paying for their treatment should be permitted to do so.

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 Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Fire Patrol Act, Cap. 16, 1 George V. (1911.)"

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 with some amendment.

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

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals."

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 of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act for the more effective Transfer of Certain Properties to the Congregational Home Missionary Society of Newfoundland" 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 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 and Military Purposes" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

The remaining orders of the day were deferred.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 7th, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, May 7th, 1918.

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

..MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from Hant's Hr., in the District of Trinity, asking for a sum of money to repair a road through farm land; the petition is very largely signed, there being about sixty or seventy names to it.

I beg to present another petition from the people of Winterton, asking for a sum of money to repair the roads there.

Also a petition from the people of Whitbourne, regarding the cutting of

timber there, and the granting of a 3-mile limit. Whitbourne is an inland place, and the people there are getting their livelihood by means of mills and farms, but it seems that some people from Conception Bay and parts of Trinity Bays are coming in and cutting the timber around Whitbourne, and by that means destroying their forests, and as these people are entirely depending upon them for their livelihood I trust the Government will give this matter their serious consideration.

Also a petition from the inhabitants of Hant's Harbor asking for a bait depot. This would be a great benefit to the people of the place, to the fishery and the country at large. I give these petitions my hearty support, and trust the Government will see its way clear to granting them.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petitions presented by my hon. friend Mr. Targett.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Petley, Aspen and Middle Lance Cove asking that the sum of \$150 be granted for the purpose of constructing a road and wharf. I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant this request, and I would ask that the matter be referred to the department to which it relates.

M R. TARGETT—I beg to support this petition.

MR. ABBOTT—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Bayley's Cove in the District of Bonavista asking for the sum of fifty dollars, to build a road through agricultural property. The petition is largely signed.

Also a petition from the inhabitants of Newman's Cove asking that the sum of \$80 be granted for the build-

ing of a landing place in that locality. I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant the request of the petitioners, and I would ask that the petition be received and referred to the department to which it relates.

Petitions were presented by Mr Targett from Whitbourne re Timber Limits, Mr. Targett from Winterton re Bait Depot, Mr. Stone from Hatchet Cove re Road, Mr. Abbott from Bayley's Cove re Landing Place.

Hon. the Prime Minister presented the Report of the Commission of Internal Economy.

Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary presented the Report of the Postmaster General and the Report of the Newfoundland Agricultural Board.

Mr. Currie asked the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs to lay upon the table of the House a detailed statement of the expenditure of \$351,829.08 on Home Defence during the year 1917-1918.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain Resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Public Debt and Management..	\$ 12,000.00
Pensions	5,421.36
Administration of Justice.	255,786.00
Education	5,300.00
Public Charities.	599,171.80

The said resolutions being read a second time, it was moved that the House concur with the committee therein and the said Resolutions were agreed to.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the 'Fire Patrol Act,' Cap. 16, 1 George V. (1911)," 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. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CURRIE—I would like to point out the fact that not a single report from any department has as yet been tabled.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—Quite a lot have been tabled this afternoon.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—The Report of the Marine and Fisheries Department has been tabled long ago.

MR. CURRIE—It is hardly fair to expect us to go through these today. I think these matters ought to stand over for a day or so. A short time ago I asked a question with regard to the reasons for dismissing on very short notice a lighthouse keeper at Bonavista. White is the name of the man. He has been twenty-three years in the public service and he was dismissed on the 31st of March last with only six days' notice, no reason being given for his dismissal. Surely a man so long in the service of the public is entitled to better treatment than being dismissed in the middle of winter. He must have been efficient to have held his position for so long. As it was, he had no chance to look about him for a place on so short notice.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Your information is misleading.

MR. CURRIE—Anyway, a man 23 or 24 years in the public service is entitled to some consideration unless

he has committed some extraordinary crime. I say he is entitled to some recognition or some pension from the Government. I asked before if a pension had been provided for this lightkeeper. There was no reply and apparently the Government do not intend to give any reply. It is a most extraordinary situation, and I think the House is entitled to some explanation of the circumstances. So far as

can gather several Government officials were dismissed with only five days' notice. These men, namely, U. Abbott, F. White, John Miffen and John Abbott, Lighthouse and Fog Alarm Keepers, had to clear out at 1.30 on Monday morning, March 31st, and new officials took charge. They were, according to the statement I have in my hand, dismissed without reason and not given any opportunity to defend themselves in any way. This is not the sort of treatment they might have expected or what is called the fishermen's rights.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—The trouble is, you have only one side of the question. An explanation is being prepared.

MR. CURRIE—We have waited long enough for the answer, and there is no reason why we cannot get it now.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I am not going to state my reason in the House now. You were told that the information was being prepared. Isn't that satisfactory?

MR. CURRIE—It is like Christmas; it's coming.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—If you live you will see Christmas when it comes. You ought to wait and see.

MR. CURRIE—I think it is a case of wait and see all the time. This is the sort of thing that is being at-

tempted all over the country and the control of the Civil Service or parts of it passes entirely out of the hands of the Government. Recently the F. P. U. Councils at Burin called for tenders for the position of Lighthouse Keeper there, and the same thing was done at Wesleyville.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—The F. P. U. had nothing to do with it.

MR. CURRIE—I think it is contrary to all sense of right that the Government should be controlled by any organization; the principle is wrong and besides it is taking affairs out of the hands of the elected representatives of the people. These people whom I have referred to held their positions long enough, irrespective of the service they performed, not to be put on the street in the middle of a winter's night without any opportunity or given any chance of defending themselves. I think the House is entitled to an explanation this afternoon.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—We will allow the vote to stand.

MR. MORINE—Seeing that this matter concerns the people that I represented for a number of years, and it is the first time I have heard of it, I would like to hear what the particulars are. I should like to hear from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries about it before the vote goes through.

MR. CURRIE—I notice there is an extra vote of \$1400 for Burin roads. Is that a new vote?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—It was in the additional estimates last year.

MR. CURRIE—I notice also that the vote for Hr. Grace, Southside, is increased from \$108 to \$180.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—That was also down in the additional estimates last year.

MR. CURRIE—Contingencies are down for \$10,000. Are you going to keep it at the same amount?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Yes.

MR. CURRIE—What are the amounts paid in pensions to returned Sailors and Soldiers?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—That is not in my department. It is under the Pensions and Disabilities Board. There is \$20,000 left to date. I think \$16,000 is sufficient to cover; if not we can have an extra vote in supplemental supply. Of course the pensions will be on the increase.

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 the Minister of Fisheries, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Extend and Amend the Act 3 George V. (1913) Chapter 26 entitled "An Act respecting the Preservation of Beavers."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Committee of the Whole on Bill entitled "An Act to extend and amend the Act 3 Geo. V. (1913) Chapter 20, entitled "An Act Respecting the Preservation of Beavers."

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Chairman, before the Bill goes through I would like to say that I am prepared to give the Game Board credit for good intentions in this matter, but I fear that I must begin and end there. I

do not anticipate any practical good from a further extension of the present close season for Beaver. Within my experience in this House I think this is the third consecutive close season that has been sought, and if the present Act goes through and a further close season be authorized I have no doubt that at its expiration another attempt will be made to again renew it, and this must continue to go on indefinitely or all the time, effort and money that so far has been given to the preservation of beavers will have been utterly lost. Now, there is no one more desirous of seeing the beaver perpetuated than I am, because nobody who has had an opportunity of witnessing their marvellous work, of noting their wonderful mental equipment and their great reasoning and calculating power, can be other wise than an admirer of the species; but I at the same time consider that effort of this kind given to their preservation is labor lost. Travelling facilities in Newfoundland are now of such a character that every part of the country can be readily reached by the trapper, and the beavers' haunts are easily come-at-able. The fox, the wholafnd the lynx are all remarkable for the cunning and sagacity with which they evade trappers, but the unfortunate beaver is so constituted, and his work is of such a character, that he cannot possibly conceal himself. The beaver must build himself a house, and a beaver house can, in the winter season, be located at a distance of two miles or more, and once a beaver house is located, the pelts are as assuredly the property of the trapper as if they were already in his pack. The beaver, besides being an animal of marvellous traits of character, is also a harmless and defenceless one, but unfortunately his fur is so valu-

able that it is sought both by legitimate and other means, and owing to nature not having given the animal the powers of protection and defence that animals of prey possess it readily becomes the victim of anybody who one locates his habitat.

I am very desirous to see the beaver perpetuated but have no hope of attaining such end to the commercial extent that is sought by the Game Board in its present Bill. The Governments of the United States and Canada at the present time are taking steps to perpetuate a limited number of the animals that are in danger of extinction. This they do by the creation of natural parks, of greater or less extent, in suitable locations, and establishing therein a limited number of the animals that it is decided to perpetuate, and absolutely prohibiting trapping within these areas. I would suggest to the Game Board the advisability, if it be practicable, of attempting something of this sort as by so doing we will be assured that at least a limited number of beavers will be preserved, and I think it is useless to hope to go further. I regret this, but I never waste time, effort or money in attempting what is impracticable.

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 Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act for the More Effective Transfer of Certain Properties to the Congregational Home Missionary Society of Newfoundland."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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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 Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

On motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals" was referred to a Select Committee of the House, the Committee to consist of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Morine, Mr. Downey, Mr. Currie.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Weights and Measures Act, Cap. 0, 6 Geo. V. (1916)" was read a second time.

HON. ACTING COL. SECRETARY.
—I beg to move the second reading

of the Bill. The first clause of the Bill reads as follows. (Reads.) The making of barrels in this country has become so important as to make it desirable to have a standardization of hoops. At the present time hoops are sold by the bundle, which in many cases is disadvantageous to the trade. The present bill seeks to remedy matters herein and it protects the seller of the products as well as safeguards the purchaser. I beg to move a second reading of the Bill.

The Bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Soldiers' and Sailors' Wills Act, 1917," was read a second time.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—The object of this bill is merely to enable the Deputy Minister of Justice to do certain work that under the present bill is assigned to the Attorney General. Under our present departmental practice the Minister of Justice has a deputy, but the Attorney General has none. The Attorney General is the official in whom is vested authority under the present act respecting the estates of deceased soldiers to apply for Letters of Administration or of Probate, and it very often happens that delays occur in the performance of this duty because the Attorney General finds it impossible to give petitions his personal attention. To avoid the disadvantages noticeable under the present system we now propose an amendment under which the word "Attorney General" will be stricken out and the words "Minister of Justice" or Deputy Minister of Justice substituted. This will enable the deputy head to make application for the issue of letters of probate or administration to the es-

tate within the act in cases where the Minister of Justice is not in a position to do so.

The bill was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

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 Respecting Military Service" with some amendments in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion the said amendments were 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 tomorrow, Wednesday, May 8th, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—Mr. Speaker, on the motion to adjourn, I ask leave to say a few words with regard to the tonnage situation. The position is this:

The Dominion Coal Company is prepared to do all in its power to help Newfoundland out with regard to her coal supply, and the Minister of Shipping is satisfied that so far as this Company is concerned there will be no opportunity let slip by which our stocks will be as far as possible under existing conditions kept up to a moderate demand. A contract was made early in the year, under which the Dominion Co. was to supply us with 10,000 tons of coal by the first of May, but owing to unforeseen occurrences which were beyond the control of the Company, this contract has not been carried out in its entirety up to the present. Chief among the circumstances which prevented the execution of the contract were the loss of the "Batiscan," one of the Coal Company's largest carriers, a

strike at their mines which shortened the output to a serious degree, and the extended inactivity of the Coban, another of their steamers, which was laid up at the dock here for many months undergoing repairs. Therefore with the loss of the Louisburg's cargo, some 2400 tons still remain to be taken delivery of. At present the Dominion Co. are not in a position to do anything more in the way of shipping, and it now remains with us for to deal with the situation in the most expedient manner, which our permit. Ordinarily the supply required by Newfoundland for the coming year would be 95,000 tons, 65,000 of which would be wanted for consumption in the city and the balance for the outports, but unless some unlooked for event turns up we will be forced, during the summer at least, to do with as little as possible.

The proposal of chartering the steamer "Rutjenfjell," which was on dock here, to make a trip to Sydney, was submitted and was given the closest attention by me and my Secretary, Mr. Hall, with the result that on the very closest figuring it was found that a cargo of coal brought here by the "Rutjenfjell," at the figure for which she was available, could not be sold less than \$25.00 a ton. Had it not been for the loss of the "Louisburg's" 2059 tons we could have got along fairly well during the next few months with the additional small supply brought in by our local steamers, but as things appear now it would seem that for a time at least we will have to depend mainly on the latter alone for our stocks. I have been in communication with Mr. Franklin, a member of the Allied Shipping Board in New York, and the faint hope has been held out that it may be possible to get one or more

of the Lake boats, which will shortly be coming down, to take cargoes of coal at Sydney for Newfoundland, but of course too much dependence cannot be placed on this possibility. We may feel assured, however, that General Manager McDougall, of the Dominion Company, will do his very best for us as he has always done in the past, and if we can manage to get the necessary tonnage we will get the supplies.

With regard to the attitude of the Nova Scotia Coal Co., on the same question, I am glad to be in a position to inform you that as a result of my later representations to you, they have undergone a somewhat encouraging change of opinion. They have been brought to see the situation as it affects their interests as well as ours. In a message received by me this afternoon the Company announce that they are shipping a cargo of coal immediately and perhaps another by the end of the week.

The prices of coal at Sydney now are: Screened, per ton of 2000 lbs., to Nova Scotia, \$5.32, and per ton of 2240 lbs. to Newfoundland, \$5.85. With the increased cost of labour, cartage, etc., this coal cannot be sold for less than \$16.00, altho if we could get it in 2000 ton cargoes, it may be possible to sell it for \$14. However, it is not now a question of how much we are going to pay for it but rather of how we are going to get it.

With regard to the salt situation, one which in its way is no less vital to the interests of the country than the coal supply. Here again the Shipping Department, as well as the merchants, have untold difficulties to deal with. The Directors of the firms of Job Bros. & Co., Bowring Bros., Baine Johnston & Co., and Morey & Co., have been working in conjunction with the Shipping Department to se-

cure a sufficient supply of this commodity to carry on the fishing industry, and as a result of their combined efforts something like 22,500 tons have been secured, while there is another cargo of 6000 tons on the way. By the end of June another 10,000 tons will be found if possible to get that quality here. The merchants have made, and are making, every effort to get the necessary tonnage and are also trying to buy Liverpool salt. It is often the case, however, that when things look blackest there is a bright spot nearer than we imagine and we must only hope that such will prove to be true in the present case.

With regard to our general freight supply I speak of the complaints made from time to time by the 'Herald' about automobiles being brought in by steamers chartered to carry foodstuffs. This matter has been enquired into and it was found that when steamers are loading freight at New York the first articles on hand are taken when shipments of provisions and other important stuff are not ready to go on board, as the ship cannot be kept waiting for freight that is not at hand. So far our local steamers have succeeded in keeping the Halifax terminus clear but what will happen when these ships are devoted exclusively to the coal trade is difficult to predict. Charlottetown is now asking for a steamer to take a cargo of produce down here, and it is understood that there are at least three cargoes of freight there awaiting shipment.

The steamer now on the New York route is filling the breach in that direction very satisfactorily, and I am in communication with the Allied Shipping Committee at New York with a view to retaining the services of this steamer for 6 or 12 months. There is reason to believe that this hope

may be realized and in the event of the successful outcome of the negotiations another means will be in sight whereby one or two cargoes may be added to our coal supply.

I feel that I have given a fair resume of the activities of the department of which I am head and also that I have given the House a good idea of where we stood in the world of shipping. In all the work which I have undertaken in connection with the country's tonnage problem I have been backed by the able support of Mr. Hall whose valuable services were at all times available, on Sundays, if necessary, as well as on week days, and I feel that the success which has attended the work of the Department thus far is in no small measure due to Mr. Hall's practical efforts.

There has been some criticism of my work in connection with the matter of tonnage since I have been identified with it as there will doubtless be in the future, but being secure in the knowledge that we and our collaborators have done all that it is possible to do for the country's benefit in this crisis, such criticisms are not likely to worry us much and if any other gentleman feels that he can carry out the duties of the office with greater advantage to the Dominion, he is welcome to the position as far as I am concerned. What is needed just now, however, if the Government and those entrusted with the difficult task of keeping Newfoundland immune from the hardships which must inevitably follow as a result of a shortage of tonnage, is the strong moral support of the country at large and I believe that our people are sufficiently imbued with a sense of the seriousness of the situation to readily lend to the efforts of those in authority their heavy support.

MR. CURRIE—I may say that I think the Opposition recognizes the seriousness of the situation, and I think the Minister will find that there will not be anything done to hinder him in his work. I believe he is doing all he can to alleviate the situation. I should like to ask him what is the position of schooners with regard to this coal question.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—The position regarding schooners is that they have to wait while the bigger vessels such as transports are being loaded. They have the right over the sailing vessels of course, but we are endeavouring to assist these vessels to get some coal in order to keep the outports supplied.

MR. CURRIE—It was on account of the outports that I asked about this. They are entirely dependent on these schooners for their supply of coal, but of course the necessity for them is not so great as it is in town, as they can get fuel from the woods. However, I think it would be a great relief if the Minister could make public the facts of the situation and what is being done in connection therewith. The public is very much worried, and I think it would be well if he could dictate an official explanation to the press.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—It would be impossible for me to do this. I may say that I have two messages down on my desk now which I could not publish no matter what pressure might be brought to bear, and which I could not produce in this House, as I would be giving away information from a personal friend of mine which it is very essential for me to know as Minister of Shipping, but which might complicate somebody who is trying to do Newfoundland a good turn. I should be

glad to let you have a look at the information I have here, but I cannot make it public. Mr. Hall, who is a very able official, and who has assisted me considerably in this work, was with me a couple of Sundays ago, and he was suggesting that if the thing keeps on as it is now, we will soon have to keep the office of the Minister of Shipping open on Sundays.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, May 8th, 1918.

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

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I beg to present a petition from the residents of Petley and nearby places, asking that a sum of money be granted to complete a road to the waterside, and also asking for the sum of \$150, to construct a wharf at Petley. Petley is a place which is frequented by the residents of all the nearby settlements. I hope the Government will see its way clear to grant this petition, which is largely signed. I would ask that it be received and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker, I beg to support this petition.

MR. GRIMES—I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Port de Grave in relation to the question of regulating the price of Labrador fish. I have presented similar petitions before. I trust this petition will be received and passed on to the proper department.

Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary tabled statement of estimated expenditure of Municipal Council, 1918.

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An

Act to amend Chapter 15 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series), entitled "Of the Encouragement of Sheep Farming."

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain Resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Lighthouses and Block-	
houses..	\$155,811.78
Agriculture and Mines ..	18,100.00
Roads, Bridges and Ferries	185,316.00
Customs..	295,005.27
Contingencies	10,000.00
Pensions, Soldiers and	
Sailors	60,000.00

The said Resolutions being read a second time, it was moved that the House concur with the Committee therein and the said Resolutions were agreed t o.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the Bill entitled "An Act to Extend and Amend the Act 3 George V. (1913), Chapter 26, entitled "An Act respecting the Preservation of Beavers," 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 Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act for the more effective Transfer of certain Properties to the Congregational Home Missionary Society of 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 the Acting Minister of Militia, the Bill entitled "An Act to Authorize the

Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval and Military 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 Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. CURRIE—Is the Minister of Marine and Fisheries ready to answer that question about the Bonavista light-keepers?

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Chairman, in reply to the honourable member, I may say that the cause of dismissal was on account of failure to report men who were drifting by on the ice, in which case one or two men lost their lives. There were also other charges. If there is anything to show that the man was unfairly dealt with I am prepared to consider it.

MR. CURRIE—Can the Minister tell me when that failure to report these men occurred.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Last year. It was reported to me this year.

MR. CURRIE—It seems an extraordinary situation, Mr. Chairman. This occurred the winter before last and after a period of twelve or fifteen months the Minister takes action and dismisses the holders of these positions without making any enquiry; because as far as I am concerned I am informed they were dismissed without any enquiry, and up to the present time they do not know why they were dismissed.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—It is not the first time Civil Servants have been dismissed without notice.

MR. CURRIE—No, it is not the first time; but in a matter like this where a specific charge is made against them they are generally informed of it and why they are dismissed. In this case I consider they have been most unfairly dealt with. Mr. White has been twenty-three years in the lighthouse as keeper and seven years as assistant, and was a most capable official.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—As far as you know.

MR. CURRIE—Yes, as far as I know. Now this charge has been trumped up against him and he is dismissed without any investigation.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—You only know one-half the story.

MR. CURRIE—I have been trying to get the other half from the Minister but he has refused to speak. If I have the wrong side of the story I am ready to be corrected.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I think that the explanation I have given ought to be satisfactory. I stated that if a wrong has been done I am prepared to consider the matter.

MR. CURRIE—It seems extraordinary that these men were dismissed for failure to report men drifting along the ice fifteen months ago. Personally I am not satisfied with the Minister's explanation at all. I know as a matter of fact that there were other reasons why these men were dismissed, and even if they were to be dismissed they were entitled to more decent treatment than being thrown on the street in the middle of a Sunday night, and compelled to walk four

miles to Bonavista. A little different treatment might have been given to men so long in the service. Now in connection with the other part of the question.

MR. MORINE—Might I ask the Minister if this charge was investigated, if any evidence was taken, and if he acted on the evidence?

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—In reply to the honourable gentleman, I may say there was no enquiry.

MR. CURRIE—The Minister does not know whether the charges were correct or not?

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I am prepared to say they are correct.

MR. CURRIE—The Minister is like myself, he has only heard one side of the story. And he does not mean to conduct any enquiry to hear the other side. Now the other part of my question is as to why the Mail Courier at King's Cove was dismissed. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary will answer that.

..HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY. — In reply to the honourable member, tenders were asked for for this service in the ordinary way.

MR. CURRIE—I understand that this man Devine was succeeded by a man by the name of Brown, although Brown's tender was higher than that offered by Devine. I have further been informed that Brown has no intention of taking up this work as he is going to the Labrador fishery, and he intends to farm his job out to somebody else. Devine has been 20 years in the public service. There is no offence charged against him. I speak open to correction. My sole reason for speaking upon this matter is that I have been asked to make enquiries concerning it in this House. Brown was a well to do man, who

had no intention of carrying out the work, but on the contrary intended to farm it out to some other man while he himself went to prosecute the Labrador fishery. If these facts as I understand them are correct then I say that the Government is not justified in making the change that it has done. I shall of course be pleased to hear whatever the Minister may have to say about the matter.

HON. M. COAKER—With regard to this matter I may say that Brown was appointed courier in 1913 by the Morris Government. He happened to be a F. P. U. man and could not be induced to change his politics, so that after the election of 1913 he was dismissed. The F. P. U. gave him back the job that had been taken away. That is all.

About the lighthouse keeper at Bonavista. A public meeting was called demanding a dismissal of that man. Resolutions were passed and brought before the members of the district who approached the Department of Fisheries and asked that this man be dismissed. The parties who called the public meeting were in every way influenced by us to allow the man to remain, but they insisted that these men should get out. One serious reason for this action was that last year while certain men were drifting on the ice out to sea these men were there and just watched them drift and made no attempt to save them. A subsequent meeting was held to have these men reinstated, but they could not get a chairman, they could get no one to second the resolutions proposed and when the votes were taken, thirty voted in favor of the resolutions and six hundred against.

MR. CURRIE—I am very glad the member has explained this matter in this manner, because it certainly

shows what is going on throughout the country. This action simply shows that as the F. P. U. at Bonavista demanded the dismissal, and dismissed they were, probably on a trumped-up charge. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries does not know whether it is true or not. Here we have the case of a man that has been a lifetime in the service. White was twenty-three years as a lighthouse keeper and seven years assistant, making a total of thirty years in all. His father was there before him. It is a case where the jealousy of the people has received Government sanction.

HON. MR. COAKER—I think that the people were perfectly right. The people have the right and they can do as they like.

MR. CURRIE—That is the sort of doctrine that you have been preaching for the past nine years, upsetting the whole system of order throughout the country.

HON. MR. COAKER—It does not appear so.

MR. CURRIE—Well, I think it is so. When leading men of the community such as the Rev. Mr. Bayly and Dr. Forbes were not allowed to speak at a public meeting I think we have ample proof.

As the Governor said, why do we send money to foreign missions when we have ample need of them in our own country. This is nothing more or less than a Bolsheviki method of controlling and ruling everything. Not to allow liberty of speech to anybody is a principle that I, as long as I have a seat in this Assembly will strongly protest against.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Why did you not protest when you were a member of the Government?

MR. CURRIE—Because nothing like

this ever occurred. I do not know how to play fair when the opinions of my opponent are as varying as a weathercock. I certainly think that this case of the lighthouse keeper in Bonavista is the most outrageous case that I have ever heard of and if this is the manner in which we are going to be governed I think the best thing that we can do is to pass the country over to the F.P.U. and be done with it.

HON. MR. COAKER—That is what will happen. The country was never so well off as it would be under the F.P.U.

MR. CURRIE—I never expect to see it under the F.P.U., nor do you.

HON. MR. COAKER—I will say that the F. P. U. is running the country today.

MR. CURRIE—What man then is certain of his position. Any day for a trumped up reason he may be dismissed. And the hon. member himself is not too sure of his position or he would have had an election.

HON. MR. COAKER—I did want an election. Who would want an election now?

MR. MORINE—I would like to say a few words upon the matter now under discussion. I know nothing of the facts, save what has been revealed in this House this afternoon, and consequently I am not speaking from any personal interest in the matter. But I feel that I must, so long as I retain my place in this House, voice my protest against the principle which has been followed in this case. Or, I might say, the lack of principle. I must disagree with the statement that has been made to the effect that the "F. P. U." is running matters, and is in a large measure responsible for this matter, because I am confident that the F. P. U., neither as a society nor through its executive committee, would commit itself coolly and under-

standingly, to so gross and flagrant and cruel a piece of injustice and wrongdoing as this. Birds come home to nest, and the F. P. U. would never place itself in the position of having matters of this kind said against it. In the interest of its members, as of the public service, appointment and dismissal of civil servants must be conducted on the eternal principles of justice. I am satisfied that the F. P. U. never has and never would sanction such a gross violation of right as has actually taken place in this case. The member for Twillingate (Hon. Mr. Coaker) was not in the room when the Minister of Marine (Mr. Stone) gave the reason for the dismissals, and it does not appear that there ever was a single attempt to make an investigation into the real circumstances of the case.

The hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Coaker) told us that the people who asked for the dismissals were asked to reconsider the matter, but that they insisted on dismissal, thereby proving that his own judgment was properly against such a course of action, and that the matter was done after his resistance, but with his consent, without investigation into the facts. The Governor in Council consented to the demands of a public meeting. A grosser outrage against constitutional government, a grosser outrage against not only the form but the principles of Government, a grosser outrage against the rights of man, one can hardly imagine. Such things spring from conditions that bring national destruction in their train, to every man and every society in the country. Surely the organization of which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Coaker) is a leader would be the last to give its approval to such disorganized government. In my experience of the F. P. U. I have always found it

ready to avail itself of every opportunity that offered to support liberty and I believe it an institution that properly guided, will make for the better Government of the country and the greater happiness of the people. I think it will uplift the administration of affairs, that it will elevate and promote public opinion throughout the country. It is capable of being made the best thing that has ever been started in the country.

Therefore I say that that organization would be the last if it had the facts before it, to submit to mob rule. I hoped that there would have been some satisfying explanation, some defence by those responsible for these dismissals. Surely these dismissed men had a right to trial before execution. Surely they had the right to be heard in their own defence. Surely they have the right to demand of this Government and of this country, that their rights to self defence be maintained at any cost. We would not treat a dog in this way. The F. P. U. would not treat its meanest member in this fashion. In the name of our common country and for our own self respect and in our own interests, let us put a stop to such an improper way of dealing with such subjects. It is no answer that somebody did wrong before. It is no answer to say, as has been said here this afternoon, that at some time in the past a man has been improperly dismissed in the same way. You cannot excuse one wrong by pleading another. Here is a clear case where a right has been violated, and we are expecting that the Government will declare its readiness to uphold that right and remedy matters consequent upon its violation. We have to confine our attention to the facts of this case; we have not to deal with what has been done on other occasions. The men

who asked for these dismissals may have been right; an investigation might have proved that they were; but the complaint in this case is that no investigation was made. If the charges had been proven and a dismissal followed, then you would have had the support of all right-thinking people; but now it is in the unfortunate position of having admitted that it followed a course which it regretted and knew was wrong, and with the disapproval of the members of the Government who knew most about it. We would, all of us, be unworthy of our seats in this House if we allowed these things to pass by without the strongest protest and opposition that we can possibly make. As for me, I would rather cease this instant to be a member for the District of Bonavista than to think that I was kept there by men who would desire to have an act of this sort perpetrated. There is something wrong somewhere. The good people of Bonavista, when I was intimate with them, were never men who would allow anything of this sort to be done; and I cannot think they have changed. I would be prepared tomorrow to go down before the British spirited and Christian people of my district and defend the protest I have made against conduct of this kind.

HON. MR. COAKER—Mr. Chairman The most surprising thing about the remarks just made by the hon. member is that he gets up and declares this was the result of mob rule, without knowing anything about it. He was informed by me that this was the result of a public meeting held at Bonavista. Do you mean to say that a public meeting with an almost unanimous voice (19 out of 20 people) would have upheld the action of the Department of Marine and Fisheries if it was wrong? Why should he stig-

matize this proceeding as mob rule, when he knows that it was the result of the largest public meeting held in Bonavista for some time. Mr. Currie says that Dr. Forbes and the clergyman took the platform and proposed resolutions against the dismissal, but remember that 19 out of 20 people condemned them for doing so. There is no doubt that there was good and justifiable reason for the people's action, or else the good and earnest people of that place would not stand for it. When you find the people taking action and holding a public meeting and supporting a proposal by a four-fifths vote, you must admit that there must be substantial grounds for their proposal.

MR. CURRIE—Why did you not do it the year before?

HON. MR. COAKER—What good would action have done the year before. It would have been ineffective. The friction about these positions goes back as far as 1913; but it was not possible to take action until now. Then the hon. gentleman says that no doubt I told the people to act as they did; that I told them not to allow the chairman to be elected. Does he really mean it? Do you mean that you have the presumption to stand up and declare that I did these things? I cannot understand the conscience of any man who would come here and say that a man occupying the position I did would tell these people to do wrong, as for instance, insult a clergyman. I did not know they had held a public meeting. I did not know they were going to call one. I did not know the slightest thing about it. For ten years I have labored incessantly for the good of the fishermen and the country generally; and since I have undertaken to become a member of the Government my work has been increased 100 per

cent. I have had continuous worry and trouble and trials from morning to night. For what? What do I get out of it? What is my recompense? Am I very rich? I have a position in the Executive Council, but anybody can have it tomorrow if the people so decide. As soon as I get clear of this session, I am going to send a circular around the District of Twillingate submitting my views on Conscription and my reasons for supporting it; and I shall tell the people if they are not satisfied with what I have done, that they can adopt the resolution we passed in 1913 and petition for my removal; and I shall appreciate their action in asking for my withdrawal. This is what all members of our Union agreed to in 1913, and we are ready for recall whenever our constituents demand it. I have seen enough of public life to realize that the man who goes into it is devoid of common sense. I challenge anyone to show that in any shape or form I have made a single cent since I entered politics. I have had to bear the burdens and carry the responsibilities, and my recompense is that some people stand up and accuse me of doing something that only a scoundrel would be guilty of.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Chairman, nobody thinks that the hon. gentleman is devoid of common sense. But at least he has attained a great deal of notoriety and experience by coming into this House.

HON. MR. COAKER—I had that before I came in.

MR. MORINE—Yes, but of a different kind. If I understand the member for Twillingate he has confused in his remarks two different things. As I understand it, there was a demand by a public meeting for the dismissal of these men, and after they were dismissed a meeting of protest

was called, which was interrupted and prevented. When I used the words "mob rule," I was referring to the action which led to the dismissal, and not to the second meeting, which was only a consequence. I used the words "mob rule" advisedly, and did not say that the meeting was a mob. Mob rule means rule by public clamour, against the will of the duly constituted authority. Now the constituted authority was the Governor in Council; and the member for Twillingate said that he and other members of the Council were opposed to the action—and yet they did it. Consequently they submitted to dictation against their will, and at the behest of that public meeting. Now that may have been an ordinary meeting. There may have been nothing in the shape of a mob about it; but when its behest was carried out by the constituted authority against its will that was mob rule, i.e., rule by people who are under no obligations, who have no authority or responsibility. It is rule by clamour. I am glad to know that the F. P. U. is absolved from any connection as such with this action. The meeting that was held was not a meeting of the F. P. U. It is not said that the F. P. U. members broke up the meeting or interfered with it. We are now given the idea that it was an ordinary public meeting. It was not an organized affair; and therefore its dictation has still more the flavour of mob rule; because it was not even an organization acting with some sense of responsibility. As to the second meeting, as far as I can gather it was called for the purpose of protesting against the dismissal of these men. There is nobody in this House who can say that it was right to interfere with that meeting; and as I do not know to what extent it was interfered with I am not going to make any re-

marks about it. But I say this, that if I had anything to do with this matter, that is, when first these demands came for the dismissal of these men, I would have told the people that I was prepared to investigate the whole matter, and if these charges were substantiated on investigation I would be prepared to do justice, and if wrong had been done, to dismiss the wrongdoers.

Then I would be supported by the people of Bonavista in doing it. I will not believe that the people and the fishermen of Bonavista town, after an investigation was held and the facts were brought out, and showed that these men were not blameworthy would have asked for their punishment. In any case no matter how it was done, haven't we the plain essential facts that these men who held office were thrown out in the night without a trial, or without a chance to say a word in self defence. I know the kindly feeling of the hon. member for Twillingate (Mr. Coaker), and his sense of right, and I feel that on that occasion his heart must have broken in twain when he acted as he did.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman, I am glad to see that the hon. member for Bonavista has had a turn of heart since 1897. I think I can remember a little of the Government of that time and remember also a number of officials that were serving the Government of the country prior to the coming in of the Winter-Morine Government and how when they got control those officials were actually begging in this city to keep from starving. I would like to ask the hon. member for Bonavista as to why he favoured the dismissal of civil servants when he was the responsible head? Why did he not follow out the same principle in 1897 that he is advocating today, at the same time I

know that two wrongs don't make a right. I am not quite sure whether the dismissal of these men of Bonavista was justified or not, but I do say that the action of the hon. member now is very inconsistent with the actions he showed when he controlled the Government of this country. Of course he is on the opposition now; he was on the Government side then, and probably that will explain his changeable attitude. But I fail to see how the hon. gentleman will convince anybody in this House as to his sincerity when one considers what he did when the power was in his hands. Anybody can remember what was experienced in this city in 1897, and many officials who were turned out of their positions at that time do not forget it yet. It is fresh in their minds today, the sufferings they had to undergo and the manner in which they were dismissed. For quite a long while those people were walking about the streets before they got anything to do to keep the wolf from the door. They were dismissed at short notice and not given any chance to get work. It is very easy for the hon. member to look about and criticize how we acted today, his attitude in 1897 notwithstanding.

MR. MORINE. — Mr. Chairman, "While the light holds out to burn, vilest sinners may return." If I had been guilty in 1897 of the cruelty charged, and had repented, I should be forgiven. But the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Grimes) is now supporting what he condemns in me, he has assumed in 1918 the attitude blameworthy as he calls it, what he says I held in 1897; he is, he professes, dressed with what I cast off. It was not my attitude and I was not trying to prove my sincerity; it was the injustice of this recent act. We are now dealing with 1918, not 1897.

The facts of 1897 are not before the House. The statements relating to them are not true. But I may point out that what was done in 1897 was upon the responsibility of the Government of that day, and was not shirked or evaded.

MR. WALSH.—Mr. Chairman, I think the subject matter under discussion is a serious one and should commend itself to every member of this House. The charge has been made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in reply to Mr. Currie's question, that the reason for the dismissal of Mr. White was that he wilfully allowed some men, who were in danger of losing their lives, to go adrift. If that charge can be substantiated in evidence then the Department of Marine and Fisheries and the Government were fully justified in dismissing them or any other men who would act similarly. I don't care how long they were in the public service. Even if a man was left a heritage by his parents and received one of the best positions in the gift of any government and lived to be 50 years old, 30 of which he had spent in the civil service, yet, if by any wilful neglect, such as suggested, that man deserved to be dismissed immediately and I would back any Government up for doing it. Yet on the other hand, if a man, having spent 30 years, the best years of his life, or had only given 30 minutes in the interests of the country and no charge could be brought against him, only that he was in opposition to any political organization or did not feel that his conscience would not allow him to go under the yoke to support any political member or Government, I think it a crying outrage to have this man dismissed and the curses of that man's children, who perhaps may be starving, will fall upon the heads of

the instigators of such an unfortunate affair. I trust that the Government will not allow this thing to be dealt with lightly. This debate, which has developed into a lengthy one, is not sufficient recompense for the man who was dismissed, and I think it is the duty of the Government to have a commission of enquiry, non-partizan, or hand it over to the Supreme Court and have the case immediately enquired into, and if the men are found guilty of such a gross violation of the rules of their station, then by all means let them go out and no recompense be given them, but if they are not found guilty then they should be reinstated.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few observations in reply to the observations that have fallen from the lips of the hon. member for Bonavista Bay. He says, probably he thinks so, that the dismissals referred to were the immediate outcome of the mob rule, that a public meeting was called at Bonavista, that certain resolutions were sent to the Governor in Council, and that the Governor in Council not agreeing with the sentiments contained therein, bowed their heads and made the dismissals. That is not the fact. It is true that a meeting was called at Bonavista and it is true that the resolutions were received by the Governor in Council, and it is true that the Governor in Council turned them down and refused to act on them, and it was not until a recommendation came from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries through the department responsible for the conduct of lighthouses and lightkeepers that the Governor in Council acted. If any injustice has been done the Government are prepared to consider it.

MR. MORINE—That all clears the

natter up. We have got the statement now that the meeting demanded the dismissals, that the Prime Minister and colleagues turned it down, but that the men were dismissed on a recommendation sent to the Governor in Council by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but the Minister of Marine and Fisheries told us that no investigation took place, and the member for Twillingate said he and other members of the Government thought the dismissals ought not to take place, but consented because of public clamour.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—On the request of the Minister of Marine.

MR. MORINE—That's a difference.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—There is a great deal of difference because it dissipates the whole of your charge.

MR. MORINE—Instead of sending the resolutions directly to the Government they sent them to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to be sent up. Direct action did not do it, but indirect action did.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—Not as a result of a public meeting with mob rule.

MR. MORINE—The main point we are concerned about is that the charges never received the investigation they were entitled to.

The explanation is very simple. The fact is that the man was turned out. The meeting moved the Minister and the Minister moved the Government, and the Government moved the man. It only means that three reels were used where two would have sufficed. The third reel was superfluous.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—There is no superfluity at all. The Governor in Council was not moved, and does not intend to be moved, by any public meeting demanding that

this or that be done. I merely ask you to believe the facts and not mere inventions.

MR. MORINE—I did not suggest that the Prime Minister did not believe what he was saying. Of course he does. What I said was this, does the Prime Minister wish us to believe that the man was dismissed without any investigation being held. The point that I am getting at is this, application was made for the dismissal of these men at a public meeting, and eventually the Minister had him dismissed, but was there anything placed before the Governor in Council to show that the matter had been investigated into. Can a man spend such a long period of time in the public service and then be dismissed without any attempt being made to investigate the reasons? I can only come to the conclusion that the explanation makes the matter worse than it was before.

MR. WALSH—I do not intend to delay the Committee at this stage but there are several matters to which I would like to make reference. We are asked to come in here and vote certain amounts which I think call for comment. For example, we have in the Department of the Prime Minister the sum of three thousand dollars for the salary of the Prime Minister, who also receives a salary of two thousand as Minister of Justice, which amounts to a nice salary of five thousand. I regret that I cannot concur with those hon. gentlemen in their congratulations upon the Government with regard to this matter. This is an increase of 150%. Further, we must remember that the sum of one thousand dollars had to be expended on the fitting up of these offices, which increases the vote accordingly to four thousand dollars to the Prime Minister. I think with all

due respect to the Prime Minister, when we consider that this is the time when the best blood of the country is being shed, and when we are asked to economize in every particular, it is not at all patriotic on our part to vote an amount which can hardly be called necessary. I regret that I cannot, as I said, congratulate the Prime Minister on this question. It would be far different if we were living in normal times or if this terrible struggle which is now taking place in Europe had ceased. When we consider the hardships that our young men have to undergo, I think that any reasonable minded man will agree with me, any unnecessary increase in a Department such as this is nothing short of outrageous.

The next office to which I intend to make reference is the Minister of Militia's Department. We are asked to vote three thousand dollars for the Minister of Militia, and there is a further sum of \$962.00 for other work he is asked to perform which brings the salary up to almost four thousand dollars. The annual rental of the building is \$3600, and the building has been rented for ten years. When we compare the Minister of Militia walking knee-deep in velvet carpets and the poor soldier who has to sleep on the bare ground we may be pardoned for not congratulating the Government on this item of expenditure. I think it is not all in keeping with the spirit of patriotism that animates our soldiers.

I am sorry that I am not in a position to offer any congratulations to the Government on these two votes.

Regarding the Deputy Departmental Heads, I notice that some of them have received some small increases, while others, so far as the Estimates show, have not received any. Now, I am in entire sympathy with the suggestion made by Mr. Currie a day or

two ago, that all these men should be put upon an equal footing. Take the Departments of Marine and Fisheries and Agriculture and Mines. These are, I should imagine, the two most important departments in the Dominion, or at least they relate to two of the most important industries. Now, the gentleman who is Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Mines receives \$1250, and the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries receives \$1400, while Deputy heads of other Departments receive from \$1800 to \$2000. Now, I am not at all in sympathy with the idea of augmenting salaries by fees for special work, because under this system one can never be certain as to just what amount different officials are receiving. I think it is the duty of this House to vote a reasonable salary to each official, and there should be no augmentation. I would be prepared to support a motion to give these Deputy Heads \$2000 each. They ought to get that amount, to my mind. They are all very excellent men, men who have the confidence of the public; they give their whole time and attention to the work of their Departments, and they are entitled to a reasonable salary. I would like to make a special plea for Mr. Turner. Might I ask the Minister if his voted salary is the total amount which he receives?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE. — He has received amounts for arbitrations during past years. Sometimes he has gone up as high as \$2000.

MR. WALSH—You see, there is the trouble. It is not possible to ascertain, merely by going through the Estimates, just what any particular man is getting. Now, I think, as I have stated before, that this matter should be readjusted. These men should be paid sufficient salaries to enable them to do justice to their

work, to the country, and to their families, and they should get no additional fees. They should be enabled to support their families without having to depend on the good will of the Head of the Department or on the political influence which they can bring to bear on the powers that be.

Now, I would like to ask the Minister what is the increase which we are asked to vote for Old Age Pensions?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—\$10,000. We gave this amount during the year. Voted it on Executive responsibility.

MR. WALSH—Well, Sir, I think this amount is not sufficient to give pensions to all the old men who are entitled to them.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—Yes, it is.

MR. WALSH—Well, I know that there are about fifty applicants from my district who have not been able to get them.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—There are not fifty applicants over 75 years of age.

MR. WALSH—Do you mean that the amount is sufficient to cover all the applications which you have received?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—I think so.

MR. WALSH—To pass on, I am very sorry that arrangements have not been made to vote a larger amount of money for roads and bridges. As I have pointed out to this House on several occasions, we have in the district that I represent a number of very important roads—railway-connecting roads and such like—which were built from time to time during the last twenty years. They were built by special grant, but as no regular main line grants have been voted to maintain them, they

have fallen into disrepair. Some of them are very important roads. One that I would make a special appeal for is the road from Famish Cove to the railway. A main line grant of a couple of hundred dollars would keep this road in repair, and it is of the very greatest importance to a large number of people in Placentia Bay. And whilst I am on this subject, I might say that I think one of the reasons why people do not give better returns in the way of work for public moneys is because of the smallness of the remuneration which the Government allows men who are employed on public works. During the past couple of years the prices of the necessaries of life have increased very largely, and the \$1.50 per day which the Government allows for work of the class to which I refer is not at all sufficient to enable men to live; and I am satisfied that the Government would find it a good investment if they were to allow \$2.50 a day instead of \$1.50, because the men would be induced to give an honest day's work for a fair day's pay. I invite the Government's serious consideration to this aspect of the matter.

Now, in reply to a question of mine, asked a few days ago, in connection with telegraph and telephone extension, I was informed that quite a number of offices have been opened in different parts of the country during the past year. Twenty-four telephone offices have been opened—a number of them in St. George's District, a number in Trinity, some in Bonavista and at other places. Now, I have not the slightest objection to this. In fact, I am very glad to note that these places have been given telephone connection, but it strikes me as being rather unfair that my district should not have been treated as generously as others in this matter. I

have been clamoring for telegraph and telephone connection for certain parts of the district which I represent ever since I have had a seat in this House, but the Government has not yet apparently seen its way clear to comply with my requests. There are a number of places in the district in which telegraph connection would be most important. In the early spring certain parts of Placentia Bay and St. Mary's Bay are great centres for bait, but owing to the fact that there is no telegraph extension, bankers cannot be induced to go there, and the people of these places are thereby deprived of substantial sums which they would otherwise earn. In the second place, the fishermen themselves, through not having the information which telegraph communication would have given them, have often lost weeks, and probably months, of fishing, thereby losing thousands of dollars for themselves and consequently to the revenue of the country. I think that the money spent in connection with telegraph and telephone extension throughout the country is money well spent, and I hope that the Government will see its way clear to considering the very many appeals that have been made here by myself and by my late colleagues, Judge Morris and Mr. Devereaux, for telegraph extension to at least two or three of the more important sections of the District of Placentia and St. Mary's.

I would like to ask the Minister whether the salary of Mr. Whiteway, the Board of Health Officer, has been increased?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—No.

MR. WALSH—Well, I think he is entitled to some consideration. I take it that there is not an individual in this House who is not prepared to

recognize that his position is a most important one, and that he personally is a most efficient and capable official. I have had occasion to meet him in the discharge of his duties very often, and I have always found him most obliging, and most painstaking and attentive to duty. The salary which he receives is, I think, \$800. Now, there are a number of men in the civil service whose work is not at all as important as is Mr. Whiteway's, but who receive very much larger salaries, and I hope that the Government will take his case into consideration.

It is probably an oversight that some increase has not been allowed him. When I was speaking to him the other day, he appeared to have great hopes that he would receive some increase, and he told me that if he did not get it, he would prefer to go back to the assistantship (I think, he has an assistant), at \$600 or \$650, and allow his assistant to take his job at \$800. Now, I hope that the Government will not lose sight of this matter.

In connection with the dredge, I asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries a day or two ago if it was the intention to dredge the harbor up by the Reid Co. Dock, or whether she was to be sent to the outports. There are two or three places in the district which I represent which need dredging badly. In fact, the Department realized this long ago, and they had the Marine Surveyor sent up there and he made a survey of several places, and we were promised that the dredge would be sent; but she has not turned up, up to the present. Now

I think that with a little readjustment the Marine and Fisheries Department might have the dredge sent to the South Coast—Placentia Bay, Fortune Bay and Hermitage Bay—during the winter, and have her employed during

the summer at places which are not open in winter. In that way I think a great deal more work could be accomplished that is done at the present time. I think it is a great pity to have the dredge lying up here in St. John's when there are places in the outports crying out for assistance. There are places where the fishermen cannot get their boats into the harbors when there is a sea running and it is rough on the bars; and conditions in these places might be improved with very little exertion on the part of the Government.

I trust that the Government will take this matter into their consideration, and I hope that the fishermen's organization, which is represented by Union Mr. Coaker, will take it into their sympathetic consideration and see that something will be done. I regret that in the Estimates there is no provision made for several aids to navigation asked for in this House, not alone for my district but for other districts as well. I am very much interested in one or two aids that would be a great benefit and a great safeguard against the dangers that our people are called upon to face in their daily avocation. I refer to one particular place in St. Mary's Bay, namely, Point La Hayse. The people there were promised by the last Government that they would be provided with a Fog Alarm but they never got it. It is a very dangerous place to mariners and a Fog Alarm there is absolutely necessary, and I think that it would be in the interest of the Government and in the interest of the country if some consideration was given and a few thousand dollars spent whereby some warning could be given mariners when their ships are unconsciously approaching danger in fog. The expenditure of a few thousand dollars would probably save the

struction of many valuable lives and property. Another place where a Fog Alarm is badly needed is on the west side of Placentia Bay. I repeatedly petitioned the House before on this same matter. Two years ago I presented a petition signed by over a thousand fishermen of Placentia Bay asking that a Fog Alarm be erected somewhere on this side of Placentia Bay. Vessels coming from St. John's or running from Cape St. Mary's grounds with a S. E. breeze have to run to the west side of Placentia Bay and if not successful in making a good hit in the direction in which they are running, as the place is composed of rocks and reefs in several places, they always have to face certain destruction.

A few years ago a certain schooner and crew of six or seven, bound for Little Paradise, owing to there being no Fog Alarm, was dashed to destruction and the crew were all lost. I trust that the Government will take this matter into their consideration, and vote a sufficient sum of money to have that very necessary aid to navigation erected. Another matter I would like to make short reference to is the inadequate coastal accommodation we have on this part of the coast, especially in St. Mary's and Placentia Bays. I presented a petition to this House signed by 1100 people from St. Mary's Bay asking that a small steamer be put on there and setting forth in the request that if such was done what a great advantage it would be to the fishermen. They are now daily handicapped owing to lack of freight accommodation for freighting their supplies to and fro, resulting in the loss of thousands of dollars to themselves and indirectly to the country. I do not know whether it is the intention of the Government to deal with this matter, as it

is a difficult matter to get a steamer at present.

Before taking my seat I wish to publicly offer my thanks to the Acting Colonial Secretary for the many courtesies extended to me by him since he assumed office. I do this in all sincerity, although I am not prepared to support the Government he is associated with. On every occasion, whether in my official capacity, as representative of the District of Placentia and St. Mary's or as a private individual, I always found nothing but courtesy from that gentleman. He is a most obliging official and attentive to all matters relating to his department. I again offer him my thanks in all sincerity.

MINISTER OF MILITIA. — Mr. Chairman, as Minister of Militia, I just want to say a few words in reply to certain hon. gentlemen. It appears that the Minister of the Department, as well as the Department itself, has been a target for a lot of insinuations and slurs from the other side of the House since the opening day, and it develops upon me to make an explanation. Almost every day some reference is made to the Militia Department or the Minister himself with regard to expenses and salary paid him. I want to inform the House of the conditions under which I assumed office. When the Coalition Government was informed last summer I occupied the position of Colonial Secretary. The Government decided to form a department of Militia, and I agreed with the late Prime Minister to take over the new department. He particularly requested me to do so because of the knowledge I had obtained of the working of our military system, as that work had been principally done by the Colonial Secretary's Department, and in which I was kept directly in touch with mil-

itary affairs. Therefore, I was asked by the late Prime Minister to take the position, and he pointed out that I ought to get a salary of \$4000 because of the technical work involved in organizing the department and the great deal of originality that had to be displayed.

I replied that I did not want any additional amount as Minister of the Department beyond that what was paid to the ordinary Staff Officer, Lieutenant Colonel or Major. The pay salary of a Major is about \$2600 a year, and I think as the presiding officer it was only right that I should receive pay accordingly. Now, Mr. Chairman, if my pay as Minister of Militia was therefore placed at \$3000. It was not any desire on my part to get any more than was paid to any other Minister. But this department requires the incessant attention of the presiding officer. I may point out that the staff of the Militia Department in Canada are paid individually very much larger than the staff here. Some staff officers there get \$7000 and \$8000 a year. So you see, Mr. Chairman, the work that we are doing here is done on an economical and reasonable basis. With regard to the fees, which the gentleman who just at down is exercised over, as Deputy Chief Censor in Newfoundland. He was a member of the Government that voted these fees for three years and I never heard a word of criticism before about them.

MR. WALSH—I never knew about them. There was lots of things done and voted by the late Government, that I knew nothing about.

MINISTER OF MILITIA—Weren't the estimates before you every year. One would imagine to hear the hon. member talk that I was trying to rob the Government. I want to tell you that the appointment of Deputy Chief

Censor was given me when I was Colonial Secretary, and when I was appointed by His Excellency the Governor as Minister of Militia, and it is the lowest possible amount provided for by the Censorship regulations. A large portion of this work is done outside of regular office hours. I am merely making this explanation so that some people will realize that I am not trying to steal anything. If anyone can prove that I am not entitled to one dollar that I get out of public treasury of this country I will return it two-fold. While I have been in the Militia Department I give my whole time to the department and endeavour to do the best I can. Yet you have people throwing aspersions and insinuations and trying to damn myself and the department. Ask the Auditor General and find out if the Militia Department is not the busiest Department in the Civil Service today. We had to organize this Department with no precedent to go by and I claim we did as well as could possibly be done under the circumstances.

We have got a department today doing its work well. It is all very well for people to get up and criticize and throw aspersions on those who are doing their best to perform their duties satisfactorily, but I say there is no foundation for those criticisms. And now with regard to the building about which there has been so much talk. One of the first things I heard, when it became known that the Government was negotiating for that building was: Who was going to get the rake-off on the Stott building? To begin with, I did not purchase the building. That matter was looked after by the Department of Public Works. Then the statement was made that we were going to buy the building for \$70,000, and that it could be got for \$50,000. Now, I am in a

position to know that it never could have been bought for \$50,000. Mr. Stott was adamant on his price. He insisted on \$70,000, and the Government decided not to purchase, but to rent it. Now, that building is not used by the Militia Department alone. It is true that the department occupies half of it, but in addition there are the Department of Higher Education—the three Superintendents have offices there; the Inspector of Weights and Measures has an office there; and the Pensions and Disabilities Commission have offices there; and in view of all the circumstances I consider that the Government made a good bargain in taking over that building. There is plenty of room there, and in addition there are vaults that can be used as a Bond Store or anything of that nature, that we could possibly not secure anywhere else in St. John's today. Now, I invite fair criticism, but I don't think it is fair to be making insinuations and trying to injure a Department that, I submit, is vital at the present juncture. The work that is being done in that Department is work that must be carefully and properly done; every effort is being made to see that the work is done properly, so far as the administration of the Department is concerned; we have the best staff that it has been possible to get, and on that staff there are men who are giving their time and effort free. For instance, there is Major Montgomery, who is the agent of Furness Withy Co. here, and through the courtesy of that company he is giving his valuable time to the Department. Then we have Dr. Paterson, who is giving his services to the Department through the courtesy of the Reid Nfld. Co. Then there is Dr. Macpherson, D.M.S., who gives a large proportion of his time without cost to the Gov-

ernment. And there are still others. On the whole I feel safe in asserting that the Department of Militia is being run as economically and efficiently as it is possible to run it, and that its work is of such a character that it would be difficult at the present time to improve upon it.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman: I am glad the Minister has referred to this matter, because I do not want him or anybody else to get the impression that anybody is attempting to cast aspersions on that Department—at least, from this side of the House. If he refers to the questions which I have asked here regarding the Department, I may say that I asked them purely for the purpose of getting information. We have had a vote for war expenditure placed before us, but we don't know what the expenditure is for; we are merely asked to vote a gross amount. We have had no statement laid before us showing what the Department is costing, and I submit that before being asked to vote money here we ought to have such a statement. We don't know how many officials are on the staff, we don't know what additions have recently been made.

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA—They are nearly all returned soldiers.

MR. CURRIE—That is immaterial. It does not matter who they are. We are entitled to some knowledge as to what is happening. Of course, I quite agree that nobody but returned soldiers should be there. I am not objecting to returned soldiers, I am not objecting to the Minister's staff, or the salaries that are being paid; I am simply asking for information that should be placed on the table of this House in connection with this Department. The only point I had in view in asking regarding

the Minister's salary was to find out exactly what was being paid. The Minister was being accused of making six, or eight or ten thousand dollars a year; and I do not think it is fair to members of this House that they should hear these statements made on the street and not know just what the facts were so as to be able to answer them. I think the Minister should have submitted a detailed statement of his expenditure for the year. It was alright in the past, when the money was being voted for the Patriotic Association. That was not a regular department, and the only connection this House had with it was in the fact that certain members of the Legislature were on the Association's Executive, but today we have a Department, and I submit that the details of the expenditure of that Department should be in the Estimates. It is just as much a part of the Civil Service to-day as the Department of the Colonial Secretary. I want to say, however, that I think the Minister is altogether astray in thinking anybody is attempting to get after him or his Department. I have not heard any aspersions cast from this side regarding either the Department or the Minister. It may be that we don't always believe that everything is being done that might be done. We might think, for instance, that in connection with the recruiting campaign of last fall a lot more might have been done than actually was done. But all we are wanting to get now is information regarding the expenditure of the Department, and we are entitled to that. By the way, the Minister did not say why, when he left the Colonial Secretary's Department, he took the fees for the censorship with him.

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA—I told you that the Governor re-appointed me when I took over the Militia Department.

MR. CURRIE—I did not understand that. I suppose that the Minister was reappointed because of his experience in the work.

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA—I presume so.

MR. CURRIE—That is satisfactory, and, as I have said, I am not objecting to the Minister receiving \$3000 as head of his Department. I would not object to any Minister receiving that amount. I have always been under the impression that the Ministers of the Crown were unpaid, and we cannot expect to get satisfactory service from men unless we are prepared to pay them. I think it is an outrage that a man should be asked to take the position, for instance, of Colonial Secretary at \$2000 a year, and give all his time and attention to it. I say it is an outrage. Of course, it is merely a question of being able to afford it, but I would be very glad to see this whole matter put upon a proper basis. If we can afford it, then men who have ability and experience, and who are asked to take certain positions, should be paid for the services which they have to perform. And that applies right down through the whole Civil Service. There are men working in Departments to-day for \$1000 or \$1200, and if they had gone into mercantile concerns, they would now, because of their ability and experience, be earning three times that amount. I am not, then, raising any objection to the salary of the Minister, and, as I said at the beginning, I am glad that the Minister has explained his position, because it gives us some idea as to how matters stand.

MR. MORINE—There is just one remark made by the hon. member who has just sat down with which I disagree. In referring to Ministers' salaries he said, "If the country can afford it," they ought be paid well. I say that the country cannot afford to have badly paid officials. It is economy to pay them all well. If an office is not needed, do away with it; if a man is not satisfactory, dismiss him; but if you have a necessary office, the salary attached to it ought be adequate to secure the best possible man and the best possible service. With refernce to the remark made by the member for Placentia regarding the salary of the Premier, I would jujst like to say, in the first place, that when he compares the salaries paid Premiers in the past with the amounts paid now, he omits to take into consideration the fact that amount of attention which the office requires now is considerably greater than years ago. In the time of Sir William Whiteway, for illustration, the income of the Colony was probably not more than one-fifth of the present amount, and the expenditure proportionately small. In addition to his salary, which was, I think, \$2400, he obtained the fees which went with that office, and they were considerable. The present Prime Minister has told us that those fees he does not expect to receive. Sir Robert Bond was Colonial Secretary, and as such had considerable fees also—don't know the amount—in addition to his salary; but in his case there was the further fact that he was a man of private means, and consequently could keep up the dignity of his position. Now, if you put a poor man there on a salary such as these men received, it would simply mean that he could not discharge his private obligations; or perhaps it might

mean the other thing—that no poor man could go there; and consequent- it is a non-democratic measure to keep the salaries at a low figure, because it means that only wealthy men can accept the positions. In the case of the late Premier, Sir Edward Morris, who took no official salary at all, he was a lawyer with a large practice. I think he was retained for the Colony on various large suits, such as the Hague Convention and other work of that kind, for which he was paid, or else has, as he once told us, a very large claim, and the amounts that he has received, or will receive, will in the long run be much greater than if he had been paid \$5000 a year without fees. So that if the present Premier takes only \$5000 a year, and goes along without fees, he will in the end not be more expensive from the financial point of view than his predecessors. There is another consideration, and that is that the cost of living has increased very greatly within recent years, and the man who has to keep up the distinguished position of the First Commoner in this country needs much more money now than formerly. I have always felt that it was an invidious and improper thing that that the Premier, charged with the political and administrative responsibilities of the country, should have a smaller salary than any of the Judges, than the Government Engineer, or the Inspector of Constabulary, in spite of the fact that he has certain political expenses to bear—some times of receiving visitors, and such like—and that he has to keep up a certain dignity suitable to the office. He is the representative of the Colony. And in addition it must be remembered that a man of sufficient capacity to occupy the position of Premier of this colony can, either in

trade or profession, earn very much more than the salary paid. The lawyer fit for Premier of this Dominion, could earn ten or fifteen thousand dollars a year from his practice if not in office. The lawyer who would be qualified and be prepared to accept the Premiership of this Colony would perhaps be a man who would be earning \$10,000 or \$12,000 at his profession, which he would have to sacrifice. If it was a merchant who was placed in that position, he would probably have to abandon an income equal to if not greater than that. So that you really could not get a man fitted for the post to accept the responsibilities at even the figure that has been named. Even \$5,000 is far below what the obligations of that office impose. I wish to say that the more I think of it, the more I am satisfied that you have done the proper, if courageous thing. The only regret that I have is that the salary has not been given for the work which has to be performed namely, the work of Premier of the Colony, which is enough for any man in these troublous times.

HON. MR. COAKER—Regarding the remarks re the salary of the Premier, I may say that while in the opposition I always thought that the Premier should draw a salary of at least \$5000 a year; and when we came into office we felt that it was only correct to increase the salary of the Minister of Justice and Prime Minister, and give the joint office \$5000. Dr. Lloyd was not a rich man, and from my point of view I consider that to put a man there and give him \$2000 would be to invite him to do things that caused complaint in the past. I know that there are instances where the Minister of Justice has drawn \$8000 in one year; in fact one occupant of that office informed me that he was

paid as high as \$12,000. The present Premier undertook that for the salary voted now, no fees of any kind would be charged. When you come to consider the responsibilities of the office, you must admit that he is the cheapest paid man in the civil service. A man can earn a good income from his profession today. I know one lawyer who took up a case recently and he received \$5000 as a retaining fee in that one case alone.

\$5000 is not a large salary considering the duties. I know one concern in the country who is paying a manager \$10,000 a year, and last year I offered a man \$10,000 to become manager of the Export Co. If you want a good man you must be prepared to pay him a decent salary. As far as the present Minister of Justice is concerned, I know the whole country will concur with me when I say that in him we have a fair, firm and straight man who will earn every cent of the salary we are paying him. As to the departmental heads, I concur with what Mr. Currie says \$2000 is not enough. When we consider what is paid by commercial houses for experienced help, sometimes as high as \$4000 or \$5000, you cannot understand why a man enters public life and remains in it till he perhaps becomes head of a department, at a \$2000 salary. In the past peculiar things have happened in the way of augmenting salaries. I hope the day will come when we will be able to pay public officials a salary sufficient to place them above suspicion; and then insist that they do not receive anything more than what this House votes them. I shall be glad when that day comes. Last year I advocated that a salary be apportioned the Leader of the Opposition. Next year I hope to be able to find out who that gentleman is, and we will endeavour to re-

cognize his services by the payment of a salary.

MINISTER OF MILITIA. — Mr. Speaker, just a word in reply to the hon. member for Bonavista. As regards the man who looks after the furnace in my department, I would like to say that he is under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department, and not the Militia Department. We have no employee who is not a returned soldier, with the exception of lady stenographers. This Mr. Richardson is a man who has been 30 years with Mr Stott looking after the same furnace, and came to us with a good recommendation. He has one son killed in France and another Overseas, and for these reasons he got the position.

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 Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Weights and Measures Act, Cap 10, 6 George V. (1916)."

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 Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Soldiers and Sailors Wills Act, 1917."

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 Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 9th, at 3 of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, May 9th., 1918.

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

HON. MR. CROSBIE—Mr. Speaker: I ask leave to present a petition from the residents of Ochre Pit Cove. These people go to the Labrador every summer to fish, and they complain of the schooners which go there throwing offal overboard, and ask that this practice be prohibited. The petition is signed by 50 of the inhabitants of Ochre Pit Cove and Western Bay. I would like the Minister of Marine & Fisheries to look into this matter, and I refer it to his department.

HON. MR. COAKER—Mr. Speaker: I ask leave to present a petition from Port Albert, in the district of Twillingate, asking for the sum of \$150.00 for a road. Also a petition from the inhabitants of Twillingate, asking for

the extension of the telephone to the lighthouse there. This petition is largely signed, and I trust that during the year we may be able to meet the wishes of the people of Twillingate in this matter. I ask that the petition be received and referred to the Department to which it relates.

Mr. Walsh gave notice of question.

Hon. the Minister and Customs gave notice that he would on Saturday move the House into Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (second series) entitled "Of Nuisances and Municipal Regulations."

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Municipal Act."

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter 15 of the Consolidated Statutes (second series) entitled "Of the Encouragement of Sheep Farming," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain resolutions, which were read a first time as follows:

Civil Government \$401,328.00
Legislation 35,980.00
Marine and Fisheries 123,300.00

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

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend

the Weights and Measures Act, Cap. 10, 6 Geo. V. (1916)," 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 Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Soldiers and Sailors Wills Act, 1917," 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 Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

MR. CURRIE—Mr Chairman, I have been supplied with the information I required in connection with the one point which I intended raising yesterday, that was in reference to the coastal service the coming summer. That being so, there is nothing as far as I am concerned to delay the estimates except one question. The Colonial Secretary informed me yesterday that the Reid Nfld. Co. had been paid a subsidy of \$1,000 a trip for 20 trips made by the S. S. "Meigle" between North Sydney and Port aux Basques. That appears to be an extraordinary subsidy. It has not been customary to pay such large subsidies particularly in cases of this sort where the freight is transhipped over the Company's own lines from their own steamer. The Reid Nfld. Co. is receiving at the present time high freight rates, and there seems no reason why this large subsidy should be paid the Company for this work.

HON. PRIME MINISTER. — What ports did you say?

MR. CURRIE—Between North Sydney and Port aux Basques.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—I may explain the situation. This subsidy has been paid the "Meigle." The original intention was that she should ply between North Sydney and St. John's as the Sydney end became congested with freight; and the Government chartered her at \$1000 a trip for that service, and back again.

MR. CURRIE—The Colonial Secretary's statement does not say so. Is not \$1000 a large subsidy?

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—The trouble was that the place was congested with freight and considering prices of freight now, it was not high.

MR. CURRIE—If you had gone outside, could you not have chartered a steamer at a cheaper rate?

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—When the Reid Nfld. Co. took the Meigle off the Labrador route, they had to charter another steamer for that service from which they had to take the "Meigle" to carry out the new charter.

MR. CURRIE—Can you tell me whether the Government is subsidizing all steam service?

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF MILITIA—As far as I know they are not subsidizing the Red Cross Line. Within the last three weeks a lot of freight accumulated at Halifax which the "Meigle" could not take under her winter charter, and it was arranged that the Red Cross Line put a steamer on there to assist. The ship which the Red Cross put on was a large boat; and to show you the difference between their rates and the Reid Nfld. Co's, I may say that when the Halifax end was congested with freight there

were 2000 barrels of potatoes there, which they brought down here for \$1.30 a barrel. The Reid Nfld. Co. afterwards brought them down for 65 cents a barrel.

MR. CURRIE. — The explanation that has been given is satisfactory; except that it is a dangerous practice to subsidize all boats. The "Meigle" has not been carrying mail, only freight; and it is hardly fair to charge for both.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—She carried mail to and from Halifax.

MR. CURRIE—Can you tell me whether the freight congestion at North Sydney has been relieved.

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—Up to about three weeks ago there were about 100 cars of freight there. With the assistance of the "Meigle" Sydney has been kept clear. We are now asking the Minister of Railroads in Canada to allow us a steamer for two or three trips.

MR. CURRIE—The "Meigle's" Halifax charter would be only for the winter. She would not run there during the summer?

HON. ACTING MINISTER OF SHIPPING—During the congestion at Halifax the past winter, we put her on to relieve the "Florizel." She also assisted in helping out conditions at Sydney. If we had not done this, things would have been hung up indefinitely.

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 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 tomorrow Friday, May 10th, at 3 of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

FRIDAY, May 10th., 1918.

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

Hon. the Minister of Finance gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to move the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relating to a War Tax on certain Incomes.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to move the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions respecting an Act to amend the Act relating to the bounty for the building of ships.

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to move the House into Committee of the Whole to consider certain Resolutions relating to the Taxation of Telegraph and Cable Companies.

Mr. Currie gave notice of question.

Pursuant to notice and leave granted and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter Thirty-Six of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled "Of Nuisances and Municipal Regulations," 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 Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Municipal Act" was introduced and read a first time and or-

dered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Mr. Walsh asked Hon. the Finance Minister 1st. to lay on the table of the House a detailed statement of all payments made to Sir Edward Morris since his assuming control of the Government in 1909, giving particulars of services rendered for such payments. 2nd. if he had authority for saying that the Imperial Government or the British Empire would be security for the repayment of any money obtained from the people under the New Loan Bill. 3rd. to state what financiers he saw in Canada and the United States in respect to a loan to this Dominion, and if he had written correspondence with any financiers on this subject during his recent absence from the country to table copy of same.

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

Postal and Telegraph Department \$889,781.81

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.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received a message from the Legislative Council acquainting the House that they had passed the Bills entitled respectively: "An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Nine of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of Patents."

"An Act to Continue for a Period of Five Years after the termination of the Present War Certain Powers in Relation to Imports and Exports."

"An Act to Amend the Act 8, Edward VII (1908) Chapter five, entitled "An Act with respect to Compen-

sation to Workmen for Injuries suffered in the Course of their Employment." And

"An Act to Amend the Act 6 George V. (1915) Chapter 17, entitled "An Act respecting the Establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund."

Without amendment.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

(Legislation)

MR. CURRIE—What are these supplementary amounts for salaries Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—The first is owing to the increase in the membership of the Upper House. I will get the particulars of the other for you by to-morrow.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I think that is due to allowances made to servants of the House for the extra session last year.

(Lighthouses)

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—I may say that any additional particulars that may be required beyond what I have here can be given by the various Ministers in charge of the Departments who are here in the House.

(Agriculture and Mines)

MR. CURRIE—What is the difference between Forest Fires and Fire

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS—I think the Fire Patrol is carried out between the Grand Falls Company and the Railway Company. There is a certain amount paid by the Government, the Railway Company, the Grand Falls Company and the other Lumber Companies.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—(There is an agreement between the Government and certain interests, the Railway Company, and the larger lumber Companies as regards the Fire Patrol. The vote for forest fires is for forest fires outside, they are covered by the patrol.

(Bounty on Ships Built)

That amount is to cover bounty for ships built up to the 30th June. The total amount paid to date is \$30,000. The vote is \$16,000.

MR. CURRIE—Can you get a statement of the bounties?

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Yes.

(Marine Works, St. George's)

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—That amount is because of washouts at St. George's last fall.

MR. CURRIE—What is that amount for Marine Works in Trinity District.?

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—That is for repairs to the public wharf at Catalina.

(Cod Liver Oil Injection Expenses)

For these amounts the Treasury is reimbursed by a cent a gallon on oil.

MR. CURRIE—Is the Portugal Cove Wharf completed?

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—It will be completed this year.

(Customs Department, Refunds, etc.)

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—That is principally made up of refunds and drawbacks on coal and other goods that were exported from time to time.

(Registration of Voters)

MR. CURRIE—Does that amount include printing of the Voters' Lists?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—Yes.

MR. CURRIE—I notice in this statement of General Contingencies an amount paid the Anglo-Nfld. Development Company for exploration of coal

areas. Have you any information on that subject?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Yes, we have reports from Mr. Scott. I will table them if the honourable gentlemen would like to see them.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—With regard to the vote for Civil and Criminal Prosecutions, there has been quite a demand on this vote owing to the number of prohibition prosecutions.

In reference to Supreme Court Contingencies, that is owing to provision having to be made for the Circuit Court.

MR. CURRIE—I notice an amount of \$1,800 paid to Mr. Justice Kent.

MINISTER OF FINANCE — That was an outstanding balance due on account of a trip to Washington and his services in connection with the America Fisheries Dispute before he was appointed to the Bench. I think all his accounts are now paid.

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 to-morrow.

On motion this Report was received and adopted and it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on to-morrow.

The remaining orders of the Day were deferred.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until to-morrow Saturday, May 11th., at three of the clock in the afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

SATURDAY May 11th., 1918

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

Hon. the Prime Minister gave

notice that he would on to-morrow move the suspension of the Rules of the House in relation to all business except such as is not before the House.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. M. P. CASHIN—Mr. Chairman It is my good fortune today to be able to present my tenth successive Budget to this House, and to be once more able to congratulate the country on having a generous surplus to its credit as a result of the operations of the fiscal year which ended on the 30th of June last, a surplus, moreover, greater than any in the previous history of the country. It amounts to \$561,756.93, and is thus \$162,370.68 over that of 1915-16, which previously was the largest on record, amounting to \$489,386.25.

The total revenue on current account from all sources for the fiscal year 1916-17 amounted to \$5,206,647.53, an increase of \$606,375.87 over the amount received for 1915-16. Of this total by far the largest item was that under the head of Customs, which showed an advance of roundly \$520,000, the next largest item being that under Profit on Issue of Coin, which yielded \$95,000; and the third being under 'Miscellaneous-General' through which we derived \$60,000, while on the other hand there were no serious decreases, except under the heading of Estate Duties, from which we received only a little over \$17,000 as against \$107,000 the previous year, a falling off of about \$90,000. This latter circumstance is, of course, inevitable in such a form of levy, because

we are not fortunate in having many men sufficiently rich to admit of their estates yielding \$80,000 to \$100,000 in death duties every year.

The expenditure for the last fiscal year amounted to \$4,554,890.58, an increase of \$444,005.19 over 1915-16. The principal items were \$80,000 for interest on the Public Debt, \$100,000 for Civil Government, \$45,000 for Public Charities, \$35,000 for the Lighthouse Department, \$50,000 for Marine and Fisheries, \$45,000 for Roads and Bridges, \$30,000 for Post Office and Telegraphs, \$42,000 for Customs, and \$20,000 for Contingencies. This expenditure was, in a large measure, due to the increased cost of all the articles required for the maintenance of the various branches of the Public Service and might be comprehended in a goodly measure under the phrase which has now become so generally understood and which has so serious a meaning for everybody, namely, the increased cost of living. The resulting surplus for 1916-17 is, therefore, as I have already stated, \$651,756.93, and this amount we propose to apply towards the cost of the Colony's participation in the war.

For the fiscal year 1917-18, which has but seven weeks to run, I estimate a total receipt of \$5,701,885:

Customs..	\$4,595,600
Postal	170,000
Telegraphs	160,000
Crown Lands	74,000
Inland Revenue Stamps ..	40,000
Fines and Forfeitures	3,500
Broom Dept., Penitentiary ..	21,000
Fees Public Institutions ..	4,500
Excess Profits Tax	400,000
Taxes—other	40,600
Interest on Guaranteed Loans	56,485
Profit on Issue of Coin. ..	41,200

Estate Duties.	55,000
Miscellaneous—General ..	40,000

Estimated Revenue \$5,701,885

For the same twelve months I estimate the expenditure to be as follows:

Voted by this House at last session..	\$4,805,450
Less Dropped Balances say	45,000
	<hr/>
	\$4,760,450

to which must be added Supplemental Supply estimated at, say \$692,000. Total estimated expenditure. \$5,452,450
Estimated surplus 249,335

By reference to the figures I have already quoted it will be seen that we estimate a Revenue of \$400,000 from the Excess Profit Tax, a measure which was put through the Legislature at the last Session. Coupled with the criticisms of the measure at that time on the ground of injustice, were predictions that it would not realize enough money to pay for the forms necessary for its carrying out, that it would require an army of officials, and that it would occasion the maximum of friction and irritation to the public, with the minimum in cash return. The very contrary has been the case. The Act is being carried out with virtually no trouble whatever. There has been no complaint from any quarter, and the entire work has been done by three or four officials. Indeed, the whole cost of the service is not more than \$10,000 a year, or only 2 1-2 per cent. of the receipts. This, I submit, is a sufficient justification for the decision of the Government last year in regard to this matter, and is also, I think it will be admitted, ample ground for the step we propose to take at this session, namely, to introduce an income tax based upon similar measures now in effect in Great Britain, Can-

ada and the United States, the details of which I will submit to the House in a few days.

For the next fiscal year I look for a Revenue from ordinary sources of at least \$5,700,000, which is the amount we expect to receive for the current fiscal year, and I think I would be justified in claiming that this amount will be substantially increased for the following reasons.

First, because the cost of all articles imported to the country is steadily growing, and therefore the duties paid on these will increase proportionately.

Second, because owing to the prosperity of the people, imports of every class will be larger and the revenues will be swollen thereby.

Third, because owing to the high prices paid for fish, seals, etc., every class of our people will be enjoying a greater degree of prosperity and consequently business in every line will be brisk.

Indeed, I might go further and say that I should not be surprised if our Revenue from all sources for the coming fiscal year would reach a round figure of six million dollars. I am largely influenced to this belief by the fact that last year my estimate was five and a quarter million dollars, whereas we will have about \$500,000 additional when the current fiscal year's accounts are closed, and with prosperity as widespread and assured as it apparently is at present, and with the new income tax, there ought to be a goodly addition.

However, as in these days one never knows what conditions may develop from month to month, we feel that it is well to be on the safe side, and we are proposing some new taxes, the nature of which I will indicate later. We are doing this be-

cause our expenditures may be swollen considerably by large outlays arising from the increased participation in the war which we are now proposing, and for which it is hardly fair to burden the Dominion unduly. We have voted main Estimates already this session of \$5,367,083.18, and additional estimates voted yesterday amount to \$24,500, or a grand total of say \$5,400,000. Therefore, the margin of revenue over expenditure is not large, and, making allowance for Supplemental Supply next session, and to prevent the contingency of a shortage, we will put new tariff schedules into effect.

The world is in a transition period at present. The war is absorbing more and more the energies and activities of the great mass of the people of many countries, and many impose still further drains upon them. We have been fortunate in Newfoundland heretofore in escaping the worst consequences of a world tragedy so shocking as that which prevails, but we cannot expect to be so fortunate hereafter, and there are signs and omens making themselves evident from day to day which the wise will regard as reasons for practising on our part of caution hitherto not rendered necessary. Our shipping problem is certain to be acute for the next twelve months. The loss of the Florizel, following that of the Stephano, has imposed a heavy burden upon us in the way of finding tonnage for the conveyance of our necessaries inward and our exports outward. The securing of foodstuffs may become a matter of vital seriousness during the next few months. We are threatened with a shortage in our fuel supply, salt is also proving difficult to get here, and everything points to a period in which the realities of war will be brought home to

us in a way that they have not yet been, except through the toll of our losses of men on active service.

The material well-being of this country as reflected by its imports and exports, has been most remarkable during the last fiscal year. The total imports for the twelve months, ending June 30th., 1917, amounted to \$21,318,310 against \$16,427,336 for 1915-16, and against \$12,350,796 for the previous year. The Customs Revenue derived therefrom was \$4,470,538 against \$3,950,688 in 1915-16 and \$2,744,568 in 1914-15. Similarly, the total exports from Newfoundland for the last fiscal year were \$22,381,762 against \$18,869,493 for the fiscal year 1915-16, and \$13,136,880 for the previous year. That is to say, the total trade, imports and exports, of Newfoundland for the last fiscal year amounted to \$43,700,072 against \$32,296,829 for 1915-16 and \$25,437,564 for 1914-15. It will be seen, therefore, that this Total Trade has increased from twenty-five millions to forty-three millions within the past three years, and the figures will probably enlarge to somewhere near fifty millions for the current fiscal year, which is shortly to close.

The enormous increase in the value of our fishery products is likely to continue all this year. The iron mines at Bell Island are being worked extensively, and the value of the material is increasing rapidly. The lumbering industry in its various aspects is proving highly remunerative, and the working of the limestone quarries on the West Coast furnishes a new employment for our people, and I understand that arrangements are now being made through the Ministry of Shipping for the conveyance of large quantities of our pulp and paper to the United

States which will ensure that the mills in the Exploits Valley will be maintained on a full capacity basis for an indefinite period. It is rather remarkable that there should be such a marked advance in these departments of our local endeavour since the war began, a circumstance best proved, perhaps, by exhibiting the imports and exports for these years and comparing them with 1913-14, a few weeks after the end of which period hostilities broke out.

The exhibit for the four years is as follows:

Year	Imports.	Exports.
1913-14	\$15,193,726	\$15,134,543
1914-15	12,350,786	13,136,880
1915-16	16,427,336	18,869,493
1916-17	21,318,310	22,381,762

It will be seen from these figures that after the partial collapse observed in the first year of the war, when the whole world suffered from the conditions which then prevailed, there has been a steady advance with us ever since, until now we have reached a condition of economic progress which would have been unbelievable a few years ago. The Profits Tax Bill is another evidence in the same direction. As this measure only calls for a contribution of twenty per cent. of the profits made over an amount of \$3,000 allowed to each business before an assessment of further profits is undertaken, it is evident that if the tax yields \$400,000, the profits must have been five times that sum or two million dollars altogether; and this would, of course, only apply to the classes of business that might be regarded as the more important in the country. If, therefore, there be added to all of the profits of such concerns, the profits of such concerns, the profits of the hundreds and thousands of lesser enterprises which do not come with-

in the scope of the Act, and the profits of the great mass of the people in the various occupations, it will be quite manifest that an amazingly large return was made on the year's operations by the business people and the fishery planters and others of this Dominion.

Further proof of the same kind is afforded by the outcome of the operations of her various banks. The four Canadian Banks, doing business in Newfoundland through their Savings branches and interest bearing deposits, had on December 31st, 1917, on the books \$13,536,607.37, representing in the main, the savings of our people

This is an increase of \$2,406,718 over the amount shown the previous year, namely, \$11,129,889, or in other words that our people deposited in these Banks last year nearly 2 1-2 million dollars, or twice what they did the previous year, a sum by far and away the largest in our history, and representing, as a matter of fact, an addition in one twelve months to the savings of our people almost equal to the entire amount in the Colonial Savings Banks, which on the same date was nearly \$2,500,000, a total of Savings of about sixteen million dollars. It is scarcely necessary to dwell on these figures. They tell their own story.

The Annual Report of the Postmaster General for the last financial year indicates the same favorable conditions. He shows, for instance, that in ten years the turn over of the Money Order Branch of his Department increased 95 per cent., or from \$497,401 to \$968,922, and that the Money Orders received and paid grew from one million to two and a half millions in the same period, also that in the past five years the sales of stamps have grown from \$110,000 to \$155,000, an increase of 39 per cent. in

that period; that the growth of the Money Order business for the past two years is nearly forty-three per cent.; that the total volume of financial business done by the General Post Office was \$800,000, an increase of nearly \$100,000, or almost fourteen per cent. over the previous year, and that in five years the total number of parcels handled by his Department increased from 157,442 to 228,445, an increase of ?? per cent, of which over 10 per cent. occurred the past year, while in the Telegraph branch the increase in two years has been from \$95,000 to \$130,000, a growth of nearly 36 per cent. in two years, of which 18 per cent. occurred the past twelve months.

It is gratifying to observe that the annual Report of the Board of Trade presented in January, in reviewing the events for the calendar year 1917, "congratulates the members upon the satisfactory condition the Colony occupies today"; and then goes on to say:

"The year that has just closed has been one of the most momentous in the history of the Trade of the Colony. The difficulties created by war conditions during the year 1916 were very much increased last year, and in addition thereto we have been faced with the trouble of handling and marketing one of the largest catches of fish the country has experienced for some years. It is with satisfaction that the Council is able to report that, in spite of the immense difficulties under which the business of the Colony has been operating during the past year, the trade of the country, with but few exceptions, is in a prosperous condition, and although there are many serious obstacles in the way of a satisfactory conclusion of the year's work, the situation is

such that most classes of the community have reason to be thankful."

In face of all these facts, it is evident that the conditions which prevail throughout Newfoundland are of a highly encouraging character, and we are, therefore, emboldened to undertake the imposition of an income tax following the precedent already created in Great Britain, Canada and the United States. The details of this matter I will deal with more fully on the introduction of that Bill itself, but I may say here that it imposes an obligation on every person in the Colony with an annual income, if unmarried, of over \$1,000.00 per year, and, if married, of over \$2,000 to pay a tax on the excess income graded according to the amount. In these days, when we are asking some of our people to sacrifice their lives in the cause of freedom, it is a very small demand to make upon those who remain at home enjoying the comfort and security purchased by the blood being spilt for us on the battlefields of Europe, to contribute a moderate share out of the riches they enjoy, towards the upkeep of the State, and the payment of the obligations the war has imposed upon us, and which the pensions for our brave soldiers and sailors, and their dependents, will require in the future. I am confident that this measure will meet the unanimous acceptance of the Legislature.

We have also proposed, as you are already aware, to raise a loan for our war needs, of six million dollars, including therein the amount of three million dollars for which provision was made by a Loan Bill last year, but which amount was not raised for reasons which I set out in my explanatory address on introducing the new loan resolutions. It is proposed to place part of this loan locally, and

we hope to have a generous response to the appeal from the people of the country, more especially when, as I have already pointed out, there are in the banks about sixteen million dollars altogether, and that two and a half million dollars, of this total went in during the past twelve months. In other words, if the people of the country invested in this war loan their savings of the past year, we ought to obtain 2 1-2 million dollars from them, and they would have the advantage of doubling their income from this amount, because the rate paid in the banks is only three per cent., and the rate we propose will yield them fully twice that amount. Perhaps I had better at this point, give you a brief explanation of our war costs. From the beginning of the war, up to the end of last month, our total war expenditures was roughly five and a half million dollars, contributed as follows:

1914-15	\$ 435,000
1915-16	705,000
1916-17	1,648,000
1917-18 (to date)	1,627,000

and amount retained in London and paid Captain Timewell by order of the Government, to date, \$1,087,000.

I have a more detailed statement which will be published later.

The amount has been met so far in the following ways:

War Loan \$3,000,000 realizing for military purposes.

Vote from Surplus Trust,	
1915-16	\$ 429,000
Vote from Surplus Trust,	
1916-17	470,000
Vote for Pensions, 1917-18 ..	60,000
Making a total of, roundly.	3,870,000

the additional amounts being obtained by advances from the Imperial Treasury.

In connection with this War Expenditure, I might go on to say

that, as hon. members very well know, this burden, heavy though it is, is as nothing compared with that being borne by our neighbours in Canada. The cost of the Newfoundland Naval Reserve as to pay, separation allowances, clothing, food, etc., is borne entirely by the Imperial Government, except that now the Colony has undertaken to add thirty cents a day to the pay of each man in that branch of the service, for the time he served therein, in order to put the sailors on a parity with the soldiers of the Regiment; and, as for the Regiment itself, we merely provide the pay and separation allowances for the men, the Imperial Government feeding, clothing, equipping and otherwise caring for them from the time the men leave Newfoundland until they return again. It is safe to say that the burden we would otherwise have to bear is more than cut in half by this generosity on the part of the Mother Country, and in taking into account our contribution to this struggle, we ought not overlook this fact. Nevertheless, our burden is a sufficiently serious one to give us occasion to pause, and it is that in order to provide against unforeseen contingencies we are proposing the substantial additions to the tax burden of our people which I am now suggesting. I will anticipate the argument that these taxes make an excessive burden on our people by pointing out that the people of the Mother Country, of the neighbouring Dominion, and of the great Republic to the south of us, are all much more heavily burdened than we are in these respects, and that we have certain advantages here which ought not to be overlooked, advantages in the fact that our fishery products have increased in a greater ratio than any other food products known to the

world to-day, that we have been able to reap our harvest of the sea and the icefloe almost undisturbed by the suggestion of war or its consequences; that new projects for further enhancing the value of our staple industry are taking form every day, and that the outlook generally is much more favorable than certain contingencies of this struggle might ensure for us. The North Sea has been almost deserted by the fishing crafts of the European nations, and those adventurous vessels which still ply their calling in that area do it subject to the danger of being shot by German airmen or sunk by German submarines as we read in the messages a few days ago of Dutch fishing vessels and their crews, although the Dutch are a neutral nation.

As a result of this and other conditions, the Norwegian fishery is much below the average, and is unlikely to reach a total which will enable it to compete in any serious fashion with our products during the coming year, another circumstance which is certain to contribute to maintaining the price of our staple product and ensuring us of its profitable marketing.

The gross Public Debt at the end of June, 1917, was in round figures \$34,500,000 less Municipal Debt of St John's and Sinking Fund repayments, etc., totaling \$2,235,000, leaving a net Debt then of slightly over \$32,000,000. For the past ten months we have met our war obligations out of surplus revenue and by temporary loans, and our net Public Debt to-day may be put at \$34,000,000.

The new taxes which we propose are as follows:

One cent addition to the ordinary letter postage; in other words, a re-

turn to the three-cent postage general here in past years.

A 5-cent stamp tax on all local telegrams.

A 10-cent stamp tax on all telegrams from here to outside countries

A 10-cent stamp tax on all Customs forms.

An increase of 2 cents a pound in the excise duty on tobacco.

An increase of 50 cents a pound in the excise duty on cigars.

An increase of \$1.25 a pound on cigarettes.

An export duty of 20 cents a quintal on fish.

An export duty of two cents a gallon on fish oils of all kinds.

An export duty of twenty cents a barrel on herring.

An export duty of fifty cents a case on lobsters, and fifty cents a case on salmon, and an export duty at the rate of 30c. a tierce on salmon.

An export duty of twenty cents each on seal skins.

From these various duties we expect to obtain a Revenue of about \$500,000 in round figures.

Therefore, our exhibit for the next fiscal year will be as follows:

Main Estimates voted last

week \$5,367,000

Additional Estimates voted

last week 24,500

Total Estimated Expendi-

ture, for 1918-19 5,391,500

Or, then say roundly 5,400,000

And on the other hand:

Revenue from ordinary ser-

vices (including new in-

come tax), say 6,000,000

Proposed new War taxes .. 500,000

Total estimated value .. \$6,500,000

I, therefore, estimate a substantial surplus allowing for the inevitable Supplementary Estimates of next session and unforeseen contingencies which may arise meanwhile.

I have attached to this review extracts from the Auditor-General's report containing various financial statements of interest, which will be printed with this speech to-morrow, and will thus be available for hon. members if they desire to consult them, and as I feel that the sentiment of the House would probably be that it desires an opportunity to consider the general features of this review more fully before entering into a discussion of its salient points, I move that the Committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again on Monday next.

MINISTER OF FINANCE'S SPEECH.

EXTRACTS FROM AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Public Debt.

The funded Public Debt of the Colony was increased by the following amounts during the fiscal year under report, viz:—

Acts 5th, Ed. VII., Cap. 1, at 4 per cent. interest. Issue of Bonds in exchange for Debentures, under the provisions of this, the Debenture Conversion Act..... .. \$4,000.00

And reduced by the following, i.e.—

Acts 61, 62 and 63 Vic., Cap. 33, at 4 per cent. interest: For cancellation of Debentures under the provisions of the Debenture Conversion Act \$3,800.90

Act 56th Vic., Cap. 1, at 4 per cent. interest: To cancellation of

Debentures under the provisions of the Debenture Conversion Act.....	100.00
	\$3,900.00

As no Bonds are issued of a smaller denomination than \$250, the sum of \$100 had to be paid into the Conversion Trust Fund by the person applying for the Conversion. This Fund exists for the purpose of equalizing the amount of Debentures which, in many instances, are for broken sums, with the minimum amount for which a coupon-bearing Bond can be issued.

The net addition to the Public Debt for the year was therefore \$100, making it \$34,429,765.60 at the close of the fiscal year 1916-17.

In order to obtain the net Funded Public Debt of the Colony it will be necessary to make the following deductions, viz:—

Gross Funded Public Debt, as stated above..	\$34,489,765.60
LESS	

Due to the Colony by the St. John's Municipal Council.....	\$1,429,631.22	
Script of the Harbour Grace Water Company held by the Colony..	13,700.00	
Amount paid off by the operation of the Sinking Fund established under the 56th Vic., Cap. 13, as on June 30th, 1917..	785,546.67	
Invested in Imperial Treasury Bills £20,000 stg., at three months renewable from time to time as necessary. The Colony's agents in London were unable to obtain any Government of Newfoundland 4 per cent. Loan, 1895 Stock, there being none on the market, and no immediate prospect of their being able to make further purchases, they, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, invested the sum available for Sinking Fund purposes in Treasury Bills at \$4.26 2-3....	97,333.33	2,326,211.22
		\$32,163,554.38
Net Public Debt..		

Current Balances.

The Balances to the credit of the Colony at the close of the fiscal year 1916-17 were as follows:—

Surplus Trust Fund ..	\$655,652.21
Agricultural Bonus..	913.79
Conversion of Debentures ..	211.41
Loan 1898—Market House ..	10,000.00
Loan 1911—New Poor Asylum and Marconi Construction ..	21,412.74
Loan 1914—Public Buildings ..	1,163.57

Railway Loans	132,009.20
War Loans	628.07
	\$822,049.99

There were no Debit Balances due by the Colony on the 30th June last, with the exception of an indebtedness of \$101,915.53 due the Bank of Montreal for Money Orders referred to more particularly in this respect.

The foregoing balances, with the exception of that of the Surplus Trust Fund, are for specific purposes and may be utilized for those purposes only. There are therefore merely held in Trust by the Treasury for the said purposes.

I have not included in the above the Debt due by the Municipal Council and the script for the Harbor Grace Water Co. held by the Government, as these have been set off against the Public Debt.

Surplus Trust Fund.

25.—The following statement shows the receipts and expenditures on account of the Surplus Trust Fund since its inception in 1901:

DR.	
To amount received from Consolidated Account from 1901-2 to 1912-13, inclusive	\$1,272,807.47
To amount received Account Surplus, 1915-16	431,553.76
	\$1,704,361.23

CR.

By expended to June 30th, 1917, as follows, viz:—

Roads	\$501,480.96	
Light House Construction	57,000.00	
Harbor Improvements and Marine Works ..	242,613.56	
Outport Public Buildings	23,347.82	
Extension Marconi System	14,000.00	
Completion of Fever Hospital	3,000.00	
Construction Museum (in aid of)	30,000.00	
Extension General Hospital (in aid of) ..	50,254.48	
Encouragement Herring Fishery	26,067.94	
General Elections, 1908 and 1913	92,328.59	
To cover part deficit Current Account, 1908-9	6,786.92	
Festival of Empire (in aid of)	10,213.90	
Government Bonds for Old Age Pension Fund	200,000.00	
Education (in aid of)	10,000.00	
Erection of fence around Constabulary Grounds	1,213.30	
Board of Agriculture (in aid of)	8,000.00	
St. John's Agriculture Society (for hay)	6,757.25	
Post Office Contingencies (in aid of) ..	8,000.00	
War Services	429,401.25	\$1,700,464.97
Balance to 1917-17		3,895.23
		\$1,704,361.23

The Expenditure on account of Surplus Trust Fund during 1916-1917 was \$429,401.25, all for war purposes.

The balance to the credit of the Fund has been appropriated as follows, viz:—

For War Purposes... ..	\$470,000.00
Roads—voted in last year's Supplementary Supply.	50,000.00
Marine Works in last year's Supplementary Supply.. . . .	50,000.00
War Bonus to School Teachers, Supplementary Supply.. . . .	28,000.00
Government contribution to Halifax Disaster Fund.. . . .	50,000.00
Conveyance of Newfoundland destitute families from Halifax	5,000.00
May Account, St. John's Agricultural Society (old balance)..	1,472.75
	<hr/>
	\$654,742.75
Not Appropriated.. . . .	909.46
	<hr/>
	\$655,652.21

Loan Expenditure, 1916-1917.

Apart from expenditure under the War Loans, payments on account of Loans have been small, amounting to \$17,441.03, viz:—

Marconi Installation	\$600.00
Marine Works, Lighthouses and Public Buildings	1,951.69
Railway Arbitration Awards and Railway Connecting Roads . . .	14,889.34
	<hr/>
	\$17,441.03

The present position of the Loans now open are as follows:

Act	Service Balance From 1915-16	Expenditure 1916-17	Balance to 1917-18
61, 62, 63 Vic., Cap. 33—Agricultural Bounty	\$913.79		\$913.79
61 Vic., Cap. 1—New Market House	10,000.00		10,000.00
1st. Geo. V., Cap 3—New Poor Asy. Marconi Installation	148,456.37	600.00	148,426.37
	8,836.37		8,236.37
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$157,262.72	\$600.00	\$156,662.74
4th Geo. V.—Lighthouse Construc	391.34	391.34	
Cap. 24—Marine Works...	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Addition Gen. Post Office	318.25		318.25
Lunatic Asylum Improve.	921.21	260.35	661.56
Colinet Bridge Repairs...	357.33	300.00	57.33
St John's Court House and Museum Repairs.. . .	51.75		51.75
Public Bldg., Freshwater	2.95		2.95
Public Bldg., Bay Roberts	31.64		31.64
Public Bldg., Hr. Grace..	3.69		3.69
Public Bldg., Channel...	36.40		36.40
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$3,115.26	\$1,951.69	\$1,163.57

4th Geo. V., Cap. 23—Railway Construction and Arb. Awards....	\$126,865.10		
Added from 6th Geo. V., Cap. 31..	20,033.44		
	<hr/>		
	\$146,898.54	\$14,889.34	\$132,009.20
5th Geo. V., Cap. 8—War Loan....	\$205,029.72		
Added from 6th Geo. V., Cap. 31..	1,014,029.44		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	\$1,219,059.16	\$1,218,372.09	\$687.07
6th Geo. V., Cap. 31—Railway	\$24,986.16		
War..	1,014,493.22	1,057,715.54	
Repayment Temporary Loan	18,236.16		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	\$1,057,715.54	\$1,057,715.54	

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 to-morrow.

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

The Chairman from the Committee of the Whole on Supply reported certain Resolutions which were read a first time as follows:

Supplemental Supply \$695,316.78
Additional Estimates 24,500.00

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

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary to inform the House as to whether the daughter of Thomas Thistle, of King's Pt., who was telegraph operator at that place, has been dismissed or is about to be dismissed from the post as telegraph operator. If so, for what reasons? Also to lay upon the table of the House, copies of all complaints from and correspondence with the residents of that neighbourhood and all other persons relating thereto; copies of correspondence, if any, between the

Postmaster General and Miss Thistle with respect to the conduct of her office and her dismissal; and a copy of the report, if any, of the Postmaster General thereon; also to inform the House upon whose recommendation the dismissal took place. Also to lay upon the table of the House copies of all correspondence with his Department relating to disputes at King's Point between Mr. Thistle and certain residents of the neighbourhood in connection with waterside premises at King's Point; also copies of any Minutes of Council made with respect to the said waterside premises of the said Thomas Thistle or premises adjoining the same.

HON. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I don't think there are any records in the Colonial Secretary's office in relation to these matters. I will see by Monday.

MR. CURRIE asked the Hon. Minister of Justice to lay upon the table of the House copies of all telegrams and correspondence between the Department of Justice and Magistrate Wells of Little Bay, in reference to a summons taken by certain residents of King's Point or neighbourhood against Thomas Thistle, of King's Point, in connection with the attempt of certain residents of King's Point

to take possession of some waterside premises owned by Mr. Thistle or adjoining property owned by him; also to lay upon the table of the House copies of telegraphic and other correspondence exchanged between Hon. W. F. Coaker, a member of the Executive Government, as such, and any and all residents of King's Pt. and neighbourhood in reference to the said waterside premises and the taking possession of same by the people of the neighbourhood; also a copy of the deposition of Mr. Thomas Thistle made before Magistrate Morris, of St. John's. What action, if any, was taken by the Department of Justice on said deposition? If no action was taken, why was action not taken?

HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE—The information is being prepared.

MR. CURRIE asked the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to lay upon the table of the House copies of all correspondence between Mr. Thomas Thistle, of King's Point, and his Department, relating to the renting by the Government of the wharf of Thomas Thistle, of King's Point, for public purposes; also all correspondence from the Department to Mr. Thistle or with the residents of King's Point and neighbourhood relating to the taking over by the residents of King's Point or the Road Board of King's Point or the Department of Marine and Fisheries of the waterside premises of the said Thomas Thistle or waterside premises adjacent thereto.

MINISTER OF MARINE & FISHERIES—The information is being prepared.

Pursuant to order and on motion of the Acting Minister of Militia the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the War Pensions Act 1917" was read a second time.

MINISTER OF MILITIA — Mr.

Chairman: It will be remembered that an act was passed last year providing for the formation of a board of commissioners empowered to administer all matters in connection with the pensions of our military and naval forces. The Bill before the House is merely a amendment to that Act for the purpose of providing that in the event of any of the commissioners appointed under that Act being absent from the Colony or unable to attend to their duties, on account of sickness or any other cause, the Governor in Council has power to appoint a substitute commissioner while the other is absent.

When the Act was passed last year a suspending clause was placed in it, in order that the Governor in Council might have an opportunity to look around to see where a desirable board could be secured and in the early days of this year they appointed three gentlemen, Sir Patrick McGrath, Hon. J. J. Clift and Dr. Parsons, M.C. Unfortunately after these appointments were made the Hon. J.A. Clift became seriously ill and was confined to his home for some weeks and was unable to attend to his ordinary business duties. Since then he has had to go abroad for medical treatment and I am glad to say that he is on his way home very much improved in health. Dr. Parsons was on active service in France and until quite recently has been unable to secure relief from his duties there. He is at present in London taking a special course having reference to this particular work. That course will occupy some seven or eight weeks and he will not be available until the latter end of June or July. It will therefore be seen that the Commission has rested in the hands of Sir Patrick McGrath. It will I think be considered improper that one man should be asked to alone

arrange these pensions. Prior to the passage of this act last year and in fact since, the administration of our pensions has rested in the hands of a voluntary board or committee. As I stated last year I think that the whole country is under a great debt of gratitude to these gentlemen for the services that they have rendered. They have given their time willingly and they have performed onerous duties and under the circumstances they have given the greatest satisfaction. It is, however, absolutely impossible for business men to continue to give that time to this work that its importance warrants. Therefore the Government decided to appoint this board of commissioners. Unfortunately this board as constituted has been unable to get to work since as already has been pointed out. This is a question of paramount importance for not only the present but for a long time to come involving an amount of labour whose vastness is only known to those who have been engaged thereon. In Canada they have appointed a board for ten years, which is presided over by Mr. J. K. L. Ross, the philanthropist millionaire. He attends the office of the pensions committee every day and gives his almost undivided attention to the work. The Administrative and executive work is performed by Mr. Major Todd, ex-professor of McGill University, who is considered one of the greatest experts that has come to light during the war on these questions. Our Act passed last year was founded on the Canadian Act and is in fact almost a copy of the Act in operation there. Thus we have the advantage of the experience of these men who have so deeply studied the question for a long time and we can feel assured that this act has the entire approval of this Legislature.

There has been a great accumulation of work unfortunately in this department but it is been unavoidable. This fact making as it does the adjustment of pensions, has had a detrimental effect upon recruiting throughout the country. I do not say this in criticism of the work of the gentlemen that have been engaged hitherto, because it could never be expected that gentlemen who have large private interests and duties should be able adequately to perform the work this matter calls for. In the case of men who have been returned they have been able to effect some sort of a scheme, but in the case of men who have died on the battlefields they have been able only to continue the allotment of the soldiers to their dependents, as they had received it when he was alive. Thus it will be seen that the present conditions of things are quite undesirable, as there are many soldiers who have died who have not made any allotment to particular dependents or friends or relatives and these, therefore, have received no remuneration whatever, although in many cases it would have been most equitable that they should, have received some remuneration from the Government. Take the case of the son of a business man in comfortable circumstances who goes away to the front, having made an allotment to his father. If the son dies the father still receives the allotment. On the other hand a young man might have a mother and two or three sisters, who dies without having made any allotment. His dependents receive no pension. This is one of the many matters that will have to be arranged and which at the present time is certainly occasioning a great deal of dissatisfaction. Once the board is in a position to attend to the many matters of pressing im-

portance, I trust that these difficulties will be overcome. It is generally considered throughout the country and also in St. John's that the pensions come under the Militia Department and I want to make the statement for the information of the House and those that labour under this misapprehension, that these two departments are totally distinct.

The Militia Department has to do only with the administration of military matters and the soldiers. The Pensions Department concerns the dependents of these men. That is the difference between the two. The matters relating to pensions, comes exclusively under jurisdiction of the Pensions Committee. The Pensions Act passed last year, section six, points out a very emphatically the importance and absolute independence of the Board. No power can be brought to bear upon the gentlemen upon this board so that they can be made to defeat the spirit of the act or in any way coerced to depart from the absolute judicial decisions. This Board is as independent as the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, absolutely above party influence, absolutely above political influence, absolutely above social or religious influence. Every persons that goes before this board can be assured of getting fair play and equity.

I would like to avail of this opportunity to say a word or two with regard to the standing of our military forces in St. John's at the present time. There has been a great deal of surprise expressed, many questions have been asked and newspapers have commented on what have been done about the recruits coming in. I might say for the information of the House that the number of recruits that we accepted, that is, those that were attested from

April 3rd., on which date the late recruiting campaign started, up to May 10th was 605, a little over double that number having offered; previous to April 3rd there were 55 men in training here at Army Headquarters. These men to-day are to be accounted for as follows: Of the men attested 24 were discharged, that is, 24 men, who, after being under observation for a week, which is the usual time allowed by the military authorities, were found unable to perform their military duties; 146, who, through unavoidable circumstances, were unable to report immediately and are being waited for from now until the end of June, including Bank clerks who had to give their employers due notice and school teachers and others who had to make lengthy arrangements before taking up foreign service; 60 men are home on leave; 50 men are in hospital and under quarantine and there are in Barracks at present at the Prince's and Curling Rinks 380, making a total of about 660. I want to say to honourable members of the House that it will be a great pleasure to the military authorities if any members are desirous to go through the Barracks. The men now are all stowed away comfortably and properly equipped and provided for. I saw them there this morning in company with the District Officer Commanding, Major Montgomery. I would like for members of the House at the first opportunity to go through the barracks. Major Carty is the officer in charge there and he will be glad to facilitate you during your visit.

MR. CURRIE—How many of the 380 are under 19 years of age.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA—Approximately 87. The form of enlistments up to April 27th were: Under 19 years 87; from 19 to 24

years 225 men; between 25 and 30 years 56 men and over 30 years 22 men. Mr. Speaker, another matter, perhaps, that I might give information about and that is as to the arrangements made for the sending away of drafts. On April 20th we had 120 men ready for overseas. We wired Ottawa; and I might say that this is the only source that we have for making transportation arrangements for sending men across. We have to make all arrangements through Ottawa for the men to go to the other side. We asked in our wire if they could give us transportation for 300 men. We had 120, but in view of the large effort that was being made and the number of recruits that were continually coming in we estimated that we would have 300 men ready. We got an answer saying that they would be able to give us transportation some time during the latter part of May. We wired again a day or two ago asking for a definite date because one can appreciate the difficulties that sometimes arise through not having notice, owing to sending the men across country now and having them at Halifax, Quebec, St. John, N.B. and other places of embarkation. I give this information as some newspapers stated that nothing had been done about getting the men away. Everything possible was done and the matter of transportation was entirely in the hands of the Canadian authorities. I may say that we are making further arrangements for the sending over of another draft in June. I, therefore, propose the Second Reading of the Bill and give it my hearty support, as I am very desirous of seeing this Pensions Act put in operation.

The Bill was ordered to be refer-

red to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Pursuant to Order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter Thirty Six of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (second series) entitled "Of Nuisances and Municipal Regulations."

On motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the amendments made by the Legislative Council in and upon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Military Service" were read a second time.

HON THE PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Speaker: I would like to make a few observations before these amendments are passed. Suggestions have been thrown out that in reference to the Military Service Bill the Government was not acting in good faith and was not in earnest about putting it into force immediately. I am not going to say anything in reply to that beyond this statement that I hope before this day closes that events will so shape themselves that the matter will no longer give room for discussion. I have on my desk now a copy of the Proclamation which I hope will be issued and signed by the government to-night calling out Class 1. After that His Excellency the Governor may be able to attend before the adjournment of this House to-day and give his assent to the Military Service Act and the Extension of Parliament Act and that to-night an Extraordinary Gazette will be issued containing that Proclamation and the Regulations of the Tribunal dealing with the matter of exemptions and the appointment and personnel of the Military Service Board who will carry out the Act as to appointments whenever it appears necessary. I do not propose to repudiate any of

those aspersions. I want to see events speak for themselves.

The main amendment is in reference to the classification, which brings into the First Class those of the age of 25. Originally the First Class included those between the ages of 19 and 24; as the Bill now stands those of 25 are included. Another amendment relates to the issue of the proclamation forthwith. That is now provided for in the Act. It was the intention of the Government to do this, and preparation was made to carry it out, and it will be carried out strictly, both in the letter and the spirit. With regard to the actual calling up for military service, that will be provided for by the Military Service Board, which is also provided for under an amendment to this Act. I may say that the Government will be repared, in the Gazette which will be issued to-night, to appoint this Board, which will be composed of Mr. R. G. Rendell, as Chairman, the Deputy Minister of Justice, the Inspector General of Police, and Mayors Montgomery and Carty.

Another amendment relates to the powers of the Exemption Tribunal, namely, the Judges of the Supreme Court, to appoint Commissioners to take evidence and report in certain cases. For instance, where a claimant has a brother already in the service (where there are not more than three brothers) or two already in the service, where there are four in the family; or where claimants apply for exemption on the grounds of ill-health or infirmity, or for any other sufficient reason under the Act, Commissioners may give conditional certificates. These Commissioners will be mainly the different Stipendiary Magistrates.

MR. MORINE.—Is it the intention to have representatives of the Mili-

tary Service Board appear before those Commissioners for the purpose of challenging from time to time?

HON. PRIME MINISTER.—That will be a matter to be decided by the Board.

MR. MORINE.—I thought, perhaps, you might have discussed the matter. But it will be within the power of the Board?

HON. PRIME MINISTER.—Yes. The object of that is to meet the immediate needs. There are a large number of men, especially in the North, who in the ordinary course would be signing on for the fishery at this time of the year, and amongst those are married men of military age and who come within the scope of this Act, but who are exempt for one reason or another, and it is important that immediate steps be taken to have their claim decided on. It was thought that it would be a great hardship to those men to be compelled to come on to St. John's, and their cases will consequently be dealt with in his way.

MR. CURRIE.—Has everybody to come to St. John's to report?

HON. PRIME MINISTER.—No. That may be done by sending on forms through the post. These forms may be handed to the Postmaster or Postmistress, as the case may be, whose duty it will be to forward them to the Registrar appointed under the Act. There are some other amendments, but they are merely of a verbal nature and are not of any importance. I move the second reading.

HON. MR. COAKER.—Mr. Speaker: With regard to the matter now before the House, I wish to make a few observations. The amendments sent down from the Upper House were passed last week, after I had left town and gone to Catalina. I left town on Saturday, the 27th April, I

think, and these amendments were made subsequent to that date. All of them do not meet with my approval; but as in many cases they improve the Bill, and in view of the necessity for uniformity of action in connection with the putting of this measure into force, I have consented to support every one of them. In the other House during the last few days a great deal has been said in reference to both this Bill and the Extension Bill, and apparently that Chamber was not so much concerned with the provisions of that measure as with the desire to introduce into the discussion attacks upon myself. Almost the entire debate has been surrounded by references to what I said during the last year or so with reference to Conscription and what appeared in the *Advocate* during the same period on that subject. For instance yesterday very nearly the whole time of the Legislative Council was taken up in reading certain charges made in a letter from Sir W. D. Reid to Lord Shaughnessy and in dealing with a circular that appeared in yesterday's paper over my signature. Now I wish to make a few remarks on the points raised. As far as recruiting is concerned I may say that if all the members of this House, especially those so bitterly opposed to me had done as much to aid voluntary enlistment as I have done, there would be no need for a conscription measure. I frankly admit that I opposed the formation of a Regiment. It was a matter that I had no hand in. I considered that what this Colony should have done was to send to the British Government reserves for the Navy. The country could have supplied Naval Reservists immediately — as first class men for that duty could have been found all around our Island.

Then if anyone wished to join the Army, he could have volunteered and enlisted with the Canadian forces. However, no matter what I said the Regiment was sent to the front; and when I found that the country was committed to this policy, I, like many others, fell in line and endeavoured to help the authorities to shoulder their responsibilities. In the Fall of 1914, soon after the Regiment was formed, the hon. member for Bonavista and myself addressed public meetings at Bonavista and Catalina, and appealed to the people to come forward and enlist. As a matter of fact since then I have addressed over 45 public meetings all on the same lines — advocating recruiting. What is more, at our Convention in 1916 I addressed the delegates and exhorted them to go to their districts and use their utmost endeavours to encourage the young men to come forward and join the colours and to do everything they could to induce the mothers to allow their sons to enlist. I also declared that if 50 men were not forthcoming within a certain time that I would resign and go overseas myself; and that if they did not want that to happen they had better come forward and procure at least 50 men. As a result about 130 young men came forward and offered to enlist as "Coaker recruits." Out of that 130 about 70 were accepted; and I simply had to tell others that followed that I did not want any more for "Coaker recruits" as it would be impossible for me to find employment for those of them who would return, as I had undertaken only to provide for those who returned out of 50. I may say that I promised to these men that all of them who would return seeking employment would be found jobs by me as far as possible, either in the civil service or in the Union. Today we have four or

five of these men employed, and are endeavouring to find positions for others. In view of these facts, I cannot see how any man in this country can throw aspersions at me for what I have done for voluntary enlistment. Here in St. John's I have addressed public meetings on the subject, while many other public men refused to do likewise. At all these meetings I have taken the patriotic stand that it was a man's duty to go, and that every eligible young man should volunteer at once. I believe that I have done my duty, and what anybody says to the contrary will not affect me, or alter my opinion of what my duty is or was. As regards the insinuation that has been lately made, that I never intended that Conscription should be enforced, and that the proof is contained in my circular letter, let me say that I wrote that circular and sent it out on the night of the day that this Bill was passed by this House; and that I sent it out with the good intention of paving the way for the enforcement of conscription. Consider my position in the matter. It is easy for men to criticize and say this or that; but just consider my position. I was the head of an organization embracing thousands of the young men of this country, and admittedly the situation was that if I said we will not have conscription, it would be impossible to put such a measure into effect. It is quite simple for men without responsibility, who do not represent the people directly or indirectly, who were not sent to the Legislature by the people, irresponsible politicians, patched-up defeated candidates, to get up in the Upper House and make speeches about conscription, and to vilify me and misconstrue my action. But it is quite another thing to sit down at an Executive table and put through a measure that

involves the lives of two or three thousand men of the country. What man can face a duty of that sort willingly? Do the men who have vilified me realize what would have happened had I opposed this Bill? Do you not suppose that if I had said we will not have conscription without a referendum that it would have been possible to put it through on Executive responsibility? Messages were coming in begging for men; appeals to come over and help save the Empire; to do our bit little or much; messages saying how badly the forces needed reinforcements—that we were fighting on 34 fronts without reserves; and beseeching us to send across our share of men. If at this time I had stepped in and said no! we will not stir until the matter is referred to the people, what would have been the result? But I took the stand, after mature consideration, that conscription was the only thing for us, and without a referendum. A reference to a vote would have killed it; and we would have dishonoured the brave lads who have borne the fight for us, disgraced our regiment and given a black mark to the name of Newfoundland. The people may not have realized that now, but in the years to come, they would have stigmatized the Government who allowed the disgrace to fall upon our country, as traitors and cowards.

But I want this House and the country to understand, that the people did not want conscription. I tell you if it had gone to the vote it would have been defeated two to one. And in spite of all that, there are men in the Upper House as well as the hon. member for Burin ready to declare that I acted dishonourably, why? Because I would not stand up and oppose the Bill? Instead of helping me to do my duty, they seek to thwart me. Why did I sent out

that circular? Because the people were aflame. I know that the slightest friction would be as a match to powder, and the whole North would have been aroused in opposition. I know the people of whom I speak. I endeavoured to explain the position to them. They could be led but not driven. But what did the three opposition papers do? They sent forth blazing headlines shouting "Conscription: Every man must Go" without even attempting to tell the people what the Bill meant. They came out and said "Every man between 19 and 40 will be called on"; but when we did our duty they began to discredit us and vilify me. They endeavoured to fan the flames into fire; and they did not know or care where it would end. I stepped into the breach and attempted to educate the people up to what it meant, and endeavoured to do it gradually; but my efforts were immediately assailed. I wanted to make conscription possible; I wanted to prevent rioting or disorder. I know the temper of the people of the North. I was flooded with hundreds of messages from F. P. U. councils and members asking me to oppose conscription and not to consent to it. And yet I knew my duty, and did it. But how did my opponents help me? What would they have done if they had been placed in my position? They would sham duty and let the regiment die a quick death. I said to the people: "Boys you are Britishers. You have an Empire handed down to you by our forefathers intact, and it is our duty to protect and uphold that heritage and safeguard it for our children and pass it on impaired. If we do not do our duty we will be called 'cowards.'" This Act will not take every man. The industries of the country will be protected. It will not strip families,—if there are three

sons in a family only one will be taken; if there is one gone and one left, that one will not be taken. Why should one family give all their sons, and another with two or three give none. This is the only way this war can be fought and finished. This is the only invincible course open to us as a Dominion of the Empire. If the men cannot be found under the voluntary system they must be found under this. It is the Empire's life or death struggle. I am in favour of doing our bit as our fathers would certainly have done under the same conditions; and if the people disagree with me let them ask for my resignation and I will give up my seat in this House and the Executive within twenty-four hours. There were men in the Upper House like Mr. Bishop and Mr. Milley who should be above partizanship and all pettiness, and should look at the situation from the broad and patriotic viewpoint, who are endeavour to neutralize my efforts and condemn my action. It was easy enough for them in their positions to sit and vote for a Bill calling upon the young men of the country to offer their lives for King and country, as they are not responsible to anyone, but how would they have felt if they had been in my position? and had to risk by their one action the strenuous work of ten years as I have done in this matter.

We knew, and the fishermen ought to know and realize, that if the country was not prepared to do its duty in this crisis we could not expect the American and the Canadian and the English Government to help us out during the coming fall. If we could not succeed in getting tonnage to market our fish it would not be worth five dollars a quintal. If we did not do our bit along the same lines as Canada and America how could we as

a Tonnage Committee apply to the controllers of these countries and ask them to supply us with the necessities of life. They would simply say "paddle your own canoe. You have adopted your own course; you are not doing your bit, and have decided not to do it; so you can get along as best you can. We have our own people to attend to and we must produce and supply our armies. So get along gentlemen from Newfoundland the best way you know how." How could we send messages to the Government of Great Britain asking for steamers to bring salt to Newfoundland and take our fish across as we have been doing the past year since the National Government took charge, if we did not do our bit and show to the Imperial Government that we did not mean to be cowards and did appreciate our freedom and liberty. As far as I am concerned in this matter, my duty to the country comes first, my duty to the Empire next, and my duty as President of the Fishermen's Union third. If any member of the Fishermen Union does not like that maxim they can put a man in my job that will carry on my work better than I can do it. I suppose members of the opposition imagine it a sinecure to be President of the F.P.U. or to be a member of the Executive Government of this country, or to be the head of a business such as I am head of at the present time. During the past ten years I have built up a tremendous organization in the country, and I have built up a colossal business, and at the present time I exercise a strong political influence in the country. It has not been easy to accomplish all this. I have not been lazy. Now I came here and I vote for this measure and I run the risk of smashing in smithereens all the work I have accomplished in ten years; and every word I have uttered

on this subject has been in the face of that possibility and yet some individuals are cowardly enough to say that I am a dishonourable man and place self-interest first.

As regards this matter of the letter of Sir W. D. Reid concerning which I was so violently attacked in the Upper House' I suppose honourable members have read the affidavit that I swore to when I had Sir William Reid arrested. That affidavit contains the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in connection with the statement made by Sir William Reid. These statements are utterly false, groundless and without foundation in any way. Mr. Harry Reid or Mr. Crawford did not know me when I took that trip to Canada. I had not spoken to Mr. Crawford until three months afterward. The first time I ever saw Mr. Harry Reid was at breakfast one morning in a hotel in Montreal. He came in by accident while I was sitting there. We were staying at the same hotel and I did not know him when he came into the room. The Reids or any other individual had no more to do with my trip or why I went or what I did than the man in the moon. Sir Wm. Reid may have conspired to entrap me; he may have had spies surrounding me. I know not. But amidst his intrigues and plots and schemes my hands are clean. I knew nothing whatever about any of their spies or detectives following me or watching me till this matter was brought up here in St. John's. Not one penny of Reids' money ever touched my fingers. I have stated before that since I have had a seat in this House I have been sent each year a pass over the Reid system; but I have never used their pass once. Every time I travel over their service I pay for my ticket. I have so much contempt for free passes and the in-

trigues of men that would try to undermine the influence of public men, that I set my foot upon that thing when I entered public life and I never have gone back upon that determination. I challenge any one to contradict those statements.

I wanted a trial of the Reid cases. I arrested Mr. Reid because I wanted a trial. I arrested him because I was an innocent man, and I was charged with certain things that were intended to kill me as a public man, written by a man—a shrewd lawyer—who did not think that there was any way in which anyone would read anything libellous in his words; before that letter appeared an ultimatum was presented to me by Mr. Reid to stop the meeting that was to be held on the 20th of December to oust him from the Presidency of the Company; and because I refused and replied that it was a row between brothers and they would have to fight it out between themselves, I was told that I was to be driven out of public life like Sir Robert Bond and Mr. Morine had been driven out.

MR. CURRIE—Will the hon. member say that he made no attempt to patch up that quarrel?

HON. MR. COAKER—Yes, I did make an effort. But I said just now that I was asked to stop the meeting, and because I would not stop the meeting I was to be ousted and driven from public life and even the National Government had to go. I did make an effort to patch up the quarrel.

MR. CURRIE—That necessitated the postponement of the meeting.

HON. MR. COAKER—No. I was first approached days before when the notice was given in Montreal. Sir W. D. Reid begged me on a dozen occasions to grant him an interview. I refused. He caught me going out

on the train on Sunday and he went out on the same train for the purpose of having a conversation with me. I had absolutely refused to meet him in town and that was the way he had of getting a conversation with me. Then he told me various things and I said, "You men ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Go, make up your differences and do not have the country turned up side down because of your personal quarrels." I did ask Mr. Harry Reid to come to terms with his brother and allow him to remain President. But I never made any attempt to stop that meeting. I have been branded as a criminal. Even the hon. member for Burin stated that everyone wondered how I got the money to pay my expenses because I travelled in high style and they thought someone must be paying my bills. Now if you are manly you will withdraw that statement. None of the Reids ever paid me a cent and I never touched a cent belonging to them in any way and I never will. The Trading Co. and Electric Co. paid my way. I went to do the work of the Trading Company, the work of the Union Electric Light Co. and I purchased all the outfit for Port Union during that trip. Who pays Mr. Grimes' expenses when he goes abroad to purchase for the Trading Co. Does Reid? We pay them of course; cannot I go on work of so much importance that it calls for the head of the concern without being accused of having Reid paying my way, or of being a rascal because I travel as one in my position should. Is the Trading Co. so poor, so contemptible that the man who in serving their interest and built up its colossal business cannot take a trip in connection with that business without someone paying his expenses. I freely admit that I could not pay my

own expenses. I am worth no money. You would not be able to get a hundred dollars out of me to-morrow no matter how hard you tried. I am not worth it. I have been toiling for the fishermen for ten years and have built up a colossal business for the fishermen; and secured political power, but I am a poorer man than I was ten years ago. If you want to be fair do not publish insinuations like that again without proof; and if you get such proofs there will be no one more willing to retire than myself. I have been trying to do my duty conscientiously and fairly. I have laboured late and early and many things that have been done would not have been done perhaps if I had my way in all respects; but I can say that nothing wrong has been deliberately done with my knowledge during my long term of office as President of the F. P. U. I asked for a trial on the Reid charge but a trial was refused. I tried as hard as the law would allow me to force this case before the Supreme Court; and the men composing the Grand Jury said it was a political matter and they even refused to read the evidence, and denied me a trial. Here was a man accused in the press of actions that if true should ruin him as a public man. I had no right in public life if guilty of what Reid accused me of in that letter. I had no right to be a member of the Government if the Reid charge was true, for if true I should be branded as a rascal and sent out of public life; and despite the fact that I said I was an innocent man, and wished to prove it the Courts of Newfoundland refused me a chance to prove my innocence.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to say any more with regard to those matters. What I have said is sufficient

to convince any honest man that I have done my duty honestly and fairly and as a Briton, as a member of His Majesty's Government, as a Newfoundlander and as President of the Fishermen's Protective Union. There are matters I intend to refer to further before this House closes; but His Excellency the Governor wishes to assent to that measure to-night before we adjourn, and the Proclamation is to be issued to-night calling out the first-class, and that ought to convince every man who heard the words uttered in the Upper House and who read the insinuations in the public press, of my sincerity; because I re-affirm and say that if I had taken a stand against that, the Conscription Act, it would mean a divided and agitated country. I ask the fishermen of the country, the men of the North, to stand loyally behind the Act. Let the young men come forward as the needs demand. Let no obstacles be put in the way of the working out of the Act. Let everything else be forgotten now except that of defending the honour of Newfoundland and living up to our duty as the sons of Britons.

MR. CURRIE—I am sure that the House has been entertained by the honourable member for Twillingate. A great deal of what has been said is not in relation to the matter under consideration of the House, and a good deal of it refers to matters still before the courts; as I would remind the honourable member that there are three or four libel actions which he is supposed to have taken three or four months ago still awaiting trial where in many of the matters that he has referred to will probably be dealt with. It is not my intention to delay the House. I want to say that I am in entire accord with the amendments made. I think they will make the

Bill more workable and more satisfactorily and will give the public greater confidence in it. The Premier has already notified us that His Excellency will be in the Council Chamber before this sitting closes to give his assent to the Bill. May I say this for members on this side of the House, that that is perfectly satisfactory. We are pleased that the Prime Minister has taken such a stand. If there has been doubt through the country as to the intention of the Government. I think the Government is very largely responsible for that position themselves. When we discussed the matter earlier in the session the honourable member for Twillingate stated in the House that the Act would not be enforced till the fall, or if enforced that nothing would be done till the fall. Then on top of that we have his advice in that Circular that if sufficient volunteers were forthcoming the Act would not be enforced at all; then the men could go to the Labrador and the law would not interfere with them.

MR. COAKER—Get ready to go to the Labrador.

MR. CURRIE—It practically amounted to the same thing. You intimated that the law would not interfere with them.

MR. COAKER—I did not do any such thing.

MR. CURRIE—That is in the circular. You said the law would not interfere with them.

MR. COAKER—No.

MR. CURRIE—If I had the circular here I could read the statement. If he has been criticized as he states on account of his own attitude he is entirely to blame himself. He now comes in and takes credit for the passing of the Conscription Act; while as I have already pointed out to this House he formerly denounced the Ad-

ministration because they wanted to take the boys from home and send them over to be shot in France. If Conscription was objectionable then it is objectionable now.

MR. COAKER—It is objectionable now

MR. CURRIE—I do not think so. I think it is the fairest way of getting recruits. I do not see why one man should go and another man remain at home. If the duty of the country is to send men over there to fight, then every man's duty should be the same, and one man's son should not go while another remains at home. As far as the principle of Conscription is concerned I am thoroughly in accord. I believe that it is the best and the fairest. If the hon. member has referred to the responsibility he assumed in deciding to support conscription. He assumed no more responsibility than any other member of the House. Every man in this House who voted for the Bill has assumed the same responsibility, and I have no doubt when I go back to my District again it will be said to me that I took the young men of the country and sent them over to France to be shot.

MR. COAKER—You will blame Coaker for it.

MR. CURRIE—No, I will not. Because I am prepared to shoulder my own responsibility, and anyhow I am not that kind of a man. The hon. member this afternoon said that members of the Opposition and the Opposition had made insinuations against him. That is the very thing he is himself trying to do now.

I am very sorry if the hon. gentleman considers that he has been misjudged. He must remember, however, that he has been in the habit for many years of misjudging others and it is only natural that he should sooner or later have to take some of the

medicine that he has been dealing out to others. He cannot, however, deny that the statements contained in his circular certainly intimated to the people that the Conscription Act would not be enforced until the fall and perhaps not even then.

HON. MR. COAKER—That is not true. That is not contained in it.

MR. CURRIE—You said that you did not expect that the Act would be enforced if a sufficient number of volunteers came in. It is entirely his own fault if the hon. gentleman has been misjudged in any way.

HON. MR. COAKER—You have been misjudging me before the circular was ever thought of.

MR. CURRY—You have been in the habit of misjudging others for the past eight or nine years. There is not a man that has ever been in public life that has not been vilified in the press which the hon. gentleman controls. Not a man whose public and private life has been vilified. The hon. gentleman is merely getting a little of his own medicine back.

HON. MR. COAKER—I don't mind taking my medicine.

MR. CURRIE—It is perfectly true that the hon. gentleman has been in the habit of vilifying every member of the Government preceding this one. Take the case of the "Lornina." Did the hon. gentleman ever apologize to the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs? No. He never did.

HON. MR. COAKER—In all probability I did.

MR. CURRIE—You did not. You may have done it privately. But you never had the decency to come out publicly in your newspaper and admit that you had been grossly libellous and absolutely wrong.

HON. MR. COAKER—There were no defamatory statements made at all.

MR. CURRIE—You never suggested

that men had been sent to their death did you?

HON. MR. COAKER—We wanted an investigation, that was all.

MR. CURRIE—You practically accused the Hon. Minister of Finance and Customs of being a murderer. You accused him publically. The hon. member wants to go about criticizing everybody and taking away the character of everybody that enters the arena of public life, but he considers himself grossly outraged if anybody does otherwise than let him alone.

Whatever the hon. gentleman may say to the contrary, the circular that he sent out to be read to the fishermen of this country, gave the impression that the Act would not be enforced. With regard to the other matters referred to by the hon. member I have no interest. With the Fishermen's Union I have the same interest in it that the ordinary man has in any corporation. If the Trading Company is successful I am glad as I would be if Ayres or Knowlings were. I hope that it will be successful as the people of the country have money invested in it, and it has my sympathy, as it tends to make the people invest money in the business of the country that otherwise would be hidden away, stored up somewhere or other, and I think the country gives Mr. Coaker credit for all that he has done. With regard to the Bill, as I said before, I am entirely in accord with the amendments proposed. They have considerably improved the measure and I congratulate the Government upon the Bill as it now stands. It will remove a great deal of the doubt that existed in the minds of the people as to the sincerity of the Government with regard to this measure, and I for one am only too glad to recognize the work the Government has effected.

MR. MORINE—I do not intend to take up much of the time of the House at this stage, but I feel that certain matters call for some remarks from me. I think that the member for Twillingate (Mr. Coaker) takes too seriously the letter sent out by Sir William Reid. It is obvious to everybody, I think, that the letter was merely part of a plan conceived by that gentleman for the purpose of maintaining himself in office as President of the Reid Nfd. Co. It was a letter evidently written by very clever counsel, employed especially for that purpose. Being cognizant of the circumstances which prompted his letter, we can understand that statements therein would be more or less exaggerated.

Efforts may have been made by the Reids to lead the President of the F. P. U. around the United States and Canada with a ring in his nose for the purpose of educating him to favor Confederation with Canada for the benefit of the Reid Co., but that Mr. Coaker knew of these efforts I am not convinced. I do not believe he did. I was at the time closely associated with him, and I had no knowledge of the plot which was on foot. But after all Mr. Coaker was not hurt, nobody else was hurt by educating him. He was dined and wined at Ottawa, heard and was heard, saw and was seen, and no harm has come to anybody, least of all to him, whose position in this country is one which demands that he shall be educated.

In this same Reid letter it is said that "With great tact and ingenuity, the writer succeeded in bringing about the removal of Morine from the Colony, because he was a stumbling block in the way of Confederation."

What will my anti-Confederate friends say to that, when they learn that I was the best protection they had

against Confederation, the real truth being, perhaps, that I was not likely to favor terms of union made to profit the Reid Co. at the expense of this Colony. I cannot tell, of course, what tentacles were stretched out in the dark to induce me to go to Toronto, but if it were meant to imply that I knowingly left the country to help anybody's schemes for coalition or Confederation, or that I knew that the contract for legal work under which alone I have been paid for the past two years was made for the Reids, or paid for by them, the author of that letter lied as infamously about me as he did about the hon. member for Twillingate. I strongly resent the too ever-readiness of people to believe wrong of any man, and to regard every slander as true. This is making public life in this country a curse, and fast preparing for the time when men who have any regard for their names will not consent to enter the Legislature. In law every man is innocent until proven guilty, and the same rule ought to be acted upon towards members of the Legislature.

I wish to say something with regards to the remarks of the hon. member for Twillingate in relation to his recent circular letter. I think it was ill-advised, and would not have been sent if discreet counsel had been availed of. But we ought to recognize that there is no man in Newfoundland today who could do as much against Conscription or recruiting as the member for Twillingate. There is no single man amongst us today, I say it boldly and openly, as he is too modest to say it himself, who can do as much for Conscription as the Member for Twillingate, the head of the Fishermen's Protective Union. Therefore, I think we should "be to his faults a little blind, to his mis-

takes a little kind." We ought to recognize his hard position, one of responsibility and difficulty, that calls for great courage, even though he may do his work in ways that do not commend themselves to us.

These are troublous times. They are not times for party strife. They are not times for personal bickerings. They are not times for narrow criticisms. They are times when we should look at the great things that are at stake. The liberties of this Empire, all that is worth living for and all that is worth fighting for, are at stake to-day, and what is done by us and said by us may greatly affect the issues. Therefore, we ought to be prepared to take the good that comes to us, and bind our eyes to the mistakes. When the Conscription Bill first came up for discussion in this House I was not present. If I had been I would have supported it, as I had the pleasure of doing in Ontario during the last election there. Equal privileges implies equal obligations, and there is no man in this vast Empire, the most glorious Empire the world has ever seen, and with the greatest privileges and liberties ever granted to freemen, but is under the obligation to do the best that is in him to maintain the Empire, an obligation that extends to every country, every hamlet, every man. That obligation is as pressing upon everybody in this Island as in other parts of His Majesty's Empire. Personally, I believe that Conscription is the most just and most equal system of securing aid in man power. If we had conscription at the outset many a family who have lost their all would have had left a portion to-day, many a wrong would have been righted if conscription had been in force from the beginning. Though we are late in bringing it into force, it

is the only means to secure equality now, therefore I support the principle. I was sorry to hear the honourable member for Twillingate say that the United States and Canada threatened to stop supplying us with necessaries if we failed to send recruits. I do not believe it. Food and supplies do not come from the governments of the United States and Canada. They come from the trade, and while trade has things to sell it will be our privilege to buy. I prefer to believe that conscription has been adopted by us because our sense of duty compels us, and because we will not consent to sacrifice the place of honour in the division won for us by our gallant boys in the fighting line. I hope that forgetting all that has been said and done we shall set our sails for that victory for which humanity cries.

The amendments were 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.

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 Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendments were read a first time and by unanimous consent of the House were read a second time and then referred to a Committee of the Whole House.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Speaker: before the Bill goes through I would like to

say a few words with reference to it. In the first place, as it went through the House originally, I would not have supported it. In its present form the Bill limits the extension to April 30th., 1919, and with it I am in accord and purpose to support it. To further extend the term of the present Assembly would, I think, be exceedingly dangerous. Strictly speaking, it is not unconstitutional for the legislature to change the term of life of this Assembly but it very objectionable to do so, ordinarily, and only to be excused on the grounds of national necessity. The constitution is "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." What we have to aim at is to secure some evidence that what we are doing fairly represents the will of the people. In spite of all the extraordinary things that have occurred in this Legislature, I have seen nothing to convince me that there is any large demand on the part of the people for a general election this year. If there were I would not favor this Bill to-day. World circumstances are without a precedent, and our actions have to go without a precedent. If there were any clamour of public opinion that an election was wanted this year, I should support it, despite all that has been said about inconvenience and expense because I regard that as of little importance in view of the way in which coalition was brought about, and because of the composition of the government and of this House.

When I look across the floor of the House, and when I consider the make-up of the majority, while I do not give my adhesion to the present Government, and while I am not for a moment satisfied with its composition, I see nothing to convince me that the people of this country would, under existing circumstances, return any

other body of men to power, or that any change would take place which would warrant the expense and trouble of an election. In other words, I am satisfied that under existing circumstances the present Government, if not the best that could be had would not be improved by an election now or in the near future; and therefore I am satisfied to leave them where they are and give my support to a further extension of the House.

And then I have another reason. It has been argued that this matter of Conscription would be injured by an election this fall, because if an election were pending the Act would not be enforced; and the answer has been given that the Act would go into operation, the call would be made, and the response would come long before the election. But it seems to me that this overlooks the human weakness of gentlemen in office, who, if an election were pending this fall, would each and every one of them be hampered in his efforts by the thought of the judgment that was to come so soon. You have a Military Service Board to carry out this Act, but unless the Government is behind the Act with all its power, many a thing will be left undone that ought to be done. The Military Service Board will find it necessary to resort to the Governor in Council, and to the officials of the country, civil and otherwise, day after day, for support, and unless the Government are willing to extend that support, the efforts of the Board will be of little or no avail. Unless the Minister of Justice will direct the officials of his Department to give all the assistance possible to the enforcement of this Act; unless the Magistrates of this country are inspired by the Governor in Council to

be active in season and out of season in its enforcement; and unless the Government themselves are heartily in accord with and behind the Act; the Act cannot be, will not be, efficiently enforced. And it is too much to expect that all that would be done if the members of the Government and their supporters had in a few months to make an appeal to a distracted country. And so I am satisfied that, indirectly, the enforcement of this Act, the recruiting of the regiment, and the performance of the duty which falls upon this country as a part of the Empire, would be hampered and delayed. If an election is chiefly for that reason, I am prepared to waive every question of constitutional practice and constitutional law which affect the position, basing myself firmly upon the rock that we have no other constitution than the good of the people, and that the highest good of the people requires the maintenance of the Empire with every effort in our power. For that reason, then, Sir, I propose to give my support to this Bill.

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 amendments without amendment.

On motion it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that the said amendments had been passed without amendment.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received a message from the Legislative Council, acquainting the House that they had passed the Bills entitled respectively:

"An Act to Amend the Education Act, 1916."

"An Act for the Publication of the Consolidated Status (Third Series.)"

And "An Act to further Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled 'Of the Keeping of Dogs,' 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 entitled "An Act respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners," with some amendments, in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly."

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

By unanimous consent and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the said amendments were read a second time and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that Body that the said amendments had been passed without amendment.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair until half-past seven of the clock.

At half-past seven 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 immediate attendance of the House in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker and the House attended His Excellency in the Council Chamber when His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the following Bills:

"An Act respecting Military Service."

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

And being returned to the House, it was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until Monday, May 13th, at three of the clock in the afternoon.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. — In moving the adjournment of the House I wish to announce that the Proclamation has been issued calling up Class 1 under the Military Service Act, and a Gazette extraordinary will be published tonight. The Minister of Militia has been appointed Registrar under the Act, Mr. R. G. Rendell has been appointed Chairman of the Military Service Board. The other members of the Board are Major Montgomery, Mr. Summers, Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Hutchings, Inspector General of Constabulary, and Major Carty, while Mr. Robert Alsop, an ex-Sergeant of the Regiment, and a former officer of the Supreme Court, will be clerk of the tribunals.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Speaker, on motion of adjournment a few days ago, when we had the discussion regarding the dismissal of certain officials at Bonavista, the Premier said that if any injury had been done he would see that justice was granted to these people. The first injury that has been done is the charge against them of having wilfully permitted men to go on the ice without warning. Therefore I think the first instalment of justice should be an investigation into the facts of the case. I don't see how it is possible for the Government to do anything towards restoring their positions without complete investigation into the charges, and so I feel I should have the consent of the Government to the request I am now making. I have a telegram from Mr. White, who was dismissed, saying that the charges were entirely false, and asking for an investigation, as he and the others have had no chance to defend themselves. I have another telegram from Rev. Fr. Dwyer, who is Parish Priest at Bonavista, saying that the charges against the light keepers are absolutely false. I read

these to show that the charges are denied, not only by the people accused, but by gentlemen of high standing, and I have to ask if the Premier will not, at my request, as well as theirs, have a magisterial inquiry ordered, giving full and free notice to those who have made the charges to bring forth their evidence, and giving the accused an opportunity to acquit themselves so that, if they have to lose their offices, they will at least preserve their reputations as humane men.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. — The matter will be taken up immediately by the Government.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

MONDAY, May 13th, 1918.

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

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to present petition from Elliott's Cove, T.B., praying for a sum of money for the construction of a road. I also beg to present a petition from Hickman's Hr. on the same subject. I hope the Government will give these petitions their sympathetic consideration. They have been largely signed and I ask that they be referred to the department to which they relate.

MR. ABBOTT—I beg leave to present a petition from Canaile Bay asking for a sum of money to build a concrete protection on a public well. The water supply in this place is very poor and subject to contamination, in fact every year the past fifteen years there have been several cases of typhoid fever due to the bad water.

I also beg to present a petition from Port Blandford asking that the post office be placed in the southwest part of Port Blandford, also that that

part of the place be named "Riverdale." I also beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Cape Shore asking for the sum of \$75.00 to build a road to connect the Cape Shore road with the main road.

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

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Speaker, a few days since I had occasion to present a petition to this House of more than usual importance, and the House graciously accorded to me to deal therewith more than the measure of time that may be generally taken in the presentation of petitions, and I desire to express my appreciation of the courtesy of the House on that occasion. I am today in a similar position and have two petitions of the utmost importance, and I am again compelled to ask the House to permit me to trespass upon its attention to refer as briefly as possible to the salient features of these petitions.

I fully recognize that the presentation of petitions is a perfunctory procedure; that petitions presented in the ordinary way to the House are courteously listened to and referred to the Departments to which they pertain and that this is, in nine cases out of ten, the sum total of the practical attention that they ever receive, unless it be that the member for the District from which they emanate, as some surplus moneys—and this very rarely happens—with which to meet their requirements, and it is difficult to conceive that this House could do more as we all know that the Estimates that are framed before the House meets disposes of the entire revenue for the coming year, and that the House may not vote a cent more than the estimated revenue, and within my own experience I have seen petitions presented in this Chamber at

a single session that, were they all to receive practical attention, would of themselves alone have absorbed half the public revenue of the Colony. A petition must have features of national importance to warrant its receiving consideration to the extent of having funds provided by this House to meet its prayer, and I am of the opinion that this House will think with me that the petitions that I am today presenting have this characteristic.

For reasons that I will explain as I proceed, St. George's District, from whence these petitions come, is in the unfortunate position of having no road system at all comparable to that to be found in other districts. This is accounted for by the fact that it is only within the past thirty years that St. George's has had representation in this House, and that during the previous forty years, during which all the other districts were enjoying the benefits of, first, representative and then responsible Government, they were yearly receiving considerable sums from the Legislature towards providing a road system, which is an essential factor in the development of every district, and from the benefits of sharing in which St. George's was for this long period debarred. The District of St. George is entitled, I think, to claim a premier place, because of its great industrial potentialities and natural resources in the country's districtorial family. Its fisheries are as prolific and more diversified than those of any other section because instead of being confined solely to the cod fishery it has a large and valuable herring fishery, a halibut fishery, a winter smelt fishery that is rapidly assuming considerable proportions, and a valuable river salmon fishery. It has, beside these, the Gulf seal fishery, which is peculiarly

its own, as of late years it seems to be possible only to prosecute it successfully in schooners from western ports.

Then, again, it has a valuable asset in the great fertility of its soil. There are areas, each of hundreds of square miles in extent, in St. George's District, that are unsurpassed in fertility of soil in any part of Canada, and the district as a whole in its agricultural possibilities is without a peer in the country, and its climatic conditions are also unrivalled. Last year I was enabled to show in St. John's both apples and corn raised in St. George's District; the apples were pronounced by those who saw and ate them to be ideal in appearance and their palatability unexcelled. The corn raised, of course, was not table corn, tho I believe it is possible to raise this: it was forage corn, and the raising of this in the country in the past two years in St. George's District established the fact that we are capable of producing what is admittedly one of the most important "silage" crops that can be raised owing to the great yield, compared with other crops, that corn gives per acre, and its highly nutritive qualities.

In addition to this fishery and agricultural wealth we have, perhaps, the most valuable timber and mineral wealth that the country contains. Our timber, too, is of the very best quality and the kinds grown far more varied than in any other part of the country. Our hard wood timbers, especially those used in shipbuilding, viz: juniper and wych hazel, are today only procurable in St. George's Districts, of large size. Our mineral wealth, as we all know, contains both iron, copper, marble, slate, gypsum, and our coal deposits are admittedly the only ones yet found of the quality and depth of strata that entitle them

to commercial consideration. Mineral oil is also to be found in very many places in the district and a company is now about being formed to bore for petroleum.

It would be difficult in one's imagination to set a limit to the degree of development that would have been attained in St. George's District today, in view of its enormous natural wealth, had Governments of the past been alive to their responsibilities for the providing of the facilities that alone would have enabled the utilization of this great wealth, and I have no doubt that, even at this late day, the present Government will make amends for the sins of omission of the past by not alone meeting the prayers of the petitions that I am today presenting—which only embrace two minor essentials in the district's requirements—but will go further in the very near future and carry out a program that will provide the district with other facilities, including a road system, mail service and the bridging of the rivers, that the district, in view of the national character of the great wealth it contains, is entitled to claim. These rivers are of most material advantage to the district—in fact, they are in a large measure responsible for the great fertility of its soil, but they tend to split the district up into a dozen isolated sections, and a road system, of which continuity will be a feature, calls for the bridging of these rivers, and until this be done the large agricultural industry that is ready almost to jump into existence, will be in abeyance.

To show the great necessity for a road system in St. George's District I may say that, startling tho' the statement may appear, today the want of a road system in St. George's District is a retarding element in the more successful prosecution of the

present unfortunate war. This is brought about by the fact that eight years back the Dominion Iron and Steel Company undertook to build up a great limestone business in the Port au Port Peninsula where limitless quantities of the highest quality of limestone is to be got. They installed a plant there, worth at least half a million dollars. The Company has an extensive railway system of its own, with five locomotives in operation, and it employs, besides, a number of the largest size steam shovels. It has built shipping piers, loading hoppers and all the other appliances of a gigantic mining plant, and all this with a view of providing the limestone to be used as "flux" for reducing and converting into steel at Sydney the ore brought there by another fleet of this Company's ships from Bell Island. The entire output of steel of the Dominion Company is at present being taken by the British Government in the shape of railway rails, sheet steel, barbed wire, and the thousand and one other requirements of military operations. During all of 1917 the Company found it impossible to procure sufficient limestone from Port au Port to reduce the quantity of Bell Island ore that was necessary in order to supply the steel output called for in the furnishing of the amount of steel required by Great Britain, and in the present year the requirements of the British Government are even greater than they were in the past or previous years of the war, and the prospect the present year of being able to procure the necessary quantity of limestone is not even so good as it was in the year past, and this is entirely owing to the unfortunate condition of things that I will now state to the House.

When the Dominion Iron and Steel Company undertook to establish this

industry at Port au Port, St. George's district had three ports of call on the schedule of the western coastal boat, viz—Sandy Point, The Gravels and Bay of Islands. The Gravels, in St. George's Bay, is immediately adjoining Aguathuna, the seat of the Dominion Company's limestone industry, but before their works there were in operation the steamer schedule was altered, through an act of political chicanery that reflects but little credit upon those connected with it, and St. Georges district was deprived of two of its three ports of call, with the result that since the beginning of operations at Aguathuna the Company has never been able to secure more than half the volume of labor that it requires for the full employment of its plant. This is occasioned by the fact that the taking off of the Western boat left no means to the operatives of Fortune, St. Barbe and other districts, who would seek Aguathuna as a source of employment, of reaching there direct by steamer. The only means by which workmen can now reach Aguathuna is by going to Port aux Basques by the Glencoe or the Portia, and there taking a train for Stephenville Crossing, a distance of 100 miles, and then facing a walk of 22 miles from the Crossing to Aguathuna, hence it is that when men, who left their homes purposing to go to Aguathuna, reach Port aux Basques and find this railway journey and 22 miles walk ahead of them, they abandon the idea and proceed direct to Sydney by one of the Reid steamers. This can be done in comfort, requires but seven hours time, and the men can be at work with an hour of landing at the Sydney pier; consequently, owing to the dilatoriness of previous Governments in providing the road system in St. George's that it was en-

titled to, a most untoward result is now in evidence, viz—that to which I have just referred, that the more successful prosecution of the war is hampered by the fact that the quantity of steel required is not procurable, and entirely owing to the fact that the limestone for the “fluxing” of the ore to produce it cannot be furnished owing to the scarcity of labor which is the direct result of the want of a road system that would enable workmen to reach Aguathuna without incurring the hardships that are now involved.

I made every effort to have the cut-out ports restored to the steamer schedule and had I been successful no scarcity of labor would be felt at Aguathuna to-day. One of the reasons given me for the attempt to justify the cutting out of these ports was that St. George’s District possessed direct railway communication with the other district and that, consequently, could afford to dispense with the coastal boat, and to combat that opinion, which was an absolutely untenable one, I wrote a letter, of which I will now read a copy to the House and which I think establishes the position I assumed, that not alone were we not in possession of any special railway advantages but that we were not receiving anything like the measure of railway facilities that the other districts having such were enjoying.

In the letter that I wrote to the Governmental Department, and of which this is a copy, I said:—

“Dear Sir,—Referring to the matter of our conversation on Saturday last, as to the Government’s taking action to compel Messrs. Bowring Brothers to either make Aguathuna a port of call for the western coastal boat or to revert to the original contract schedule therefor which

“gives St. George’s three ports of call, “and owing to your reference at the time to the fact that St. George’s District was not warranted in claiming the services of a coastal boat owing to its having railway facilities, and is I believe you entertain a misconception of the relative extent of the railway service to St. George’s, and of the greater value thereof to other districts, I beg to submit the following statement in connection therewith.

“First, Placentia District has a special branch railway with five stations thereon. In addition to this it has 11 stations on the main line railway, making 16 railway stations in all in the district. Placentia, further, has 38 ports of call by the Bay steamer and 5 by the western coastal boat, making 41 steamer ports all told.

“Second, Bonavista District has 15 stations on its branch railway and 7 on the main line, making 22 railway stations in the district. Bonavista, besides this, has 29 ports of call by the Bay steamer and 4 by the Northern coastal boat, making 33 ports of call all told.

“Third, Trinity District has on its branch and main line railways 33 stations. It has, in addition to this, 26 ports of call by the Bay steamer and 4 by the coastal steamer, making 30 ports of call all told.

“Burgeo District has 37 ports of call by the S.S. Glencoe and S. S. Portia, and about half of these are called at every week, and other districts have proportionately as great advantages. Rose Blanche, in Burgeo District, is 18 miles from Port aux Basques railway station; Isle au Mort is but 7 miles; Grand Bruit is 27 miles, and La Poile is 30 miles. These places, it is true, have no connecting roads, but the district

“has had the same per capita road grant that St. George’s has had, and has had it for a much greater number of years, and these places are in almost daily communication with each other and with the adjoining district by the coastal steam service that the district is enjoying.

“Lastly, St. George’s has 18 railway stations and about 40 ports of call by its two bay steamers, and only one port of call every two weeks by the steamship Portia, so that it is practically cut off from all communication with adjoining and other districts, and, consequently, the facilities for labor from these places reaching Aguathuna is practically non-existent.

“Stephenville, in St. George’s District, which has over 700 in population, is 12 miles from a railway station. Port au Port has 700 of a population and is 18 miles from a railway station. Aguthuna, with a population of as large as 800 at times, is 20 miles from a railway station, and the peninsula of Port au Port, which is the centre of a population of about 2,000, is 46 miles from the nearest railway station, and is without one mile of practicable road, with several large rivers intervening between it and the nearest railway station; without a telegraph office, or any other adjuncts of a modern civilization, and is in the possession alone, of the many things making up this, of a weekly mail service. It appears to me, therefore, that if our railway facilities justify the depriving of St. George’s District of the services of the coastal steamer, that the same principle is equally applicable to the other districts possessing railway facilities, viz—Placentia, Trinity, Bonavista, Bay de Verde, Ferryland, and others, and were this done I would

“have no objection to urge on the part of St. George’s, as a very great economy might be attained thereby. By cutting out these districts from the coastal steamer’s schedule ample time would be afforded the Prospero to do the work of the Cook’s Hr. route now being done under separate contract, and that thus the amount involved in this service would be saved to the general revenue. I am, however, far from desiring to deprive other districts of the services of the coastal boat; in fact, I think it would be unwise and unjustifiable to do so, but I am using the illustration to show that no unfair measure of facilities have been given to the District of St. George.

“Trusting that the Government will give this matter its earnest and immediate attention, with the result that either Aguathuna will be made a port of call or that the original schedule be restored and thus remove the large measure of dissatisfaction now evident in the district as a result of the unjustifiable arrangement in connection with the coastal fair measure of facilities has been material losses in the district.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) J. F. DOWNEY.”

Notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker, the reasons given in the letter that I have just read, and despite other efforts on my part to induce the Government, two years back, to reconsider the very large measure of direct loss to St. George’s district that was involved in this arbitrarily taking away of the coastal steam service, nothing has yet been done and we are reaping the harvest to-day of the indifference or the neglect of the Government in the fact of the lessened war activities that I have just re-

ferred to. I sincerely trust, and I have very little doubt, that when the new coastal contract is being entered into—as the present one expires, I think, in the current year that the just claims of St. Georges district will be taken into favorable consideration and the service restored to its original status.

Not alone in the matter of the dearth of labor thro' the want of means of reaching destinations is the district suffering. Another way in which this occurs is illustrated by the fact that last year tho' farmers in all other districts were receiving about \$4.00 per barrel for their potatoes, the people of Codroy Valley had to sell theirs for \$2.00. The large rivers, that I speak of, intervening between farming sections and the railway stations make the labor of conveying agricultural products to the stations for shipment by train so great that they will accept any price for them at their homes rather than incur this.

That the House may, in some degree, realize what this labor amounts to I may be permitted to state that many farmers live from 5 to 20 miles from a railway station, and that in order to reach a station, at least one, and in some cases more than one, large river will have to be crossed. This involves the carting of a load of potatoes from the farm to the river; the unloading and the conveying of potatoes across in the ferry; the return of the ferry to convey the horse and team across; the re-loading on the other side, and the subsequent journey of perhaps from two to ten miles to a railway station, and the meeting of the same difficulties on the return journey in having to re-convey the team across the river in the ferry. Were the bridges that the districts development calls

for provided (and they can be provided for a comparatively moderate expenditure) the district of St. George will, in the course of ten years therefrom, undertake to furnish all the agricultural products, including all the fresh meats and half the country's requirements of flour, and that these will be of a better quality than any the country has hitherto had.

Another great drawback that the district suffers from is the want of a harbor. Bay of Islands has been generously dowered by Nature in this respect. All its great Arms, including the Humber, Middle, North, Penguin, Goose Arm, and others, furnish harbors of the greatest capacity and of ample safety, but the entire coastline, of, approximately 120 miles, between Bay of Islands and Port aux Basques is without a single harbor that even a boat may resort to for shelter in stormy weather, and the fishing population of the entire West Coast, including the people of Placentia, Fortune and Burgeo Districts, are subject to the great hardships thus involved in their going to and fro', Spring and Fall, between the scenes of their fishery operations in the Straits of Bell Isle, and their home ports. All this could be avoided, and a harbor, affording absolute protection and one available at all times, could be secured by the construction, at a very moderate cost, of a breakwater across one end of the Codroy roadstead. This has been petitioned for time and again, and a year or two back the Government went so far as to instruct the Government Engineer to prepare plans therefor. The cost is only a matter of a few thousand dollars, but the measure of benefit that would be derived from its construction by not alone the people of St. Georges dis-

tract but of the entire West Coast would be one of priceless value. It would also most favorably affect the economic situation in Codroy Valley since it would give the people thereof an alternative means of shipping their agricultural products direct by schooners to purchasing points independently of the railway, and the cost of marketing would thereby be much reduced.

St. Georges, I regret to say, has in the past been treated more as a stepchild than as a legitimate unit of the district family of this Dominion. It is difficult to understand why this discrimination should exist. Its people, morally, intellectually and physically, are the equals of any that the country contains. Its population at the last Census was in or about 13,000; its percentage of natural increase is greater, as shown by the last Census, than that of any other district, so that to-day one is perfectly safe in estimating its population to be 16,000. This places it in the category of districts of the first class, yet it has but a single representative, and I may say without displaying any egotism that he is the hardest worked man in this country. Unfortunately he but rarely has the pleasure of meeting any of his constituents here in St. Johns, but they do favor him with their correspondence in no niggardly way. This is proven by the fact that in the ten years that he has represented St. George's district he has personally replied to over 42,000 letters therefrom, and that thousands of these letters involve the making of from two or three to as many as half a dozen different trips to some one or other of the many departmental offices to procure the information for the writers thereof that is sought.

The two petitions, Mr. Speaker,

that I have the honor to present at this House to-day call, respectively, for—the first one from Bay of Islands, for the extension of the telegraphic service from Summerside to Middle Arm. Middle Arm, as everybody will know, is the chief seat of the great herring fishery of Bay of Islands, and it is the birthplace of the Scotch cure of Newfoundland herring which is now proving such a valuable unit in the make-up of our annual exports, and which gives promise of becoming in the very near future one of the largest items therein. The volume of the herring business done in Bay of Islands in the past year could not have been less than at least half a million dollars, and nowhere in this country to-day is there a volume of business of anything like this amount being done that is without the indispensable advantage that telegraph communication gives, and I now unhesitatingly ask this House to deal reasonably with this petition and to make provision for the extension in the present season of telegraphic communication with Middle Arm. The length of the connecting line required is only 12 miles and the cost will be only a matter of \$1000.00 to \$1500 or \$1600, and it will be directly in the interest not alone of this District but of the entire country that this line be immediately constructed. All the other sections of the country in which Scotch herring are put up have the benefits of telegraphic communication, and this is an absolute necessity in the prosecution of a large herring fishery, especially that of Scotch cure.

In the past, whenever the condition of the ice in Bay of Islands made it impracticable to walk thereon, and the transmission of instructions to the master of a vessel from the owners thereof in Curling, or possibly in

Gloucester, or Boston, or elsewhere, this could only be done by wiring the message to Bonne Bay and then by employing a special courier to proceed from there to Middle Arm, and in the past herring season I know of individual firms that were at times subjected to an expenditure of \$100.00 a day for the transmission of two messages. This condition of things should not be permitted to continue through the ensuing season.

The second feature of this petition asks for the construction of twelve miles of road. These twelve miles will connect the important commercial towns of Humbermouth, the chief railway station in the district; Corner Brook, a large milling and fishery centre; Curling, the commercial metropolis of Bay of Islands; Petries, a large fishery centre, and Frenchman's Cove, and there are no other twelve miles of coast in Newfoundland today where the same large proportion and the same large commercial interests are in existence that are in such a lamentably backward condition for the want of means of intercommunication. In going from any one of these places to the other today people are compelled to walk the railway track. 'Tis true the nucleus of a road exists between Corner Brook and Mount Moriah, but the remaining distance between there and Frenchman's Cove is practically impassable, except on foot, and this petition asks that the Government will make provision for the improvement of this road so as to make it practicable for traffic purposes, and I have no doubt, in consideration of the very large measure of return that the country will receive in the industrial development of the district, that the House will consent to this. I claim that the withholding of the sum necessary to do this would be tantamount to an act

of injustice, and I am sure that the Government of the country has no intention of permitting a condition of things longer to continue that might be termed such.

The second petition, Mr. Speaker, is from the inhabitants of the Port au Port Peninsula asking for a road system. The Port au Port Peninsula may be described as without an equal in its industrial possibilities in this country, its soil being unequalled and its minerals admittedly of great value. Its fishery interests, too, are large, yet this entire area, as I think I have previously stated, is without a mile of practicable road, has not a single telegraph office; has no harbor, nor a single one of the many facilities that go to render existence comfortable, and I believe that, now that the true aspect of things has been shown, the Government will not permit so unfortunate a condition of things to longer continue.

I, therefore, beg, Mr. Speaker, that these petitions be forwarded to the Department of the Colonial Secretary, and I bespeak for them the earnest consideration of the Government at an early date.

MR. MOULTON—I ask permission, Mr. Speaker, to say a few words regarding a petition I presented last year from the inhabitants of Channel regarding a grant to repair a bridge. Five years ago considerable money was spent to have this bridge repaired, but it seems that the bridge is practically rotten, and the people ask that the Government grant the sum of a thousand dollars to help repair it. If the money is taken out of the ordinary grant for the district, there will be nothing left for the rest of the district. Now last year a special grant of \$10,000 was given a few districts in the country on account of bridges and roads being

washed away. The same thing happened in our district, but we didn't get any of that money. The people have hardly ten miles of road in the whole district, which is 130 miles in a straight line, and there is scarcely a harbor in the whole district which has a road from one place to another. I wrote the Prime Minister and the Colonial Secretary this winter, and the answer I got back was that we had some money then on hand not expended. The only money on hand belonging to the district was the one-third of the grant, which is supposed to be left there every year until the following spring. I would ask the Government to reconsider their decision regarding this thousand dollars to repair this bridge, which is badly needed.

HON. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—On behalf of His Honor the Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the residents of Pacquet, District of St. Barbe, asking that a telegraph office be erected in the northeast harbor of Pacquet. This office would benefit, not only the residents of this place, but also many people who have to do business on the Labrador. It is the best harbor on the coast, and is frequented very often as a refuge in the spring and fall. There is considerable business carried on here, and I think the telegraph communication asked for should be given. I trust the Government will find itself in a position to grant the request of the petitioners, and I beg to submit the petition to the Department of which it relates.

MINISTER OF MILITIA—I beg leave to present a petition, Mr. Speaker, of more than ordinary importance, from a large number of fishermen who are fishing out of this port. Last winter they petitioned Fisheries Board to make certain re-

gulations regarding the setting of cod traps in the vicinity of St. John's, between the north head of Petty Harbor and Sugar Loaf. It is probably well known to the House that for many years the practice has been for certain fishermen to secure berths by complying with the law, if that would be the proper construction, by putting out certain twine in the water in the early days of the winter. The practice has developed in late years to considerable proportions, and owing to the reason of the increased cost of twine, no longer are the poorer class of fishermen in a position to secure their berths in this manner. During the past winter certain fishermen have placed twine in the water, and thereby hoped to secure the choice berths on this fishing ground. Not alone have they put out the ordinary amount of one man, one trap, but in some cases as high as three or four traps to a man, which I submit, Mr. Speaker, is a very dangerous principle to adopt or to countenance; because, Sir, if this particular part of the coast is a lucrative one, and lends itself to the fishery to a degree exceeded in any other part of the country, it will be readily seen that in the very near future the entire fishery might develop and become sold out to two or three individuals. A large number of fishermen from this port have had the privilege of acquiring those trap berths for many years past, and as a matter of fact in the majority of cases their fathers and grandfathers before them; and today they are confronted with the possibility that is not alone serious but absolutely dangerous to their future welfare. They had hoped, Mr. Speaker, to arouse the Fisheries Board to a realization of this position, but they have not been able to do so up to the present. On the other

hand there are, I think, four or five individuals who are satisfied with the conditions now prevailing, but those individuals are the ones who are monopolizing a large portion of the berths at the present time. The Fisheries Board have not been in a position to meet as frequently as they should, and I think the main trouble is that there are members of that Board who are not residents of St. John's; and I think the time has come when other members should be appointed in addition, or in their stead, so that a representative number of the Board could always be found to have a meeting. This, of course, is entirely a local matter, and has nothing whatever to do with affairs outside St. John's. It is a matter, which as I have already pointed out, affects the heritage of a large number of the fishermen of this city; and I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is the duty of this Legislature, if the Fisheries Board has not been able to reach on it, or haven't had sufficient power, to enact rules to have this body of men protected. The law of the land is founded on the principle the land is founded on the principle number. On the fishing ground I have referred to there are about 40 choice or fairly good berths. The remainder, numbering twenty or twenty-five, are not so good or are insignificant; and it can be readily seen that the Reid Newfoundland Co., who are engaged in a large fresh fish enterprise in this city, or the Gorton Pew Co., or some other large company doing business here, or which may come here, may, one of those days, come out and take up those forty berths, and leave the fishermen, whose heritage it is, starving on the land. Now, Sir, I hope that when this matter is brought to the attention of the Executive Government,

they will realize that it is a very serious situation, and that those hard working fishermen should be protected and must be protected.

What they ask is nothing more or less than their rights. They are not asking for any privileges, and as a matter of fact they are willing to allow each man to retain one trap berth, but no more, for this year and after that to have some kind of regulation made whereby every man will have the same opportunity of getting a good berth, either by competition, each man starting in on a certain day to make for those berths and secure them, or to draw lots, by putting the numbers of the berths in a hat and each man drawing his own berth. This, although it would be somewhat of a gamble, would be absolutely fair and every man would have the same chance and would have the satisfaction of getting what he draws. But I say, Sir, that it is manifestly unfair and unjust to give four or five men the opportunity to go out there and seize the choicest berths, because they are in a position to run the risk of losing twice which they may have in the water, and which the poorer man cannot take the risk of losing. I may say that the Honourable Speaker of this House, who is representing the East End, is entirely in accord with what I say in relation to this matter. He and I have discussed the matter. He and I have discussed the matter many times, and he is in full sympathy with the action of the petitioners. I hope the Prime Minister will realize the seriousness of the situation and see that immediate action is necessary. The time is going, and in another week or ten days the men will want to have their traps in the water. They should receive an immediate answer on this question, and

I hope that when I lay this petition on the table of the House, it will be referred to the Colonial Secretary, and that the Executive will lose no time in giving this very proper request of the fishermen the attention it deserves.

MR. MORINE—I have been asked, Mr. Speaker, to give my support to this petition, and so have much pleasure in rising to support it. In the course of my practice in days gone by, in the police court, this matter often came before me, as I have no doubt it has come before every other practitioner, and so I have come to realize the importance of having these berths numbered and drawn for regularly and having regulations made to prevent the putting of traps in the water before the date when it is safe and proper to do so. I am told that in the water of St. John's about nine miles, the number of trap berths of the first class is about forty or fifty, and that there are some others which are not so good, about seventy altogether. It would be very easy, it appears to me, to mark these berths and number them permanently, and in doing so it might be found in many cases that the distances prescribed under the present rules would not be necessary. In fact it appears to me that no rules would be necessary, other than those fixed by the experience of the fishermen, and according to the circumstances surrounding each berth place. Then there should be an annual drawing, to take place, some months before the time arrives to put down the twine, and of course the positions drawn would be hold until the end of the season. Another principle that ought to be carried out is that of one man one berth, and in the first place, it should be one man, not a company, business firm or part-

nership. This ought to be above everything else the home of the poor man, or rather the home of the fisherman, not necessarily a poor man, but the common or garden variety of many, and we would, doubtless, find it extremely hard to draft regulations to prevent capital from putting fisherman, not the merchant, not an incorporated company, not the capitalist. The tricks of capital are in its nose from time to time, and hard to distinguish the case of the fisherman, setting for himself on his own account from the one who would be a mere name for the account of an incorporated company or capitalistic firm. But if each case was treated by itself, and a strong Board appointed, with great discretion, to deal with the cases as they come before them from time to time, to make regulation after regulation, to overcome abuse after abuse, I think the balance would be kept fairly even. I think most of us realize the truth of the words of the poet that "Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates and men decay," and what we want to keep in this country is a hardy race of independent fishermen, depending only on their own work for their own benefit. Now, sir, a great difficulty I can see will arise this year, and indeed almost any time in first putting these new regulations into effect. For instance, I am told that about three miles of water have already been taken up by a very few persons, and each of these persons has a number of traps, from three to six; and no doubt it will be said for these men with considerable force that they have acted under the regulations which have existed for so long, that they have secured a vested right and that they have done only what has been done, that they have during sev-

eral months maintained their rights to this berth by hard work and expenditure of money, and that therefore they ought not at least to be interfered with this year. Such an argument as that comes with great force, and must appeal to all of us who recognize vested rights, and would like to see fair play. But at the same time, sir, it appears to me that there is a stronger right. Originally the framers of these provisions must have had in their minds the idea that one man should have one trap and the idea of vending them is a foreign growth upon the regulations. No one will deny that these people who are there have a vested right, but it is also clear that they have not the first right that each individual fisherman I speak of has. No one fisherman should have two or three to the prejudice of any one individual. The strongest vested right is the right of each individual to one trapberth. The question that immediately concerns us now is the matter of meeting the case where a man who has taken up his trap berths, devoted time to them and spent money on his traps for them. He has a right to them. He must receive compensation. The Government must be more than fair when dealing with him; it must be generous. He must never be allowed to retain more than his share to the prejudice of other men who would have to go with none at all. And we ought not to wait until the end of the season to face these two difficulties. It has been said that this matter will be regulated next year. But in the meantime this state of affairs will have to continue. It would be better to make provisions for the numbering of berths and the drawing for berths upon the principle of one man one trap at once. Let them who have sev-

eral berths be allowed to retain the best one they have and let them give up the others. If they have gone to any expense about the others they should be compensated. They should be paid for any labour they have gone to concerning them. I would rather see them paid three times over for any expense and trouble than any sense of injustice should rankle in the hearts of those men to whom the greatest justice is I think due. I did hope that this matter would be taken up and acted upon promptly and effectively, with the greatest possible spirit of fairness and consideration for everybody. I hope that the Board when it sits will consider these regulations from time to time and so adjust matters that the last man will have his right to his berth considered. I agree with the remarks of the hon. Mr. Bennett as to the fishery Board. The men upon it are most useful and well-selected. They are men who have a great knowledge of the fishery. The outports are well represented and the men who represent the outports will be a great strength to the Board. Each matter that arises can be discussed with some knowledge of the locality to which it relates. The nine miles around St. John's are represented by gentlemen most qualified to assume this position. These matters are more or less local all over the country. I think that each locality should be examined and each berth carefully marked out. This Board too would be able summarily to deal with many of the disputes that at the present time arises before the Courts. It can only have the effect of giving to each man the justice that each fisherman deserves and the chance to do as well as his fellow during the summer months.

MR. MOULTON—Mr. Speaker, I beg to support the prayer of this petition. I consider that each right to a trap berth should be decided by lot, so that each man will stand the same chance as another of getting a good place. At the present time great expense and labour is devoted to the gear and to keeping the berths, which people who have more than one berth ought not to do; and the same I think applies all over the whole country, and not only to St. John's. There should be a law applying to the whole country with regard to traps generally and each separate district should have its own special regulations. I heard it said that this fishery board should consist chiefly of St. John's men, but I must state most definitely that I do not agree with that view. At the present time there are two men from the north and one man represents the western districts. A man living in St. John's or in the North is not familiar with the conditions that exist on the West Coast. I think myself that the most sensible way would be to appoint a board of fishermen for each district and let them have a law about their own lobster traps and so on. Each part of the country needs its own particular rules and it would be wise for the Government to make provision for these boards as soon as it can in its convenience attend to them.

MR. GRIMES—I have been asked to give my support to this petition by men interested in the fishery of the district which I have the honour to represent. My reason for supporting is because of the proposal that was made some time ago that the obtaining of the trap berths should be decided by having a race at the commencement of the season, and that the one arriving first at the choice berths to be recognized as the

owner. Such a proposal, if carried out, would mean that the man who had the greatest amount of money and could afford the best motor boat would have the best chance, and an unfair advantage over his fellow fishermen, who had the smaller engine. It would also mean many accidents, as men anxious to get the same berth arriving there at the same time would possibly collide. Therefore, I think the idea of disposing of these berths by lottery would be the best way of settling the dispute in question.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker, as representative of one of the largest fishing districts in this country I feel that I cannot allow this occasion to pass without giving my heartiest support to the prayer of this petition now before the House. With regard to the suggestion made by the hon. the introducer of this petition that it is purely a local matter, I do not agree. You have only to review the records of the outport courts and the records of stipendiary magistrates to learn the evils of the system now prevailing, and I think that the proposal now under consideration that the fishery be prosecuted under different conditions a most commendable one. With regard to the present Board I must confess that I entirely disagree with the Hon. Mr. Bennett that the members thereof should be solely confined to St. John's, as I think that it would be a great injustice to the outports. There should be a thorough re-organization of the present system. I should like to see the whole matter regulated.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker I have listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks made by the various speakers in relation to the petition which has been presented here this

afternoon by the Hon. Member for St. John's West, and which was supported by His Honor the Speaker, member for St. John's East, and other members who are here in the House, representing the various constituencies. I am placed in rather an awkward position as I was appointed to be Chairman of that Committee and am not prepared to say whether I will support the petition or not. I say: I happened to be the Chairman of the Committee and the Committee decided upon a certain action at that time, when they were faced with difficulties which could not be easily gotten over.

For instance, take traps already set last winter of not less than six fathoms deep and forty fathoms on the round, and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, and considering that the men who had already set these traps, had already employed men to look after them, paying them as I understand from \$45.00 to \$50.00 per month for the purpose of holding the berths, which according to the fishery rules, they were justified in doing. Then on the other hand, there is the loss of property at stake which sometimes means a great deal to the owner, and for which if the Fishery Board had made the immediate change in the rules this year, something would certainly have to be done by the Government to compensate the men who were put to all the extra trouble in order to hold trap-berths, beside, as I said before, the loss of property during the winter.

Mr. Speaker, to my mind the principle is altogether wrong, I am of the opinion that the use of setting winter traps or nets for the purpose of holding berths should be abolished, not only in St. John's, but all over this Dominion. If it is not done, as some of the hon. members have pointed out, a company or corporation could mon-

opolize all the available water, therefore depriving the individual or man of small means from getting either berth anywhere around the coast. On the other hand, it is a case of one man driving another, which means a whole lot of unnecessary work just for the purpose of holding a berth. Of course it is well known that some fishermen are more energetic than others, yet there is absolutely no reason for throwing every kind of an old piece of linnnet in the water during the winter months, just for the sake of holding a berth, and the sooner this rule is done away with, the better for all concerned.

Mr. Speaker, it was rather a hard proposition for the Board to decide, as they realized that the men who petitioned for the setting of winter raps to be stopped this year, deserved every consideration, and I believe the Board also fully believed that the requests of the petitioners were very reasonable, in fact I never met any men who were more reasonable, and I am sorry that some solution could not be found. Yet in the meantime next year the request will be put into effect.

It is sometimes very hard to get a Fishery Board, as some of the members live in the outports, and others who reside in St. John's may be away. It is not fair to expect a member of the Board to perhaps travel a distance of 30 or 40 miles to connect with the train in order to get here to attend a meeting for which no compensation is allowed. The time has arrived for the Fishery Board to be increased, having sufficient members to form a quorum, at any time a meeting is to be called. This to my mind is an important matter and should receive the earnest consideration of the Government. I regret, Mr. Speaker, that the Board could not see their

way clear to grant the request of the fishermen of the Battery; yet in the meantime they have promised to do so next year.

I might say that in the past the Government happened to overlook the Marine and Fisheries Department, which to my mind is the principal department, and which should be encouraged, and the Government should lose no time in helping to facilitate matters and encourage the men who are connected therewith.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all the members who spoke, and on the persistence with which they have followed up this matter. I have had the pleasure of meeting deputations from the men interested who laid their grievances before me. One great difficulty was this, as I pointed out to them, that primarily it would not be taken up by the government, as a government, inasmuch as there was a Fishery Board specially appointed to deal with such matters. I suggested that it might be possible for the disputants to meet together and find a solution for this year. I have no doubt, sir, that a big effort was made but it failed to accomplish anything. On another occasion I asked that the Fishery Board and the Minister of the Fisheries Department take the matter up and, if possible, find a solution, but the fact that this petition is presented here this afternoon is sufficient evidence that no solution has been found. There are two sides to this matter, and I need not go into them because those who preceded me have clearly laid them before the House. As the Hon. member for Bonavista has showed there is the prior right of the fishermen to avail of the first opportunity and the best chance to get the best berth going. And if the fish-

ery board fails to find a remedy that is no reason why solution cannot be found. In that case, the Executive must find a solution. If it is necessary to increase the Fisheries Board in order to find a solution of this matter, the Board will be increased. And if the Board cannot find a solution, then I will be prepared to bring the matter before the Governor in Council and have it dealt with by them. At the same time, justice must be done to those men who put out their twine under the protection of the law. We must not attempt to do justice to one body of men and injustice to another. Now, sir, I don't know that I need say anything more. I will close by again congratulating the men who have shown such persistency in this matter, not, I believe, merely because they are numerous—because I for one am not going to submit to any body of men merely because they are numerous: they must have something better and stronger than mere numerical superiority—but because they have a firm foundation of justice.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the Rules of the House in reference to all business except such as is not before the House were suspended.

Pursuant to notice and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider Certain Resolutions respecting a War Tax on Certain Incomes.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, we introduced at the last session a Bill for the taxation of Business Profits, from which we estimate to get about \$250,000. This Bill embodied a prin-

ciple of taxation altogether new to us in this country and much debate took place both in this House and in the Upper Chamber as to the wisdom of enacting it into law. The difficulties in the way of carrying this into effect were pointed out and were represented to us as being insuperable. It was predicted that the complications to which it would give rise were of such a character that because of the peculiarities of our country it would be impossible to make the measure effective, and it was predicted that we would not receive enough Revenue from this source to meet the cost of putting the Bill into operation. I am glad to say, however, Mr. Chairman, that all these gloomy predictions have been falsified and that we have been able, not alone to realize the amount I estimated, but nearly fifty per cent more. My expectation of the amount we will receive from this Business Profits Tax measure during the fiscal year to end next month, is \$400,000, and, as I have already stated, this large sum has been obtained without involving any very serious cost in the way of enforcing the measure. The total outlay for the machinery requisite to put the Bill into effect is only about \$10,000; and, so far from there having been any friction in the working of the enactment its operation has been effected without embarrassing any one or causing the least friction or business disturbance.

We found, however, in the process of making that measure operative, that large numbers of well to do people in this country were escaping the tax altogether. In the first place, and measure only applied to businesses, whether done by individuals or corporations, and where the concerns yielded a profit of over \$3,000. Thus, people comfortably off by doing bus-

inesses with smaller profits, escaped the tax altogether. Then, professional men, such as lawyers, doctors, and other classes, escaped its operation as well. Further, people in the enjoyment of private incomes did not come within its scope and also escaped, and it thus followed that large numbers who could contribute their share towards the cost of the Colony's participation in the war, escaped entirely and were not doing the least bit towards meeting the heavy burden imposed on our country by its participation in the present struggle.

We have therefore decided to follow the example of the British, Canadian, and American Governments, and to introduce a Bill imposing a tax on incomes which we expect will reach early all in this Island whose circumstances will warrant us requiring them to pay a share in the way of direct taxation towards the requirements of the country. I submit that there is no reason at all why a man enjoying an income of \$10,000, or \$5,000, or \$2,500, should not pay a tax on this income as well as the man who is carrying on business within the scope of the Business Profits Tax and has to meet the impost we levy thereon. The measure which I am now submitting to you is framed with this object in view, and as the Business Profits Tax was imposed for last year, we feel that it is only just for this new Bill to be also made effective for last year, and therefore we propose that the incomes made by people during 1917 shall be taxable through the Bill being made retroactive for that year. The principle of an Income Tax has been recognized in England for many years, and last year was put into effect in Canada. Those who have knowledge of affairs in the Mother

Country know that it has been very successful there, and with regard to Canada, all the information available is to the effect that it is proving equally successful in that country and that its enforcement presents no difficulty whatever. I recognize that it will be more expensive to carry out than the present Business Profits Tax, and that it will, at the outset, involve more complications, as we will have to make a thorough investigation throughout the country to try and reach all those who we think should come within its scope. It is intended, for instance, that it shall apply to all those of the fishing class or rather of the fisherman-planter class, whose income last year exceeded the figures with regard to exemption which we have provided in the Bill.

Everybody knows that since the war began the value of our fisheries has increased enormously, and that those engaged in fishing operations have made considerable money. Take, for instance, a planter with a trap employing four or five shipped men last year and getting 500 to 1,000 quintals of cod. He certainly made a very large profit. Or, take, again, the schooner owner who shipped four or five men for the Straits or Labrador at \$100 a man, and during the voyage caught 500 or 600 quintals of fish averaging \$10 a quintal. Both these men certainly made an income tax last year that we should reach and take toll from. We have not been able to reach him under the Business Profits Tax Bill, because it could be pleaded on his behalf that, as a matter of law, he was not doing any business within the meaning of the Act. But now, under this Income Tax measure, we reach him because his income in the form of earnings is taxable if it reaches a certain figure.

We have provided that, in the cases of unmarried men, they are to be allowed \$1,000 free of tax, and that if any of them earn above that figure they are to be liable to certain tax. With regard to married men the amount to be tax free is increased to \$2,000, but over that he must pay his proportion. In Canada last year they fixed the tax-free minimum at \$1,500 for unmarried men and \$3,000 for married men, but the amount they collected with these rates in force was not very large. Less than one per cent of the population became liable, and therefore this year they reduced the tax-free amounts to the same as we are proposing, namely, \$1,000 for unmarried and \$2,000 for married people, and their expectation is that, as a result of this, they will reach eight times as many people as they brought within the scope of the Bill last year.

I might point out before closing, that the rate of taxation we propose to levy by this Act, will be five per cent on the earnings or incomes of people above the figures named, but we also propose a super tax which is a further taxation on incomes above \$6,000, rising from three per cent to fifty per cent as the incomes of the parties enlarge. That is to say, the more wealthy a person is, the more he will have to pay in this way. First, he will have to pay the straight five per cent on his income above \$1,000 if unmarried or \$2,000 if married, and, in the second place, he will have to pay the super tax on a gradually ascending scale according to his wealth.

The details of the measure we can deal with in Committee, and if any further explanation is desired on any points that may arise, I shall be very glad to supply the same to Hon. gen-

tlemen as we go through the various sections.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Chairman: Is this Act a copy of the English or Canadian Act? If so, I presume these definitions are practically those in these Acts, word for word. You realize that one relies a great deal in technical matters of this sort, on Acts passed abroad. If it is a local Act without precedent, one would scrutinize it more closely.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—It is practically the same as the Canadian Act, adapted to meet local requirements. With reference to the classes of income to be taxed, I may explain that the normal tax is levied on all incomes over \$2000. Take for instance an income of \$6000: There is a deduction of \$2000, so that the normal tax would be \$200. That would be the first item charged. On the portion of income between \$6000 and \$10,000 an additional 3% would be levied, and so on.

MR. MORINE—The words "in addition thereto" cover all subclasses?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—The normal tax would be levied on all incomes. And this tax is 5%.

MR. CURRIE—Would this be in addition to the Profits Tax?

PRIME MINISTER—No. Every person and business must put in returns; but any amount paid by way of Business Tax is deducted before the Income tax is levied.

MR. MORINE—The effect of that would be that the income tax will be paid and no more.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—In many cases it would happen that roughly speaking the two would amount to much about the same thing, so that those who pay a business tax would not pay an income tax.

MR. MORINE—In sub-section G are you referring to business tax?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE—You will find the explanation on top of page 5.

MR. MORINE—Section 2 reads as follows (reads). May I ask why you distinguish between bodies corporate and joint stock companies and a firm carrying on business here?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—A firm or partnership is taken as a person—each individual partnership is taken as a person under the Act.

MR. MORINE—Will you explain why corporations and joint stock companies pay only the normal tax and not the surtax?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—Because we take 20 per cent of their profits over the amount of \$3000.

MR. MORINE—If the business tax exceeds the other, then you would take the business tax in preference to this?

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—You would take the higher, and not both. The first section on page 5 covers that.

MR. MORINE—In Section 5, bottom of page 4, the word "taxpayer" is used. Does that mean all taxpayers?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I think the explanation is that the taxpayer is allowed to credit what the joint stock company or corporation pay on his account. The individual shareholder is in the same position.

MR. MORINE—I am not asking these questions for purposes of delay. I am merely seeking light on the subject. I do not understand what it means. Under section 2 corporations are exempt from the supertax. I am asking why should this be? Why should they not pay the supertax as well as private persons; because under 5 they would be entitled to a deduction on account of the Business Profits tax up to the amount paid. Why should they be differently dealt

with under section 2 from anybody else? Suppose the supertax and the normal tax added together would amount to more than the Business Profits tax. Then in the case of a firm they would have to pay the greater amount, but in the case of a joint stock company or corporation they would not have to do so, simply pay the Business tax. Well the other might be greater.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—I do not think it is possible under the rate of taxation. As a matter of fact the reason these rates were changed from the Canadian was with a view of bringing the income near the level of the Business Profits tax, because the business profits was a bigger levy on profits than the income tax.

MR. MOULTON—In Canada all the companies and corporations pay a tax in this way. A company having shareholders would pay 7% dividend, and after that the Government would take one-quarter of the surplus. That was done in Canada last year. Persons deriving an income from that dividend also had to pay an income tax.

MR. MORINE — Why should the Judges be free of tax?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS—Because they are part of the tribunal which has to decide cases under the act.

MR. MORINE—You did not take that from the Canadian Act?

HON. PRIME MINISTER—No.

MR. MORINE—They have the highest salaries in the country. I do not think we should suppose that they would give unjust judgments because they might be subject to taxation. I see no reason why they should be exempt.

HON. PRIME MINISTER—It was not thought right to require them to give judgments in matters in which

they might be personally concerned.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman from the Committee reported that they had considered the matter to them referred, had passed the Resolutions with some amendments, 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 Authorize the Levying of a War Tax on Certain Incomes" was introduced and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Authorize the Levying of a War Tax on Certain Incomes" 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 to Authorize the Levying of a War Tax on Certain Incomes."

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 he said bill be read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Authorize the Levying of a War Tax on Certain Incomes" 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 on motion

of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions respecting the Shipbuilding Act, 1916.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Chairman, the object in asking the House to consider these resolutions is for the purpose of amending section 5 of the Shipbuilding Act, 1916. As the Act now stands, you may build a ship any size, and receive payment under Schedule A at \$20 per ton bounty. The amendment is to limit the size of the ships to between 120 and 130 tons, at the discretion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

MR. CURRIE—In connection with this amendment, I would like to point out that although the Governor in Council issued a proclamation on Oct. 30 of last year, saying that bounties would not be paid on ships over 120 tons, there is nothing here to give that proclamation the effect of law. Now, isn't it necessary to have something to give the effect of law to what may be done by the Governor in Council?

MR. MORINE—Are the bounties paid progressively from time to time as the ship is built, or after the ship has been completed and passed?

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—After the vessel is built and passed, the bounties are paid according to Schedules A, B, C and D, that is, \$20, \$16, \$10 and \$8.

MR. MORINE—The proclamation issued by the Governor in Council provides that any vessels for which keels had been laid before the issuing of the proclamation, and completed since are entitled to the bounty, and think there should be a section in

this Act regarding it. If there might, by any possibility, be outstanding claims, a proper section in this Act would head off any trouble that might arise.

MR. CURRIE—There is one other point in connection with this matter which creates a great deal of trouble. The Act provides that there should be rebates on certain materials for the building of ships, but the individual building the ship has to pay the duty and wait until the ship is completed before getting the rebate. This means that he has to tie up moneys in duties which he might want for something else. I would like to know if the Government cannot see some way to relieve the situation.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS—We can allow him to give a bond, but there is no other way. If we allowed free entry indiscriminately for material for building ships the privilege would be abused, but if you bind people down to a statement of the material used in building any particular ship there is no room for abuse.

MR. CURRIE—It never occurred to me that bonds could be given for the duty. What is the lowest amount for which bond can be given?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS—Any amount.

MR. CURRIE—Would the interest on the bond be rebated?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS—No, we cannot do that. They have the use of their money.

MR. MORINE—I must say that I think the present system is the only feasible one. If you allow free importation of material alleged to be for such and such a purpose, it would be utterly impossible to follow it out and see if the material was actually used for such purpose. This principle has been found everywhere to be

the only one that is workable. I think the Minister will agree with me that there is nowhere else where the concession of giving a bond even is allowed, and after all if a man gets a bounty for building a ship and a rebate on his duty, the little interest he might have to pay on the bond is inconsiderable.

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 Amend the Shipbuilding Act, 1916," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Shipbuilding Act, 1916," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Whereupon the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Shipbuilding Act, 1916."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Shipbuilding Act, 1916," 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 on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions in relation to the taxation of Telegraph and Cable Companies.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON THE PRIME MINISTER—The was made some years ago to impose a tax on cables landed for the purpose of transmitting messages through object of these resolutions is to remove an anomaly which exists at the present time with regard to Telegraph and Cable Companies. At the present time the Anglo-American Co. is paying taxation on its cables while other companies have the privilege of landing their cables free. An attempt this country, but owing to the wording of the act a suit ensued wherein the Commercial Cable Co. disputed the right of the Government to levy their taxes. The case went to and was ultimately decided by the Privy Council. Under the wording of the Cable Taxation Act, it was held, the Government had the right to tax any particular Company doing business in Newfoundland; but the companies, other than the Anglo-American Telegraph Co., which were merely transmitting messages through Newfoundland, was held not to be "doing business in Newfoundland."

That still left the Anglo-American Cable Company liable to taxation and freed the Commercial Cable Company, it being held that it was not doing business in the general acceptance of the term. Of course they were receiving messages direct from both sides of the Atlantic, through cables

landed here, which were transmitted on to Canso or to England, but that was held not to be such business as was contemplated under the Act. The object of these resolutions is to tax all other Cable Companies landing cables and utilizing this country for the transportation of their business. The advantage of landing cables here is a great commercial asset. It enables them to do their work much more rapidly and increases materially their business generally. Two other American cable companies conducting business here are the Western Union Company and the Direct United States Cable Company. They were given privileges when they came here to land their cables and treated as favorably as any other companies. The object of these resolutions is to treat all alike and to levy a tax on all companies who land cables here and utilize Newfoundland for commercial purposes and for the carrying on of business of this kind. The Act will go into force from a date which will leave out of account the period dealt with in the judgment. It is hardly fair to reverse a suit that had been contested and won and take by the force of this Legislature what a Court has declared should not be taken; therefore the date is fixed to cover a period immediately following the period covered by the last law suit.

MR. CURRIE—Will it affect the arrangements between the Government and the Commercial Cable Co.?

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—It will not affect the principle.

MR. CURRIE—May I ask the Hon. Finance Minister what revenue he expects to get from this source?

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER.—There is about a quarter of a million dollars now owed by the three companies.

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.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 5 Edward VII. (1906) Chapter Seven, entitled "An Act to Increase the Revenue by Imposing Taxes upon Business transacted by Telegraph and Telephone Companies within and in Transit through the Colony," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 5, Edward VII. (1906), Chapter Seven, entitled "An Act to Increase the Revenue by Imposing Taxes upon Business transacted by Telegraph and Telephone Companies within and in Transit through the Colony," 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 to Amend the Act 5 Edward VII. (1906) Chapter Seven, entitled "An Act to Increase the Revenue by Imposing Taxes upon Business transacted by Telegraph and Telephone Companies within and in transit through the Colony."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 5 Edward VII. (1906), Chapter Seven, entitled "An Act to Increase the Revenue by Imposing Taxes upon Business transacted by Telegraph and Telephone Companies within and in Transit through the Colony," 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 on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Committee on Supply. Deferred.

Committee on Ways and Means.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman, in connection with that 2c. per lb. on tobacco, I have heard a great deal of criticism about that. The general opinion is that it ought to be 5c. It will mean anyhow that tobacco will cost more a stick, and the Government will not be getting the benefit. The man who will get the benefit will be the seller of the tobacco. Personally, I have no interest in the matter, as I don't smoke, but I have heard a good deal of criticism of it within the past 24 hours. If there is money to be made out of it, it is just as well for the Government to make it.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE.—I do not think there is very much in that. The Government considered that the present increase was fair.

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 recommended that Bills be introduced to give effect to the same.

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

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for granting to His Majesty certain Sums of Money for Defraying certain Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial Years ending respectively the 30th day of June, 1918, and the 30th day of June, 1919, and for other purposes relating to the Public Service," was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for granting to His Majesty certain Sums of Money for defraying certain Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial years ending respectively the 30th day of June, 1918, and the 30th day of June, 1919, and for other purposes relating to the Public Service," 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 granting to His Majesty certain Sums of Money for Defraying Certain Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial years ending the 30th day of June, 1918, and the 30th day of June, 1919, and for other purposes relating to the Public Service."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for granting to His Majesty certain Sums of Money for Defraying Certain Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial years ending the 30th day of June, 1918, and the 30th day of June, 1919, and for other purposes relating to the Public Service," 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 on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the House resolved itself in order to consider certain Resolutions respecting Stamp Duties.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Stamp Duties Act.

MR. CURRIE—I think that there should be some explanation given as to Committee of the Whole as to the imposition of these duties on entries. At the present time a ten cent stamp is required by the Customs Department to be put on an original entry, and a ten cent stamp on the duplicate. That means twenty cents every time a man wishes to pass an entry. That is a fairly expensive proposition. Is that what the Government intends is to be done?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE. — Yes, there are only eighty thousand entries in the whole Island; that means merely \$16,000.

MR. CURRIE—That is counting the original and duplicates?

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE. — Yes.

MR. CURRIE—It is not a very vital matter but it does no good. I know it is due to a mere formality; but why should an extra duty of ten cents be imposed for a matter of form.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE. — Very well, we will charge twenty cents for one entry, and nothing for the duplicate.

MR. CURRIE—I think the matter ought to be explained properly.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE. — There is no explanation necessary except that we need the money; and if you need an entry we charge you for it.

MR. MORINE—May I suggest that the word "entry" instead of "entry form" be used, and the imposition placed at twenty cents.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE. — That is acceptable and we shall have the necessary amendments made.

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 Amend the Act 5, George V. (1914), Chapter Ten, entitled "An Act respecting Stamp Duties," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 5 George V. (1914), Chapter Ten, entitled "An Act respecting Stamp Duties," 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 to Amend the Act 5, George V. (1914),

Chapter Ten, entitled "An Act respecting Stamp Duties."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Act 5, George V. (1914), Chapter Ten, entitled "An Act respecting Stamp Duties," 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 being now half-past 6 o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

At 8 o'clock Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the Bill entitled "An Act further to Amend the Revenue Act, 1905," was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend the Revenue Act, 1905," 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 Further to Amend the Revenue Act, 1905."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act Further to Amend the Revenue Act, 1905," 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 Prime Minister, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the War Pensions Act, 1917."

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 it was ordered that the said Bill be read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the War Pensions Act, 1917," 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 Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter Thirty-Six

of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled "Of Nuisances and Municipal Regulations."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

Mr. Parsons 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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend Chapter Thirty-Six of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled "Of Nuisances and Municipal Regulations," 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.

On motion of Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs, the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Certain Retiring Allowances" was introduced and read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Certain Retiring Allowances" 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 respecting Certain Retiring Allowances."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. MORINE—Before this vote

goes through, I would like to ask why a sum is voted to Mrs. Henry Clinton, widow of the late Sub-collector at St. Jacques? That seems to be introducing a new feature.

HON. MINISTER FINANCE—The answer to that is that the Sub-collector at St. Jacques died while at his work. He was out in his boat, on duty, and the boat capsized and he was lost. He left a wife and seven children, and the Government, after considering all the facts, decided to make this allowance to the widow. As a matter of fact, there is a precedent; it has been done in the past. I may say that the man's family were left in destitute circumstances.

MR. MORINE—I am glad that that explanation has been given, because, of course, it is an unusual thing to give a pension to a civil servant's widow. In a sense, I suppose, the widows of all officials who die in office are deserving, because, I presume they are all poor, as the officials themselves do not receive sufficient salary to enable them to leave anything. The distinguishing characteristic in this case is that the man died while in the performance of his duties; and I think it is well that explanation should be upon the records of the debates.

I take advantage of this occasion to refer to a subject which is very well explained in a letter which I received to-day and which is akin to this, because it concerns the widows and the amount of Poor Relief which is paid to them. I will just read the letter itself, as it puts the thing in a nutshell:

Bonavista, Nfld.,

May 11th., 1918.

A. B. Morine, Esq., L.L.B., M.H.A.,
St. John's, Nfld.

Dear Mr. Morine:

I am glad to see you are back at

your place in the House of Assembly again, and to see that you are taking such effective action on matters now engaging the attention of the Assembly. Kowing your great interest in the welfare of the people of this country I wish to draw your attention to a class who apparently have no person to intercede for them, and who unfortunately are unable to intercede for themselves, namely the poor widows and orphans. To give you an idea of the great advance that has taken place in the commodities of life I will give you a statement of the prices as they obtained twenty or more years ago and those obtaining to-day, and of course you will see that adequate provision is not being made to-day towards the support of this portion of our population.

	1896	1918
Flour, per brl	\$4.50	\$15.00
Bread, bag	4.00	10.00
Pork, lb.10	.32
Beef, lb.10	.25
Molasses, gallon ..	.40	1.00
Tea, lb... .. .	20 to 40c.	50 to 90c
Wood, 100	2.00	8.00
Coals, ton	5.60	16.00

And all other necessaries have advanced from 100 per cent to 150 per cent.

On the other hand the dole allowed to the widows and orphans has not advanced in proportion, and consequently it is imperatively necessary that something be done to try give them enough to live on. The present system is a lasting disgrace to a country which now calls itself a Dominion. Of course I understand no one Government is responsible but all alike have had some share in it. It is certainly time to break away from the past and do something worthy of our position, and what is our imperative duty to that unfortunate class. For your information I have ascer-

tained that there was an advance made in the grant in 1917. Before that the allowance was 60c. per capita. Now it is 80c. But it was almost as well to leave it as before.

I have in my mind now one case of a poor widow who has a son and daughter and another child to support. The widow has had a very hard experience. Her children are practically imbecile. She is getting now to a state where she is unable to work as hard as she used to, and this woman gets the handsome amount of **thirteen dollars a quarter**. Just think of it. I have no doubt there are many such cases throughout the Dominion. I understand the widow who lives with either her son, or son-in-law, gets from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per quarter.

I may say that I am not personally interested in this plea, for I have no one related to me depending on Charity. Neither am I interested from a business standpoint. The only thing that impells me to write is that I am persuaded a great injustice is being perpetrated and I want to see the matter made right.

I would be obliged therefore if you will give this matter your earnest attention and use your great influence towards having something done done for that unfortunate class worthy of a Christian people and the place we now profess to hold as a British Dominion. Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours very truly,

H. J. SWYERS.

P. S.—I am writing to Mr. Abbott on the matter to-day also. I wrote him yesterday.

My colleague, Mr. Abbott, has received a similar letter. Now, I don't think that I could usefully add many words to that letter. All the arguments that have been used by

the Minister of Finance, except perhaps the one of dying in the discharge of duty, apply to the class of widow that has been spoken of here. In a sense it may be said that every fisherman of this country who dies at sea, or through hard labor, dies in the discharge of his duty to his country almost as much as the late Henry Clinton; and to Henry Clinton's widow we vote \$300 a year—and that is a small amount—and to the others, \$52. Now, it may be said, and truthfully, that the whole system of able-bodied pauper relief requires attention. It has required it for a great many years; but in the name of all that is good, what excuse can we give, in the face of the increase in the cost of living from 100 to 150 per cent. within the past few years, for leaving these poor unfortunate creatures to starve to death. That is the best that can be said of the situation. I know how hard it is to raise the revenue to meet our over-increasing demands, but we always do manage to raise it when the pinch comes. When it is necessary to increase some public service, we do it, and we manage to find the money year after year. There never seems to be any real shortage. Why then cannot we give more to these people? Why cannot we double the amount which we give now? And after we double the allowance to the poor woman, with her imbecile children, to whom reference is made in the letter which I have just read, she will still be only getting one-third of what we are now giving, I believe justifiably, to Mrs. Clinton. One-third of the small amount that we are giving to her will be all that we will be giving to this widow who is spoken of here if we increase the present allowance by 100 per cent. In other words, that widow is now getting one-

sixth of the small dole that Mrs. Clinton will get if this Bill goes through. Surely, the time has come when we should do something. We should not put it off another hour. We should not allow this House to close without recognizing the fact that the widows and the children throughout this entire land, who are dependent upon pauper relief, are to-day receiving in reality not one-half of what they received four or five years ago. In reality, that is so. And it is a disgrace to civilization. It is impossible to use words sufficiently strong to stigmatise our neglect, as the representatives of the people of this country, if we allow this condition of things to go one day more. We can double the grant, and we can find the money where we have found it for other purposes in the past; and the country will not be worse off for doubling the allowance to these people, nor the trade of the country, nor we ourselves; and we shall have done something in a small measure to justify our existence.

I invite the gentlemen who are opposite, practically a new Government, to signalize their first year of office under present auspices with a measure of justice to the people referred to in the letter which I have just read.

MR. GRIMES—Mr. Chairman: As a matter of increasing the Poor Relief grant has been brought to our attention by the hon. member Bonavista, it has brought to my mind several requests that have been made to me during the past few months to see if something could not be done to help really deserving cases of very poor widows whose only income is the \$24 a year allowed by the Relieving Officer, and who receive nothing else except the collections that may be taken up for them from time to time

by friends, or what they may receive by going around from door to door. Now, I quite agree with the position taken by Mr. Morine that the men who follow the fisheries or any other occupation in this country is as much to be considered by the Government of the country as a civil servant. His work is just as necessary to the community as that of a civil servant, and he certainly pays just as much into the revenue of the country—in fact, the producers after all, are the men who count most in any country; and when we know that in the pursuit of their calling they do not always earn sufficient to enable them to provide for the support of their widows and children after their death, then I think it is up to the State to see that something is done to help out those who are left unprovided for, until such time as the widow marries again or the children are sufficiently grown up to be able to support themselves and their mother. I think that we would do well to copy a little from the legislation of other countries in this matter. In Australia, New Zealand, and Germany there are insurance laws for the protection of widows and children. When a man dies leaving a family unprovided for, two-thirds, I think, of the husband's average income is paid to the family until such time as the widow marries again or until the family have grown up sufficiently to be able to take care of themselves. I think something should be done by the Government along these lines to meet cases of this kind here. There are several in the district of Port de Grave—and I presume the same thing applies to every district in the Island—They make regular calls on their member and expect him to be able to help them out three or four times a year with a five or ten-dollar bill.

Now, it is not every member who is in a position to hand out money wholesale in that way. Probably, if we had a larger sessional pay than at present we might be able to consider it, but with the magnificent sum of \$300 per year, there is very little that can be done in the way of charity by the member.

Now, I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the Poor Commissioner be given authority to instruct his Relieving Officers in the various outports to deal with cases of the kind brought up by Mr. Morine in such a way that they will be able to live in some sort of decency and comfort.

MR. CURRIE—Why has a pension been granted Mr. Croke, Fishery Warden?

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I may say that Mr. Croke met with an accident while performing his duties as fishery warden. As far as I can understand the accident he met with crippled him. He has written the Board several times asking that he be given a small amount, and the Board decided to pension him owing to the circumstances of his disablement.

MR. CURRIE—How long was he a Warden?

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I cannot say how long he was a Warden, but I know he occupied that position for a certain number of years. The pension was not granted in my time.

MR. CURRIE—I understand that this man had been replaced some four or five years ago for neglect of duty, and if that is so, I do not think that he has any claim on the funds of the Government. I think it is a matter that should be enquired into. I have no objection to a man getting a pension; but I think this is a case that ought to be looked into. I was

under the impression that a fishery warden did not come under the pension scheme. We do not pension mail men or telegraph line repairers. I know of one case where a man has been 30 or 40 years in the employ of the Telegraph Co. as line repairer. He was not a permanent man, his name was not on the Estimates, but he was always on the work. That man is over 80 years of age today. An application was made for a pension for him, but the answer was that he was not an employee of the Government and no pension could be granted.

That man is beyond his labour; but here we have a man who is not an employee of the Government, a fishery warden, an employee of the Game and Inland Fisheries Board, being pensioned.

MR. BENNETT—He was an employee up to two years ago.

MR. CURRIE—He is not an employee of the Government and should not be pensioned.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—His case was pending for two years. He was recommended for a pension by the members of his District, Messrs. Walsh and Devereaux. I know that Mr. Walsh recommended his case to the Government, and said he was certainly a deserving case, and as he was injured in the performance of his duties as fishery warden he thought that Mr. Croke should be put on the pension list.

MR. CURRIE—It is only a case of charity.

MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I think you will find that he was paid for two years, but was not able to work. He is really an employee.

MR. CURRIE—I remember this case coming up two or three years ago, and I know he was dismissed for some cause, either neglect of duty or

carelessness. This is simply a matter of charity; and I do not know that we are doing the proper thing in giving him a retiring allowance. I think the Board might make him an allowance from their funds, but not from the Pension funds.

I would like to support the contentions put forward by the hon. member for Bonavista and Mr. Grimes in reference to poor relief. Matters of this sort are brought up periodically in this House and deliberated, and everybody expresses sympathy with them. The session closes and everybody forgets about it. Now I think some action should be taken. We cannot go on year after year allowing these women to starve on eighteen cents a day. We have either to make a special vote for them or bring in a new pension scheme. If the country is going to be responsible for the support of these people then we ought to support them decently. Nobody could live on their pension, and I think the Government would be wise if during the intervening months between now and the next session, this matter was taken up and given full consideration. There is no use talking about it; everybody knows what a disgraceful thing it is and we ought to be prepared to come in next session and vote these people an amount sufficient to keep body and soul together. I will support any measure brought down with that object in view.

MR. DOWNEY—I take the occasion to support the remarks made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as well as the other speakers, particularly his reference to the necessity for providing for telegraph line repairers. They are the hardest worked class in the Government service; they are paid small salaries, for which they have to perform the most arduous work

day in and day out. They have not even Sundays to themselves. They must make out an existence on this paltry dole and when incapacitated they have no alternative but the poor relief. I know of one case in my district which is deserving of mention—A line repairer named Andrews, a man 76 years of age. He has been 41 years in the service and to-day has still to work for his living. He has 40 miles of road to patrol and keep in repair. Besides this, he has a branch line of 9 miles and about 25 miles of telephone wire; so that his work is out of all proportion to the ordinary line repairer's work, because they have no telephonic communication line to keep up. I have written the Government half a dozen times and have even gone the length of telling them that if he belonged to the lower order of animals there would be some protection accorded him under the Protection of Animals Act. This man has not alone to walk out along the line but has also to walk back. He is not allowed to travel any other way. This is practically a case of absolute hardship, and the conditions should be remedied without delay. If there is not sufficient humanity in the department for which he works, then the Legislature should take up his case and prevent the perpetration of such injustice. This man is not able to perform such arduous work. You can imagine what it means to tramp 40 miles with the temperature often as low as 20 degrees below zero, and 30 miles of that distance unbroken by habitation. Some day he will be found dead, and then the Government will have to take the responsibility. Some provision ought to be made for pensioning men who have given such service to the public. I think this is a case that must appeal to every in-

stinct of humanity we possess; and should not be entitled to consider ourselves representatives of proper sentiment and consideration if we allow cases of this sort to go uncared for.

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 reported was received and adopted, and it was ordered that the said Bill be read a third time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Certain Retiring Allowances" 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 Prime Minister the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's" 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 respecting the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MONDAY, May 13th, 1918.

MR. CURRIE.—What does this House intend to do in regard to the report of the Select Committee appointed some time ago to consider the Charter.

HON. PRIME MINISTER. — That Committee has not reported.

MR. CURRIE.—Then it seems to me that that Committee has not done its

duty. It is unfair to this House and unfair to the public. It is positively discourteous on the part of the gentlemen who composed that Committee I do not know what the city members are doing that they should tolerate such a state of affairs. That Charter has been before this House for two years and nothing has been done. If it is wrong, let us throw it out, but let us have the honesty to deal with the question one way or the other, and not shelve it in this fashion.

MR. MORINE—I beg to say, Mr. Chairman, that in my opinion it would be a misfortune to raise money for the building of workmen's houses under the present state of finance, and I would like to ask, whether in view of this, it would not be unwise to put this power into effect. The scheme of building workmen's houses is one which should have our heartiest support, if feasible, but if they were to raise money at an interest of seven or eight per cent. it would spoil the whole scheme for ever. In order to have a workable scheme of building workmen's houses it is first of all necessary to have money at the cheapest rate possible, but under present conditions, which are likely to last for some time, the scheme would be unworkable; and I should think it would be unwise to facilitate in any way the carrying out of that scheme at present, looking to the ultimate advantage of the scheme itself. Nobody in the House is more keen than I on a scheme of this kind, and I hope to see the day when it will be carried out on a very large scale; but it strikes me with dismay that anything of the kind should be attempted now, when it would give such a black eye to its ultimate success. I would suggest that we leave the matter just as it is for the present.

MR. HIGGINS—Mr. Chairman, I

might say just a few words on the point referred to by the Honourable Member for Bonavista. There has never in the history of St. John's been such a terrible shortage of houses. I may state to the House now that the actual fact of the matter is that there are hundreds of houses too few, and even though there is good ground for the position he takes, it is almost worth while taking the risk in order that some attempt should be made to provide additional houses for St. John's. The way the matter stands now is that if a workman in St. John's gets notice to get out, he can't get another house, and the result is that there are houses with four and five families living in them. These men are industrious workmen, mechanics and men working regularly as laborers, and for that reason I would like to see the scheme started; and personally, speaking for St. John's, I think it would supply a want badly felt in St. John's, and I think it ought to be encouraged. I would like to remind the honourable member also, that certain citizens have offered sites for building these houses, but it was found that the places offered were so remote and unsuitable from the standpoint of distance from the places where the men work that it was felt some other arrangements should be made to get property. I should like to assure the honourable member for Bonavista and the House generally, that there has never been anything like the conditions existing at the present time as to workmen's houses. The fact of the matter is that the workmen cannot get houses to live in.

MR. MORINE—The more the congestion the greater the temptation, and even assuming that we could get the sites for nothing the cost of building the houses would be so great, on

account of the high interest rate on money, that in order for the investment to get a return to the interest on the money, it will be necessary to charge double and treble what the workman can afford to pay. A workman would need a salary like a Prime Minister, not an ordinary Minister, to pay the rent, and the result would be one of two things, either you would have to build houses that no workman can afford to go in, or have the cost borne by other people throughout the city, in the form of increased taxes. To relieve the congestion, you would require many such houses, which would cost a very large sum, and we all know that it is impossible to build houses under existing circumstances and let them at a reasonable rate. Then again, we all know that whatever the cost of the houses to private builders, they would cost the City Council more than anybody else; and because I would like to see the scheme at some future time become a very large scheme, I think it would be a very great disaster for the workmen of this city if it should be attempted under present conditions. I think it would be better for the workmen to "suffer those ills they have than fly to others that they know not of."

MINISTER OF MILITIA—I beg to say, Mr. Chairman, that under ordinary conditions I would not be disposed to support this Bill, because it extends the life of the present Council to nearly double the time for which they were elected. But, Sir, under the circumstances, I don't think anything different can be done. I can state here this evening that the Committee, the Select Committee from this House, who were in charge of the charter, did act in good faith with this House. For three consecutive months after this matter was taken

up they held meetings two and three times a week and went thoroughly into this charter, which is a voluminous document, with a great deal of contentious matter, and the public, after they became aware of the contents of the Charter and were asked to attend the meetings in the Casino Theatre, appointed a committee of citizens to review the whole charter and formulate their views in relation to it. Now that committee worked very hard. Mr. Warwick Smith was Secretary, Mr. Soper was Chairman, and they put in an enormous amount of work, and had repeated conferences over the whole question, and after we had got through with it we found that there were still many matters on which no decision could be reached in time for last session. Now, it will be remembered that the Legislature met late last year, and it was considered inadvisable to bring it in then; but to say that the Committee reported having done nothing is not correct, because the Prime Minister knows there was a great deal of work put in. Mr. Higgins has the records, which should be a great benefit when the matter is next taken up. Now, as to the Bill before the House, this matter has been under discussion with my colleague, Mr. Higgins, the Prime Minister and other members of the House, and owing to present conditions it was decided that it would be absolutely futile to bring it in and put it through, as there was such a lot of contentious matter, reports from commissioners, minority reports from commissioners, reports from the citizens committee, etc. However, I hope the Committee will be able to report finally on this Charter at next session. As the honourable member for Burin has said, something ought to be done. The charter should either be accepted or rejected, but it must be borne

n mind that this charter involves considerable taxation, as well as many important decisions on boundary lines, taxation of property at present free, and many other things, and I contend, Sir, that it is better to move slowly than to bring in a charter and put it through, and find afterwards that it is unworkable. I appreciate the fact that the Council at present managing the affairs of St. John's was elected for only two years, but it is practically a continuation of the previous board of commissioners. Some of the previous commissioners, when they went to the polls, did not receive the endorsement of the people of St. John's, but the most of them did. The idea, as already has been pointed out, of extending the time to the 31st of December is to make it possible that at the next session of the Legislature the Charter should come into operation at the end of the year, not in June. Therefore the election should take place in time for that date.

With regard to the last remarks of the Hon. Member for Bonavista, I may say that I am in thorough accord with the sentiments therein expressed. I am aware that there are a great many persons in this community who live in untenable houses and that if any effort were made to improve conditions it would have my heartiest support. I can, however, see no prospect of any improvement in the cost of things such as building materials for the next four or five years and I am personally of the opinion that money devoted to the amelioration of these conditions would indeed be well spent. I therefore beg to give the petition my heartiest support, and I sincerely hope that at the next session of the Legislature we will have this matter finally adjusted.

MR. CURRIE—Have the members

of this Committee power to act?

MR. HIGGINS.—Yes, they have power to sit out of session.

MR. CURRIE—I cannot say that I am altogether satisfied with the explanation made. If the committee is waiting for a unanimous expression of assent then we are never going to have a report. We must abide by the committee and let the matter adjust itself after the report has been delivered to the House. In the old countries committees have dealt with matters more serious than this, and have been able to report and recommend a Bill in considerably less time than this Committee has already devoted to the matter. Out of the two hundred and eighty sections therein contained there are not more than a dozen contentious points. Why not then admit those which admit of no dispute? I think there is something wrong with regard to the question of taxation. We come in here year after year, we do not ask the city if they are pleased with the taxes we impose. We never consult the people at all. If we did we would find that ninety per cent would object. There should be a referendum on this point as there is in other cities. This difficulty can be overcome by inserting a provision that the city shall have power to deal with all taxes. It is indeed a great pity that people anxious to see improved conditions in which they live should be subjected to this discouragement. It is negligence that I personally cannot excuse to prevent them from realizing their ambitions and desires. A city quickly makes its wishes felt. Anyway, we should give the city the chance of experimenting. I agree with the Hon. Mr. Bennett when he says he hopes that next year the Committee will come in here and give a report. But I think that the matter ought to

be attended to and not held over session after session when it is of supreme importance. I hope that the Committee will get to work and formulate a report as soon as they reasonably can, because I think it is a matter which deserves the most speedy treatment.

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's" 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. Speaker informed the House that he had received a Message from the Legislative Council acquainting the House of Assembly that they had passed the Bills sent up entitled respectively: "An Act to Restrict Temporarily the Persons who may engage in Business connected with Certain Non-Ferrous Metals and Metallic Ores"; "An Act for the More Effectual Transfer of Certain Properties to the Congregational Home Missionary Society of Newfoundland," and "An Act to Amend the Act 1 George V. (1911) entitled "An Act respecting a Fire Patrol," 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 Bills entitled respectively "An Act to Authorize the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval

and Military Purposes"; "An Act to Extend and Amend the Act 3 George V. (1913) Chapter 26 entitled "An Act to Amend the Soldiers and Sailors Wills Act" 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 respecting the Identification of Criminals," with an amendment in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly."

On motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendment was read a first and second time and passed, and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that Body that the amendment had been passed 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 Amend the Inflammable Substances Act, 1916," with some amendments, in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Honourable the Prime Minister the said amendments were read a first and second time and passed.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—

Mr. Speaker: The amendment made by the Legislative Council relates merely to the branding of the package containing kerosene oil. The law at present is that oil must not be offered for sale in Newfoundland if its specific gravity exceeds 8.05. The proposed amendment increases that specific gravity from 8.05 to 8.17, and states that any oil exceeding 8.05 to 8.17 ought to be branded as exceeding the old specific gravity and should be label-

ed as Motor Engine Oil and not Oil for Lighting Purposes. I do not see any objection whatever to the proposed amendment. I think it is a distinct improvement.

It was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that body that the amendments had been passed 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 Respecting the Ministry of Shipping" with some amendments in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion the Prime Minister the said amendments were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Hon. the Prime Minister presented the following report of the Select Committee of the Bill to amend the Crown Lands Bill:

We beg to append Bill as amended as our Report.

May 13th., 1918.

W. F. LLOYD,
W. W. HALFYARD
A. B. MORINE,
JOHN S. CURRIE
J. F. DOWNEY.

On motion this report was received.

Hon the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Operations of Saw Mills."

Hon. the Prime Minister gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act for the Encouragement of Cattle Raising."

It was moved and second that when the House rises it adjourn until to-morrow, Tuesday, May 14th at

three of the clock in the afternoon.

HON. MINISTER OF SHIPPING—
Mr. Speaker: Before the House adjourns I would like the privilege of saying a few words and giving the House some information about the supply of salt and coal. The salt situation is like this: a steamer is on her way from Cadiz having on board 6,600 tons, and if she arrives safely we shall have 28,500 on hand: another steamer is expected here shortly with 3,000 tons and we hope to secure another steamer within the next few days to bring another 6,000 tons. If this is secured it looks as if our stocks will be fairly safe up to the end of June, but beyond that I am unable to say what the condition of affairs will be like.

MR. CURRIE—How much is in town to-day?

HON. MINISTER OF SHIPPING—
About 31,500 tons and about 20,000 tons more, at least, are needed. We imported last year 70,000 tons which was exceptionally large.

The position of the coal situation is not improved very much. The "Terra Nova" arrived this morning and the "Neptune," "Diana" and "Ranger" are at Sydney loading, while the Eagle is leaving again in the morning. This would mean somewhere in the vicinity of 2,200 tons to arrive, and what is in port. That is practically our total stock at the present time. I might say that as a result of negotiations between the Department of Shipping and the Canadian Government we have succeeded in getting the "Sheba" for one trip only and which will bring in the vicinity of 3,000 tons, half of which will have to go to the Reid Company's railroad to be used on this end of the road and the other 1500 tons will go towards the city supply. A couple of telegrams exchanged between the Ministry of

Shipping and the Nova Scotia Coal Co. people in which the latter still hold out little hopes that we may get a proportion from. It may be possible for us to get a stock of coal, providing the Nova Scotia Coal Co. will do its part.

The Dominion Coal Company are still prepared to do its part and the Nova Scotia Company are also inclined to help us ever since we had a few hot words with them.

The position as regards the freight traffic stands this way since the loss of the "Florizel." The "Portia" and "Prospero" have been engaged running from New York and brought in altogether 34,500 barrels in general cargo. We were assisted greatly by the Red Cross Line. The "Thomas W. Drummond" brought an equivalent to 22,000 barrels, and the "San Mateo" an equivalent to 22,000, so that really on the New York-St. John's route the loss of the Florizel was not felt much. At the present moment the San Mateo has not been finally settled for another trip to this country. If the position arises that she cannot make another trip then there is nothing left but to take the Portia and Prospero off the Coastal service. They appear to be our only hope to get sufficient supplies here. We will get some supplies from Halifax by allowing the sealing steamers to go there, but we want all the sealing fleet to get the coal we want, and even if we used all of them in the coal trade, they would not be able to bring from now until the end of October next all we need.

I want to acquaint the House and the country that if the San Mateo is not prepared to come here again, then, I must repeat, there is nothing left to do but to consent to give up the "Portia" and "Prospero" from the Coastal Service. As far as

the position of the Reid Newfoundland Company is concerned, they have brought in a load, or 105 cars, by the steamer "Thomas W. Drummond." This steamer is now due at Sydney again and will be coming here with another 105 cars. That will probably clear up Sydney. It may be possible for the "Drummond" to return for another trip. The Gulf steamers and the Meigle will be able to keep the way open between here and Sydney, and the Reid Company are putting on four extra engines and fifty additional box cars to handle freight over their line and keep Sydney clear. The whole situation is a most unusual one for the Colony to be placed in. It may be possible to keep Halifax clear by sending a sealing steamer there if we did not miss her in connection with the coal situation. One of the sealing ships will have to go on the Labrador route for a trip or two and on the whole the position is a very serious one. I do not know how the difficulty can be got over if we do not get the couple of Lake boats. It was through the influence of Sir Robert Borden, who was communicated with by my department at Ottawa, that the "Sheiba" was secured to bring down a cargo of coal her from Sydney. We have also telegraphed the other side and asked if they would give us coal at the present moment. They said they would bring coal to St. John's for \$17.50 per ton, plus \$1.20 for cartage, 70 cents duty, and insurance war and marine, but that price would be beyond the reach of the average man in St. John's. Our only hope is to get the "Drummond" and "San Mateo." The whole thing is getting more acute each succeeding day and the only position for the country is to make up its mind to accept certain conditions. We may lose the

Portia and Prospero and I want the country to be prepared for it. The Prospero will go north on her first trip. After that I am not in a position to say whether she will continue the route or not.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

TUESDAY, May 14th, 1918.

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

HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the fishermen of Harbor Main District, regarding the price of fish. The petitioners state that the Labrador fishermen of the Northern Bays receive from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per quintal more for their fish than do the fishermen of Conception Bay, and they pray that your Honourable House will exert itself to provide ways and means whereby they will be able to reap a price for their fish equal to that paid to the floaters of Green Bay, Bonavista Bay and Trinity Bay. Now, Mr. Speaker, there is certainly a discrepancy between the price paid for fish in Conception Bay as against that paid in the northern bays, and there must be something radically wrong. I do not know if this House can deal with the matter, but the fishermen have the impression that it can, and I would ask that the matter be taken up.

MR. KENNEDY—Mr. Speaker, I rise to give this petition my support, and I think that the only way in which the Government can remedy this discrepancy in the price of fish is to have better communication with the Labrador. About four years ago we had two good steamers on the Labrador service, and a great many fishermen were just making arrangements to get fish cash down so that

the fish could be shipped right along, but those steamers were taken off, and those on the service now are not able to accommodate the fishermen at all. The only way to help the Labrador fishermen is to give them better communication and give them steamers that are able to carry more freight. If the fishermen are able to ship home their fish in casks, they are enabled to get the market price for it, but otherwise they have to take whatever price is offered them by the dealers. This petition emanates mostly from our district, and I trust the Government will take the necessary steps to remedy the evil.

MR. YOUNG—Mr. Speaker, I would like to support that petition. As the hon. junior member for Harbor Main says, the only way to relieve the situation is to have a better Labrador mail service. If the mail boats were prepared to bring the fish up to St. John's in casks, the men would certainly get the St. John's price, but so far as the Labrador is concerned, the price is not to be got there. So if we could this summer get a better service, it would be an immense benefit. If we could get the Glencoe instead of the Sagona, it would be much better for carrying passengers and freight. A trip or so in the spring and again in the fall would be enough. The summer months don't matter so much. I think this petition should have the attention of the Tonnage Committee.

HON. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS—Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from the inhabitants of Kelligrews and Upper Gullies for the sum of \$120 to extend the Lawrence Pond Road. This would be of great value to the farmers in that locality, and I hope and trust that the Government will see its way clear to grant the prayer of the petition.

MR. KENNEDY—Mr. Speaker, I beg to support this petition, as I know that the extending of this road would be a great advantage to the people of these places; and as the petition is being sent down to the Hon. Minister's own department I should hope the request would be granted.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY. — Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Gander Bay, who ask that no seines be used in the waters of that Bay. The petition is largely and influentially signed not only by men of that place but also from the neighbouring settlements. As the codfish do not come up into this Bay, these people do not prosecute the codfishery there, and those who are engaged in it go outside to such places as the Labrador. No protection is afforded to the herring fishery which is the chief industry of that place. I have been led to understand that people from outside go up there when the herring school strikes with the intention of using seines. Also refuse from the herring is thrown overboard which has naturally a very detrimental effect upon the grounds. Therefore, on behalf of these people I would ask that this matter receive the most serious consideration of the Fishery Board and beg leave to refer same to the Department to which it relates..

MR. KENNEDY—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the fishermen of Conception Harbour who ask that conscription be not enforced until the autumn as it will seriously inconvenience the prosecution of the Labrador fishery, which most of these people are engaged in. Some of these people, understanding that this measure would not be enforced, have made all their arrangements for the season and the enforce-

ment of this Bill will entail great inconvenience. I beg leave to ask that this petition be referred to the department to which it relates.

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA—I beg leave to present a petition of more than ordinary importance which for the sake of hon. members I will ask the clerk to read to this House.

(The clerk reads petition asking for modification of the liquor prohibition law.)

This petition has been handed to me to-day. It has over three thousand signatures. I understand that the petition was only started on Saturday last and the general acceptance of the principles embodied therein is evidenced by the readiness of the citizens of St. John's to give their signatures thereto. I may also say that copies of this petition have been sent all over the Island, and I think it may be started with some certainty that were it not for the fact this House is about to close within a few days many similar petitions would be presented to the Legislature. It is not the desire of these petitioners that the Act at present in force should in any way be interfered with; but rather they would draw the attention of the Legislature to the fact that a very much worse state of affairs is likely to occur in this community if certain beverages to which I shall refer later are sold without leave or license. Poisonous concoctions which when taken into the human system deprive the human being of all reason and sound judgment are now being sold surreptitiously in place of those beverages which were forbidden to be sold under this Act. Florida water, essence of lemon and beef iron and wie may be enumerated as the chief substitutes; substitutes wherein the alcohol is of the vilest character. It is the object

of this petition so to modify the provisions of this act as to obviate conditions so horrible and vile. Only last night I was told of the case of some naval reservists who had returned from Halifax and had to stay a short time in Channel. There they were given some of these substitutes with the result that they became temporarily unmanageable. The officer in control had absolutely no control over them, and was unable to subject them to any discipline whatever. The the desire of these petitions to take some steps to modify the machinery of enforcing the present law as entirely to obviate the possibility of such an occurrence. It is generally known that the man to-day who wants to get a glass of port wine or stout for a sick wife or mother is put to great inconvenience and hardship. He is placed entirely in the power of the doctors and if the man is a stranger he will experience difficulties that he never would were he known personally to them. The doctors or rather certain members of the medical profession are making a regular trade of these prescriptions for which they charge high fees as well as the current price which had to be paid to the Controller, and therefore the bona fide use of alcohol for medicinal purposes is prohibited to the poor man. The reputation of a reputable citizen should be a sufficient guarantee for the procuring of a reasonable amount of alcoholic beverages. Of course it will be argued that the controller can hardly be aware whether a man is purchasing for a sick wife or for his own purposes, but I think that it would be merely a matter of creating the same story of affairs is frequently found all over the Island and it is quite machinery to permit a man to procure the spirits necessary without

subjecting him to the expense that he has to undergo under the present condition of things, which condition was never contemplated by the framers of this act. I am certain that the original framers and supporters of this act never contemplated the effects that the passing of this Act has been attended by. I personally am of the opinion that persons desirous of procuring for medical purposes a reasonable amount of alcohol should be granted ordinary facilities to obtaining same.

HON. MIN. OF MILITIA, (Contd)—

Now, I am sure none of us wants to go back to the open bar. I think it would be a disaster if we went back to the conditions which existed before this measure went into operation, because the open bar was a trap for young men, and it was a continuous temptation to the man who could not take alcohol in a reasonable and moderate way. But there is another side to the question. If the present position is allowed to continue it may prove a boomerang. What we want to do is to make the Prohibition Act acceptable to the great bulk of the people—not to any particular portion of the people, but to the great majority—and that can be accomplished by reasonable and moderate regulations which will permit the ordinary respectable citizen to get sufficient to meet his necessary requirements.

A charge is made in the petition against the medical practitioners as regards the exorbitant prices charged for prescriptions, but I am glad to say that that is not general. Not all the members of the medical profession have been guilty of extorting from the people in this connection, but there are some who have been guilty of it.

Now, I want to say that this petition is not signed by any particular

class nor influenced by any particular body. It has come from all sections of the people and is signed by some of those who were most pronounced in their support of prohibition in the recent campaign. They do not want a repeal of the Prohibition Act, but a reasonable modification of it. Personally, I would be the last man in the world to get up in my place in this House and advocate anything that would in any way destroy or curtail the objects or aims of the Prohibition Act. That petition is not gotten up for that purpose, but to relieve a situation which has become well nigh intolerable; and I believe that if the prayer of the petition is acceded to it will tend towards the better carrying out of the Act. I therefore ask that the petition be forwarded to the Department of the Colonial Secretary for consideration.

MR. WALSH—Mr. Speaker: I have very much pleasure in offering my hearty support to the petition which has just been so ably presented by the hon. member for St. John's West; and while I understand the petition is not very largely signed when we consider that the Act with which it deals and which it seeks to modify was supported by a very large number of voters, still I think it should not be forgotten that this attempt is practically spontaneous. As a matter of fact I think this petition was only prepared a day or two ago, and consequently, outside of St. John's, the people of the Island have not had an opportunity of saying whether or not they are in accord with its request; but the fact, as stated by hon. member who introduced the petition, that it is signed by a large number of those who were active in their support of prohibition when the referendum was before the country, is very strong evidence that some mou-

ification is necessary in the Act as it is at present in force. As I understand the present situation, the medical men get a certain number of prescription forms monthly—I think, about a hundred a month; and at the present time, I am informed, the privilege is abused to such an extent that in certain cases those who are in the good graces of particular medical men can go to them and practically command their whole month's supply. It consequently appears to me that the man with the greatest amount of pull with the doctors, or with the most means, can get practically all the liquors he wants, while the man who needs a little whiskey or rum or wine, as the case might be, for purely medicinal purposes, cannot in very many cases get it at all. Now, this in itself would to my mind be a sufficient justification for this House to take this matter into its consideration with a view to seeing if some remedy could not be applied to meet the situation. Personally, though I am not a prohibitionist, I have no desire to go back to the days of the saloon. I do not support the principle of prohibition, I do not believe in it, but when such a large proportion of the people of the country, acting conscientiously, as we are told they did—though I have yet to be convinced of it, because I think it will be admitted that side issues crept into the campaign which had nothing to do with the question at issue—support a prohibition or any other measure, then I am prepared to abide by it. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of people who supported prohibition did not do so in all sincerity. I need only refer now to one lady who took a very prominent part in that campaign, and who is now under arrest as a German spy.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—
Mr. Speaker: That statement is utterly false. There is no truth in it whatever.

MR. WALSH—Well, I am glad to hear it, but I believe that a good many people who supported prohibition did so with the belief that if they required liquor for medicinal purposes they would have no difficulty in getting it. Another reason why I strongly support the prayer of the petition is because of the great hardship which is inflicted under the present arrangement upon the people of the outports particularly. In a great many places there are no medical practitioners at all, and if there is any sudden demand for brandy or any other kind of alcoholic liquor—if a person takes suddenly sick and it is apparent that he requires a stimulant such as brandy or rum or whiskey, as the case may be, by the time a messenger can get to the nearest doctor, get a scrip, and have it filled, the sick man might be dead and buried. Now, as I said at the beginning, I have no desire to oppose legislation which was asked for by 25,000 voters of this country, but I think it will be obvious to any fair-minded man that modifications are necessary, and I trust that now that the matter has been brought before the House by such a largely signed petition that the matter will be taken up by the Government and dealt with. I have much pleasure in giving my hearty support to the petition.

HON. MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS.
—Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a word or two in support of the petition now before the House. I think it is high time that something should be done to protect these people who require a little alcohol occasionally. I noticed that the Clerk, while reading the petition, looked over at me every

once in a while and smiled, as much as to say: Well, William, my son, what action are you going to take in this matter? Are you going to support this petition or not? Well, my reply is that I am going to support the petition. My idea would be that every respectable man in the community ought be given a book of coupons, and that he should have the privilege of using one every week for medicinal purposes, instead of having to go to a doctor and being compelled to pay anywhere from \$1.00 to 5.00 for a prescription. I think that the state of affairs at present existing is disgraceful. I have been informed that the medical men in this town have raked in about \$90,000 hard cash since this prohibition measure came into force. Now, I contend that that \$90,000 should have gone into the revenue instead of into the pockets of these men, and I think that any legislation which enables any body of men to reap profits of that sort is unfair, unjust and unwise, and it is time to put a stop to it. I have always advocated, and will continue to advocate, that every man should have a book of coupons, and that he should have the privilege to present one a week, if necessary, because alcohol is just as necessary as any other kind of medicine that can be purchased by any man any day in any drug store in town. It must be remembered that we have a very peculiar climate in Newfoundland, a very changeable climate, and most of our people require a stimulant once in a while to keep them in good condition, and they should be able to get it without having to pay the exorbitant charges that are at present made by the medical profession in this country. If it is found that any man abuses his privilege, why then his license should be cancelled, and he should be cut off

for a year or for such time as the Controller might think fit. However, I have much pleasure in supporting this petition, and I hope and trust that some means may be provided the public shall get a little better treatment than is being meted out to them at the present time.

MINISTER MARINE AND FISHERIES—Mr. Speaker, I also wish to place myself on record as being quite in accord with the petition presented here this afternoon, as I believe that under existing conditions the rights of the public are being taken away from them to a certain extent, and I believe that the matter of a modification of this Act should be taken into immediate consideration by the Government. I understand that there are about three thousand signatures to that petition, the result of one day's work; and I have no doubt that, if this Legislature were not closing so soon we would get numerous signed petitions from all parts of the country asking the Government to modify the Act as it is at present. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that I heartily support the prayer of the petition presented by the hon. member for St. John's West.

MR. KENNEDY—Mr. Speaker, I also support the prayer of the petition which has just been presented to the House. I agree with the Hon. Member for Placentia and St. Mary's as to the way in which this matter is viewed in the outports, and I feel sure that there would be no difficulty whatever in securing all the signatures that might be required to this petition in the various districts. I know if the petition came to the district which I represent there would be no difficulty in getting any number of names to it, because when the Prohibition Act was put into force a great number of the people there thought

that there would be no trouble about securing a small quantity of liquor any time they wanted it, and since they have realized just what the enforcing of the Act means, there has been a very strong sentiment in favor of changing it. I think that something should be done at once by the Government to alleviate the present aggravating position; and in that connection I think that the suggestion of my colleague, Hon. Mr. Woodford, regarding coupons, rather a good one.

MR. TARGETT—Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the petition. I do not agree with previous speakers that the people of the country have had their rights taken away from them. I believe that the country voted fairly and squarely for prohibition, with a full knowledge of what they wanted, and they got what they asked for. I don't by any means agree with the way in which liquor is given out at the present time, and I don't think that doctors should be permitted to charge two or three or five dollars for a prescription. I think that aspect of the matter should be dealt with, and dealt with promptly. So far as the results accruing from the operations of the Prohibition Act are concerned, I think it will be universally admitted that they have been most beneficial. In my opinion, the Hon. the Minister of Public Works is as good looking, if not better, since that Act came into operation as he was before. I do not think that prohibition has hurt him, or any other member of this House, or any other person in the country; and I certainly do not believe that it would be right for this House to in any way trifle with the Act in the way suggested in the petition without having the voice of the whole people on the matter. So far as I am concerned, I am not in

favor of any change being made in the Act.

MR. YOUNG—Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree with the hon. member for Trinity when he says that the people got what they asked for. Perhaps they did, but they did not get what they understood they were to get, at least as far as I can understand. They understood that they were asking to close the saloon. They wanted to close the saloon, but they did not want to have things so arranged that it would be almost impossible to get a little alcoholic liquor when they needed it. Take the District of Harbor Grace. Liquor can be secured there from the drug stores, but you have to go to a doctor, pay him for a prescription, and then pay the prices charged at the drug stores, before you can obtain it. And even at that, I have heard doctors state that the liquor sold at the drug stores is no good, and is not fit for medical purposes. I have myself been approached a number of times by people who needed liquor for medicine and could not get it, and I have had to give them brandy which I had in my house for my own private purposes. Then you have the case of men going to the Labrador, where, as the Hon. Minister of Public Works said, the climate is very severe and very changeable. These men have been accustomed to taking a little liquor with them every year, not for the purpose of abusing it by over-indulgence, but to use it when necessary. Under existing circumstances they cannot get it, and I think it is wrong to deprive them of it. I wish to give my hearty support to the petition. I would not like to see the saloons open again, but if a man requires a bottle of liquor and can afford to pay for it, and if he does not abuse it when he gets

it, then there is no reason why he should not get it.

MR. PARSONS—I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, that I have to differ with my colleague. If it is true, as he says, that the people of Harbour Grace did not get what they wanted, then they ought to be satisfied now, because Harbour Grace went "wet." Now, I do not want to delay the House by any lengthy remarks on this petition, but if it comes before the House in the form of a Bill, then I most certainly will vote against it. There is nothing in the world at the present time to hinder a man from getting all the liquor necessary for medical purposes, and he has no right to get it for any other purpose. So far as the position of the doctors is concerned, I am not in sympathy with it. I condone it, and I think action should be taken to deal with it, but so far as the principle of the Act is concerned, it was pronounced upon by this country in a very substantial manner, and I do not think this House should interfere with it—I don't think they have the right to interfere with it—without consulting the country. The hon. the introducer of the petition referred to a certain class of men drinking wood-alcohol, and so on. Does he propose to permit these men to give free rein to their appetites? Why, that class of man should be kept under watch, and not allowed to touch alcohol of any sort, because if he is it will merely mean more work for men of my own calling.

MR. DOWNEY—Mr. Speaker, I have been a very warm advocate of prohibition and I am a sincere advocate of it today. I am so earnest in my advocacy of it that I am prepared to support any measure having for its object the termination of a condition of things which, if allowed to continue, may lead up to a very strong agitation

for a repeal of the Prohibition Act; and to me it is really questionable whether the unwise, and, in fact, the arbitrary restrictions which are in force today, may not finally have that result. It is not easy at the present time to suggest a practical remedy, but since I have heard of this petition being in course of preparation, it has occurred to me that had a medical man been appointed as Controller when the appointment was first made, most of the opposition that is now developing to the measure might have been obviated, because the Controller might have the power to exercise his own judgment as regards the dispensing of liquor for medical purposes, and in that way the additional expense that the public are now subjected to for doctors' fees would be avoided. Of course, it is too late to apply that course now, but I certainly feel disposed to consider any legitimate and wise modification of the measure that would relieve those who are compelled to resort to alcohol from the hardship that is imposed upon them now of having to pay the exorbitant prices that are being asked by the medical profession. It is not at all easy, as I say, to suggest a remedy, but I nevertheless feel that the gravity of the situation warrants very careful attention being given to the matter by this House and by the Government.

MR. GOODISON—Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say a word with regard to one or two statements that have been made by previous speakers in connection with the petition now before the Chair. It has been said, I think by the hon. the introducer and others, that there appears to be a feeling that this Act is not what it was intended to be, and that it ought to be amended. Now, Sir, speaking for the district that I have the honour to re-

present, I want to say that there is no such feeling there at any rate.

MINISTER OF MILITIA. — I did not say that. I would like to tell the hon. member that none of us want the Prohibition Act in any way interfered with. All that is asked for is that some regulations be made whereby people will not have to go through the channels that they are compelled to use at the present time in order to get the small amount prescribed for.

MR. GOODISON — Another argument that the hon. member made in order to bolster up his case was to hold up the terrible examples of these men who have taken to the use of Florida Water and various other stimulants. Is that the class of man that the hon. member thinks should be able to get liquor when he wants it?

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA. — What I said was that the authorities ought to immediately stop the sale of this stuff right throughout the country, so as to prevent its being used in this way.

MR. GOODISON—It was on sale before the Prohibition Act came into force. They did not drink it then because they could get liquor when they wanted it. However, the point I want to make, Mr. Speaker, is that in the districts around Conception Bay—or at least in the lower part of Conception Bay (I am not now referring to that portion of the Bay which is so well represented by the hon. Minister of Public Works) there is no demand whatever for any curtailment of the Prohibition measure. They are quite satisfied with the Act as it is. So far as the doctor's charges are concerned, I think the remedy for that lies entirely in the hands of the Executive Government. I think that with the Advisory Board of Control which has now been ap-

pointed, that that matter could be deal with in short order; but I want it to be clearly understood that so far as my district is concerned there is not the slightest desire to have any change made in the present Act.

MR. WINSOR—Mr. Speaker: I would like to say a few words on this matter on behalf of the district which I represent. I think it would be very unwise for this House to in any way interfere with that Act without first consulting the people of the country, at least as far as making it easier to secure liquor or increasing the quantity is concerned. Of course, with regard to Doctors' fees and so forth, that is another matter. With regard to the Act itself, I think, Sir, that every man had a fair chance to decide for himself as to what he wanted when the matter was before the country, and in voting for the Prohibition measure the people clearly understood what they were doing and what the intention was. I regard to the petition being largely signed, I think the hon. the introducer said that there were 3000 names to it, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries told us that this was one day's work. Now, if I remember rightly about three sessions ago a petition was presented here by the people of St. John's in relation to certain municipal matters. We outport members did not know very much about it, and we were not particularly interested in it. That petition was supposed to have been very largely signed, but we were told afterwards by some of those interested that they knew of some names on that petition and that not one-third of those who signed the petition were voters. Now, sir, the same thing might apply to this petition. I do not think that the country generally wants the Prohibition Act interfered with in any way.

I think it has been a good thing for the country. You have only to take the Penitentiary reports for the past year and compare them with previous years to see what a vast difference it has made in that respect. And therefore, sir, if this matter is brought before this House in the form of a bill I will most certainly oppose it. But so far as regulating the fees to be paid doctors, and things of that sort, I am prepared to give any assistance that I can.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker: I just want to say a word or two on this matter. To begin with, I dissent from the prayer of the petition. Personally, I do not see any necessity for any of the amendments that are asked for in the petition. I think that the regulations under which the Board of Control is working at the present time are sufficient to guarantee any man all the liquor that he needs for his requirements for medical purposes. We must not lose sight of the fact that the intention is that liquor to-day should be sold purely as a medicine. Now, I just want to take up one or two of the points mentioned. The first question raised is that of interference with the liberty of the people. That is an expression that it is difficult to define at the present time. Last week we passed a Bill in this Legislature affecting all the young men of the country. We interfered with their rights of citizenship and with their liberties because in the interests of the country that was the right thing to do; and if in connection with this prohibition measure the rights and liberties of the people have been interfered with for one reason and for one reason only, namely, to benefit the country and the people of the country; and the Legislature was wise in making restrictions to that

effect. Now, another point raised was that this petition had the support of a number of prominent prohibitionists. I have scanned the signatures to the petition very carefully, but that portion of the petition containing the names of the prominent prohibitionists must have been left at home, because I have not been able to find them. Another point raised has been in connection with the doctors. It may be true, as stated here this afternoon, that some doctors have charged as high as \$5.00 for a prescription; but if that was done, it was probably done in self-defence—done for the purpose of driving away from their doors people who wanted liquor not for medicinal purposes but for the sake of getting drink. So far as the people of the outports are concerned, they do not have to pay any additional fee for prescriptions. They pay their doctors an annual fee for his work for the year, and any prescriptions that may be given are included in that work.

The only cases of overcharging, then, are in the city, and, as I have said, many of the men have charged these excessive prices in order to drive away from their doors people who torment the lives out of them simply to get a "Spot on the Crackie." That is the fact. There has been very little complaint since the new regulations have been made by the Board of Control, and I think the whole matter is very well regulated at the present time. If there is any necessity for medical restrictions, let the Board have power to deal with it, with the consent of the Governor in Council.

Allowing a man to obtain a bottle a week would be really tolerating the idea of an open saloon again. You must not forget that liquor is now in the category of medicines. There are

lots of men whose names are on that petition who for ten or fifteen years before the Prohibition Act passed were absolutely useless to themselves and hindrances and a disgrace to those belonging to them. Since Prohibition they are reputable citizens, earning good wages. Prohibition has made men of them. And still there are those who say that liquor should come back.

HON. MR. WOODFORD—A bottle a week would not hurt anybody.

MR. CURRIE—If you once open the door, you will allow the old conditions to flood back and you will not be able to close it again. I do not want to deprive any man of his liquor—if it is required for medicinal purposes; but I do want to safeguard the present law and prevent "booze" coming back again. The whole world is becoming dry. Canada is almost bone dry from the Pacific to the Atlantic, with the exception of a few places in the Province of Quebec, and these places are gradually coming around. These big countries are shutting out liquor because they realize how injurious it is to the national welfare. There are limits within which intoxicating liquors are beneficial, that is, when they are used as medicine; but the great trouble has been that the people have misused them, allowed their appetites to gain control and ruin their manhood. I think it would be for this House to make any amendment to the Prohibition Act. I think the Board of Control has given every satisfaction and has the situation well in hand. They are quite competent to make all regulations to meet the just requirements of the public. It is true that when Prohibition first came in there was a lot of trouble; but the cause has been removed; and today the Board is meeting any difficulties that may crop up in a satisfactory

manner and generally everything is being done to meet the requirements of the community. Do not let us go back to the old condition of affairs. Everybody who knows what these conditions were and sees the good effect that has been wrought by the Prohibition Act, must realize how beneficial that legislation has been to the whole country. If there are any who doubt its good effect, let him go and look at the Court records; let him enquire at our charitable organizations; let him intelligently study city conditions; and I venture to say that he will be convinced. I personally strongly oppose any attempt to change the present law, because I think it would be a great mistake; but I do not think the Government is going to introduce a Bill or deal with the matter at all in the way that has been suggested. I would offer the strongest opposition to anything that would take the control of liquor out of the hands of the present Board. The gentlemen composing that Board have performed their duties in a manner that has given every satisfaction; and I believe are prepared to use their best endeavors to meet all the proper requirements of the public.

HON. MR. WOODFORD. — Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to give a short explanation of some statements that I have made?

HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER. — If the hon. gentleman wishes to make any explanation, he is at liberty to do so.

HON. MR. WOODFORD.—We have no desire, nor is there a desire on the part of anybody to alter the Prohibition Law. All that we say is that the rules and regulations are too stringent; and I venture to say that if something is not done, before another two years have gone, the whole Pro-

hibition Act will be turned upside down and inside out.

MR. GRIMES.—Mr. Speaker, as this petition concerns my district, I would like to say a few words with reference to it. The District of Port de Grave by a very large majority, voted in favor of Prohibition; and since that time I have not heard of any complaints whatever about the way the law is being carried out; nor has there been any desire manifest to have the enactment changed. The only objection that has been raised, comes from those who say that liquor for all purposes should be cut out. There are those who believe that its use even for medicinal purposes should be disallowed. They say if we are to have prohibition let us have total prohibition and cut liquor out altogether. That may be an extreme attitude, but from the way the Act is being carried out at the present I must say that it may not please everybody; but I do not think that because a small section of the country wants the Act changed that we should concur so that they may get liquor easier. They form but a small minority; and it would not be fair for the majority to be controlled by them. They say that there are prohibitionists on that petition; but Mr. Currie has pointed out that he has not seen one prominent person whose name appears thereon. There are many who voted against prohibition who today would vote in favor of it because the benefits derived from it are so apparent.

A petition of this kind, to my mind, should not receive any recognition from the House unless it is signed by the women of the community as well, for they are equally interested, if not more so than the men, for they have to suffer through the evil effects of strong drink.

There is some room for the charge

that has been made regarding doctor's fees. There ought to be some regulation put in force that would prevent them from charging over a certain fee. I do not agree with the position of Mr. Currie. I do not know if I understood him aright, that the Doctors charged these high fees to keep people away.

MR. CURRIE—I referred to the excessive charges. I might say that I was quoting some of the medical men themselves who told me.

MR. GRIMES—I do not think that is a justification for charging high fees. They should refuse altogether. I trust that if there is any consideration given the petition it will only refer to that part of it that has been brought before the House as to the fees the Doctors are charging. I think there is a good deal of justice in the criticism that has been made with regard to the way three or four doctors have taken advantage of the Prohibition Act, and I hope that the Government and the Board will be able to find some way of remedying that condition of things.

MR. MOULTON—Mr. Speaker: I would like to place myself on record as opposed to this petition before the House. Last year the people worked hard all over the country to bring about prohibition, and they brought it about, and since I have been in St. John's I have been talking to several people and asking them how things were, and they said much better since prohibition came into force. I think it would be a great mistake to go back in the way the petition asks for. If you are going to improve the Prohibition Act improve it by giving less rather than by giving more. I understand that some three thousand people signed their names to this petition. We do not know who they are. They may be men who are fond of

liquor. Perhaps no person else in the city signed his name to have more liquor drunk. I cannot understand that craving for liquor. Any person can live and get along without drinking liquor, and lots of people who signed that petition today asking for more liquor may in five or six years thank God from their hearts that they were not allowed to get it after they get the poison of liquor thrown out of their systems. Those are my sentiments regarding liquor. I have never seen any good come from liquor. I have had more trouble from it than anything else I have had to contend with. I have always been opposed to strong drink. I do not believe that it is ever necessary and I think that other medicines can be used at any time that are better than spirits. I am opposed to this petition or anything else that will give out more liquor. If you want to curtail the amount that is given out now, I think you would be taking a step in the right direction. That would have my hearty support, but as to the present petition, I am very strongly opposed to it.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Speaker: I think it will be admitted that I have been more patient than usual in not rising to my feet earlier in the debate, but I have been trying to find out what all this pother is about. In the first place I would ask why has this petition been presented at this time in the Session, without any possibility of a Bill and without any possibility of any action being taken on it and with the certainty that all the talk here this afternoon is merely waste of time if it did not appear that we have nothing else to do.

In the next place I wish to point out that three thousand men have not signed this petition, even though there may be three thousand names

on it, because I find sheet after sheet on which every name is in the same handwriting and therefore it would have been quite possible for three or four men to have signed all the names on the petition. Under the Rules of the House the petition would not be receivable at all, if I officially drew attention to this, but I do not. It may be signed by a great many people bona fide. I can see signs that it is. On the other hand there are a great many people who have not signed it and the absence of their signatures shows that they have paid very little attention to the prayer of the petition.

The next thing to consider is this, that Prohibition did not come in by the will of the Legislature, but by the will of the people expressed at a referendum, and we were told that a Referendum was essential before the Prohibition Act could be introduced in order, to use the language of this petition, "that the fairminded and unprejudiced public will be behind its enforcement." The matter was strongly debated throughout the country, a very large majority voted for Prohibition and the Act was put in force. And now once more we are told that "the fairminded and unprejudiced public" are not behind the measure.

Now, we are also told here this afternoon that a great many people misunderstood what was meant by the Prohibition Bill. I think too highly of the intelligence of the electors of Newfoundland to believe that any large proportion of them had any doubt whatever as to what it meant. There may have been a few who thought it would not be so stringent but a very large majority of the people of the country clearly understood what Prohibition meant. Then what did it mean? It meant that the man-

ufacture and sale of liquor for other purpose than a medicine should be stopped. Now there is no doubt whatever that everybody in the country understood that the manufacture and use of liquor except for medicinal purposes should be stopped, but then the honourable gentlemen who have supported this petition and the honourable gentlemen who introduced it said they were free from any desire to interfere with Prohibition, when if they had taken the trouble to read the petition carefully, they would have seen that the only effect of acceding to its request is to bring about the unrestricted sale of liquor. They ask that it shall be restrained as to quantity, but they ask that it shall be allowed not alone for medicinal purposes but as a beverage. How can the gentleman who introduced this petition say that he does not wish to harm or interfere with or destroy the Prohibition Act. Let me read this petition. I would remark that whoever framed this petition found it extremely difficult to express what was wanted. It is indefinite, intangible and it is extremely difficult to ascertain what it means and it would be very much harder to put into legislation. The first prayer of the petition is: "That the law be so amended as to enable reputable citizens to procure limited quantities of alcoholic beverages at such times as the law may direct." That is the free use of liquor as a beverage, that is not Prohibition, that is the destruction of the Prohibition Act. Another request is "that it shall not be necessary to obtain medical advice before applying for such limited quantities as afore said." Is not that the destruction of the Prohibition measure which provides that it might only be used as a medicine and that the doctors were the only persons

who might say whether it was needed or not. This petition asks that we take off these restrictions and that within the times and up to the quantity allowed they shall be liable to obtain liquor for a beverage, for pleasure, for the appetite. Why; a more complete and wholesale destruction of the Prohibition measure could not be aimed at. What is aimed at here is legislation for a universal Dominion-wide system for the sale of spirituous liquors as a beverage. That is what the petition means—a universal Dominion-wide sale of spirituous liquor as a beverage is what is aimed at in this petition. Then we are told that it does not aim to destroy or interfere with Prohibition.

Now if the petition had only one object, viz: in connection with the obtaining of liquor for medicinal purposes and if the desire was only to perfect the machinery, then it is possible that a Bill could be introduced whereby the obtaining of certificates for medical purposes could be made cheaper and perhaps in many cases more convenient. For instance, the member for Harbour Grace who sits on my right, spoke of the difficulty that some time exists on the Labrador coast in obtaining liquor for medicinal purposes. It seems to be that this difficulty might fairly and honestly exist. I can imagine portions of this island where it would be extremely difficult to obtain liquor when liquor might be necessary for medicinal purposes. I am satisfied that if there was a bill introduced in this House to remedy that difficulty it would receive the support of Prohibitionists, but there is no such measure proposed here.

Now there is another paragraph in the petition which is as follows: "That such quantity as may be allowed

shall be of the best quality and secured from all possibility of adulteration, and that the same shall be sold at a reasonable price."

Thereby asking for a measure that will put a fixed price on liquor, which is impossible to do except in a state licensed scheme for the sale of liquor where the country itself is the seller. And in support of this argument we are told that a large part of the evil of prohibition is due to adulteration. Well, I remember before there was prohibition at all that it was a stock argument for the state sale of liquor that the liquor sold in the saloons was adulterated, and many honourable members of this House, who are now dead and gone, argued very strenuously for the sale of liquor by the country on the grounds that the liquor being used in the country was of the vilest character. And I wish to point out that if you put in a good quality of liquor and have it sold by the state, that the price would be very high, and the temptation for adulteration would be almost as great as it is today. If you had this liquor sold in this way it would still be adulterated. Every law we have ever had or will have, is violated, but the violations are arguments for stricter enforcement, not for relaxation, of the law. Do the honourable gentlemen believe that if good liquor were got, and a just price fixed upon it, and if all care were taken of it, that that would stop the practice of adulteration, would stop drunkenness, would stop the condition in which we are told these people who suffer from the adulteration of liquor so often are found. I heard the honorable member for St. John's West talk of adulteration making a man a beast. I don't know if these are the words he used, but that is the idea, that he is deprived of his senses, deprived of

his control, and while he was speaking, I wondered if I was listening to an old time prohibition orator talking of the evils of liquor itself. Didn't we see the beasts in the streets of St. John's before prohibition. It doesn't appear to me that all the drunkenness and the things that flow from drunkenness are due to adulteration. I have seen people getting drunk on three dollar a bottle brandy. I have not heard that all the drunkards are drunkards on account of adulteration. Now, Sir, I want to say that the Prohibition Act came into force in this island just before I was here in 1916, and before I came back I was wondering about its effect. I have seen its effect in St. John's. I see its effect on the street corners, which are purged of the crowds of drunken loafers. I see sober citizens, where before I saw sots, men whose career was thought to be entirely behind them. I could name men here today, known to all of us, who for years hardly saw a sober day, and whose appearance on the street testified to the curse following them, and I have been surprised to meet man after man on the street and find him sober, his health renewed, restored to himself, a man once more. Therefore, I fail to see how it is possible that any body of citizens can ask that this Act be done away with. A great day has come in Newfoundland. The city shows it, and the people show it; and I think it would be a sad day when an act that has brought such blessings to the people should be taken away.

Pursuant to order and on motion of hon. the Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act further to amend the Act 4, George V. (1914) Chapter Seventeen, entitled "An Act Respecting the Operation of Saw Mills," was introduced and read a first time and or-

dered to be read a second time presently.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER. — Mr. Speaker, I have had my attention drawn to the fact that in certain cases where companies owned lands obtained from the Crown, who have not used their lands and have not taken advantage of the limit, certain members of such companies have formed a separate company, the same persons under another name, and have cut timber on these limits, without paying any taxation to the revenue of the country. Now the object of this bill is to remedy this abuse, and compel all persons who cut on Crown Lands, to be licensed under the act respecting the Operation of Sawmills.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act further to Amend the Act 4 George V. (1914) Chapter Seventeen, entitled "An Act respecting the Operation of Saw Mills," was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Whereupon the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act further to Amend the Act 4 George 5 (1914), Chapter Seventeen, entitled "An Act respecting the Operation of Saw Mills."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act further to Amend the Act 4, George

V. (1914), Chapter Seventeen, entitled "An Act respecting the Operation of Saw Mills," was read a third time and passed, and it was ordered 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 Prime Minister, the Bill entitled "An Act for the Encouragement of Cattle Raising" was introduced and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for the Encouragement of Cattle Raising" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Whereupon the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act for the Encouragement of Cattle Raising."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Chairman, I think that Section 3 of this bill should be amended. I think that the term of ten years is too short in any case to allow the Governor in Council the right of ex-proprietation, and I think it should be amended to read "If the Company shall for ten consecutive years from Dec. 31, 1926, keep the said ranch stocked, etc., etc."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act for the Encouragement of Cattle Raising" 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.

On motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the amendments of the Legislative Council to the Bill entitled "An Act respecting the Ministry of Shipping" were read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—Mr. Chairman: The Council's amendments to this Bill provide that the work of the said Department should be under the control of a Board consisting of not less than two members additional to the Minister. The amendment is inconsistent, as in one place it is stated that the work should be performed by the Minister and in another it is stated that it should be performed by the Board. In any case the entire amendment is not a desirable one. I therefore propose to strike out the whole amendment and propose that an entirely new clause be inserted therein, which gives the control of the Department to the Minister and makes the board an advisory one, instead of having a Board which actually controls the works of the Department.

MR. MORINE—It seems to me that the amendment proposed by the Prime Minister is a proper one. The responsibility of such a Department should always be in the hands of a Minister and not of a board.

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 amendment with an amendment.

On motion this report was received and adopted and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the concurrence of that body.

Pursuant to order and on motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act further to Amend the Act 3, Edward VII (1903) Chapter Six entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals."

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Parsons took the Chair of Committee.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—

Mr. Chairman: This Bill was reported by the Select Committee. The first section was drafted to meet a new situation that was not in the last Bill. In the past those interested in fishery matters had a right to enter upon licensed land and take timber for the purpose of building boats and fishing flakes; also they had a right to take from licensed land timber for shipbuilding purposes. In the past that practice created no difficulty and no grievance worth while to holders of licenses because the shipbuilding was confined to ordinary fishery vessels, but within the past few years we have had the building up of large commercial Shipbuilding Companies. If the law remained as in the past, it must be held that for Shipbuilding Companies to go and take all the timber they require is the creation of an intolerable evil. The purpose of this Bill is that the rights to go and cut timber on Crown Land licensed to other holders is for fishery purposes alone and not for commercial shipbuilders.

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act further to Amend the Act 3, Edward VII (1903) Chapter six entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals," 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. 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 respecting the Military Forces of Newfoundland" with an amendment in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendment was read a first time.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—

Mr. Speaker: The amendment provides that no soldier shall be subjected to certain corporal punishment.

On motion of Hon. the Prime Minister the said amendment was read a second time and it was ordered that a message be sent to the Legislative Council acquainting that Body that the amendment had been passed without amendment.

Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary tabled the Report of the Marine Disasters Fund for the year ending Dec. 31st., 1917.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair until a quarter past six of the clock.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until to-morrow, Wednesday, May 15th,

at four of the clock in the afternoon.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Speaker: I think there are some questions on the Order papers that have not yet been answered. I have not yet been given the information I desired to.

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—Some are ready, and some are being prepared.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Speaker: A few nights ago I asked the Hon. the Premier if the Government would have a Magisterial Enquiry into the Bonavista cases, and he said he would consider the matter. Has anything been done?

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—The Government has not met since; but I think I will be able to give the Honourable Member an answer to-morrow.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries tabled replies to question asked by Mr. Currie on Order Paper for May 11th.

MR. MORINE—Mr. Speaker: When is it proposed to prorogue?

HON. THE PRIME MINISTER—To-morrow.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

WEDNESDAY, May 15th, 1918.

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

The Clerk having announced that Mr. Speaker was unavoidably absent, Mr. Edward Parsons, Chairman of Committees, took the Chair.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Abbott from the inhabitants of Mockbeggar, Bonavista, asking for the sum of \$250 to repair roads; also from the inhabitants of Port Blandford asking for \$250 for similar purposes.

Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary tabled:

Report of Catholic Schools under Roman Catholic Boards.

Report of Government analyst.

Estimated Revenue of Municipal Council for the year 1918.

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 Bills entitled "An Act for granting to His Majesty Certain sums of Money for Defraying Certain Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial Years ending respectively the 30th day of June 1918 and the 30th day of June 1919 and for other purposes relating to the Public Service." and "An Act respecting Certain Retiring Allowances 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 amendments made by the House of Assembly in and upon the amendments made by the Legislative Council in and upon the Bill sent up entitled "An Act respecting the Ministry of Shipping" without amendment.

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs moved certain amendments to the "Act to Authorize the Levying of a War Tax on Certain Incomes." which were passed unanimously.

HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Speaker: With reference to the Income Tax Bill we sent up to the Upper House yesterday, I may say that there are two or three paragraphs not altogether clear, and I wish to add the following amendments.

In section 3, sub-section 1, paragraph C: After the words "by the Minister" add the following: "and for religious, charitable and educational purposes to such an amount as may be allowed by the Minister."

In the same section, paragraph D: Strike out the words "credited with" and substitute therefor the words "reduced by". The said paragraph will then read as follows: "(d) for the purposes of the normal tax, the income embraced in the personal return shall be reduced by the amount received as dividends upon the stock or from the net earnings of any company or other person which is taxable upon its income under this act: Provided, however, that in determining the income the personal and living expenses shall not be taken into consideration.

In the same section a new subsection as follows:

(5) Income derived by a taxpayer domiciled or residing in Newfoundland from property or investments outside Newfoundland shall not be subject to taxation under this Act in any case where an income tax has been levied upon it either in the United Kingdom or the Dominion of Canada or the United States of America; Section 4, subsection 5, page 5, insert the following:

Before the word "amounts" in the second line thereof the words "and year 1918 respectively" and strike out the words "for any accounting period ending in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighteen" and substitute the words "corresponding accounting period".

The section will then read as follows:

"From the income tax accruing for the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and the year one thousand and nine hundred and eighteen respectively, the amounts paid by any taxpayer under the business profits Tax Act, 1917 and any amendments thereto for the corresponding accounting period. In the case of a partnership, each partner shall be en-

titled to deduct such portion of the tax paid by the partnership under the Business Profits Tax Act, 1917, as may correspond to his interest in the income of the partnership."

I beg to move these amendments and that a message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting the insertion thereof.

MR. MORINE:—Would it not be better to have the bill come back and have these amendments inserted here.

HON. MIN. FINANCE:—We do not wish it to be done in that way. There is no reason why we cannot send up a message asking that these amendments be inserted.

MR. MORINE:—Of course in the case of a money bill under the act passed last year the Upper House has no power to deal with it.

HON. MIN. FINANCE:—With our sanction they can deal with it.

It was ordered that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council requesting that Body to incorporate the said amendments in the said Bill now before the Council.

Pursuant to order the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions on the subject of salaries.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Goodison took the Chair of Committee.

MR. WALSH:—There is a question that I asked the Minister of Finance that has not yet been answered. It is in connection with payments to ex-Premier Morris.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS:—There is nothing in my Department that I know of during the past year.

MR. CURRIE:—Why is the salary of the Minister of Shipping \$3,000?

MINISTER OF FINANCE:—That should be \$2,000. It is an error in

the printing (re Minister of Militia's salary.)

MR. WALSH—Mr. Chairman: I understand that the Minister of Militia will be leaving in a day or two for the other side. I would like to make a plea for the men who have been on active service from the outbreak of the war. I think that these men are entitled to a furlough. I think everyone will agree with me in this. I understand that this was impossible heretofore, as the Regiment was short of men. Now that it has been withdrawn, the opportunity should be availed of to give these men a furlough. Surely these men who have been in the lines since the outbreak of the war, some of whom have been wounded three or four times, are entitled to this. I was speaking to a returned soldier and he said that enough lead had passed over these men, and through some of them, to ballast a boat. I hope something will be done in this matter.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman: I would like to support that plea. If anything can be done in that direction, I think we owe it to these boys to do it. If we can arrange to get them back for a furlough it should be done. Is it correct that the Minister is leaving for the other side?

MINISTER OF MILITIA—Yes, that is my intention.

MR. CURRIE—It seems an extraordinary time for the Minister to leave. He is the Registrar of the Military Service Act. We are putting a new Act into force dealing with the Department, an Act which I think will require the Minister's personal attention. It is most extraordinary that he should be leaving the country at this time. I cannot understand it. I think if it is necessary for the Minister to go over, then there

is lots of time later in the fall—in September or October—not now. It is a very strange thing to do.

MINISTER OF MILITIA—I would like to explain the position, as there seems to be some misunderstanding. I might say that when I was appointed as Minister by the late Government one of the first things the Prime Minister, Sir Edward Morris, impressed upon me was that the Head of the Department should visit the other side for the purpose of getting an idea of the conditions existing there. Since that time the matter has been under consideration and the longer I am in the Department the more I see the importance of whoever is Head of the Department here getting a thorough knowledge of the Department on the other side. It will be appreciated that the Department is divided into two parts—one here and one on the other side. I am all at sea as to what happens over there. I have no knowledge of the procedure. I have no knowledge as how the Pay and Record Office is conducted or how the different establishments are administered there.

Now as regards the position of the Minister of Militia and the Military Service Act. He has nothing to do with it.

MR. CURRIE—He has a lot to do with the recruits that will come in under it.

MINISTER OF MILITIA—Nothing at all. When they come in they will be looked after the same as the volunteers.

MR. CURRIE—Why have a Minister?

HON. MINISTER OF MILITIA—Does the hon. member mean to say that the Minister should look after the routine work. The Minister of Militia knows no more about it than does the Minister of Finance about a

man who may be checking goods on Shea's wharf.

The honourable member ought to know very well that it is the duty of the head of the Militia Department to look after the large expenditure of money on the other side. Major Timewell is the only man in authority at the present time, and his hands are tied. He is continually writing saying that this thing can't be done and that that thing can't be done, and impressing on me the necessity of the Minister visiting as soon as possible. I can assure the honourable member that I have no desire for a holiday on the other side. It has no attractions for me. As regards my going at the present time, I don't think the time would be opportune in three months' time any more than now, so far as my absence from the Department is concerned. I was appointed Registrar because the registration takes place in the Department of Militia. It is only the same thing as the registration of recruits. The Minister is not going to do the registering, he is not the one to look after the detail work and register those enlisted for the Newfoundland Regiment. His deputy and staff are appointed to look after this work. It is entirely erroneous to think that the Minister of Militia should have anything to do with it. Everyone appreciates the fact that the Minister is the political head of a department. It would not do for him to have the right to say "this man should be exempt" or to have anything to say regarding the accepting of a man for the Regiment, as it is a power which he might perhaps use improperly for his own particular advantage in a political way. Therefore, I say that it is advisable that the Minister should not have any association with the enforce-

ment of the Military Service Act. I discussed this matter with the Prime Minister over a month ago, and showed him some correspondence I had in connection with this matter, and he suggested that after the Legislature closed I should go across at the first opportunity. He was good enough to arrange that I should get an opportunity to go on the same steamer as himself and the other delegates of the Imperial Conference. That is the position exactly. I am not attaching myself to the colonial premiers—I am merely using an opportunity that has offered, of getting over and doing some good for the Regiment that I think can be done only by the Ministerial head of the Militia Department.

Now, the honourable member for Placentia said this afternoon that it is a very important matter that our boys who have been serving for three years should have a furlough. I feel very keenly on that matter, and have represented that position before in this House regarding the boys who have been over in the trenches for the last three years. Any influence that I can bring to bear with the authorities on the other side will be exerted to give these men what is practically a chance for their lives, because there is no doubt that if they continue going into engagement after engagement it is only a matter of time when they will be all wiped out. Another matter that is extremely important is that of the position of the Newfoundland Regiment. The Regiment is to-day out of the line, but we don't know where it is or anything about it. The War Office hasn't given us any information. The reinstatement of our Regiment is an important matter, a matter that every member of the Newfoundland Regiment feels is important; and I don't

consider that the reinstatement of the Regiment in its original position can be looked after by Major Time-well. I say the highest authority in our military affairs should use his greatest efforts to carry out the desire of the men of the Regiment that they should be reinstated as soon as possible.

I made up my mind months ago that it was advisable for me to go across, and in fact I had decided to go in January, but as the opening of the Legislature was pending and as it was likely that there would be matters in connection with our military affairs brought up I decided to leave the matter over, and the possibility is that I would not have made up my mind to go so early as this, but that, as I said, I got this opportunity of getting over quickly and facilitating my early return. I don't think that the interests of the Newfoundland Regiment will be in the least affected by my absence from the Department for a few months.

MR. CURRIE—Mr. Chairman: I have listened with interest to the Minister's explanation, but I cannot see that we are any wiser now than we were before. He has not adduced one argument for his presence over there now. He should not go now, it is an inopportune time. He may pretend that there is nothing to hinder the Militia Act from coming into force, but I say his Department will have considerable work in connection with it. They are bound to have. If we get two thousand men coming in during the next four or five months, it is essential that the Minister should be here to look after matters that are bound to arise, such as the place the men are to go into, the question of board, the question of getting them across the Atlantic, convoys. Things like that are all mat-

ters that require the Minister's attention, and he has no deputy even, nobody in charge of the Department, who would be responsible to this House or to the country. I am not objecting to the idea that the Minister should go across. I daresay there are matters over there that require his attention. But I do think that the present is a most inopportune time for him to be away. The Prime Minister will be away and the Minister of Militia will be away, and if any question comes up in connection with the Regiment, who is going to decide it. Personally I think that the Minister is very unwise in leaving his Department and the Regiment at the present time. If he wants to go later, whether it be for a pleasure trip or a business trip, let him go, but he should not go now.

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 an amendment.

On motion this report was received and adopted and the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Salaries" was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Salaries" was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Whereupon the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Salaries."

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 presently.

Whereupon the Bill entitled "An Act respecting Salaries" 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. Currie presented a petition from H. D. Windeler, Esq. Manager of the Commercial Cable Co., protesting against the Telegraph Companies (Taxation) Act.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair until eight of the clock.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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 Bills sent up entitled "An Act further to Amend the Revenue Act 1905": "An Act to Amend the War Pensions Act 1917." "An Act respecting Stamp Duties" "An Act to Amend Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (2nd Series) entitled "Of Nuisances and Municipal Regulation." "An Act for the Encouragement of Cattle Raising" and "An Act to Amend the Act

Edward VII. Chapter Seven entitled "An Act to Increase the Revenue by Imposing Taxes upon Business transacted by Telegraph Companies within and in transit through the Colony," 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 Authorize the Levying of a War Tax on Certain Incomes" without amendment and that they had in-

serted the amendments made by the House of Assembly in the said Bills requested by their Message of this date.

And it being past midnight.

THURSDAY, May 16th., 1918

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 respecting the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's" 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 Amend the Shipbuilding Act 1916" 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 respecting Salaries" without amendment.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rises it adjourn until a quarter to three of the clock, this afternoon.

The House then adjourned accordingly.

THURSDAY, May 16th, 1918.

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

Mr. Speaker informed the House of Assembly that they had received a Message from the Legislative Council acquainting the House of Assembly that they had passed the Bills sent up entitled respectively: "An Act further to Amend the Act 3, Edward VII. (1903) Chapter 6, entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber-Mines and Minerals"; and "An Act

further to Amend the Act 4 George V. (1914) Chapter 17, entitled "An Act respecting the Operation of Saw Mills," with some amendments, in which they requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly.

On motion of Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, the amendment to the Sawmills Bill was read a first and Second time and passed, and it was ordered that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council that the said amendment had been passed without amendment.

On motion of Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, the House was unable to concur in the amendment of the Legislative Council to the Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals Bill, and it was ordered that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council accordingly.

MR. PARSONS—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from Lance Cove, Bell Island, St. John's East, asking for the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of building a road. The distance across the Island is two miles and the men have to travel over it three or four times a day. I trust that this petition will be taken up by the Government and the matter given consideration

I also beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Coley's Point, Country Road and Bay Roberts on the subject of a road leading to the railway. It is a very important matter and is signed by a great number of people. I have no doubt that the Government will give it consideration as, I understand, that there are special votes for railway connecting roads. I would ask that these petitions be referred to the Departments to which they relate.

HON. MR. COAKER—Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks concerning a personal matter. My atten-

tion has been drawn to an article in The Daily Star of recent date. The article I object to is "Throw Him Out," and it seriously reflects upon my conduct in connection with the circular addressed by me to the members of the Fishermen's Protective Union, and also upon my conduct as a member of the Government.

The article contains the following paragraphs:

"Honourable members of the Legislative Council too and especially those who have been supporting the Government's demands for an extension of its term in office were staggered by the revelations this document made of double dealing and deceit.

"It is a glaring sample of treachery to ministerial obligations; an outstanding instance of attempted political profiteering; a determination to knife even business men who are cooperating with the Government in the Legislature.

"And nothing could be more dastardly; more despicably unpatriotic than the attempt to attract the people's savings to the Coaker trading organization rather than to the Government bond issue.

"In-sincerity is the keynote. Political design crops out everywhere. Double-dealing with the friends of the Regiment and the advocates of conscription is proven beyond peradventure and by the President's own pen.

"How can such a man be permitted to remain in a Government of a British Dominion? How can His Excellency the Governor and the bulk of the members of the Cabinet condone such an offence against patriotism, against fair play, and against square dealing in public administration? Surely the majority of the Legislative Council cannot longer support extension of the life of a Government

including such a character in its membership.

"Away with him from public life. He is untrustworthy; he lacks public spirit; he has shown regard only for his own well-being and that of his pet objects; he sets self-interest before the welfare of country and of Empire; he displays intolerance and treachery; he is an offence to honest men and true, a drag on the progress of the country, a stumbling block in the way of success of patriotic effort, and an exemplar of petty meanness and self-seeking politics. Newfoundland can tolerate no such man in its Government; Newfoundland and its reputation court ruin every moment he is allowed to remain in the councils of its administration."

I object very strongly to the words of that article, Mr. Speaker. I might say that the contents of that article were written by a member of the Legislative Council. One would presume, Sir, that the member of the Legislative Council who wrote these words had clean hands.

Well, Sir, this same gentleman last October and November, with myself and others of the Executive Council, composed a sub-committee of Council to consider claims arising out of the Branch Railway Contract. The then Colonial Secretary, Mr. Squires, was Chairman of this Committee. The claims under the Branch Railway contract amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars. This man who is attacking me in the Star and exhausting the English language to find sufficient words to vilify me, as quoted in the above paragraphs, of the article entitled "Throw Him Out," opened up negotiations with the Reid Newfoundland Co. in reference to the supposed failure of one of the Reids to live up to promises made respecting financial aid to the Star, which nego-

tiations ended by the payment in Bank of Montreal Notes of \$5000 by Mr. R. G. Reid to the then Colonial Secretary, Mr. R. A. Squires.

The public will be solely concerned with that aspect of the matter which led the Chairman of such a responsible Committee, trusting and dealing on behalf of the Dominion with claims of such vast proportions, accepting at such a time \$5000 paid him by a Company whose claims were under consideration and adjustment. I leave the public to decide as to how clean the hands of such a man are. I believe that if I were the man accepting this \$5000 under such circumstances, I would have been hounded out of public life long before this, and would probably find myself enjoying a rest on the banks of Quidi Vidi.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I leave the public to contrast my actions in respect of the issuing of that circular and my conduct as a member of the Government with the statement I have made from my seat in this House respecting the conduct of the Hon. R. A. Squires in this matter.

MR. MOULTON—Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition from the inhabitants of Francois, Burgeo and La Poile, asking for Telegraph Extension. There are four places in that District where there are a considerable number of people living: Francois, Cape LaHune, Rencontre, and who would receive considerable benefit if the telegraph were extended. I trust the Government will see its way clear to accede to the request of the petitioners, and I ask that the petition be referred to the Department to which it relates.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received a Message from the Legislative Council acquainting the House of Assembly that they recede from the amendment sent down

in and upon the Bill sent up entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber, Mines and Minerals."

Hon. the Minister of Finance and Customs tabled the Annual Report of the Newfoundland Patriotic Fund.

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 and 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:

The House of Assembly have voted the Supply required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the Public Service.

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

"An Act to Amend the Act 1 George V. (1911) Chapter Sixteen, entitled "An Act respecting a Fire Patrol."

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

An Act to Authorize the Levying of a War Tax on Certain Incomes.

An Act to Amend the Shipbuilding Act, 1916.

An Act to Amend the Act 5, Edward VII. (1906), Chapter Seven, entitled "An Act to Increase the Revenue by Imposing Taxes upon Business Transacted by Telegraph and Telephone Companies within and in Transit through the Colony.

An Act for granting to His Majesty Certain Sums of Money for defraying Certain Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial Years ending the 30th day of June, 1918, and the 30th day of June, 1919, and for other

purposes relating to the Public Service.

An Act to Amend the Act 5, George V. (1914) Chapter Ten, entitled "An Act respecting Stamp Duties."

An Act further to Amend the Revenue Act, 1905.

An Act respecting Salaries.

An Act respecting Certain Retiring Allowances.

An Act to Amend Chapter One Hundred and Nine of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of Patents."

An Act to Amend the Education Act, 1916.

An Act to Amend the Act 6, George V. (1916), Chapter 17, entitled "An Act respecting the Establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund."

An Act further to Amend Chapter 141 of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland, Second Series, entitled "Of the Keeping of Dogs."

An Act to Amend the Inflammable Substances Act, 1916.

An Act respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners.

An Act for the Publication of the Consolidated Statutes (Third Series.)

An Act respecting the Ministry of Shipping.

An Act to Continue for a Period of Five Years after the termination of the Present War Certain Powers in relation to Imports and Exports.

An Act to Amend the Act 8 Edward VII (1908) Chapter Five, entitled "An Act with respect to Compensation to Workmen for Injuries Suffered in the Course of their Employment."

An Act respecting the Identification of Criminals.

An Act to Restrict Temporarily the Persons who may engage in business connected with certain Non-Ferrous Metals and Metallic Ores.

An Act for the More Effectual Transfer of Certain Properties to the

Congregational Home Missionary Society of Newfoundland.

An Act to Extend and Amend the Act 3 George V. (1913) Chapter 26, entitled "An Act respecting the Preservation of Beavers."

An Act to Amend the Soldiers and Sailors' Wills Act, 1917.

An Act to Amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1916.

An Act to Amend the War Pensions Act, 1917.

An Act to Amend Chapter Thirty-Six of the Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland (Second Series) entitled "Of Naisances and Municipal Regulations."

An Act respecting the Municipal Affairs of the Town of St. John's.

An Act further to Amend the Act 3 Edward VII. (1903) Chapter Six, entitled "An Act respecting Crown Lands, Timber Mines and Minerals."

An Act further to Amend the Act 4 George V. (1914) Chapter Seventeen, entitled "An Act respecting the Operation of Sawmills."

An Act for the Encouragement of Cattle Raising.

An Act respecting the Military Forces of Newfoundland.

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 :

It is a pleasure to me to be able to relieve you thus early from the duties which your attendance at this session has involved. Having regard to the number and importance of the measures which have formed the subject of your deliberations, it is gratifying that you have been able to dispose of them with such despatch, and so clear the way for what will be to most of you a very busy season.

The measures which you have taken for dealing with the revenue are, I trust, such as will amply provide for the increasing needs of the Public Service, and the growing pressure of those war burthens which you have shouldered in common with the rest of the Empire. Guided, as you have been, in their enactment by the underlying principles of justice and equity, I believe they will be regarded as eminently fair and reasonable.

Your prompt and patriotic action in providing for the enrolment of men in order to keep at full strength the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and ensure the maintenance of the splendid record which has been achieved by our forces, will meet with universal commendation, and form another evidence of that loyalty which has ever been the proud boast of this oldest Colony.

The provision which you have made for the raising of a loan locally for war purposes, displays a confidence in the practical patriotism of our people which I am certain will be fully justified.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY :

I thank you for the liberal nature of the supplies which you have provided for the Public Service. The appropriations will be expended with due regard to obtaining the fullest returns to the public.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL :

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY :

I sincerely trust that the fishery operations of our people, in which they are now about to engage, will be attended with the fullest measure of success, and that it will be found possible to arrange for the profitable marketing of the catch.

In taking leave of you I would express the hope that Divine Providence may bless and prosper you and our common country, and that the terrible struggle in which we, in common with the Mother Country and her Allies, are participating may be brought to an early and victorious conclusion.

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 Monday the 30th day of October, ensuing, then and here to be holden, and this General Assembly stands prorogued accordingly.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

1918.

Proceedings

OF THE

Legislative Council of Newfoundland

SESSION 1918

TUESDAY, April 23rd, 1918.

This being the day appointed by Proclamation for the meeting of the Legislature.

At five minutes to 12 o'clock, noon, the House met.

At twelve o'clock, noon, the Honourable Sir Patrick T. McGrath, President of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Robert K. Bishop, and the Honourable John Harvey, members of the Legislative Council, nominated and appointed by His Excellency the Governor as Commissioners having taken their seats the Honourable President commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, attendant on the Council, to proceed to the Honourable House of Assembly, and inform the members thereto that His Excellency the Governor's Commissioners desire their immediate attendance in the Council Chamber to hear the Commission read, and they being come thereto, the following Commission was read by the clerk of the Legislative Council setting out that whereas it is not convenient that the purposes for which he had called the said General Assembly together should be declared until the Members of the House of Assembly have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, he had appointed the said Honourable Sir Patrick T.

McGrath, Honourable Robert R. K. Bishop, and Honourable John Harvey to signify to the Members of the said House of Assembly that it was his pleasure that they should proceed to the choice of some person to be their Speaker, and present such person in the afternoon for his approbation.

The Honourable Sir Patrick T. McGrath, President of the Legislative Council, addressing both Houses of the Legislature, then said:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Gentlemen of the Honourable House of Assembly:

It is not convenient for His Excellency the Governor to declare the reasons of his calling this General Assembly, it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Assembly should be first chosen;

You Gentlemen of the House of Assembly repair to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the appointment of some proper person to be your Speaker, and present such person whom you shall so choose, here today at three o'clock for His Excellency's approbation.

The House of Assembly then withdrew.

The House took recess until 3 p.m.

The House resumed at 3 p.m.

At three o'clock p.m. His Excel-

lency the Governor, Sir C. Alexander Harris, K.C.M.G., C.B., G.V.O., having arrived at the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, Commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, through the Honourable the President of the Legislative Council, to let the Commons House of Assembly know—

“It is His Excellency the Governor’s pleasure they attend him immediately in this House.”

Who being come thereto.

William J. Higgins, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Member for the District of St. John’s East, having been presented by the Honourable W. F. Lloyd, Premier, as Speaker Elect, and the choice approved, His Excellency the Governor was pleased to speak as follows:—

(Speech appears in first part of this volume.)

His Excellency and the gentlemen of the House of Assembly having retired, the Speech from the Throne was ordered to be read by the Clerk.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President, It is my melancholy privilege to invite acceptance by this House today, of a Resolution, which I will shortly read—one expressive of the regret, which I am sure, fills every one of us at the fact that death has removed from amongst us since last Session, our friend and co-worker—the Hon. Jas. Ryan, for virtually all of his long life so prominently associated with the commercial advancement of Bonavista, from which, as headquarters, the ramifications of his vast mercantile business, extended through every part of the northern section of our Island.

Our respected friend was a man of more than ordinary qualities—who by sheer industry, ability and determination, unaided by any of the fortunate circumstances, which so frequently assist others in laying the foundation

of a fruitful career, built up one of the largest commercial establishments in our country, and proved what it was possible for one of sterling merits and unusual foresight to achieve.

During the all too brief acquaintance with us, as a Member of this House, he impressed us as a man sincerely desirous to do his duty by this Chamber and by the country, to the best of his ability, according to his lights.

He was above all things gentlemanly, courteous and considerate, readily winning our esteem and regard, and his loss will awaken in us a sense of unfeigned regret—to give express to which I would move this Resolution:

RESOLVED,—That this House desires to record its sense of the loss sustained by it through the decease of the late Hon. James Ryan, who for the past few years occupied a seat in this Council and was a valuable acquisition to the Council because of his wide knowledge of the country’s affairs.

RESOLVED—Further that a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to Mrs. Ryan, with an expression of the sympathy of the Council with her and the family of their late brother member on the loss they have sustained.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Mr. President, I rise to second the resolution of sympathy just proposed by the Hon. Leader of the Government on the death of an Honourable member of this House. During the period I have been connected with it—for the past 12 years—we have seen pass pass from amongst us ten distinguished gentlemen who have occupied seats here, namely: Hon. E. D. Shea, who was President of the

House; then Hon. John Harris, another President of the Chamber; Honourables George Rendell, S. Blandford, Jas. McLaughlin, Joseph Greene, Jas. S. Pitts, John Ayre, Jas. Baird, and now Hon. James Ryan—during the 12 years I have passed in this Chamber no less than ten members. The last who has passed away to the "Silent City," Hon. James Ryan, as has been stated by the mover of the resolution, has been identified with the trade and commerce of the country for over half a century. He built up a business entirely from the foundation by his own personal efforts and took it to the highest pinnacle of success. Mr. President, it is my sad privilege to second the motion that a vote of sympathy be passed and that a copy of the resolution be sent to the widow and family sympathizing with them in their bereavement.

On motion the resolution was accordingly passed.

HON. MR. HARVEY—Mr. President, I would ask the House before proceeding to its regular business to turn its thoughts from sadness to the consideration of a happier subject. I am going to ask assent to a resolution which I hardly need ask assent to as I believe it will be accepted with enthusiasm.

RESOLVED—That this House records its pleasure and hereby tenders its heartiest congratulations to its President, the Hon. Sir P. T. McGrath upon the well deserved honor recently conferred upon him by our Most gracious Sovereign through his appointment to the rank of Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

I am sure in submitting this motion I am echoing the thoughts and good will of every hon. member on the floors of this House. I am sure that

all admit that no civilian effort since the war opened has at all compared with the services given and the work rendered by the President of this Chamber. Not only has no civilian done anything approaching what he has done, but I doubt if we have a civilian in the country who could do what he has done. Beginning his work as Secretary of the Finance Committee of the Patriotic Association, he has had to deal with almost the entire expenditure of the Colony in its military effort since the outbreak of war up to the appointment of the Militia Department. He has dealt with millions of dollars and members of that Committee were constantly amazed at the enormous volume of work which our President did in that connection; with his extraordinary knowledge of detail, with his investigation of and information on the numberless individual cases coming before him. It was a herculean task, discharged with a capacity which I have seldom seen equalled. As Secretary of the Finance Committee of the Association he was also more or less in charge of the Patriotic Fund, and dealt largely with the disbursements of the fund. They worked with him a small executive committee of the Finance Committee that was hard-working and self-sacrificing, but I am sure there was no member of the Executive Committee who would not be prepared to admit that no member of it, nor all the members together, began to do the work and to be of the same use to the Colony in that connection that the President did. As the result of the many problems that came before him and evidently are still to come before him, the President made it his business, at his own expense, without charge to the Colony, to go to Ottawa and study activities there with

regard to war work and with regard to Pension and Patriotic Funds, and Education of Returned Soldiers. From Ottawa he proceeded to Washington where he again studied the whole subject on the spot, and on his return here he submitted his report which was invaluable to the authorities and a permanent record of what he did. At the same time he was the active member of the committee which looked after and sent across all the nurses and orderlies and others to do non-combatant military work in the interests of the Empire and his efforts all the way through saved the country from an enormous amount of work and resulted in deserving cases being thoroughly investigated and relieved with economy. How the President found time also to do these things in face of the fact that he was operating a daily paper here and obliged to follow the doings of modern life and the various movements of the world of today; how he did all this and found time and energy for it is really marvellous. And on top of all he was appointed and accepted the position of Chairman of the Commission to investigate the High Cost of Living and handled most of the details and work and thereafter took the position of Chairman of the Board of Food Control, entailing an immense drain on his energies, and all this work was carried out, in my opinion, with the most admirable judgment and industry. The great, the remarkable and industry. The great, the remarkable industry shown by him since the war started and his ability in carrying out his work from a record for the Colony. None of us knows the magnitude of this work, the time necessary for its accomplishment and the attention, knowledge and judgment that it required.

There is no record to equal it in my time in the Colony. I need not speak of his position as a member of the Chamber. We all here, especially those whom he met on the floors, know how invaluable his keen intellect was in trying to adjust and make practicable and reasonable so large a mass of legislation submitted for approval and which the House does as far as practicable and equitable. His work in reviewing these measures has been of great value to the country, and since he took the position of President he has conducted its deliberations firmly and with due decorum, while his relations with the members leave nothing to be desired. So that I think, on behalf of the House, it is an honor and very great pleasure to offer him the congratulations of hon. members at the present time.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I rise to second the resolutions proposed by Hon. Mr. Harvey. He has so completely covered the ground and has extended the felicitations of the House to the Hon. President in such an eloquent and comprehensive manner that I feel any further reference to be entirely unnecessary, in connection with what he has said respecting the merits of the recipient of the honor. The activities of the President, as Hon. Mr. Harvey has said, have been known and recognized for many years, but since August, 1914, the amount of work he has undertaken and accomplished has been nothing less than prodigious and a large portion, if not the major part of his labors has been devoted to the different branches of war work. It is in consequence of such work that the honour of Knight Com. of the order of the British Empire has been extended to him; but I think we may recognize at the same time a compliment to this

branch of the Legislature of the new Dominion. I trust, Sir Patrick, and I believe I am joined by every Hon. member of the House in the hope, that you may be blessed with physical strength, so that for many years to come you may be able to continue in the interest of Newfoundland, the work which to you appears to be such a labor of love and for which your manifest abilities are so eminently proved. I beg leave to second the motion.

HON MR. ELLIS—Mr. President, I feel somewhat diffident in speaking to this Motion lest it be thought that by reason of our long and close friendship the observations I am about to make, take on somewhat of a personal strain to this House. But trying to speak impersonally and as the mouth-piece of the Government, I would say, Sir, the Resolution itself and the eulogistic references, that have fallen from the Proposer and Seconder, have our entire concurrence and endorsement. For myself I would like to recall here an incident that occurred very many years ago in the Total Abstinence Society, when you were still in your teens and when as Secretary of a Committee you brought in a report dealing with the Juvenile branch, which attracted the attention and made a profound impression on the whole Society. Myself and others, actively interested in the Society's well-being, gained the impression then, that you had in you, qualities that would make for more than ordinary success in life. It is a pleasure to me to-day to know that this view has been justified by subsequent events.

In your chosen field of Journalism, you have won recognition, not alone in the Colony, but also in the literary world abroad. As a Clerk of the other House, where I had an oppor-

tunity of seeing your work for some years, it was of a character to meet recognition from all parties in that Chamber. As a Member of this House you have more than made good, and the high expectations, formed as to the part you would play in its debates through your almost unrivalled knowledge of the Colony's affairs, and wide acquaintance with world events, have been fully justified; and more recently as President of this Chamber, you have directed its deliberations with ability, impartially, and sound knowledge of constitutional usage.

With regard to your patriotic work I, like some other Members of this House, have been associated with you in some of its branches, and I know I can speak for them as well as myself, in saying that you have done an enormous amount of work and done it in a manner that elicited admiration from all classes in the community, and that your efforts have been fittingly recognized by the honor just conferred upon you by His Majesty the King. Speaking for the Government, I would add that the present Administration recognizes that you have since the beginning of the war done an immense volume of public service of an unpurchasable kind, and I think that the previous Ministry, of which the Hon. Mr. Bishop was the spokesman in this House, took the same view of your war activities, and the sentiments expressed by Hon. Mr. Harvey are I feel sure those of the general public, for whom he may be regarded as speaking.

I join, Sir, in the congratulations extended to you, and I trust that you may have long years to enjoy the well-merited distinction, and to give further service of the same unselfish

kind to your native land, and that further honours still await you.

On motion the Resolution was adopted.

HON. THE PRESIDENT. — Hon. gentlemen, I thank you all very sincerely for the tribute of which I have just been the recipient by the adoption of this resolution, after such very complimentary remarks. I am specially grateful to the proposer and seconder for the kind thought which prompted the offering of this motion, no less than for the generous references they have made, while to the last speaker I am equally beholden for his appreciative remarks, fragrant with the memories of old-time friendship, and to the House for its cordial acceptance of the proposition.

In voicing this expression of thanks, I would say that, in common with the public generally, I regard these honours recently bestowed by His Majesty the King, as primarily an evidence of Royal favor towards this old Colony, for the work done by the vast numbers of its people in support of the noble endeavour in which the Empire is engaged, and, regarding the particular honor of which I had the good fortune to be the recipient, that it can properly be considered as a distinction for the Legislature, and especially for this Chamber, in that its presiding officer has been singled out for such recognition. I personally think that the pride which one may naturally feel at this distinction is increased by the fact that it is given for war work, and that when this war work was undertaken, there was no idea of such rewards, so that, therefore, that I can honestly claim that such labors as it was possible for me to undertake were assumed solely from the fact that I believed I was thereby doing my bit in the grave

emergency which the war comprehends.

You are all aware that in the early days of the war I was one of the few in this country who realized that the struggle in which we were embarking was one much more serious than people generally imagined, wherefore, entertaining the views I did as to its implying a long and desperate struggle, I felt it my bounden duty to give my best labours to assist in bringing this country's efforts to full fruition; and for that reason I refused no form by doing one's part to the fullest of service suggested, feeling that only could one satisfy one's conscience in such an occasion.

In the days to come, when peace is restored to a battle-racked world, in which war has become for our senemies at any rate, unapologetic barbarish with the employment of the most primitive methods of brute beasts, and with the gospel of lawlessness enthroned by the Teuton military machine, it will be a satisfaction to thousands in this country to recall that when the emergency arose, they were prepared to place themselves at the disposal of the State for the best service of which they were capable, and to make every effort that this, the oldest Colony of the Empire, should play her part in a manner befitting her status as Britain's oldest oversea possession; and for me it will be a special cause—of patriotic pride that what I found it possible to contribute in the way of service was thought worthy of such recognition.

John Stuart Mill, writing half a century ago, said:

“War, in a good cause, is not the greatest of evils which a nation can suffer. War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things; the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks nothing worth a

war, is worse. When a people are used as mere human instruments for firing cannon or thrusting bayonets in the service of, and for the selfish purpose of a master, such war degrades a people. A war to protect other human beings against tyrannical injustice; a war to give victory to their own ideas of right and good, and which is their own war, carried on for an honest purpose by their free choice is often the means of their regeneration. A man who has nothing which he is willing to fight for, nothing which he cares about more than he does about his personal safety, is a miserable creature, who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself. As long as justice and injustice have not terminated their ever-renewing fight for ascendancy in the affairs of mankind, human beings must be willing when need is, to do battle for the one against the other."

President Woodrow Wilson has recently expressed the same thought in these words:

"Civilization itself seems to be in the balance these days, but right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts, for democracy, for the rights of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for the universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as will bring peace and safety to all nations, and make the world at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives, our fortunes, everything we are, everything we have."

The fact of war is, as Shakespeare puts it, "lean famine, quartering steel, and climbing fire." Such has been the fact of war heretofore, such it is now,

and such it will be forever. To us, for the first time, has come the question, have we the ability to meet the test. We have escaped the worst aspects of war except in so far as our losses by land and sea are involved, but we cannot be blind to what is passing on around us, to the horrors of the battle fronts in Europe, to the certainty that on the outcome of this struggle depends whether autocracy or democracy is to rule the world hereafter.

The issues at stake are for the very fundamentals of civilization and the conflict is the crisis of history. For almost four years we have maintained a life-and-death struggle for freedom and justice, freedom for ourselves and justice for all the free peoples of the world, as well as to enforce atonement for the monstrous defiance of law and justice, and the monstrous denial of the rights of free people to govern themselves of which our enemy has been guilty; while with firmness in the right, as Abraham Lincoln has said, we are endeavouring to make assured the triumph of democracy and the emergence from the present international chaos of the reign of law and order and liberty for world henceforth. Four years ago this country went a certain distance, when, in the first flush of enthusiastic response to the unspoken call from the Motherland for aid in the mighty task it was then about to essay, Newfoundland unqualifiedly subscribed to a certain principle, and consecrated the same with the blood of its bravest and its best. To-day our beloved island home is being asked to go a step further to subscribe to a new and more extreme principle in response to the voiceful call of the Motherland stricken sorely by her savage foe, to the call that cannot be disregarded. We are no

longer inflamed with the unthinking enthusiasm of the first days of this fateful struggle. Tried in the furnace of affliction, bowed with the burden of sacrifice, we have been sobered, and matured, and purified by the developments and the disasters of the intervening period, yet I trust with an inflexible determination, with an unshaken resolution, we are still prepared to do our part, to the last man and the last dollar.

We appreciate every legitimate effort that has been made to rouse the sluggards amongst the youths of our land to a consciousness of duty, and to enroll those who are available in the great crusade for the world's freedom, but the effort has not been an unalloyed success, and there is something more called for from us. It is that in these days, we should be inflamed with the passion of patriotism, we should consider ourselves bound by a sacred pledge to do our utmost to support the sons of Terra Nova who "are treading the path of fadeless renown, towards the haven of deathless glory." The war has not weakened but vitalized the British nation and the Empire into which it has expanded. "We are" as Lloyd George said, "a thousand years older and wiser." The atmosphere of common sacrifice and heroic effort has taught many things, taught us not to disentomb those dreary quarrels buried when the first rifle shot was heard; taught us to band together for the common good, taught us that

The worldly hope men set their hearts
upon,
Turns ashes—or it prospers; and
anon
Like snow upon the desert's dusty
face,
Lighting a little hour or two—is gone.

To every one war is a solemn and terrible alternative, but the die has

been cast, and surely none will dispute that this country must loyally and unfalteringly support its sons whom it has sent abroad, to do battle in its name. Surely it will be agreed that we must fulfil our obligation and assume our full share in preserving the world's political freedom. Justice, patriotism, and high standards of national self-interest will accept nothing else. Every true heart should respond with joy, amid our sorrows, to the feeling that in continuing to wage this war, in determining to do still more than heretofore towards bringing about victory that is so important to us, we shall be fighting over again the battle of democracy, fighting for the principle of free self-government against the principle of old-time autocracy and military power. Surely every one of us should be in unison, with heart, and voice, and effort, and sacrifice, and prayers, aiding in that great battle of the ages. The sons of Terra Nova have taken a noble part in telling the world what liberty means, since our Naval Reservists rallied to the call and the Newfoundland Regiment entered upon the struggle, and the flower of our manhood is suffering and dying in France and on the ocean to maintain the principles and institutions democracy has given to the world. We ought not blind our eyes to the lessons of the present, to the need to uphold the greatest factor for freedom and justice in human affairs that the world has ever known.

On many a stricken field the Empire and its Allies are in travail and in agony today, and the blood of thousands must yet be spilt before victory crowns our cause. By sea and land, in the very forefront of the fighting, the courage and resource of our Terranovan lads are being tested to the uttermost. To be sure, they have

their reward in the knowledge that their deeds will live in history, that if they have braved the unknown terrors of many a fateful dawn and looked with inflexible gaze in the face of death, they will have their country's gratitude. Yet that will avail but little unless we are prepared to fill the gaps in their war-worn ranks, to strengthen and reinforce them by others who will stubbornly resist the enemy's assaults or as gallantly assail the enemy's defences. Similarly for those who come not back from the fight there will be the immortality of their imperishable glory, which in days yet unborn will light the way for their native land through all her trials and dangers. But how shall they sleep these good soldiers, unless they know that others are following on, to splendidly avenge them, and to achieve new battle records on those fields of glory whose names will be for Terra Nova in the years to come as days to thrill us with pride of race and country. And what of those who mourn? Are they to mourn as men without hope? Are they to realize that their dead have died in vain, at a task which their fellows lacked the courage to continue? Or are they to be heartened by the knowledge that there will break a most glorious dawn than that of the battle morning, that a new day is at hand, the day when with the banners of war unfurled, our country reaps the fruits of victory in the fuller liberty of all her citizens and the more equitable distribution of the things that contribute to human happiness. Then, indeed, will our country's fame live in the world's history, then will it be our proud boast that in the hour of extremity this oldest Colony was not found wanting.

To render fitting homage to each devoted soldier who gives his life for

his country is impossible, for the sad reason that they are so numerous, but occasions like this may be taken to do homage to all of them. Let us attest, hard though it is for us to afford the loss of so many of the generation on whom our hopes rest for our country's next long advance on its career of usefulness that we are buoyed up by the knowledge that these left all to serve their country, and, in the words of the mother of Corionlanus "sought honor where it was likeliest to be found," in the thick of danger, doing their duty nobly at the battle-front.

To aid in ending the war quickly and decisively—that is the task that confronts those behind the lines in the Allied Nations. Surely those in authority interpret the sentiment of this country aright when they appeal to our people to co-operate with them in the measures considered necessary in the common cause. There is no escape from the conflict, for our country or our Empire—save in dishonor and ultimate disaster. We have drawn the sword in a righteous cause and that sword should not return to its scabbard until the foul monster that has drenched Europe with blood has paid the uttermost penalty. Newfoundland has no reason to be ashamed of the part she has played in this war so far, but she cannot, she must not rest satisfied. In the spontaneity of her response, in the fighting quality of those who are carrying her standards on the remote battlefields of Europe, and in the splendid decision made in the day of Germany's challenge, our country has risen grandly to her great opportunity.

But there is still more to be done. Our young men who have not yet gone forward are asked to place themselves at the service of their country, to take their posts in the

trenches, like those who preceded them, to accept the honor of bearing to the fighting front in Europe a message of cheer to the hosts that are battling for freedom, to show to our enemies and to the world that this island still breeds men who live up to the highest traditions of the race, and who count not the sacrifice when country and honor and freedom call to action. Is it unreasonable to expect that the country is behind its leaders in their appeal to our fighting men. Surely it is true as that tomorrow's sun will rise and set, that to every people sooner or later, comes a time of testing when destiny hangs on the nation's decision, and that to us that time has come, and that we must endure to the end, cost what it may.

In every land, in every clime, in all ages to come, the story will be told of the rally of the lion's cubs to the mother's side in the day of danger in this great war. Wherever men still love daring and admire devotion to duty; the stand of the British Colonies will always be an inspiration. We should salve our stricken souls with the thought—inadequate as it is, when we number our casualties and commemorate our dead—that if they will not come back to us, their memory is immortal; that if we have lost them, we have gained a deathless pride which is sinful, but sincere and worthy; that they have died doing their duty as patriots toward the human race; that if they have been sacrificed in their youth and young manhood, their names will be remembered so long as time endures; and that down thru all ages it will be the greatest glory of our common country, whether we be Newfoundlanders by birth or adoption, that in the mighty fight for freedom she was not found wanting.

It is a great and glorious thought that, ranged by the side of Britain and France, and Italy and Belgium, and Britain's colonies in every clime stands the magnificent democracy which speaks our tongue and honors the same undying principles of justice and freedom. With an emphasis not to be expressed in mere words, these kindred peoples welcome the courage and chivalry with which the United States took up the battle on behalf of "the greatest cause that ever engaged human endurance." The tremendous significance of America's action lies in this, that it makes clear to all that the struggle is between the spirit of liberty in modern society and the spirit of domination in a society still subject to a military despotism. It is a moral proof that the Allies have truth and justice on their side, and that they have done right in resisting to the death the assault of that system of treachery, ferocity, and barbarism which calls itself Prussian Kultur. "Let us not forget," said Sir Robert Borden, "the solemn truth that the nation is not constituted of the living alone, for there are those as well who have passed away, and those yet to be born." We who still live owe it to those who have gone fighting our cause that we as true men and true women, should rise superior to self, and replace those who were our standard bearers on the battlefield. These are still of the nation, they belong to the unforgotten and unforgettable brave. The Colony will carry their memory upon the countless waves of its future generations and it is surely the duty of the generation of today, from whose company those valiant souls have departed, to catch their spirit, take up the weapons that have fallen from their hands and carry on their heroic work.

So much, at least, we owe to the memory of those who on the battle-fields of this war, have joined the innumerable army of the Empire's dead. As to that greater host, those who are of the coming centuries, we have a duty to them to which we should be as faithful as were our predecessors of this country, faithful in their duty to us. It is largely for posterity, too, that our armies are now fighting. Our men are offering their lives to secure for the people of times to come that peace which was denied to themselves. If ever debts ought to be gratefully paid by the inheritors of them, surely those that will be handed on to future generations by the Allied nations of to-day, ought to be paid as no debts ever were paid before. Those who play the man in the present emergency may be the real deliverers of their country and their Empire, and it is to be hoped the action which this Legislation is now being called upon to take will sink into every mind and will set in motion a massed power of will and action that will be to the lasting glory of this Old Dominion.

And now, in conclusion, how can I better end this address, after thanking you once more, than by quoting Sir Owen Seaman's lines:

You that have faith to look with fearless eyes

Beyond the tragedy of a world of strife,

And trust that out of might and death shall rise

The dawn of an ampler life.

Rejoice whatever anguish round your heart

That God has given you, for a priceless dower,

To live in these great times and have your part

In Freedom's crowning hour.

That you may tell your sons, who see the light

High in the heavens, their heritage to take,—

I saw the powers of Darkness put to flight!

I saw the morning break!

HON. ALEX. MEWS.—Mr. President, before I proceed, I wish to add my congratulations upon the honour which has fallen to you in being created a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of the very excellent and important duties which you have performed in various capacities in Patriotic work. Also to add my sympathy to that which has been extended on the death of the Hon. James Ryan.

It is my privilege to move that a Select Committee be appointed to draft the Address in Reply to His Excellency's gracious Speech. In doing so, I would first embrace this opportunity of welcoming the Governor, and his household, to our shores, a welcome that is tinged with an unusual friendliness, in that His Excellency spent in this Island some of the most impressionable years of his life. His career, as known to us now, has been one of unusual activity in the service of the Empire, and the special missions with which he has been entrusted testify to the fact that the King has availed of his sound judgment, and ripe experience many times. His at-

titude, in the few months that he has been with us, has marked him as one well-fitted to govern a country which is so readily advancing in line with the idea of a free democracy, and I feel sure that in all the suffering, the sacrifice, the sorrow, as well as the joy of our people, His Excellency will be a partaker.

It is fitting, Mr. President, that the opening of this session, should come on St. George's Day, when England celebrates the valour and chivalry of her Patron Saint, also on Shakespeare's Day, England's greatest Poet. It is peculiarly fitting that we should on this day re-affirm in a practical manner, our loyalty to the Empire, whose prestige to-day is resting in her sons' keeping in France, where her far-flung battle lines are converged, and her representatives from Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland and her other possessions, are united to stem the tide which would submerge Liberty, and let loose the hideous Devil-Fish of Militarism.

The same spirit that animated St. George in slaying the Dragon in order to save the King's Daughter, is abroad to-day, and though detesting war, men have leapt to the challenge of the Dragon, and have taken their swords in defence of the Right, and for the Protection of the weak.

It is said by many, we are only

suffering for our sins in this war. It may be so. Certainly there are sins which need atonement. But it is also true that Germany has openly, and hideously, been preparing for war to such an extent that her military machine became top-heavy, and she undertook a war of conquest, the result of which, if victory come to Germany, will be the exaltation of Militarism and Autocracy, and a set-back at once to the policy of Liberty of Action, and Freedom of Speech, which is the birth-right of the British. It is this spirit that we fight, and we cannot refuse the combat, if we recognize our duty is to do what we ought, and not only what pleases us.

Before I come to the consideration of our forces, I should like to say a little in reference to the various paragraphs in the Speech.

The reference to our Trade is particularly gratifying. The increase in value of our imports for the year ending June 1917 of over twenty per cent. points to the fact that though all prices have advanced, the earning power of our people has advanced also. This is so because they have been able to reap the advantage of good markets, and we would do well to realize that for this benefit we have to thank England's Navy, which has kept the seas free, without which this country would have faced ruin long before this.

Our prosperity is contingent upon British supremacy, and he who would continue to share in riches without a thought of any obligation to the Empire, is not only ungrateful, but decidedly wanting in that sense of honour of which we so proudly boast. And it is a source of pride to know that in that Navy, whose tireless work so often goes unaccounted, the men of the Royal Newfoundland Reserve hold honoured positions, and by their natural adaptability on board any kind of ship, have earned the name of being among the most valiant and dauntless seamen afloat. Our Reservists are doing their duty well.

It is a happy augury of the future that the Tonnage Committee, which has now become the Ministry of Shipping, has been so notably successful in looking after the requirements of our Trade; in exerting themselves to facilitate the shipping of our fish, thus keeping the wheels of Trade moving smoothly, and off-setting any tendency of local conditions to lower the prices of our products.

It is a matter of congratulation that we have, in spite of unusual demands upon the Exchequer, been able to show a Surplus on the year's balance sheet ending June 1917, and also expect to show a large Surplus at the end of the fiscal year in a month's time.

In this connection I am glad to

note that the Government propose to raise a Loan locally for War purposes. I hope that the loan will be issued in such amounts as will encourage the small investor as well as the large speculator, and that it will be taken up in a patriotic manner by all who can. Money, as well as men, is essential to carry on the war, and the surplus wealth can best be used by being put into circulation in buying supplies and meeting the expenses of our Forces.

An in this connection I understand that the Government contemplate a further conscription of money in a proposed Income Tax, so that those best able to bear the burden of taxation shall not escape. Last year the Business Profits Tax was the initial measure in this direction, and the yield from that source, which I understand will reach the sum of \$350,000,000 shows the wisdom of such an Act, and the great assistance that such a sum is to enable us to pay for War expenses. I am informed that it is the intention of the Government during this critical time to cut out any unnecessary expenditure. All must give way now to the demands of the War, and the National Government does not intend to launch out into expenditures that can be avoided. I would commend the Government for this, and I think it is a matter of congratulation that we have at the head of af-

fairs, in Dr. Lloyd, a man who will not shrink from duty, and will at all times exercise that keen judgment which so well characterizes his attitude. Under his leadership the National Government has justified its formation in a way that has conserved the Dominion's interests in a striking manner.

The loss of the "Florizel," so appalling, is still with us in its awfulness. It is one of those "mysterious ways" of Providence that baffle our efforts to see through the uninterpreted designs. The blow in the loss of so many lives and of such a ship, is one that we can ill afford..

There is another paragraph, Mr. President, in His Excellency's Speech to which I would refer. It is that which foreshadows a measure to extend the term of the present General Assembly. That is a matter, which to my mind, Mr. President, scarcely admits of debate. At this critical, and maybe decisive, time, it is unthinkable that the people should be divided into opposing camps, and wage war, when "over there" our men are facing death every hour, and are in desperate straits for re-inforcements. The situation today is far different than at any time during the war, and the least those can do who cannot volunteer, is to see that nothing comes in the way of our undivided support to our men on sea and land.

And now, Mr. President, I come to that portion of His Excellency's Speech, which deals with our forces, and with the Regiment in particular. It is not now a matter of praising the valourous and unexampled conduct of our brave men, but to answer a stern voice that asks: "You praise us, but what is your praise worth? We don't want praise now—we want men!" And I am glad that I am able to stand here, and say that the Government have faced the situation, and intend to bring in a measure of Selective Conscription—an Act which is in line with the spirit of equality and fair-dealing that we hope will ever manifest itself wherever the Union Jack flies.

The deeds of our glorious Regiment stand high in the scale of brave acts which colour the pages of British History. It is not necessary for me here to recount them—all within the sound of my voice know of them—many, many families treasure them—they count them o'er,—priceless pearls of brave deeds,—until they come to a Cross—emblem of sacrifice that must come to gain the Right—but also an emblem pointing to a Brighter Day—and a Crown.

The returned men do not shrink from again facing the foe, because they, above all of us, know how necessary it is to supply men at the Front. Their work in helping the Regiment, in starting such a

wave of enthusiasm a few weeks ago, is one which is making us all alive to the urgency of the situation, and what the soldiers in France expect of us. An important paragraph of the Speech deals with the acknowledged duty of the Country to look out adequately for our returned men.

As far as most of the world is concerned, Newfoundland dates from the formation of the Nfld. Regiment. It is to the Regiment that we owe the fact that Newfoundland is now recognized by England as a Dominion of the first class. The deeds of the Regiment have brought upon it the approbation of His Majesty the King in permitting the prefix "Royal" to its name. Is it not an honour that we can support such men? And could there be any other answer to such an appeal as reached us yesterday, than the course which the Government proposed to adopt?

We look at Europe and note that *Might* has had its triumphs. We see devastated Belgium; Serbia, Armenia, Roumania, and the fair fields of France laid waste under the brutal track of the military beast, which spares nothing that is sacred. We see that beautiful Venice, with its wonderful treasury of Art, does not make the War Lord pause. We saw only a few days ago that the priceless Cathedral of Rheims was only a

smoking mass of ruins. We see homes burnt, children starving, nothing left of the peaceful villages of France. We see the deadly submarine sinking hospital ships, passenger ships, and then passing on unmindful of the drowning people.

These things must cease—the wreckage must be restored—and we have to take our share of the cost in doing so. And with the Regiment calling for immediate re-inforcements there is but one course to take—and the command is that those who can best bear the burden shall bear the King's shield, and wear the King's uniform.

There is a natural hesitation to use any methods that will compel any man to lay upon the altar of his Country, his most valued possession, his life. Yet if we acknowledge that we fight in a righteous cause, if we acknowledge that those who are physically able to bear the strain of war can best uphold our honour,—if we acknowledge that it is unfair that some families should send two or more of their sons, and other families none,—if we acknowledge that we are in duty bound to fight for another's home as well as our own,—if we acknowledge that it is just and right that the sacrifice should fall equally on our people,—if we acknowledge the Sovereignty of the British Crown and enjoy its lib-

erities,—if we acknowledge that Right is worth fighting for, that Democracy must conquer Autocracy—then Selective Conscription must find a willing echo in all our hearts, and be supported by us all.

I am sure, Mr. President, that when the proposed measure of Selective Conscription is brought in, and its provisions fully explained to the people, that any objections that now might be held will fast disappear. It is really a democratic measure, being based on the principle that our sacrifices shall be distributed so that all may bear a share.

I understand that the measure proposed now will only embrace the unmarried men and widowers with no children, upon whom no one is dependent for support. The age limit will run, I understand, from 19 years to 40 years, and there will be four classes between these two years. It is estimated that in the first class, from the ages of 19 to 24, at least 1000 men can be obtained, which alone should provide a large reserve.

I also understand that these families who have given one son to the colours will not be asked to give more, unless there are three unmarried men still eligible. This provision alone will allay much opposition to the present measure.

The chief tribunal will be composed of the Judges of the Supreme Court, which shows at

once that the decisions in this connection will be absolutely free from any outside influence.

I do not regard this, Mr. President, as an Act which calls men to the Colours who are cowards. We have none such in Newfoundland. I regard it rather as a personal appeal, in a more direct form perhaps than it has yet been presented, a command if you will, but with an appeal to reason and fair-mindedness that will be met in a loyal manner, by a people who are justly celebrated for their earnest and God-fearing lives.

Newfoundland is doing her duty in this, and more than ever deserves the honour of flying the flag that now floats over this Building.

We have taken up the cry from "Flanders fields," where "the poppies grow, between the crosses, row on row."

We do "take up the quarrel with the foe," and lift the torch up high. And we do it, not only for England and the Right, but that the Boys "over there," who have fallen and now lie beneath the crosses, may sleep, and sleep in peace in "Flanders fields," because we have done our duty.

HON. F. McNAMARA—Mr. President, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion before the chair. Before proceeding, I would wish to bid His Excellency a hearty welcome to our country. Coming to us as he does after a brilliant career in the Mother Country in the

cause of the Empire we have no doubt that the good judgment and the ripe experience which are his attributes will be used during his stay here to the benefit and advantage of this newly-formed Dominion.

It is gratifying to learn that the fisheries of the country have been conducted for the past year with more than the ordinary measure of success and I notice by the Board of Trade Report that the excess of codfish of last year's catch represent an increase of nearly 200,000 quintals over that of the previous year. It is pleasing to be able to record an increase of \$8,000,000.00 in the general trade of the country, this substantial increase has brought a good deal of prosperity in its train, and is shared and enjoyed by the public at large.

The result of this year's Seal Fishery is very satisfactory. The number of steamers engaged is considerably less than previous years, but the catch secured from this hazardous calling has been remunerative owing to the smaller amount of capital invested in this enterprise and to the increased value of Seal Oil and Seal Skins.

Owing to the profitable returns from the Cod Fishery last season there will be no fear but this enterprise will be conducted by our fishermen all round our coast line more vigorously than in the past.

It is to be hoped that there will be no difficulty in securing sufficient tonnage to enable us to import our year's requirements of salt, and it is also to be hoped that enough "bot-toms" be secured to export our dried codfish and our other fishery products.

The appalling disaster and loss of the "Florizel" was deeply felt by the entire community. As the matter of

the loss of this ship is now being investigated by a Marine Court of Enquiry it would be inopportune to enlarge on this painful subject. All we can do is to mourn and sympathize with the relatives and friends of the departed ones in their trying affliction.

The fact that the revenue for the past year shows a substantial increase over the expenditure is cause for congratulation, and the prediction that the revenue of the fiscal year, shortly to terminate will show a large surplus is equally satisfactory.

I am glad it is the intention of the Government to raise a local loan for war purposes and I bespeak for this loan a ready response from the investing public. There are very large sums of money invested here at the minimum rate of 3% interest, and when the facts of this Loan are known, there will be no doubt but the public will be induced to invest their savings as much from a patriotic as well as business standpoint. In addition to the large sums invested at this low rate of interest, I understand there are also large sums hidden in the homes of some of our people. These people have not been induced to invest their capital at the petty rate of 3%, but I am convinced that when this Loan is floated at a higher rate of interest that most of this money now lying idle will be placed and the interest will become a source of revenue to the misguided owners.

During the last twelve months the world has witnessed the defection of the Russians from the Allied cause, and it may be said, with all seriousness that never in the history of our beloved Empire has the nation faced a more serious crisis than that with which it is now menaced. Germany for the past twelve months under the

guise of peace proposals has been deceitfully preparing the most colossal drive in the history of warfare in their efforts to crush the British and French armies and gain a decision in this titanic conflict; happily through the dogged valor of our troops this has been frustrated, and they are now concentrating all energies on endeavor to fill the places of those who force their entry to the Channel ports, but we learn from late telegrams there is very little danger of their attaining their object. In spite of our success in holding the line intact, we are confronted with very heavy casualties and it is the imperative duty of every one living under the Union Jack to do all in their power to take the places of those who nobly fought in our defense.

A measure for Selective Conscription is outlined in the Speech and will shortly be laid before the House. I feel that a workable scheme will be enacted for this purpose. Under the present perplexing conditions of our industrial and commercial situation the wisdom of obviating further trouble and confusion by a political contest will be apparent to all thinking people outside of professional politicians. I understand that previous to the War a general election cost the country from 50 to \$60,000 and it would be safe to say under present existing conditions it would cost the country from \$80,000 to \$100,000, and I claim that this very large amount would be more advantageously applied in prosecuting our part in this war.

Before I resume my seat, Mr. President, I would like to say a word or two about the gallantry and heroism of our soldiers. Our troops had the honour of having reached the nearest point to Constantinople in the Gallipoli campaign and in the capture

of Caribou Hill, when that little brave band of Newfoundland heroes took this summit from the over-whelming odds of the Turks. Our troops are also winning undying fame for themselves and their native land in Northern France, so much so that the Commander in Chief of the British Army, Sir Douglas Haig, has proclaimed them better than the best; in acknowledgment of this distinction they are allowed to use the prefix "Royal" to their Regiment, and in future will be known as the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Our men in the Navy, our sailor lads, the handy men in blue, have also distinguished themselves on many occasions, and although their deeds are silent and not so dramatic and spectacular as the land forces they are none the less gallant and heroic.

I am glad to notice the paragraph in the Speech referring to the recognition of the Government of the future care of our returned soldiers, and it is only common justice to state that the most we can do for these men will never be enough for the hardships and privations they undertook in our behalf.

I have much pleasure in seconding the motion now before the chair.

HON. MR. GIBBS—I have to congratulate the proposer and seconder of the motion now before the House.

They have done as well as could be expected under the circumstances. In fact, I may say better than could be expected because they have had very poor material on which to have a really interesting address. They, therefore, deserve to be all the more congratuated upon having performed their duties so well under the circumstances. The speech is a remarkable one, remarkable for what it does not and should contain. It foreshadows nothing in the way of a future policy

for this country which is so vitally necessary because of the many present needs and requirements which now exist and will arise in the very near future. The lack of a comprehensive policy betrays the incompetence and the incapacity of those who now direct and control the destinies of the country. Foresight there is wanting, constructiveness there is lacking, and there is contained in the speech nothing of a character that was not already in existence many months before the formation of the present Government.

The terrible conflict that has been waged for nearly four years and which gives signs of continuing for another three or four finds a prominent place in the speech, and rightly so. The whole civilized world is interested in the outcome of this awful, this tremendous struggle of armed hosts battling with a ferocity and an intensity such as never before has been experienced in the history of mankind. Our Allies and ourselves are battling to preserve the free institutions under which we live and have grown to greatness. Into this modern Golgotha has been drawn practically the whole of Europe and I may say the continent of North America. On the fields of Flanders and of France men are bleeding and dying in order that out of this cruel war there may arise a generation of stronger men and nations, a true democracy, respect for the rights of smaller nationalities, a purer liberty and a just and lasting peace. To that end must we strive, to that purpose we must bend our best energies. We must be ready to freely and willingly make all the sacrifices necessary for the attaining of these objects.

"Newfoundland through the gallantry, devotion and heroism of her

sons has written her name high on the pages of this War's history. The passage of time can never efface the glory and the valour of our splendid Regiment. The courage of her sons and their devotion to duty will always make Newfoundland look back with pride on her achievements. Though their loss is a severe one we are nevertheless comforted by the fact that they left home and friends and everything that was dear to them, to give their young lives in Freedom's cause in order that the institutions of their country may endure. We owe a great and lasting debt of gratitude not alone to those young heroes who made the Supreme Sacrifice, but also to those who have returned from the battlefield maimed and broken in health. To the relatives of the fallen, to the returned soldier who has suffered from the hardships that he has endured, this country owes an inestimable debt which we can never adequately discharge. We are sometimes prone to forget the sacrifices these young men have made; we are unmindful of the fact that the maimed soldier, the soldier whose health has become seriously impaired, carries with him through life the price he has paid for so gallantly responding to his country's call. He leaves behind the scenes of strife and carnage, and though seriously handicapped by his infirmities assumes once more the life of a civilian. He was once an active competitor in the industrial and economic life of his country, he will now be compelled to look upon the fields of human activity as a mere spectator. If his country does not adequately provide for him, the memories of his sacrifice, and of the handicap which he suffers in consequence, will only serve to make him regret that he did answer the call.

It is the duty of the country to make his path through life as smooth and as easy as possible.

The question we should ask ourselves is—"Are we doing all that we can or should do?" "Is there anything like equality of sacrifice?" True, we cannot all go to battle, but the institutions which our young men have gone forth to protect should fully and adequately provide for those they leave behind, and when they return wounded from the field of battle, care for them in a fitting manner. While we are not and should not be unmindful of the tremendous issues involved in the awful conflict now being waged, we should not close our eyes to the fault that grave as the crisis is and tremendous as the issues are, we should not allow them to be used as a subterfuge to cloak the designs of men. If this war is to preserve democracy, we should live up to its principles and not be appealing to democracy when perhaps no such institution should exist at the time.

We have a most peculiar state of affairs from a democratic standpoint in this country at the present moment. Nearly one-fourth of the people of this Dominion are not properly represented in the Lower Branch of the Legislature, and have as a consequence no voice in the enactment of laws or the levying of taxes. This is a direct violation of a primary principle of democracy, all others are but secondary. The principle of no taxation without representation is as old as the British Constitution. Here in this supposedly democratic land, we are so engrossed in our own personal and business affairs that we are actually unmindful of this vital principle of good government. The politician whose vision does not permit him to look further

abroad than his own political aggrandizement is pleased with his viewpoint and inwardly smiles at how complacently we look on and view this invasion of a people's rights. The man of business who sees his store of wealth accumulating day by day by reason of abnormal conditions brought about through war, when this matter is brought to his notice merely shrugs his shoulders. He does not want to be disturbed in piling up his store. Is it any wonder that people sometimes ask themselves the questions: "Has the reign of autocracy been ushered in?" "Do democratic institutions really and in fact exist in this country?"

We are reminded in the speech of the prosperity of the country and inferentially the Government would have us believe that it is due to the wisdom of our rulers. The country is prosperous, some parts of it unusually so, while there are in this city a good many poor children who are bare footed and hungry. But is this so-called prosperity due to any constructive policy on the part of the Government. The high prices which prevail for fish and oil, and which will continue while this war lasts are due to the fact that the greater part of the civilized world have left the fields of peaceful endeavour for the battlefield. The fishermen of France and England and the Scandinavian countries have for the past two years or more practically ceased to catch fish or herring owing to the war. An abnormal demand has therefore arisen for fish products of all kinds and in consequence prices have risen beyond the dreams of avarice and may possibly still further increase. If prices of fish, oil and herring have increased, the cost of carrying on the industry has likewise increased. The cost of the ne-

cessaries of life has more than doubled. The increase in the cost of living is proportionately greater than that of the products of our fisheries. The purchasing power of a dollar has declined one-half, while our earning power has not increased in the same ratio. If the produce of the fisheries had not increased in price to the extent they have, the greater number of our people would be forced to leave this country and to seek their livelihood elsewhere. War while increasing the price of our fishery products has caused still greater increase in the things necessary to sustain life and health.

We find in the speech a very flattering eulogy on the work of the Tonnage Committee. I think, Mr. President, there was a newspaper discussion some time ago in relation to the same committee. One member of it refused to continue his seat in the Government unless certain radical changes were made in the manner in which some of the members of that committee performed their work. Some explanation and statements were made at the time which did not at all clarify the atmosphere surrounding the work of some of the members of that committee. Now, that the Legislature is in session, I hope that the mystery will be explained, or the riddle in connection with some of the doings of the Committee be solved. One would imagine from the speech that the inauguration of the committee was the work of what is termed the National Government. Before ever a National Government was formed, provision was made for some of the work which the committee has been carrying on, and if any success attended its efforts, it must be credited to those who first conceived the necessity and need of its existence. No

doubt, as the work of the session progresses, we will be better able to appreciate the work of this committee, the devotion of its members to duty, their single-mindedness of purpose, and their lofty patriotism. The Honorable Gentleman who proposed the motion made references to some policy of taxation which the Government would bring in. What the details are we do not know, but of this fact we are all aware that the people of this country are at present heavily taxed between the taxation levied by the Government and taxation brought about through the war in the way of increased and increasing cost of the necessaries of life. Any system of taxation which either makes heavier the burdens of the people or lessens the amount of liquid capital necessary for the expansion of trade or business in the present condition of affairs is highly dangerous. There is perhaps no Department of the Government where greater intelligence and expert knowledge is absolutely necessary than in devising and levying the taxes upon a country. By it you can make or mar the happiness and prosperity of the people, you can make industry flourish or decline. However, when the proposals are brought before the Legislature all will have an opportunity of examining them.

The hon. gentlemen in endeavoring to justify an assault on democracy refers to the necessity of the maintenance in an efficient state of the Regiment. In the wish that the Regiment be maintained efficiently all agree, no matter how divergent the views of hon. gentlemen may be on other questions. As to the means to be employed to this end is where I differ. There is no necessity to resort to any such drastic measure as the conscription of human life. Voluntary recruits can

be had in sufficient numbers to maintain the Regiment at full strength. An evidence of this is afforded by the splendid response made to the appeal of the returned soldiers for volunteers to fill the ranks. Why? Because the work was undertaken in the right spirit, and as time goes on the list will swell in numbers. If the same energy and the same spirit had been put into recruiting work by those in authority since they seized control of the Government through a dishonest and corrupt compact, ample recruits to fill the gaps in the ranks on the firing line would be forthcoming. Because of opportunities neglected, of time allowed to go by and nothing done, the people of this country are now face to face with the introduction of legislation which if enacted into law must cause trouble and turmoil throughout the length and breadth of this land. Parents are not going to silently acquiesce in the conscription of their sons, merely because those who should have done their duty deliberately shirked it. While all agree in the desire that the country's manhood in the fourth year of the war should stand in the first line of the Empire's defence, I, for one, refuse to reduce the constitution of this law by a Legislature which has long ceased to exist will mean according to the constitution of the country. The enactment of this law by a Legislature that has not derived power or sanction from the people is an invasion of their rights as a free people. It is a direct and gross violation of the principles of Responsible Government, and of the rights of democracy. The present Government no more represents the sovereign will of the people than the members of this House. The life of the Government long ago expired, and the present grave National crisis in the history of

the Empire is made a pretext for a further violation of the rights of the masses.

The people should be consulted on this grave question. They are the ones who will have to make the sacrifice. Why not trust them? Are they so untrustworthy, unreliable, unpatriotic, that they cannot be trusted to do what is right? This is in effect what this conscription legislation means. But, Sir, the people can be trusted to do what is right, to make the necessary sacrifices as freely and as cheerfully in the future as they have done in the past. I say, trust the people, there is no necessity for coercive legislation. The Governments of other Dominions have taken the people into their confidence, have consulted them in this matter. But here, in what is supposed to be the stronghold of democracy, an attempt is made to set up in its stead a sort of autocracy.

We are also, according to the speech and addresses of the Honorable Gentlemen, confronted with another invasion of the rights of the people; and the war is again urged as a reason.

As already pointed out, a grave national crisis is about to be taken advantage of to extend the term of the present Legislature. A Legislature wherein a very large number of the people of this country are unrepresented; wherein a great part of the electorate have no voice in the enactment of laws or the levying of taxation, wherein more than a third of its members have either died, resigned, or are absent from the country. Thousands of voters throughout the country are to be thus deprived of their freedom, deprived of their franchise, deprived of those very things which we say we are bleeding and dying for on the blood-soaked

fields of France and Flanders. What a mockery is this attempt to take advantage for selfish and unpatriotic purposes of a grave national crisis.

Let us remember that free institutions require free men to maintain them, and any attempt to thus wantonly infringe the rights of a free people will bring with it a sure and a speedy condemnation.

The present Government as the country now knows, is the outcome of a dishonest and corrupt bargain, in which the control of public affairs was handed over to a body of men without the consent of the people. The people of the country, the Legislature, and the Regiment have all in turn been exploited by ambitious and selfish men for their own selfish ends, and we are asked to become partners, as it were, in their schemes and their intrigues. Each of us has a public duty to perform in this matter, there can be no shirking it, the best interests of the country demand that we discharge it.

The awful and tragic fate of the ill-fated Florizel and those on board excited universal sympathy and sorrow. No marine disaster in our annals came with such suddenness. Many of the best citizens lost their lives, and the loss to the country in consequence is very great. While we sympathize with the bereaved ones, we forget that we may still have another marine tragedy along that coast. For sixty or seventy years that coast has been strewn with the wreckage of human life and property because from Cape Spear to Cape Race, about sixty miles in extent—the graveyard of the Atlantic—is without any navigation safeguards. The sea coasts of other countries are dotted with fog alarms, submarine bells and lighthouses to aid the mariner on his course; but, on this treacherous coast there has oc-

curred disaster after disaster, and no attempt made to apply the remedy. The frequency of the disasters may perhaps have made us callous and indifferent. Apparently, neither ourselves nor the shipping would have taken the lessons to heart, and when some ship runs ashore we blame the captain in charge, when the State is really to blame because along this ocean highway it has failed to install aids to navigation.

Reference has been made to the raising of a local loan; while it is much to be desired that a portion of the vast sums of money which leave this country as interest upon the public debt be retained, I am not sanguine of the success of the movement. You cannot hope for success until such time as you have a stable Government established in this country. People are not going to place control of their moneys in the hands of a Government that is preaching and stirring up class hatred—Fishermen against Merchant. Strife of this kind sows seeds of suspicion and distrust among the people, and while it serves for the time being, the aim and object of politicians, the country in the future will suffer. The true interests of people are harmonious, not antagonistic, and all should bend their best interests to promote trust and confidence among all classes and not discord.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President, I think all the members of the House will agree with me that the hon. gentlemen, who have proposed and seconded this motion for an Address in Reply, have acquitted themselves most admirably.

I know from painful experience in another place that this duty is regarded by young members as somewhat of an ordeal, which they approached with trepidation, and the

successful accomplishment of which is regarded by them as somewhat in the light of a triumph.

My hon. friends have cause to so regard it at any rate, for they have reviewed for us the affairs of this country since the last session, and scanned at the same time the progress of events in the world abroad, in such a fashion as to earn for themselves a recognition of the fact, that they will be valuable additions to the debating power of this House, and will enrich its discussions by a knowledge of local and outside affairs with a breadth of view which cannot but be helpful to us.

The events through which the world is now passing are among the most momentous perhaps, that history has ever recorded. With the great war now approaching the end of the fourth year there seems to be as little prospect of its decision as when it first began, and the demands made upon all the countries participating therein, become greater and more exacting as the days go by.

The call to arms originally made in this country in the summer of 1914, met, as we all know, a splendid response, especially in St. John's, and it must be a matter of proud satisfaction to all of us, that the young men of this city have then and since, made such a magnificent contribution to this Colony's military and naval forces.

I may remark in passing that I am proud to say that one of my nephews was among the first to respond, when war was declared. His parents now mourn the loss of an only son, who met his fate in the ever memorable 1st of July drive at Beaumont Hamel.

This call has been repeated at frequent intervals since then, each time rallying scores and hundreds to the colors, but not ensuring us against

what has now come to pass—the exhaustion of our first line troops—the men in the trenches who have so valiantly upheld their own honor and the fair fame of Terra Nova.

Now at last the time has come when more pressing needs demand still greater sacrifice, and when the credit of this Dominion, pledged to the Motherland at the opening of the war, has to be maintained, and the pledge made good.

Hence the decision of the Government to take the step outlined in His Excellency's speech today—a step which, I trust, will have the approval of this Chamber of the Legislature, and of the country at large.

One hon. gentleman who has addressed you, has spoken in a critical strain of this proposal, that of course is not right. Every man in this House must be conceded the privilege of expressing views which to him seems proper. I need scarcely say, however, that I disagree with him in the opinion he advances and that I feel the Colony would deserve eternal shame and reproach if it acted upon the policy he advocates. But now is not the time to discuss the subject in all its details. When the measure reaches this House we will have ample time for that. My observations are merely designed as a passing reference to make clear where the Government stands in regard to the issue and why.

The bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time morrow.

HON. MR. ANDERSON gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the suspension of the 53rd Rule and all other rules of the House in regard to the foregoing Bill.

HON. MR. GIBBS gave notice of question.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Ellis the

House then adjourned until Thursday next at 4 o'clock p.m.

THURSDAY, April 25th, 1918.

HON. MR. MEWS presented the draft of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech from the Throne and moved that it be read a first time.

HON. MR. SQUIRES—Before this motion is passed I should like to avail of this opportunity to say a few words. It was to me a matter of deep regret that delays and irregularities of rail and steamboat travel in connection with the Reid Newfoundland Company service made my attendance at the opening of this session of the Legislature impossible. I had made my railway connections as far as Sydney, Cape Breton, so as to arrive in St. John's five days before the opening of the Legislature, but found myself delayed at Sydney for nearly a week. It took as long to journey the few hundred miles from Sydney to St. John's as it would have taken me to travel from Sydney across the expanses of the great continent of America to Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island in the Pacific. I consequently did not have the pleasure of listening to addresses of the gentlemen who were the mover and seconder of the formal motion for the appointment of a committee to draft an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I have heard from several sources that Addresses read by the Hon. Mr. Mews and that of the Hon. Mr. McNamara were carefully prepared, well delivered utterances which did credit to both these gentlemen. I desire to heartily congratulate them upon their efforts. These speeches might be regarded as their maiden speeches in this Chamber, for the last session, at which they took their seats, was one of exceedingly

short duration, and they had little, if any, opportunity of addressing the Chamber.

I would like to avail of this moment in which to express my deep regret that this Chamber has lost the presence of Mr. James Ryan, of Bonavista. Mr. Ryan was a man who had achieved marked success in the financial world because of his untiring industry, his painstaking care, not merely in large matters, but in the details of business. These attributes, combined with an able financial mind, raised him from a lad who started in life with no special advantages, opportunities or encouragement to a man who was a power in this country in financial circles. To his widow and family I extend a word of deep sympathy in their bereavement.

Since the last session of the Legislature our President, the Hon. Dr. P. T. McGrath, has had conferred on him the distinguished honor of a Knighthood in the Order of the British Empire. To Sir Patrick T. McGrath, our President, I extend heartiest congratulations on his distinguished achievement. He has been known in Newfoundland as an aggressive and capable journalist, but the considerable reputation which he has achieved as a journalist in our own narrow local field is infinitely small as compared with the honorable place which his writings have occupied in the leading and most exclusive periodicals of the world. For a journalist, no matter how valuable his literary efforts, to reach the Knighthood is indeed a distinguished achievement. From the very beginning of hostilities in 1914 up to this date he has been amongst the most active and vigorous in general patriotic and war work. Ever a fighter he has dared to disagree occasionally with those with whom he was

associated, but whatever the arguments or disagreements, whatever be the divergence of views in public matters all must feel that the man who has given at least as much as any other man, and certainly very much more than most men, of time, energy and ability to patriotic activities, is the President of the Legislative Council. But the point about the conferring of this distinguished rank upon the President which appeals most to my admiration is that the recipient of this honor has not fallen into it by the accident of birth or of circumstances, but rather in spite of adversities, disadvantages and opposition which would have weakened if not destroyed the capacity and career of many men, he has by his abundant energy and the vigor of a remarkably keen intellect achieved. I consequently extend my hearty congratulations.

May I be permitted, Sir, to avail of this opportunity of voicing a word of welcome to the distinguished gentleman, Sir Charles Alexander Harris, our Governor. His Excellency, Sir Walter Davidson and Lady Davidson devoted an abundance of energy to war work in Newfoundland. They stepped out from us with expressions of good will and honours from this Colony to a highly honorable yet onerous post as representative of His Majesty the King in New South Wales. During the period which necessarily elapsed from the time of the departure of His Excellency Governor Davidson to the time of the arrival of the present Governor, the Hon. Sir Wm. Horwood, Kt., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with marked courtesy and ability performed the responsible duties of Administrator of our Colony duties considerable in magnitude and weighty with responsibility

because of the grave problems which Newfoundland was facing during the period of his administration of affairs. When on the arrival of Sir C. Alexander Harris we found that His Majesty the King, true to the traditions associated with the Governorship of Newfoundland, had assigned to our Colony as his representative one whose distinguished career at the Colonial Office in London had fitted him in a marked degree for the administration of the affairs of Britain's oldest colony. Newfoundland felt supremely honored in that a gentleman whose early days were associated with Newfoundland, whose father had lived in this Colony and given the best years of his life to the education and uplift of its people, should have climbed the ladder of success until he reached the highest post in Newfoundland, that of the representative of His Majesty the King amongst us. I feel that a person born in Newfoundland or one who spent his early days in this Colony becomes imbued with a very love of our soil and rocks and hills and seas and sunsets, and no matter where he travels he will never erase from his vision the memory of our Island Home or from his heart the love which our rugged country inspires. I consequently feel that his Excellency the Governor has come to us not as a stranger performing an honorable official duty towards his King and Empire, but rather as one whose heart beats in unison with Newfoundland, its sorrows, its struggles, its victories and its ideals. His early associations are thus a guarantee to us of more than a mere formal business or patriotic interest, just as his past career assures us that the power which he wields in this community will be along the lines of justice, dignity and truth. To his daughter,

Miss Harris, we all enthusiastically extend a cordial greeting. Identified as she has been in such a large measure with patriotic work, we feel she will add enthusiasm to our activities in Newfoundland. In the direction of all large and important matters the courtesy and grace, experience and tact which Miss Harris can bring to bear to smoothen out difficulties and develop enthusiasm and harmonious working, must add very greatly to the value of the important public and patriotic work with which she will be identified. It has not yet been Newfoundland's privilege to greet Lady Harris, but I can assure her that when the present irregularities and difficult methods of ocean travel permit her to take her place at Government House our welcome will be an enthusiastic one.

On this motion that the Address in Reply be read a second time, I feel I should not further delay the House by attempting a discussion of the suggested legislative program so briefly referred to in the speech from the Throne. I presume that the suggestions therein made will find their way to this Chamber in the form of bills or resolutions and will come before us for consideration and debate in due course. I shall consequently content myself with congratulating the Hon. Mr. Ellis upon undertaking the honourable and responsible duties of leader of the Government in this Chamber.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Mews the address was then read a second time and on the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Bishop, who intimated that some hon. gentlemen might desire to speak to the matter, the passing was deferred to a later date.

Second reading of the Daylight Bill.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Mr. President, I beg to move the second reading of the Daylight Saving Bill. In doing so I would call the attention of the House briefly to the Bill itself. The Bill is the same as the one which was introduced in this House a year ago—as an experiment for 1917. It comes before you now as a permanent measure, with a slight change in section 1. Last session you will remember that on account of the House not opening until the 30th of May it was impossible to get the scheme of Saving Daylight in operation until the 2nd Sunday in June. The Bill calls for the change of time, to take place on the 1st Sunday in May, and the hour of 10 o'clock in the evening shall become the hour of 11 o'clock of the same evening. Ten o'clock, when the change will be made, is considered a more convenient hour for the general public than 9 o'clock of last year. We will ask the Minister of Marine & Fisheries to have the gun fired from Signal Hill on Sunday night, May 5th., at 10 o'clock, and we hope the Hon. Colonial Secretary will adopt the same course as last year to inform the people of the outports of the changed time. Daylight Saving for the summer months has been adopted by every important nation of the world. This year, for the first time, the United States and the Dominion of Canada have passed permanent Daylight Saving, and the people of these countries are having the benefit of an extra daylight hour at the present time.

DAYLIGHT SAVING, 1918

Great Britain—March 24th to September 29th; 6 months and 5 days.

United States—March 31st to October 31st; 7 months.

Dominion of Canada, April 14th to October 31st; 6 months and 16 days.

I have no doubt the bill for Canada will be amended to have it uniform with the United States for 1919.

Dominion of Newfoundland—May 6th to October 6th; 5 months.

There is a possibility after the war of having a uniform bill for the four nations — Great Britain, United States, Dominion of Canada, and the Dominion of Newfoundland, from the first Sunday in April to the first Sunday in October, in all six clear months. If these four countries agreed to adopt a uniform measure from the first Sunday in October, the morning light and the evening light are much the same, with this exception, the long cold spring of this Dominion, the weather is much more unsettled.

Greenwich mean time, London, on the first Sunday in April this year, the sun rose at 5.26, and set at 6.40, with the first change of time one hour in advance, the sun would rise by the clock 6.26, and set at 7.40. Newfoundland time on the first Sunday in April this year, the sun rose at 5.29 and set at 6.31. With the advance of clocks one hour, we change the rising of the sun to 6.29, and the setting of the sun would be 7.31.

“Sir George Cave, the Home Secretary, announced in the British House of Commons on Feb. 20th., that Summer Time would come into operation on the morning of Sunday, March 24th., and terminate on Sunday, September 29th. ‘This will give time this year,’ he added, and among those who favored the proposal to fix this earlier date were the Food Production Department and the Coal Controller. In regard to the suggestion that during the mid-summer period the time should be advanced an additional hour. There is no power in the Statute to make this further change,

and I am not quite convinced it would be an advantage.

Since the Daylight saving system was first tried in 1916 the period decided on for its operation has been very considerably increased. The prescribed dates are as follows:

1916—May 21 to October 1.

1917—May 8 to September 17.

1918—March 28 to September 29.

In the present year we are to have 56 more days of daylight saving than in 1916.

The following is the number of hours of extra daylight that the good people of each country may enjoy during the summer of 1918.

England

1916—May 21 to Oct 1; 133 hours.

1917—April 8 to Sept. 17; 162 hours

1918—March 24 to Sept. 29th; 189 hours.

Dominion of Newfoundland

1917—June 11 to Sept. 30; 111 hours.

1918—May 5 to Oct 6; 154 hours.

United States

1918—March 31 to Oct 31st; 214 hours.

Dominion of Canada

1918—April 14 to Act. 31; 200 hours.

In Newfoundland this year the bill provides for 43 more days of daylight saving than in 1917.

England, United States, Dominion of Canada and the Dominion of Newfoundland. These four countries have adopted a permanent measure, which is almost uniform, dividing the year into two seasons of time—one for winter, and one for summer, making the difference of time between the two seasons of one hour each. Owing to climate conditions, this country must be later than the other three, on account of our late spring. The Dominion of Canada and the United States must have a uniform

bill on account of railway connection at the border of these two countries.

The difference of time between Great Britain, Newfoundland, Canada and the United States.

When it is twelve o'clock, noon, Greenwich mean time, the hour (local time) is as follows at:

London: 12 o'clock, noon.

St. John's: 8.30 a.m.; 3.30 difference; 12 o'clock.

Quebec: 7.15 a.m.; 4.45 difference; 12 o'clock.

New York: 7.04 a.m.; 4.56 difference; 12 o'clock.

In the four countries named there is very little difference between the an additional five weeks of summerising and setting of the sun. Under the Bill before us we advance our clocks one hour on Sunday night 5th May, when the hour of ten will become the hour of eleven. On Monday morning, the 6th of May, the sun rises at 4.48 and sets at 7.12. By the change of time on the clock we move the rising of the sun to 5.48, and the setting at 8.12.

Meridian Time. Sunday morning, October 6th., the sun rises at 6.22 and sets at 5.38, on Sunday evening the sun will set at 6.38. At 11 o'clock at night, when clocks will be put back one hour to 10 o'clock. Monday morning 7th October we commence Standard Time when the sun will rise at 6.22, and set at 5.38. There is nothing in the Bill of a mandatory nature, there is no penalty in the Act that will compel anybody to change the time. You are at liberty to go as you please, if you desire to keep in step with the rest of your friends you must keep the new time.

The following Acts of Parliament may interest this House and the general public.

SUMMER TIME, A.D., 1916.

An Act to provide for the time in

Great Britain and Ireland being in advance of Greenwich and Dublin mean time, respectively, in the summer months.

Be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1—(1) During the prescribed period in each year in which this act is in force, the time for general purposes in Great Britain shall be one hour in advance of Greenwich mean time.

2—This Act shall be in force in the year nineteen hundred and sixteen, and in that year the prescribed period shall be from two o'clock in the morning Greenwich mean time on Sunday, the twenty-first day of May, until two o'clock in the morning Greenwich mean time on Sunday the first day of October, and His Majesty may in any subsequent year, by Order in Council made during the continuance of the present year, declare this Act to be in force during that year, and in such case the prescribed period in that year shall be such period as may be fixed by the Order in Council.

3.—Wherever any expression of time occurs in any Act of Parliament, Order in Council, order, regulation, rule or bye-law or in any deed, time table, notice, advertisement, or other document, the time mentioned or referred to shall be held, during the prescribed period, to be the time as fixed by this Act.

Provided that where in consequence of this Act it is expedient that any time fixed by any bye-law, regulation or other instrument should be adjusted, and such adjustment cannot be effected except after the lapse of a

certain interval or on compliance with certain conditons, the appropriate Government Department may, on the application of the body or person by whom the bye-law, regulation, or other instrument was made or is administered, make such adjustment in the time so fixed as in the circumstances may seem to the Department proper, and if any question arises as to what Government Department is the appropriate Government Department, the question shall be finally determined by the Treasury.

4—This Act shall apply to Ireland in like manner as it applies to Great Britain, with the substitution, however, of references to Dublin mean time for references to Greenwich mean time.

5—Nothing in this Act shall affect the use of Greenwich mean time for purposes of astronomy, meteorology, or navigation, or affect the construction of any document mentioning or referring to time in connection with such purposes as aforesaid.

2.—This Act may be cited as the Summer Time Act, 1916.

DAYLIGHT SAVING LAW.

An Act to Save Daylight and to provide standard time for the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that for the purpose of establishing the standard time of the United States, the territory of continental United States shall be divided into five zones in the manner hereinafter provided. The standard time of the first zone shall be based on the mean astronomical time of the seventy fifth degree of longitude west from Greenwich; that of the second zone on the ninetieth degree; that of the third zone on the one hundred and fifth degree; that of the fourth zone

on the one hundred and twentieth degree; and that of the fifth zone, which shall include only Alaska, on the one hundred and fiftieth degree. That the limits of each zone shall be defined by an order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, having regard for the convenience of commerce and the existing junction points and division points of common carriers engaged in commerce between the several States and with foreign nations, and such order may be notified from time to time.

Sec. 2—That within the respective zones created under the authority thereof the standard time of the zone shall govern the movement of all common carriers engaged in commerce between the several States or between a State and any of the territories of the United States, or between a State or the Territory of Alaska and any of the insular possessions of the United States or any foreign country. In all statutes, orders, rules and regulations relating to the time of performance of any act by any officer or department of the United States, whether in the legislative, executive or judicial branches of the Government, or relating to the time withi which any rights shall accrue or determine, or within which any act shall or shall not be performed by any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, it shall be understood and intended that shall be the United States standard time of the zone which the act is to be performed.

Sec. 3—That at two o'clock ante-meridian of the last Sunday in March of each year the standard time of each zone shall be advanced one hour, and at two o'clock ante-meridian of the last Sunday in October in each year the standard time of each zone shall, by the retarding of one hour, be re-

turned to the mean astronomical time of the degree of longitude governing said zone, so that between the last Sunday in October at two o'clock antemeridian in each year the standard time in each zone shall be one hour in advance of the mean astronomical time of the degree of longitude governing each zone, respectively.

Sec. 4—That the standard time of each zone shall be known and designated as United States standard eastern time; that of the second zone shall be known and designated as United States standard central time; that of the third zone shall be known and designated as United States standard mountain time; and that of the fourth zone shall be known and designated as United States standard Pacific time; and that of the fifth zone shall be known and designated as United States standard Alaska time.

Sec. 5—That all Acts and parts of Acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

When the Bill was before the United States House of Commons, a member objected to it on the ground that under the new law in some cases the younger son would be the older. He said:

“Take the case of parents who have twins. The clock is to be put back one hour on the 1st of October at 2 o'clock in the morning. At 1.55 that night the eldest twin is born, and he is registered as having been born on October 1st at 1.55 a.m. The second twin is born ten minutes later, and therefore he should be entered as having been born at 2.05 on the same date, and is therefore properly registered as the younger son. But between the two births you put the clock back one hour, with the result that the eldest son is born at 1.55

and the youngest at 1.05, nearly an hour earlier.”

The members of the House decided that the case was one that would have to be specially provided for if it should ever arise.

If such a case as the above did occur, the first born would be the eldest son for seven months in the year and the younger brother would be the eldest son for five months of the year.

I hope, Mr. President, my hon. friend, the leader of the Government, should such an extraordinary condition of affairs as this arise, he will be prepared for any emergency.

An Act to provide for the time in Canada being in advance of the accepted standard time during the summer months.

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1.—This Act may be cited as the Daylight Saving Act, 1918.

2.—During the prescribed period in each year in which this Act is in force, the time for general purposes in Canada, in each province, shall be one hour in advance of the time which under the law of the province is the time prescribed for such province, and, if there is no time so prescribed, of the accepted standard time.

3.—This Act shall be in force during the present year for such time as may be prescribed by the Governor in Council.

4.—Wherever any expression of time occurs in any statute, order in council, order, regulation, rule or bye-law, or in any deed, time-table, notice, advertisement or other document, the fixing of the time with respect to which is within the legislative jurisdiction of the Parliament

of Canada, the time mentioned or referred to shall be held during the prescribed period, to be the time as fixed by this Act.

Provided, that where, in consequence of this Act, it is expedient that any time fixed by and by-law regulation or other instrument should be adjusted, and such adjudgment cannot be effected except after the lapse of a certain interval or on compliance with certain conditions the Governor in Council may, on the application of the body or person by whom the by-law, regulation or other instrument was made or is administered, make such adjustment from the time so fixed as in the circumstances may seem to the Governor in Council proper.

5.—The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada shall have power to advance by one hour the standard time used by railway companies, including Government railways, in Canada for such period as may be prescribed by the said Board and to make such orders as may be necessary for the convenient carrying out of the provisions of this Act in so far as railway companies may be affected thereby.

When the Daylight Saving Bill was before the Canadian House of Commons, many very amusing arguments were used against it. These came principally from representatives of farming districts. Fishermen and farmers of every country live and move, and have their being by the sun and daylight. I quote only one objection made by an hon. member of the Canadian Commons.

Sir George Foster, Minister of Commerce, had charge of the bill.

Hon. Member—I suggest to the Minister of Trade and Commerce that he is seriously encroaching on the Sabbath day. For at least two thou-

sand years the Sabbath day in this country has begun at a certain hour; it has been established by Divine decree.

Sir George Foster: You are given twenty-four hours of it; that is quite enough for you.

Hon. Member: The good, conscientious people in my part of the country will object strenuously to my right hon. friend's encroachment on the Sabbath. An old magistrate in my country once said to a minister: "When I find you are on one side and Moses is on the other, I am with Moses every time. In the same manner, when I find Divine Providence fixing the Sabbath at a certain time, I stand by Divine Providence when I find that the Minister of Trade and Commerce alone is on the other side. But, laying all jokes aside, in our part of the country men who have to go to work at twelve o'clock Sunday night will object very seriously to going to work at eleven o'clock instead of twelve; they will regard themselves as working on the Sabbath day. It is worthy of consideration whether the sanctity of the Sabbath can be thrust aside by simply altering the clock.

Sir George Foster: My hon. friend's authority must be biblical. I would like him to give me the chapter and verse. I know that he can do so easily.

Hon. Member: I would refer my hon. friend to the twentieth chapter of Exodus, where it is laid down that we should remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy; no part of it is to be transgressed.

I very much fear several members of the Canadian House of Commons did not give serious consideration to the real meaning of the bill. It is to be hoped after one year's experience, they will realize the great ben-

efits, not only the farmers, but to every commercial interest of that great country. The hon. gentleman who objected on principle to its operation on the Lord's Day, this conscientious Sabbath day objector, must remember the Lord's Day is only fixed by the meridian, that several parts of the United States and the Dominion of Canada, it is Saturday in some places, when it is Sunday in others. Take for instance, on Sunday evening at 6 o'clock p.m. in London, it is 3.40 Monday morning in Melbourne.

In Ottawa on Sunday night at 11 o'clock it was 5 o'clock Monday morning in London. Under the British Isles summer times, since the Daylight Saving Bill has been put into operation in Canada, it goes back to 4 o'clock Greenwich mean time. Since the United States and Canada passed the bill for one hour, the Stock Exchange of Montreal and New York will have one hour to operate with the Stock Exchange of London.

Mr. President, the fishermen and farmers of the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales are in no way interfered with by the change of time, they fish and farm by the daylight and sun, and not by the clock. Time is only what we make it. The congregations of churches meet for service, not by the sun, but by the clock.

In a letter written to the late Mr. Willett by the late Sir Robert S. Ball, M.A., F. R. A. S.

"Which is the better for our waking hours, glorious sunshine, which costs us nothing, or expensive and incomparatively less efficient artificial light? Only perverted habits could make us hesitate as to the answer to this question. There are no difficulties connected with the scheme which could weigh for a moment against the advantages of its adop-

tion. Meridians were made for man, not man for meridians. Time must be regulated in spite of meridians, to suit man's convenience."

A BILL

An Act respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night.

Be it enacted by the Governor, the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Legislative session convened, as follows:

1.—On the first Sunday in the month of May in the present year and in each and every future year the hour of ten o'clock shall become the hour of eleven o'clock of the same evening, and time shall thereafter continue as at present from day to day until the first Sunday in October of the same year, when the hour of eleven o'clock of the said day shall become the hour of ten o'clock and time shall thereafter continue to run as at present from day to day.

2.—The time with the changes in the next preceding section provided shall be known as "Newfoundland Time," and hereafter in this Act is referred to as "Newfoundland Time."

3.—In any Act of the Legislature at present in force or hereafter to be passed, all expressions as to time or hours for the performance or missions of any acts provided to be done or not to be done shall be taken to refer to Newfoundland Time.

4.—In all deeds, documents, notices, or other written instruments or pointed publications executed, given or made after the passing of this Act, all expressions as to hours of the day or night shall be taken to refer to Newfoundland.

5.—The noon-day gun at St. John's shall be fired at noon, Newfoundland Time.

6.—This Act may be cited as "The Daylight Saving Act, 1918."

DAYLIGHT SAVING A SUCCESS

Since Daylight Saving has become law in the United States, several writers to the New York Times claim that Benjamin Franklin was the originator of the idea, if that is so, then we must give him full credit for giving the Parisians their first letter in Artificial Light Saving Economy. One writer says:—

The inventor of daylight saving of this kind was none other than Benjamin Franklin, a fact which has been remembered since it was proved a success. Thus one more effective war device has originated in an American brain and been left to pioneer execution abroad. In 1784 Franklin, then representing the United States in Paris, published in the Journal de Paris his "Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light;" he gravely announced that the sun not only appears before most Parisians are out of bed, but substantially the modern working man.

FRANKLIN ON DAYLIGHT SAVING

What another writer to the New York Times has to say:—

Now, when in order to profit by the sun's morning light, we are commanded to advance our timepiece one hour, it occurs to me that the views of Franklin on this subject, written more than a century ago, might be of interest. They are found in his well-known "Economical Project," a humorous but practical skit, suggested by his observation during his French mission of the late hour of rising of his Parisian friends. I take what is quoted from the very recent scholarly work of William Cabell Bruce, entitled "Benjamin Franklin Self-Revealed." Vol. 11.:

"The 'Economical Project' is a happy combination of humor and prudential instruction, and was written about the time when the Quinquet

lamp was an object of general public curiosity. An inquiry having been started on one occasion in his presence, Franklin says, as to whether its brightness was not offset by its lavish consumption of oil, he went home and to bed, three or four hours after midnight, with his head full of the subject. At about 6 in the morning he was awakened by a noise, and was surprised to find his room full of light. At first he imagined that he was surrounded by a number of Quinquet lamps, but on rubbing his eyes he perceived that the light came in at the windows, and when he got up and looked out to see what caused it he saw the sun just rising above the horizon. His servant had forgotten the preceding evening to close the shutters. Looking at his watch and finding that it was but 6 o'clock and still thinking it something extraordinary that the sun should rise so early, he consulted an almanac and ascertained that it was just the hour for sunrise on that day, and moreover, he learned from the almanac that the sun would rise still earlier every day till toward the end of June. His readers, he was sure, would be as much astonished as he was when they heard that the sun rises so early, and especially when he assured them that it gives light as soon as it rises. He was convinced of this. He was certain of this fact. One could not be more certain of any fact. One repeating his observations the three following mornings, he found always precisely the same result.

"On the strength of these facts Franklin enters upon a series of elaborate calculations to demonstrate that between the 20th of March and the 20th of September the Parisians because of their habit of preferring candle-light in the evening to sun-

light in the morning, had consumed 64,050,000 pounds of candles, which at an average price of 30 sols per pound, made 96,078,000 livres tournois. An immense sum! that the city of Paris might save every year by the economy of using sunshine instead of candles; to say nothing of the period of the year during which the days are shorter.

"For his discovery, Franklin said that he demanded neither place, pension, exclusive privilege nor any other reward whatever. He was looking only to the honour of it. He would not deny, when he was assailed by little, envious minds, that the ancients knew that the sun rises at certain hours. They, too, possibly, had almanacs, but it does not follow that they knew that it gives light as soon as it rises. That was what he claimed as his discovery. It was certainly unknown to the moderns at least to the Parisians; which to prove he need use but one plain simple argument. It was impossible that a people as well-instructed, judicious, and prudent as any in the world, all protesting to be lovers of economy, and subject to onerous taxation, should have lived so long by the smoky, unwholesome and enormously expensive light of candles, if they had really known that they might have as much pure light of the sun for nothing."

So far as I know, here ended the interest taken by the distinguished American, the late Benjamin Franklin.

What another writer to the New York Times has to say:

Though the daylight saving plan has been regarded as a modern idea, it is known that Benjamin Franklin gave it considerable thought and wrote an article on the subject in French. This was published in the Journal de Paris

on April 26th, and can be found in English under the title "An Economical Project," in his collection of essays. It was written in a semi-humorous vein, and Franklin purposely exaggerated in his whimsical way the sum total of savings that would be effected, but the plan appeared to him seriously. After recalling that one day he went to bed at 4 o'clock in the morning, and that when something happened awakened him at six o'clock he was surprised to find his room filled with sunlight, the writer continues:

"This event has given rise in my mind to several serious and important reflections. I considered that, if I had not been awakened as early in the morning, I should have slept six hours longer by the light of the sun, and in exchange have lived six hours the following night by candle light, my love of economy induced me to muster up what little arithmetic I was master of and to make some calculations."

Estimating that there were more than 100,000 families in Paris, each consuming half pound of candles an hour, and taking into consideration that very late risers wasted in the summer season seven hours of sunlight a day, and substituted seven hours of candle-light after sundown, he calculated that in six months from April to September, with wax or tallow at 30 sous a pound, a total saving of about \$19,000,000 might be affected.

Of course his estimate was exaggerated purposely, for there were few people who habitually slept seven hours of daylight. However, he imagined some interesting means by which the law might be put into operation. He proposed that a tax of a franc be levied on every window found closed when the sun was shining; that no family should be supplied with more

than one pound of candles a week; that no coaches, except those of physicians, surgeons or midwives, should be allowed on the streets after sundown, that every morning at sunrise all the church bells should ring, "and if this is not sufficient, let cannon be fired in every street to wake the sluggards effectively and make them open their eyes to their true interest." It was Franklin's thought that all the difficulty would be in the first few days, and that after that the new plan would be as natural and easy as the previous way. He added:

"Oblige a man to rise at four in the morning and it is more than probable that he will go willingly to bed at eight in the evening, and, having had eight hours of sleep, he will rise more willingly at four the following morning."

I am glad to note that one writer to the American Press says:

Popularly, however, most of the credit has been given posthumously to an English builder, Willett by name, who in 1907 published "The Waste of Daylight," but did not live to see the waste retrenched. Willett used to get a bill introduced in almost every session of Parliament. The earlier ones died of ridicule, the later of silent neglect. He was considered one of England's funny cranks. Now all the clocks and watches are Willetted, as they call it, and the only person who makes fun of it is the venerable wit and satirist, Sir George Birdwood, who, being 80, is privileged.

Mr. President: To the late Wm. Willett, F.R.A.S., an Englishman, whose acquaintance I made in 1907 which we kept up until he died in 1915, my late friend is solely entitled to the universal credit of the present world-wide Daylight Saving Scheme. Mr. Willett was ably supported by many friends in the old land, and on

this side of the Atlantic, since his death, and more especially since the war, a propaganda was carried on in Great Britain, Dominion of Canada, Dominion of Newfoundland, and the United States, so that today the whole world has practically adopted the idea of Mr. Willett.

It was in April, 1914, that he published his twentieth edition of the "Waste of Daylight." The Bill before the House is a permanent one. What is the history of Daylight Saving? I have not the slightest desire to detract in any way the credit that may be due to that distinguished American, Benjamin Franklin, for the interest he took in showing the Parisians how a saving could be made in candles, if the population worked more in sunlight. We give the Americans full credit for the part Benjamin Franklin took in London in 1771 against the Stamp Act; we also give him full honors for the part he took in the deliberations which resulted in the Declaration of American Independence. We further give him full credit for the assistance he gave as the accredited Minister of the United States in France in 1783 in the settlement of the Treaty of Paris, but we do not give the credit to an American for the idea of saving daylight as we know it to-day. We give all the honor and credit to an Englishman, born in London, who died in 1915. I refer to the late William Willett, F.R.A.S.

Historical Account of the Scheme.

The originator of the scheme of which the principle was incorporated in the Summer Time Act, 1916, was Mr. William Willett, F.R.A.S., who for many years devoted a great deal of his energies to advocating the adoption in this country of a system of Daylight Saving. His proposal was to advance normal time, i.e. Greenwich Mean Time, by four steps each

of twenty minutes on the first four Sundays in April, which would have extended the day by 80 minutes after the fourth Sunday until September, when by a counter motion of 20 minutes each on four Sundays, clock time would again agree with Standard Time in Great Britain on the fourth Sunday in that month.

Mr. Willett's proposals were incorporated in a Bill which was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Robert Pierce on the 4th of February, 1908, and read a second time on the 26th March, when it was referred to a Select Committee. This Committee agreed on the 30th June to a special report which that the object of the scheme, viz., that "of promoting the earlier and more extended use and enjoyment of daylight," during the months from April to September, "is desirable and would benefit the community if it can be generally attained, and that the weight of the evidence submitted to the committee agrees with and supports this view, though there was divergence of opinion as to the best mode of accomplishing it." The Committee also found that a single alteration of one hour in April and a similar alteration of one hour in September would be the best mode of attaining the object of the bill, and recommended that "these changes should take place at two o'clock in the morning, Greenwich Mean Time, in the case of Great Britain, and Dublin Mean time in the case of Ireland, on the third Sunday in April," and at two o'clock in the morning on the third Sunday in September in each year.

The Bill was amended accordingly, but no further steps were taken in that session.

In 1909 a new Bill was presented by Mr. T. W. Dobson, incorporating the amendments made in the Bill of

the previous year. This bill was read a second time on the 5th of March with a majority of 36, and was again referred to a Select Committee. This committee reported that "having regard to the great diversity of opinion existing upon the proposals of the Bill and to the grave doubts which have been expressed as to whether the objects of the measure can be attained by legislation without giving rise in cases involving important interests, to serious inconvenience, your committee recommend that the Bill be not further proceeded with." They recorded, however, "their appreciation of the efforts of those connected with the movement, and particularly those of Mr. W. Willett, since, owing to these efforts, the hours of beginning and leaving off work have already been advanced in many cases."

Daylight Saving Bills were introduced in the House of Commons in the session of 1911, 1912-1913, 1913 and 1914, but in no instances were they advanced beyond a first reading.

In the spring of 1916, the subject was again revived, and on the 8th of May, 1916, Sir Henry Norman moved in the House of Commons: "That in view especially of the economy in fuel and its transport that would be shortening the hours of artificial lighting, this House would welcome a measure for the advancement of clock time by one hour during the summer months of this year." This motion was carried by 170 votes to 2.

The "Summer Time Bill" was accordingly introduced by the Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert Samuel, on the 9th of May, read a second time on the 10th of May, and became law on the 17th of May. The provisions of the Act were put into force on the night of Saturday to Sunday, the 21st

May, and the reversion to normal time took place on the night of Saturday to Sunday, the 30th September.

It was expressly stated by Mr. Herbert Samuel and, we believe, generally understood in the country that the immediate object of the Act was to effect an economy in the consumption of coal, oil and other fuel used in the production of artificial light. Following, however, the instructions in our terms of reference we have not confined our investigations to the question whether this particular purpose was achieved; in fact, the major part of our inquiry has been concerned with the more general question whether one season's experience of the Act has in general confirmed the anticipations of its supporters as to its beneficial effects, or the apprehensions of its opponents as to the difficulties and disadvantages likely to arise from its operation.

Dominion of Newfoundland Experience of Daylight Saving.

On Sunday night, 10th June, last year, we had our first experience of saving daylight, and so far as I can find out its trial in no way hampered the Trade and Commerce of the Dominion. Last summer we had 111 days of Newfoundland time. It has been generally stated that, so far as the conditions permitted, the extra hour of daylight was generally used for the purpose of outdoor recreation pursuits, and in particular for the cultivation of gardens, allotments, fishing, house repairs and building. The tendency throughout the country, to spend the extra hour of daylight in the evenings out of doors is said of itself to have made for an improvement in the general moral tone.

Workers Interest

During the past few months I

have made inquiries from many workers to find out, if possible, were there any industry in the country that suffered by adopting Newfoundland time during last summer. I have heard of none.

The Bill is one entirely for the benefit of the workingman, stevedores, longshoremen, laborers, mechanics, shop assistants, miners, factory operators, shipwrights, bank clerks, and all the rest of those engaged in the numberless occupations of the country will find at their disposal opportunities for recreation and enjoyment which they experienced last year. The agricultural population already live their lives in very close harmony with the natural hours of daylight. They already enjoy the benefits which we seek to secure for the great body of dwellers in the towns. The great mass of the people of all classes in the Dominion live their lives, not like farmers or fishermen, in relation to the sun, but according to the clock. It is the clock which is the law-giver to civilized man in the towns; and when the clock gives commands which are reasonable, all men obey with spontaneity and without inconvenience.

Taking the experience of last year, we are satisfied that the great bulk of the working classes fully appreciate Newfoundland Time for the summer months, and we are convinced that they stand to profit by it as such in many cases more than any other section of the community.

Trade Unions and Labor

Under the bill, there is no section of the Act that will compel any one to change the time. I am not going to offer any opinion upon an eight hour, or a ten hour day for the working man, but I do think it should become general among working men and employers of labor to make

a change from six in the morning to six in the evening, or as I understand some employers of labor have adopted under the Mean Time from 7 to 7. I believe the most suitable time for a ten hour day, is from 7 to 6 under Newfoundland Time. Take from 6 to 6—breakfast at 8: two hours; 9 to 1—dinner; 4 hours; 2 to 6—tea: 4 hours. Total 10 hours.

Take from 7 to 6 with breakfast. 7 to 12—dinner—5 hours; 1 to 6—tea—5 hours. Total hours.

In conversation with several of our mechanics, they considered the new time to be one of the greatest boons conferred on the industrial classes of the country. The new bill provides under section one, that on the first Sunday in May until the first Sunday in October, the change of time shall be one hour. I might mention, I have had several letters suggesting that we might have one hour and a half, and some suggest two hours. Either of the two, I believe, would be a mistake. We must consider the workmen who go to work late in September. It is then the morning begins to get dark. Monday, the 6th of May the new time will begin. If the weather is fine we should begin to till the land. The need of the moment in increased cultivation: we must begin to plough and dig to the greatest possible extent. You will have an extra hour of daylight in the evening, let us begin a "Tillage Week." Let the observance of it bring home by every means possible to the people of the Dominion the gravity of the situation with which our country may be faced and to send forth the call to every farmer, smallholder, gardener and allotment holder the urgency of ploughing, or digging every available piece of land so that our food stocks will be in-

creased, and that we should be prepared for the coming winter.

For the encouragement of those who are going to do their best to increase food production by cultivating small lots let us quote a paragraph from the Canada Food Bulletin:

"A woman working a small holding at Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset, England, with the aid of two small boys, produced during last summer, fifty bundles of rhubarb, sixty bundles of asparagus, ten bushels spinach, 600 lettuce, eighty pounds of tomatoes, twenty bushels onions, three hundredweight carrots, three bushels artichokes, 120 pound peas, 220 pounds runner beans, two sacks broad beans, ten bushels beetroot, 210 vegetable marrows, thirty cucumbers, three and a half tons potatoes, and in addition gathered sixty bushels of apples."

Daylight.

Saving daylight helps in every way the fisherman and the farmer. It interferes with them in no way, in carrying out their work; the change of time is simply taking one hour from the morning and adding it to the evening to allow all classes of people to enjoy a long evening. Mr. President a serious allegation made against the Newfoundland Time Act was that it had led to a curtailment of the sleeping hours of children, who were allowed by their parents to stay out of doors in the evenings beyond their proper bedtime. Now, Mr. President, with your able assistance, and that of my friend the Hon. Leader of the Government, parents will be asked to exercise greater influence upon their children. It is no doubt a difficult matter in many cases to persuade children to go to bed during daylight (though this is not a problem peculiar to Newfoundland). Every care and attention should be shown by parents

in regard to their children's sleeping hours.

Economies In Artificial Light and Fuel.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

MR. PRESIDENT—It is beyond the comprehension of our best statistical mathematication to even make an estimate of what is the money saving in the cost of artificial light, fuel, trade commerce and other industries of the four nations that are closely allied to each other—Great Britain, United States, Dominion of Canada and the Dominion of Newfoundland.

On Sunday night, 5th May at 10 o'clock, one hundred and seventy million people in these countries will be enjoying an extra hour of daylight each day for one hundred and ninety days.

Mr. President, for years I have advocated a loan in our own country. What we want is confidence with each other, and greater confidence between the Government and the people. There is plenty of money to loan in our Dominion and to spare. I wish the Government every success. What the people like to know when a loan is raised, what becomes of it in detail, or might I be allowed to call it—let the Government publish a statement, or national balance sheet, so that all can understand. Approximate saving to the four nations by adopting the Daylight Bill for 1918:

Population

Great Britain	50,000,000
United States	110,000,000
Dominion of Canada	8,000,000
Newfoundland	250,000
<hr/>	
Total	168,250,000

Say one hundred and seventy million persons.

Estimated Saving

Great Britain	\$50,000,000
United States	110,000,000
Dominion of Canada	8,000,000
Newfoundland	250,000
<hr/>	
	\$168,250,000

Capitalized at 5 Per Cent.

.. .. .	\$1000,000,000
.. .. .	2200,000,000
.. .. .	160,000,000
.. .. .	5,000,000
<hr/>	
	\$3365,000,000

The above figures show an estimated saving operation of the Daylight Saving Bill of about one hundred and sixty-eight million dollars for 196 days. If capitalized at five per cent. towards Victory Loans, Liberty Loans, Triumphant Loans, or Freedom Loans, would represent three billion, three hundred and sixty-five million dollars—3,365,000.00.

I don't know what interest is to be offered for our local loan, whether it be five per cent or six per cent par. I wish it every success.

By the passing of the Daylight Saving Bill for the Dominion of Newfoundland at a low estimate \$250,000 (dollars) will be saved in gas, oil, electricity and other economies. Extra light for farming, fishing and many other industries, on these things alone having will be sufficient to meet the interest on \$5,000,000 for a Triumphant Loan.

I have much pleasure in moving that the Daylight Saving Bill be now read a second time.

HON. MR. MILLEY—Just a word to congratulate my hon. friend on his excellent address, and also to say I give my hearty support to the Bill. My Hon. friend made a reference to Mr. Willett as the author and organizer of everything in connection with the Daylight Saving Bill. Now here

in Newfoundland we do not know Mr. Willett, but we do know Mr. Anderson, and all he has done to have this bill brought in, and with what persistence he pressed the matter, and its advantages in spite of strong opposition. While he was speaking in regard to children I was reminded of a remark of my little boy who asked me if he would have to go to bed by Mr. Anderson's time or God's time. I told him he would have to go to this summer by Mr. Anderson's time. I think it would be a good suggestion to have the bill called "The Anderson Daylight Bill." I have much pleasure in giving my support to the second reading.

HON. MR. ELLIS—I have much pleasure in supporting the bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Anderson. I feel sure that after the success the effort met with last year there will be no question of the acceptance of it by this Chamber and the community. I am glad to note that it is now being made a permanent measure, as it will be therefore unnecessary at future sessions to re-enact it. I must compliment the hon. gentleman on his efforts to have the measure placed on the Statute Book in spite of the discouragement and indifference with which it was received for many years. It must be a great satisfaction to him to see it enacted now, and made the law of the land.

HON. MR. SQUIRES—I am quite sure we are all happy to lend our support to the second reading of the Hon. Mr. Anderson's Daylight Savings Bill. The hon. gentleman has dealt so comprehensively with the merits of the Bill, its adoption and operation in other countries and the special advantages likely to accrue to Newfoundland by its adoption as a permanent measure, that I feel I should not trespass upon the patience of the House

by any lengthy reference. Last year's bill was a temporary experimental measure only. The experiment was successful. Mr. Anderson's perseverance and activities in securing the passage of the bill had the approbation of all. As an experiment the change worked out so satisfactorily last year that I feel the Legislature will favorably consider the passage of a permanent bill. During the past few weeks the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada have passed an act of legislation of a similar character. I was in the city of New York when the change of time was effected there, and during the following week availed of many opportunities of enquiring as to how the new system was working out. Professional men, mercantile men, hotel men and trainmen with whom I took the opportunity of discussing the matter were practically unanimous in favorable comments. On my return journey through Canada I made inquiries as to the operation of the Act there and found a like unanimity of support of the change. In Newfoundland we feel that the advantages which accrued last year, as also the advantages which will flow from this permanent bill is due to the industry and effort of the Hon. Mr. Anderson, who has given a very considerable share of time and thought to this measure of practical utility. While Mr. Anderson has modestly styled his bill, "The Daylight Savings Act, 1918," yet in Newfoundland I am quite sure that the bill will for many years be known as the John Anderson Daylight Bill. I have much pleasure in supporting the measure, and heartily congratulate the Hon. Mr. Anderson upon what I feel will soon be an accomplished fact, namely, that this permanent daylight saving measure will form a part of the Statute Law of the Colony.

The motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson for the suspension of the 33rd rule of the House in regard to the progress of this bill, being put and carried, the House went into committee on the said bill, Hon. Mr. Skelton in the chair.

The Committee reported the bill without amendment and on motion of Hon. Mr. Anderson, it was read a third time, passed, and ordered sent to the Assembly with a message requesting the concurrence in the measure.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the House then adjourned until Monday next at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

MONDAY, April 29th., 1918.

The House opened at 4.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT — I beg leave to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has apprised me that he has been pleased to appoint Mr. Daniel Ryan to be a member of this House. Mr. Ryan is present and if he has his Commission with him it will be handed to the clerk by whom it will be read.

The Clerk read the Commission.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President, I have much pleasure in welcoming the latest addition to this House—the Hon. Daniel A. Ryan, so long connected with his brother—the Hon. James Ryan, our late brother member, in carrying on their large commercial business—a representative man in his own chosen walk of life—a man who has attained success in his own chosen calling by his own maiden efforts.

He will bring to the deliberations of this House a new view point on the subjects to be discussed, and will be able to speak with the weight of an authority on the many matters that will come before us.

I am sure I speak for all in ex-

tending him a hearty welcome to this Chamber, and expressing the hope that he may have a long career of useful public service before him.

HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.—I have much pleasure in concurring with the courteous observations extended by my honorable friend, the leader of the Government, on the occasion of the appointment of the Hon. Daniel A. Ryan to a seat in this Chamber. The great regret of this Council at the passing from our midst of his brother, the Hon. James Ryan, has already found a permanent place in the minutes of our proceedings, and in our debates. It is not usual in Newfoundland for any one family to produce two brothers who have each as a result of industry and ability attained such prominence in financial circles as these two brothers, nor is it a common occurrence that on the seat of one brother being vacated there is another member of the same family of such prominence in the community as to be selected to fill the vacancy so created. I am quite sure that just as Mr. Ryan is honoured by this commission from the King's representative as a member of this Chamber, so the Chamber appreciates the privilege of having the advantage of Mr. Ryan's presence as a councillor. Mr. Ryan is not indebted for success to any superabundance of advantages, encouragement or assistance when as a young man he began building his career, and I feel that in taking his seat to-day as a member of the Legislative Council of Newfoundland we all consider it a recognition of the worth which has been so ably demonstrated by the honorable gentleman in his business activities. It gives me very much pleasure indeed to associate myself with the leader of the Government in expressing to my honorable friend

heartly congratulations and welcome to this Chamber.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Mr. President, to me also it is a great source of pleasure to join with the Hon. Leader of the Government and the last speaker in extending a welcome to this House to Hon. D. A. Ryan. I have known Hon. Mr. Ryan as well as his esteemed brother, for many years and I feel sure that his mature business knowledge, wide experience in commercial pursuits will be of great assistance in our deliberations in this Chamber.

HON. MR. BISHOP—Mr. President, I need hardly say that I am in entire accord with all that has been said here this afternoon with reference to the appointment of Hon. Mr. Ryan to this House. I do not quite agree, however, that he is here because he is the brother of the late respected Hon. James Ryan; he is here purely upon his own merits and no eulogy to Hon. Mr. Ryan's qualification for a seat in the House is necessary, I take it. I have very much pleasure in bidding him welcome to the House.

HON. D. A. RYAN—Mr. President, permit me to thank the Hon. Leader of the Government and the other Hon. Gentlemen who have spoken this afternoon, for the kindly remarks with which they have greeted my appointment to this Legislative Council. It will be my privilege as well as my pleasure to assist, as far as my humble endowments will permit, in the deliberations of this House, and to interest myself in the well-being of the country, while conforming to its best usages and upholding the ethics of debate and the honor and dignity of the Chamber.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—Permit me to say on behalf of the hon. members who have not spoken, and of myself, that they are in entire accord with the

statements expressed by those who have welcomed Hon. Mr. Ryan. I feel that I speak for the whole House in expressing the hope that he will be for many years favored to be a member of the Chamber and take a useful part in its deliberations.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I beg to say that I have received a letter from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor intimating that His Excellency had granted leave of absence to Hon. Jas. D. Ryan for six weeks.

I have also received a letter from Hon. James Angel expressing regret that he fears he will be unable to attend the sittings of this House during the season, and I took occasion on behalf of the House, to express the regrets which I feel and which I am sure all hon. members feel at the fact that he cannot be present, and the hope that before very long he would be sufficiently restored to be able to be about again. I have also a communication from His Excellency the Governor with reference to the appointment of the Internal Economy Commission which the Clerk will read

The Clerk then announced the following to be the personnel of the Commission:—Sir P. T. McGrath, K. B.E., Hon. R. K. Bishap, Hon. W. J. Ellis, His Honor the Speaker, Hon. W. F. Lloyd, D.C.L., Hon. J. C. Crosbie and Hon. W. F. Coaker.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

On motion the Address in Reply to His Excellency's speech was passed, ordered to be engrossed and presented to his Excellency by the whole House.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT intimated that he had received a message from the Assembly that they had passed the Daylight Savings Bill without amendment, as well as the Military Service and Extension of the Legisla-

ture Bills, in which they request the concurrence of the Council.

MILITARY SERVICE ACT

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President, I move that this Bill be now read a first time. As a question has been raised about the status of Ecclesiastical students and Probationers for the Ministry, I would take this opportunity of saying that the Government has decided to ask this Chamber to accept an amendment when the Bill goes into Committee, which will exempt such persons from the scope of this Act.

The Government also proposes to ask the House to adopt an Amendment which is designed to make it absolutely clear that the Act is to be enforced without undue delay.

The Proclamation calling the first class to the colors is to be issued forthwith, but in view of the fact that the remote sections of the country will not be able to be notified of the terms of the Proclamation for some days, it is intended to allow men to come in as Volunteers up to Empire Day, May 24th, after which date the Act will be in full force, and men who have not entered up to that time will become liable to the draft and all its obligations—in other words the Bill cannot get through both Houses before the end of the week, then after it receives the Governor's assent the Proclamation will have to be issued.

This in turn will have to be distributed throughout the country, and we allow a fortnight for that, during which any man can exercise his right to join up as a volunteer.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis both Bills were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

HON. MR. ELLIS laid on the table of the House the report of the Marine

and Fisheries Department for the year 1916-17.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT informed the House that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive a deputation of the whole House with the Address in Reply at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

HON. MR. GIBBS gave notice of question, after which the House adjourned till tomorrow at 3.45 p.m.

TUESDAY, April 30th., 1918.

The House met at 3.45 p.m. pursuant to adjournment and proceeded to Government House, where a deputation of the Whole House waited upon His Excellency with the Address in Reply to his Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Legislature.

On returning to the Council Chamber the Hon. President informed the House that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to receive the Address in Reply.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Before proceeding to the Order of the Day, Mr. President, I would ask the assent of the House to a Resolution, which I will now read.

RESOLVED.—That this House has learned with deep regret of the death at Wandsworth Hospital, on Saturday last, of wounds sustained while fighting bravely on the battle line in France—Private William Cook, of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, son of our respected brother member—Hon. Tasker Cook, and that this House desires to place upon record the expression of its sincere sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Cook and their family in the loss they have sustained in the death of their gallant boy.

I must apologise, Mr. President, to the House, for not having moved this Motion yesterday, but being absent

from town for a day at the end of last week, the announcement escaped my notice, and it was only last night I was informed of it.

It is unnecessary for me to say much in regard to the Resolution, because in these days there are but few amongst us who have not some sad experience of losing one near and dear to them in the dreadful war that is now raging.

Mr. Cook's son was one of the first five hundred, and he had gone through all the campaigns of the Regiment from the outset.

He was fortunate enough to escape wounds or any worse mishap than a serious illness during all the past four years.

His friends were hoping that the same good fortune might attend him to the end, but Providence ordered otherwise.

It will be a consolation to those who loved him, that he met his death under such glorious circumstances, and they will in years to come be able to keep his memory green. It is a great and glorious thing for a man to die for his country.

I would now move the Resolution.

HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.—I rise to second the motion which has been proposed by my friend, the Honorable Mr. Ellis, leader of the Government, and join with him in the kind words of deep sympathy which he has extended to our fellow-councillor, the Hon. Mr. Cook, in the bereavement which has come upon him through the loss of his son as a result of wounds received in fighting for our Empire in far-off lands. This terrible cataclysm which has overtaken the world has taken its toll of the nobility of our Empire and our Island, nobility not merely in the sense of an hereditary class—though true it is that the families of such

noble birth in England have been foremost in their self-sacrifice—but nobility in the broader, more democratic sense, the nobility of best blood, best brains, best physique, which has responded so cheerfully to the call of Empire in this hour of battle. Many of the members of this Chamber are in a position to sympathise most deeply with the Hon. Mr. Cook in his loss, for have not they themselves passed through the vale of sorrow because of the tragedies and anguish of this great war. Both Mr. Ellis and myself can and do sympathise all the more sincerely with our fellow-councillor and enter all the more deeply into his sorrow because the shadow of bereavement and loss has not failed to fall upon us also. This lad whose loss we all now mourn is one of our country's bravest and best, and with those that mourn we deeply sympathize.

“Lo! some we loved, the loveliest
and best

That Time and Fate of all their Vin-
tage prest,

Have drunk their Cup a Round or
two before,

And one by one crept—silently to
Rest.”

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—On behalf of the House I extend to Hon. Mr. Cook its sincere sympathies in this sorrow which has fallen on your self and family, and hope that Providence may assist you in His own wise way to bear the burden of such great sadness.

HON. MR. COOK—Mr. President, I thank you and the whole House for the kindly words of sympathy addressed to me on the loss of my boy.

SECOND READING OF MILITARY SERVICE BILL

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President, in moving the second reading of this

Bill entitled an "Act Respecting Military Service," I feel that all it is necessary for me to do is to briefly explain the main features of the Measure.

I think I may safely hope that it is a foregone conclusion that this House will accept the principle of the Bill, which is that of Selective Conscription.

I will not weary you with a review of the events of the past five or six weeks which have rendered this Measure necessary. You are as familiar with them as I am, and are as capable of forming an opinion of whether or not they justify this step.

Heretofore we have kept the Newfoundland Regiment in the field by voluntary enlistment, and we prided ourselves on that fact. But a few weeks ago Lloyd George sent out an appeal to the Empire for more men, warning the English speaking world that the enemy was still strong and fighting desperately, and that more soldiers were necessary, and needed at once if disaster to the Allied cause was to be averted.

This appeal was followed a few days later by a special notification from the Army Council to this Dominion—that the Newfoundland Regiment was short one hundred and seventy men—that three hundred recruits were needed at once—and that steady additions of sixty a month were required continuously afterwards—still more recently came a message from the Commander of the training depot at Winchester, saying that he had received a call from the First Battalion on the firing line for men to make good the losses in the recent fighting, but that he had no men to send.

Faced with these facts the Government had to ask themselves what they should do—try to raise men by volun-

tary effort, or adopt a Conscription Policy. They choose the latter course believing it to be the only one which would produce the required results, and preserve the self respect of the Colony.

It is quite true that when the first call came the Returned Soldiers—all honor to them for it—made a most commendable effort to raise volunteers, and met with a generous measure of success, but it would be unreasonable to expect, in the light of our past experience, that such an expedient as this, could give us what we require.

The only alternative, therefore, was to put into force a Conscription Act, with the idea of obtaining the men necessary to keep the Regiment in the field, and prevent the Colony being disgraced, for having to withdraw the forces from the firing line.

The Bill now before us, a copy of which is on each Hon. Member's desk, is the result of this decision, and it has met, I might say, unanimous acceptance in the other House. Briefly stated, it renders all unmarried men and childless widowers, between 19 and 39 years of age, liable for Military Service, except those who are excepted and those who may be exempted. Those who are excepted are ones who need not respond to the call, these are clergymen, and now we propose to add Ecclesiastical Students, and Ministerial Probationers, men who have been on Active Service for the Empire and our Allies, and have been honorably discharged. Men holding certificates are physically unfit. Those who may be exempted are men, who on being called up and responding to the call, can claim release on the ground that they are employed in work of National importance, or that they are already represented by brothers on Active Service,

in the proportion of one out of three, two out of four or more, or that he is physically unfit, and men mainly supporting dependents, such as parents, brothers or sisters.

The tribunal to consider the claim for exemption will consist of the Judges of the Supreme Court, who I am glad to say, readily undertook this very responsible duty, and whose appointment thereto is, I think I am safe in saying, the very best evidence the country could desire of the absolute good faith in which the Government proposes to carry out this measure.

The men rendered liable for Military Service under this Act are divided into four classes according to age, each embraces men within a five year period, that is, from nineteen to twenty-four, then from twenty-four to twenty-nine, then from twenty-nine to thirty-four, then from thirty-four to thirty-nine.

The youngest, from nineteen to twenty-four, will be known as Class I, and will be called up first.

It is expected to yield a thousand men, but even if it does not, it will certainly supply enough, with the three or four hundred men who have volunteered within the past few weeks to meet all requirements until the autumn, then if more men are needed and Class I will not yield them, Class II will be called up. By this arrangement two things will be accomplished, first, men will be brought in at such a rate that the local facilities for equipping, training and despatching them to England will not be overloaded, and second, interference with the summer's fishery operations, will be reduced to the least possible extent.

The rinks are being taken over and fitted up for barracks, as they were two years ago. The 500 or 600 men they accommodate are the greatest

number that can be handled locally, with advantage, and to handle even this number will require a goodly staff of instructors.

The intention is to push the training as rapidly as possible, and to send the men overseas in small drafts, as quickly as they can be made fit.

This plan allows for the working of the Act by the Judges, sitting as an exemption tribunal, to be carried on during the summer, and men added day by day, then by the autumn we will know where we stand, and be able to take such further steps as are necessary.

By this arrangement those engaged in the fisheries this summer, will know the class of men they can take with safety, and the preparation for this important industry will not be disorganized. As I explained yesterday we propose to put into force on Empire Day the Proclamation calling up Class I.

These, Mr. President, are the main features of the Bill. It contains one or two other sections, dealing with writing, printing or speeches against the spirit of the Act.

We are all one, I feel sure, Mr. President, in our regret that it has become necessary that this Colony has to resort to conscription, but I think that we would even more regret in days to come, if we allowed our Country's Banner to be trailed in the dust, because we lacked the moral courage to resort to this measure.

We all deplore war and the need for war, but we are all, I feel sure, too patriotic and too fully alive to the seriousness of the moment not to do what we consider our duty.

For my part I see my duty clear and that is to give this measure my heartiest support, conscious that thereby I am proving loyal and faithful to my

country in this the greatest crisis in her history.

Without more ado then, Sir, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE—Mr. President, I wish to express my strong accord with the principles of this Bill. I am entirely with them in the necessity which has been shown for a Conscription Act, but while doing so I feel there should be no necessity for conscription here, for the loyal and patriotic people have responded when properly called upon and in a manner that convinces me that had this been done in the first place had the Government of the day done its duty, there would have been no necessity for Conscription. Of course it is being proven by the Returned Soldiers who so nobly came forward from patriotic motives to work up the recruiting business that it could have been done years ago and possibly much better than now. But while finding fault and speaking of the neglect of others for that, there are a great many others to blame besides the Government of the day. I for myself was to blame, and I speak here with some hesitation as I feel I have not done my duty in this matter of recruiting. I was a member of the Patriotic Association of the time, but could not attend the meetings, at night especially, owing to being ill, and I probably lost interest in the work done here and did not perform as much as I would wish to have done, but when called upon at a very inclement season—in May—to proceed on a recruiting mission, I went through Ferryland District to Trepassey, accompanied by Justice Kent and Doctor Burke. We held several meetings which were well attended by men who received us well and we left under the impression that we had done a great deal of good.

Unfortunately there the people there took pattern from the Government and decided to 'wait and see.' The result is that we are glad to see now that at least one came from Trepassey.

Lately the meetings were well attended and the people took great interest and I am not at all afraid there will not come forward a great many, to join. It has been said that it is through cowardice our people do not come to join the Regiment. Such a charge is an infamous one, as I am sure no part of His Majesty's Dominions is more loyal and courageous, no people more so than ours are. The test has been bravely met wherever accidents have occurred on our coast. It was shown in the recent terrible disaster at Cappahayden and in that fatal spring when such terrible loss of life occurred at the seal fishery. There was no lack of volunteers to go forward since that sad occasion, and on the following spring there was no lack of volunteers for the seal fishery, men were falling over each other in their desire to go to the seal fishery, and it is not want of courage or fear that keeps them from enlisting. But if the right steps had been taken in the first place matters would have been better. While we were recruiting we could not tell the people what arrangements had been made about the pension and this would have been a strong argument in favor of volunteering. What the pension was or the allotment for mother, sister or wife should have been published. But while there may have been no excuse for the people, it might be as well to ask the question: Have we all done our duty? Did any of us take, or are any of us taking refuge behind the back of the slackers and neglected our duty because they have not

done their duty; have we all done our duty in other ways? Have we done our duty in economy? I noticed the other day that ten motor cars came in here by a steamer. Are the people who imported these doing their duty in the cause of economy? I think not, and I ask each individual citizen are they striving to do their duty in the face of the appeal made by the Premier of Great Britain? Are they striving to do their duty in economizing, in trying to prevent the lack of food likely to occur? I fear not. Therefore, perhaps, it is hard to find fault with some of the people. We have examples of our duty in this respect from the people of the Old Country themselves. Had she not recognized her duty and gone into the war in defence of the small nations and in the manner characteristic of her life and to fulfill a treaty honorably signed; did she not show the example and ought we not to follow in discharge of our duty. What would have been the result had she not gone. Where would we have been now? We have but to look at the whole of Europe Germanized and brutalized. Yes the Old Country did her duty and we have every hope to see her come out victorious yet and have all confidence that with our great kindred nation, the United States, and our allies we will win the war. In our travels throughout the southern district advocating recruiting, we were everywhere assisted by the clergymen right throughout, and at Trepassey Rev. Father O'Flaherty took the chair and made a most patriotic address and there was no hesitancy in backing up that spirit throughout the district. But it must not be forgotten that the man at the fishery, who had his little room and stage, when he gives it up to go abroad it is gone and he can't come

back to it, because after one or two years' absence it is gone to ruin; but there are plenty young men who have no impediment. In the face of this stirring message from the Premier of Great Britain it is to be hoped that all will take pattern from it and do our best to provide the necessary men by those able to volunteer, and carefully taking advantage of what we have in the shape of patriotic resources, by those physically unable to join the regiment. Involved as we are in war and looked upon by the Old Country to engage in the defence of her character and honour in her characteristic manner we should bear in mind our duty to our Creator in the first place in the defence of right against wrong, our duty to our sovereign, our duty to our country, our duty to the memory of those who have given their lives, and ourselves, and in acknowledgment of the great privilege we enjoy under the glorious constitution of Britain. We have much to thank the Old Country for in that respect and I must conclude by expressing my strong support of the Conscription Bill before us. It seems to be very carefully prepared and a copy of the Canadian Act.

HON. R. A. SUQUIRES, K. C.—It is to me a matter of the deepest regret that in the opinion of the Government circumstances have arisen which His Excellency's advisers feel render a Conscription Law in this country imperative to secure the maintenance of our Regiment at the Front. As a Nfldr. who loves his Island home and her honor I regret exceedingly to find that the Government feels it necessary to put upon the Statute Book a Bill which reads that "sufficient men do not volunteer to provide reinforcements for the Royal Newfoundland Regi-

ment now engaged in active service overseas."

It has been my hope that of all the Colonies of Great Britain, Newfoundland, so long known as Britain's oldest and most loyal Colony, would find itself enabled to perform its full share of duty towards the Empire in these years of world war by voluntary effort and it is indeed with deep sorrow that I note the decision of His Excellency's advisers that in their opinion voluntary enlistment has failed, and that to a very considerable measure Newfoundland must now rely upon the conscript to maintain our fighting force at the front. My disappointment in this connection would not be so keen did I not feel convinced that lack of activity in voluntary enlistment has been due in a very large measure to the fact that an important and influential section of the community represented by several of the gentlemen who are now His Excellency's advisers, not only failed from the beginning up to the present to give their whole-hearted assistance to the voluntary movement, but in many cases displayed themselves as aggressively opposed there. When as a result of the first throb of the war drum in the month of August, 1914, His Excellency the Governor called a public meeting in the Church Lads' Brigade Armoury of this town, the volunteer movement was inaugurated, that movement was criticized and denounced by the gentlemen who are today the advisers of His Excellency the Governor and dominating factors in the Government. From that day to this a very large measure of antagonism to the volunteer movement has been started, encouraged and led by some of these gentlemen, with the result that instead of unanimity of effort there was no continuous effort on behalf of the Governor, the Government of

which I was Attorney General under the Prime Ministership of Sir Edward Morris, and the Patriotic Association, of which I was a member, and continuous criticism and opposition on the part of those who on the retirement of Sir Edward Morris in January last secured control of the Government. Even within the past few months leading members of the Government have by denouncing conscription dampened the enthusiasm of volunteer workers and discouraged recruiting. I consequently believe that the necessity which the present Government feels now exists for this Bill is due not to any lack of enthusiasm, lack of patriotism or to cowardice on the part of Newfoundlanders, but rather to the discouragement and opposition to the volunteer movement which some of the gentlemen who posed as leaders of the people and who are now members of the Government of this Colony so continuously and aggressively displayed. I am exceedingly sorry that this continuous pressure against voluntary effort has resulted in such a lack of understanding of the seriousness of the issues at stake and of the imperative necessity for Newfoundlanders in all sections of the island to freely respond to the call for voluntary service as has made this conscription measure the necessity which His Excellency's advisers, who are presumed to be intimately acquainted with all the facts, believe it to be. I understand from the Leader of the Government that the measure which has been rapidly passed through the House of Assembly is not the complete measure to be finally submitted to this House, but that he proposes to move certain amendments in committee. There will at that stage be an opportunity of discussing the details of the bill, and I feel quite sure that in all essential matters

there will be an unanimity of opinion in this Chamber.

I am quite sure we all realize the imperative necessity which rests upon Newfoundland to keep its Regiment at full strength at the Front, and not to keep it at full strength merely, but have such reserves as may be necessary to enable any of our boys who because of physical strain or wounds fall for a time below the standard of efficiency required will have such furlough as may be necessary for their complete recovery before being called back to the firing line.

I feel that I can bespeak for this Bill a unanimous second reading in this Chamber, as I am sure that Newfoundland has determined for our honor, for the honor of the Empire, and for the cause for which we are prepared to give our all, that our Regiment shall be maintained at full strength to do battle in the cause of righteousness and democracy against the tyranny of autocratic militarism.

I think a word of appreciation should be expressed for the work which has been done by the Returned Soldiers during the past few weeks in securing voluntary enlistment. Newfoundland cannot do too much in honor of those who for us are fighting the battles of Empire, and as the lads come home again in health and vigor or suffering from disabilities arising from the conflict, we feel they will have a hearty welcome to the home earth and that no honor, no effort, no encouragement, is too much for us to bestow. Newfoundlanders are of the English, Irish and Scotch blood, which has made Britain the master, blood untainted by foreign admixture, and I am convinced that had there not been this opposition to recruiting, had there not been this opposition to patriotic activities un-

dertaken by the Governor and those who were associated with him as his advisers, from the outbreak of the war, our Island Home would have the distinguished honor of taking its place with the heroic nations of old who fought because they loved to live and fight and die for country's name and honor, with no shadow of compulsion other than the compulsion of duty, and I feel that had our citizens in certain sections of the country been patriotically led by patriotic leaders, as in some instances they were not, we would have done our full share in that noble and heroic way. But in view of the fact that our people patriotic, loyal and brave, as they are, have not been sufficiently enthused, do not sufficiently understand the magnitude of the issues, to voluntarily tender themselves for service, I feel that we must see to it that whatever the cost, whatever the sacrifices, the heroic lads who have already gone from us have laid their lives upon the altar of heroic self-sacrifice, must not feel that Newfoundland is neglecting to see the ranks filled, but rather must we all feel that for England, our Empire and our Allies, for the honor's sake of our own Newfoundland, our Regiment must be maintained at full strength, with full reserves, and that by whatever measure the responsible advisers of the Crown deem necessary.

HON. MR. BISHOP — This Bill brings before us the most important measure to be dealt with during the present session of the Legislature, and that it is one of the most important that the House has ever been called upon to consider, no one will question.

I purpose supporting the Bill. I confess, however, that until quite recently, say within the last eight or nine months, I did not hold the views

which I now do. I was not a conscriptionist and in fact I was strongly anti-conscriptionist, as the idea of "compelling" men to take up arms and fight was repugnant to me, and I hoped we should be able to maintain at full strength by volunteer enlistment the Regiment, of which we are so justly proud.

Even though the canvass for volunteers has not been as general, as regular, or as vigorous as was desirable yet there has been ample time and opportunity for our young men around the country to answer the call and to offer themselves to the service of the Empire. This they have not done generally, or in sufficient numbers, and the urgency of the present situation requires that other means be adopted, and "immediately" adopted, to provide the men that will be necessary to keep our Regiment in the fight to the finish. I am, therefore, fully convinced that much as I love the voluntary system I must now lay aside my prejudice and support a compulsory measure.

It is due to the men who composed the Regiment when it went into action at Beaumont Hamel and made such sacrifice. It is due to those who have fallen in various encounters with the men in the firing line to-day fearlessly facing the foe with the greatest pluck and heroism, but who, because of their depleted ranks, are calling "come over and help us," it is due to the fathers and mothers of the men who have enlisted and gone forward to do our fighting and it is due to the honour and the dignity of this country, now one of the Dominion of the Empire.

I am, therefore, ready to give my support to this Bill and to assist the Government in its passage.

I want, however, to be assured that no combination of circum-

stances or no influence shall interfere with applying the provisions of the Bill "immediately" in respect to the first draft, and that provision is made for a Class II. call not later than 1st September. The information given us by the Prime Minister a few days ago, coupled with later information by cable, shows very clearly that nothing is so important as providing every unit possible of man power, and supplying it at the earliest possible date.

It is of course important, very important, that the fisheries or any other of our industries be not interfered with beyond what is absolutely necessary, but of what use to us will codfish be or anything else if we cannot hold back the enemy?

It ought in my opinion to be known at once that those who come within Class II will be called up on September first.

The months of June, July and August intervening after the first call, will surely afford sufficient time and sufficient notice for those coming within the second class to prepare for proceeding to H. Q. on Sept. 1st and commencing their training. I am prepared even to support a motion that Class II be called at an earlier date and I think the urgency, which is fully recognized by the Government, should have prompted them to give more serious attention to this Bill, which in its present form, they acknowledge to be defective, as shown by the intimation of the leader of the Government that amendment is desired.

I regret the Legislature was not called in January or at the latest in February to enact this measure. The first draft should have been enrolled and in training now and though belated, I am glad the Government has brought in the measure and sought

authority for its enforcement. I do not at all question the honesty of the Government's intentions respecting the Military Service Bill, but immediately it receives the assent of His Excellency the Governor, I wish to see action for its enforcement. That prompt action will to some extent stimulate voluntary enlistment I have no doubt, but we cannot know too quickly how many men can be procured under Class I selection, it may be many less than is counted upon and there may be more urgency for calling Class II than appears at present.

The Bill must be carefully considered as it is passing through committee so that when sent down it shall contain nothing that will prevent it being operative and effective. This I have no doubt is what the Government desire.

HON. F. McNAMARA—I would like to say a word or two about the Military Service Act now before the chair. At the present moment the Empire is passing through, possibly, the severest crisis in its history, and most imperative necessity with us to-day is men and money; fortunately, the Allies with their tremendous wealth and resources can finance this war to a successful issue, but the outstanding necessity, as has been already stated is men, men and more men. This Dominion, up to the present, has furnished to the Army and Navy roughly about eight thousand men, but I regret to observe that our proportion is not as large as it should be. From recent statistics I learn that Great Britain has contributed 26 per cent of its population; Australia 10 per cent; Canada 6 per cent of its population, and our contribution up to date is barely 4 per cent of the population, in other words we are a good deal behind

Great Britain, the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of Canada in this respect.

In justice to the brave lads that have gone before and in justice to our loyalty as England's oldest possession, we should make a much better showing than we have up to date.

The volunteer system has pretty near exhausted itself, and to maintain ourselves in the firing line, and keep up the glorious traditions of the Royal Nfld. Regiment, we must find and keep on finding men to fill the gaps caused by the wastage of war. To give you an instance of how badly off we are for men in France to-day, I need only tell you that this forenoon a brave and patriotic mother who has three sons in the Regiment told me one of her sons has been wounded five times and has just been pronounced fit to go again to the front after a protracted illness. There are other cases of wounded boys at the front, and in one particular case I have heard of a soldier fighting who could hardly stand the pain of his wounds against his inside clothing.

I ask you in all seriousness is it fair and just to these brave lads that they should be obliged to submit to these hardships simply because we have no one here to take their places in the firing line.

His Excellency the Governor stated in one paragraph of his inspiring appeal for recruits the following: "Remember that your wives, your children, your cottages, your boats, are in positive danger if the Germans break through in France. As he is treating the foolish Russians so he will treat every nation whom he touches; America, Canada and Newfoundland are to him merely objectives for his greedy brutality. He is entirely evil;

he has no sense of right, or no feelings of mercy."

These are the words and sentiments of the Commander-in-Chief of the Newfoundland forces, and I know and feel that they will not be uttered in vain, and will aid in helping to stimulate recruiting for our sorely-trying Regiment.

Listen to what Fr. Tom Nangle, the devoted Nfld. Chaplain, said in his lecture here in October last: There are only 12 men remaining of the first 500—familarly called the "Blue Puttees"—who left here in the ill-fated Florizel in October, 1914, now in the firing line, and on being asked how was it these men could not get home on leave after three years, as well as the New Zealanders and Canadians, he answered by saying: "The reason these boys could not get home was because those at home were not taking the situation seriously enough, and were slacking instead of coming forward."

I submit we are not doing our duty to these brave boys and the others who went over later if we do not send without delay ample reinforcements to help them to take their places against the onslaught of the enemy. Our bravest and best boys have gone forward to battle with the German hordes. Let other boys follow their example and do their utmost to uphold the traditions of that flag, "which for a thousand years braved the battle and the breeze." Let Newfoundlanders continue to do their part in future as nobly as they have in the past and we may rest assured that we will be in this war at the end of hostilities, and the pride and glory we felt and still feel for our brave lads will be manifested in no uncertain tone on their successful return to their native land.

The provisions of this Act are in

no sense drastic or severe. The men to be called up are divided in four classes. The first class represents unmarried men from 19 to 24, the second class represents unmarried men from 25 to 29; the third class represents 30 to 34, and fourth represents men 35 to 39. According to these figures the young men are called first, and of course the older men are called according to their ages.

The exemptions to Military Service are also liberal. For instance, the son of a widowed mother is not called to fight. A man who has parents, brothers or sisters depending upon him for support is exempt. Any one who already has a brother in the service will not be called upon unless he has three brothers more home, or in other words two out of four brothers will be asked to put on the khaki and fight the enemy. There are other exceptions, such as ill health and infirmity, and on the whole our Act is not as nearly severe as it is in England, where they are calling up men of 50 years of age.

There is also provision made for any one that feels aggrieved and thinks he should not serve, by appealing to the Judges of the Supreme Court for their decision in his case.

I have already supported conscription to some extent, inasmuch as I voted for the conscription of wealth last year in voting for the Profit Tax, and although I was criticized in the press and elsewhere, I only feel I did my duty in the Empire's extremity, and I say here and now, Mr. Chairman, that I am satisfied to go further and offer my humble proportion of additional monetary obligations if necessary to aid in financing our part in this war to a successful conclusion. What avail is all boasted wealth we

hear so much about if we lose this war?

There were millionaires in Belgium and France when the war broke out in 1914 who are at present reduced to beggary; their property has been ed and they are to-day suffering the pangs of privation and want. It is not unlikely that the same conditions may exist here, unless we defeat the enemy, and it is our privilege as well as our duty to do our utmost to-day with all our resources to help bring victory to the cause of the Allies.

I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill for Military Service.

HON. MR. MEWS—Mr. President, I have already expressed myself fully on the measure of conscription on the opening day, and now I just want to dissent a little from the sentiments expressed by the honorable member who has deplored the fact that voluntary enlistment has failed. Personally I must say I have lately come to the conclusion that if we had had selective conscription at the beginning of the war, our sacrifices to-day would not be felt so greatly in they would not, as now, fall on two or three sons of certain families, while other families are not bearing their share of the burden at all. If we in taxing our people so tax them that a share falls equally upon all of them, so should there be equality of sacrifice in this war. I support the Bill, and believe that when the people realize the justice of the measure they will commend the Government for bringing it in.

HON. MR. GIBBS.—Mr. President, before the Bill is put to the House I would like to observe that one of the reasons given by the introducer of this measure for the Government is that voluntary enlistment has failed. I cannot concur with the remarks of

the Hon. the Leader of the Government in this respect, because, Sir, we have had ample demonstration of the fact that voluntary enlistment has not been a failure. This is proved by the splendid work which the returned soldiers have done within the past few weeks; for when they created their organization the call was for 300 men, and within a very short time those young men through their efforts have been able to procure more than double the number they had been called upon to obtain. Now, why is this? It is because they have put forth the right spirit and a real earnestness into their work; while the Government was lying on their oars doing nothing, these young men came forward and did the work and succeeded where the Government failed. This was work which should have been going on for the past two or three months or more. Some mode of action should have been determined on since the beginning of the year in order that the necessary number of men might be obtained, but instead of that it appears that promises were made to the people of this country that no attempt would be made to enforce conscription. These were made as late as last February by some men speaking with authority in this respect; not alone that, but when those who were favourable to conscription threatened to introduce a measure to that effect these same men who today are bringing in a Conscription Bill promised the fishermen and others that they would stand between them and those who wanted to conscript them. This, Sir, is the kind of thing which has hindered voluntary enlistment in this country. If voluntary enlistment has failed, which I do not admit, then it is not the people; not the young men of our country, who are responsible for it. It is those who

held out hope and made promises that this measure now before the House would not be enforced who are responsible for the present state of affairs. One reason why the Minister of Militia resigned when the change was being made in the personnel of the Government last Dec. was because the Government that was about to be formed had decided on no fixed policy whatever and had taken no definite position in connection with the matter of keeping up the strength of the Regiment. It is because of the policy of the Government in doing nothing that we are brought face to face with legislation of this character today. It is not fair to the people; it is not fair to the country that those in authority should bring legislation of this character into the House without first having worked out some other plan of voluntary enlistment.

For some time past throughout this country a portion of our press has been adopting a system of creating suspicion, distrust and appeals to classes; sowing the seed of class hatred and dissension here. They have intimated that there were profiteers in St. John's and other places who were making excessive profits out of the people of this country, adding that it would be just as well to live under German as under British institutions with such things going on; the result has been that on account of statements of this description it became hopeless to make any appeal in the interests of recruiting.

One honourable member has endeavoured to make a comparison between the records of this country and those of Canada and England, but the honourable gentleman must remember that there is no fair comparison to present at all in this connection. Conditions in this country from every standpoint are absolutely

different from those prevailing in Canada. The whole island would not equal in population one single centre of industry; of which they have hundreds. We have one city only, but it has done as well in the matter of furnishing recruits as perhaps any part of the world; and if we had eight or ten places like St. John's in Newfoundland there would be no necessity for legislation of this kind; but it is because they have not heard the call; because a large majority of our people are living in isolated sections of Newfoundland and along our coast lines, and are not in touch with the literature of the world that we are brought face to face with the present state of affairs. They know very little and hear very little in connection with the great things going on; consequently matters of this kind do not appeal to them as they would to those who have accustomed themselves to reading the newspapers, periodicals from them their duty at this time. But I think, sir, we have done very well when everything is taken into consideration and I think we will do our duty in the future. I have no doubt about our doing that, but if there has been any slackness it is not on the part of the people or of the young men of the country. What appeals have been made to the remote sections of this country to bring home to the minds of the people of the country the necessity of their volunteering? Nothing, sir, has been done. We have not followed the voluntary enlistment idea faithfully, neither have we followed the system prevailing in England, United States and the other Allied countries; and we have to blame to-day, for this failure to secure men, solely those in authority.

who are to-day bringing this measure before us. I do not think that the present moment is opportune for opposition to this measure. What I desire to point out is that if voluntary enlistment has failed it failed not through the fault of the young men of the country, but through the apathy and indifference of those who have not been doing their duty by them. Continuation in office has been of more importance to them than continuation of Empire. This House could have been called together last January and February, and matters of this kind could have been duly considered and given that attention which they deserved. The machinery in connection with this Bill might at the same time have been considered and prepared. Instead, however, the Government tarried and tarried, until now here in the month of May, in the summer season, when the work of this House should have been completed, they have found a solution to their dilemma; and are going to take advantage of their own failure to secure men to introduce a Conscription measure and at the same time to extend their own life.

The Bill was hereupon read a second time.

HON. MR. ELLIS—I beg to move this Bill be referred to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Second reading of Legislative Extension 1918 Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President: I beg to move a second reading of this Bill, entitled an "Act to Further Extend the Term of the Present Legislature."

The Bill is self explanatory and needs but little comment from me. It merely re-enacts the Measure passed last year, and continues this Parliament in existence until a

date in 1919, which the Governor in Council will fix for its dissolution. It also has a clause providing that members accepting office shall not vacate their seats. A somewhat similar provision was in last year's Act.

The reasons which influenced the Government to ask the Legislature to prolong its existence, are in the opinion of the Government, far stronger than those which influenced you to take a similar course twelve months ago.

The condition of affairs in the theatre of war is most critical, as a result of this we are being asked to furnish a large additional number of men for Active Service. As a result of this also, problems of a most exacting kind, affecting our fisheries, our shipping, our salt supply, our food supply, our trade and commerce generally, are confronting the Government, and calling for the undivided attention of the men interested with the conduct of the country's affairs.

Moreover, the Government will have during the next six months to undertake the extremely difficult task of enforcing a Conscription Bill, and they respectfully represent that it will be impossible for them to hope for success in this endeavour, if they are to be distracted by the exigencies of a political campaign.

Already you have seen an example of what might happen during the autumn if this country were to be plunged into the turmoil of a general election.

I have here, Mr. President, a copy of the Plaindealer newspaper, filled with attacks upon the Government and the Legislature, and containing the most disgraceful incitements to the people of the outport districts to resist conscription, and calls to the

fishermen to oppose the men who voted to tear their sons from their fishing boats and homes.

What chance, I ask, Mr. President, would there be of enforcement during the next six months, if public men and public newspapers were to be able to start in tomorrow on an incendiary campaign of this character, against the men who voted for the Conscription Bill in good faith, and with an honest desire to do their duty.

What chance, I repeat would there be of making the Act a success, when, Sir, such a propaganda carried out for the next half year would have the effect of distracting the minds of great number of our people who do not realize the seriousness of this world crisis, from the vital issues involved and nullifying all our efforts to have this Colony play as creditable a part in the rest of this war, as it has played so far.

Furthermore, I would point out that emergencies, the nature of which no man can foretell, are likely to arise not once, but many times during that period, emergencies that will require for every member of the Government to be constantly at his post, giving his best services on his country's behalf, instead of having to give his time to his constituency to fight for his political existence.

For these reasons, Sir, I hope this House will see its way clear to support the Second Reading of this Bill, which I now have pleasure in moving.

HON. MR. MILLEY — I would ask the Hon. Leader of the Government that the second reading of this Bill be deferred until the committee stage of the Military Service Bill is passed.

HON. MR. ELLIS—I think it is the desire of the Government and this House to get through the Legislation of this session as quickly as possible. I have no desire to press things, but

I do not see why the two bills cannot go along together.

HON. MR. MILLEY — Twenty-four hours will not make much difference to it. I have my own ideas about the matter and want them carried out if possible.

HON. MR. HARVEY—Personally, I am quite satisfied to have the second reading now, but would suggest to the Hon. Leader of the Government if possible to keep as much unity as possible. I think it would be a mistake to act against the wishes of any member.

HON. MR. KNOWLING—For my own part I can see no objection to Hon. Mr. Milley's suggestion. The two bills do not depend one upon the other and the matter of a day cannot make much difference.

HON. MR. ELLIS—If it is the desire of Hon. Members to defer this, if there is any good reason for departing from the usual course, I am agreeable; but I do not think it would be fair for the Conscription Bill to pass complete before this Bill.

The second reading was deferred until after the Committee stage of the Military Service Bill had been proceeded with on to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Gibbs gave Notice of Question.

Hon. President announced a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the Bill entitled "An Act to amend Chap. 109 of Cons. Stat., 2nd Series, entitled of Patents," and requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council therein.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, this bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Hon. President read a letter from Mrs. Ryan, acknowledging with

thanks resolutions of condolence from this Chamber.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the House then adjourned until to-morrow at four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, May 1st.

The House met at 4 o'clock p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Committee on Military Service Bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee of the whole on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Knowling in the chair.

HON. PRESIDENT — Before the Committee takes up the consideration of the details of this Bill, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some observations with regard to it, and as it may be that my remarks will extend over a lengthy period, I would ask an indulgent hearing of the hon. members, though I trust I shall satisfy them that the time I take will not be wasted.

To begin with, I should like to congratulate this House on passing the second reading of the Bill without a dissenting voice. It certainly shows a deep feeling in this Chamber of patriotism and public spirit, but this is only what we were entitled to expect seeing that this Bill is one of the most important that has ever come before or will ever come before the Legislature hereafter. It marks a line of departure in our status as a Colony which can rarely be approached. It pledges us to the same course as our neighbours of the Empire and Allied countries which have adopted Conscription as a necessary factor towards the winning of the war, and by its enactment we place ourselves on the same high footing as those other countries which have preceded us in not alone pledging all to the cause

we have at heart, but in making that pledge so manifest that none can mistake its meaning.

The moral value of the passage of this Bill through both Houses of this Legislature without a dissenting voice cannot be estimated adequately at the present juncture. Anyone who has followed the progress of the Conscription movement in Canada must have been satisfied that the greatest drawback to the successful operation of that measure there was the hostility towards it in both Chambers at Ottawa. This was due partly to political feeling and partly to sectional feeling. When the measure was introduced last August there were many in Canada who I regret to say were prepared to put party before country and endeavour to gain office by opposing such a proposal, and then, when the Bill became law, the Government had to appeal to the country for an endorsement at a general election in order to carry it out. In this, however, they were faced with the active positive hostility of the Province of Quebec and a certain amount of similar feeling elsewhere, with the result that the machinery created by the Bill broke down and whereas it was expected at the outset that 100,000 men would be put into khaki long before this, the result so far has been that not 25,000 effective men have been obtained. Consequently, we saw a few days ago that the Canadian Government had to step in, wipe out all the cumbersome machinery that had been created for working the measure, and substitute therefor a sweeping regulation that every man of 20, 21, and 22, should join the colors immediately, no exemptions whatever being allowed.

We have enacted this Bill and will have to provide machinery un-

der it similar to what Canada had at the outset, but I think that I am safe in saying that our legislators, as a class, have little or no idea of what responsibilities are imposed upon certain elements of the country and upon themselves by this measure. Listening to the speeches on the second reading yesterday, I asked myself repeatedly how many in the country realized fully what would happen after this Bill became law. I wonder if hon. gentlemen here who are engaged in business realize that under this bill they have obligations imposed upon them as employers, and that if this Act is to be carried out properly, there will be a duty cast upon nearly all of us in this regard which we cannot shirk without being false to our obligations. In Canada every employer of labor had to make a census of his men, find out those among them who came within the scope of the Act, and notify these individuals that they were liable to the call, and the authorities that he had such men about his premises, with a further obligation to dismiss them after a certain date. That duty, or something much akin to it, will have to be imposed upon business people here if there are not to be wholesale evasions of the measure. Similarly, in the outports, where men are engaged in various forms of industry, the same duty will have to be performed by those who employ them, and this will also apply to crews of fishing, coasting, and sea-going vessels. The impression so widely prevalent in this country that as soon as this Act passes, men will spring up from all quarters and get themselves into khaki in some way or another, is a delusion that cannot be too speedily dispelled, because no other country has found it possible to realize anything of this kind, and

with the geographical and other difficulties prevailing in Newfoundland I feel I am safe in saying that none such can be expected here.

When I was in Canada last Fall I went into this subject somewhat fully and I procured a great deal of material dealing with the enforcement of the Military Service Bill of that country, and I produce it here now, not that I am going to deal exhaustively with it, but in order to show just what Canada found necessary in the shape of literature, forms, and other material connected with the purely clerical work of putting this Bill into operation.

(President here produced a large mass of material to demonstrate his point.)

I do not say we will require to use all of this material, but some of it will certainly have to be utilized, and if I do not weary the House I would like to explain what this material is, because I am presumptuous enough to believe that this explanation will be helpful to the committee.

In Canada the first efforts towards organizing the country for war service was taken in Oct., 1916, by an appeal from Premier Borden for a National Service Registration. This movement then was not directed so much towards getting men for war as towards utilizing the man and woman power of the country in the best way possible, for successful prosecution of the struggle. A National Service Board was appointed for this purpose and arranged for the distribution throughout the entire country of national service cards to be filled in by the recipients and returned to this Department where the material thereon might be classified and information obtained which would enable the men registered to be used in the way best suited to the requirements of the war.

I produce a copy of the card. It contains twenty-four questions, giving virtually a summary of the recipient's life record, age, occupation, capabilities, etc. Thruout the whole of Canada these circulars were distributed during the month of January, 1917, and out of an estimated two million people between 20 and 65 living in the country by whom the cards should be filled in, about one and a half millions complied with the request, the Province of Quebec being noted for a virtually entire absention from the move. At the head of this National Service Board was Mr. R. B. Bennett, member for Calgary in the last Canadian House, and I discussed the matter with him at Ottawa last September, and ascertained from him that really the only substantial result obtained from the entire movement was that the names and ages of hundreds of thousands of men who might be liable for military service were obtained and made available when the next step was taken.

The next development was that Sir Robert Borden, after his return last May from the Imperial Conference in London, announced that while he was in England he had become satisfied that Canada had todo more than she was doing if the war was to be won, and that nothing else was left for her except toundertake Conscription. On the 16th of May, 1917, he announced a Conscription measure in the Canadian House of Commons, and I would like the hon. members to note the date. The Act was introduced a few days later, and passed thru both Houses, after much discussion, ultimately having to be sent through its final stages under closure, and it received the Royal Assent on the 20th of August, about three months later. Having taken this period to get the Bill through the Canadian Parliament, re-

gulations by which it was to be operated had to be then worked out. We gained this important advantage here, that all this work has been done for us.

The Canadian regulations were not ready for another two months, and the Proclamation calling up the first class of men, similar to the Proclamation we now propose to publish, was not issued until the 13th of October, meaning that another two months elapsed. Yet I note some criticism of the proposal with us to fix our date for May 24th, on the ground that it allows too long a period to elapse. But the Proclamation in Canada did not cover the whole case. It provided not only for the calling up of men, but that it might be possible for them to claim exemption, and they were allowed until November the 10th, or another month, within which to file claims for such exemption. After that, all the claimants had to go before Exemption Tribunals in different parts of the country, and here arose another difficulty. Canada's tribunal machinery, consisted of a local Tribunal for virtually every settlement, in all in some 1300. Each Tribunal had two members, one appointed by the County Court Judge, and the other by a Committee of Selection at Ottawa chosen from both parties in Parliament to ensure fairness.

If these Tribunals had final power, the matter might have been simple, but an appeal was allowed from these local Tribunals to what were known as District Tribunals, one for each military district in Canada. Of these there are fifteen, the country being divided for purposes of military administration into fifteen areas or districts, the smaller provinces having one each, and the larger ones two and in some cases three. But even this

did not end the difficulty, because there was a further Tribunal at Ottawa, constituted of Mr. Justice Duff, of the Supreme Court of the Dominion, who spoke the last word on every case. Thus, it will be seen that a man applying, first to his local Tribunal, could then appeal to the District Tribunal, and from the District Tribunal at Ottawa, and it requires no elaboration by me of this situation for you to realize that under these circumstances the getting the men into military service was a problem of no ordinary difficulty. Here we have provided for one Tribunal only, the Judges of the Supreme Court, and we will thus get quick action, but at the same time I think it would be well for hon. members to realize that the Judges, with the best will in the world, will not find themselves able to pass men over to the military authorities as quickly as many people amongst us would like to see this done.

Now let me just go thru this Canadian literature. Here is the Military Service Bill itself, comprising thirty pages (shows same.) Here is a red book of regulations under the Bill, comprising 99 pages. Here is a grey book of other regulations totalling 47 pages. Then there are these further pamphlets of amendments and additions making some twenty more pages or, say, 170 pages of printed matter for carrying out the Canadian Act. But this printed matter is by no means all that has to be considered, because I have here (showing them) a mass of some hundreds of sheets of typewriting or mimeographed material, all to the same effect. I think, therefore, it is not difficult for the House to realize how and why the Canadian Act failed to reach the expectations of its advocates. Another reason why it

failed is that the number of those who sought exemption was enormously greater than was expected. In Canada, as a matter of fact, 95 out of every 100 men liable for military service, filed an exemption paper; in the United States only 50 out of every 100 claimed it. It must be said, in justice to Canada, that there is difference, that Canada had already enlisted over 400,000 men by voluntary effort, and if these were figured on, it would, of course, reduce the disparity enormously, but, none the less, the large proportion of exemptions was a bitter disappointment to everybody concerned.

Nor were the exemptions confined to any particular Province or section of the country. Many people would have us believe that Quebec was the only backslider in this respect, but that is not true. The Montreal Weekly Witness, a paper published by the Dougall family, a Presbyterian and Prohibition Journal, with a high reputation, comes to my office every week, and it always has very reliable material on Canada's war effort. Its edition of March 13th. shows that up to that date only 27,000 men had been put into khaki, whereas it was expected that 100,000 men would be enlisted before Xmas. Up to the middle of April, an official bulletin from Ottawa says they had got 30,000, but out of that there had to be deducted 5,000 found physically unfit, who had to be discharged after having been accepted. The "Weekly Witness" quoted figures telling that the claims for exemption in Ontario were 118,556, and in Quebec, 180,889, showing that these two Provinces were in about the same relation, while other figures demonstrated that Quebec city had fewer exemptions than either Winnipeg, Calgary or Vancouver. The position in Canada, then, today, virtually

twelve months after Sir Robert Borden made his original speech declaring for Conscription, and nearly nine months after the Canadian Parliament passed the Conscription Bill, is that, despite all the efforts of all the authorities concerned in putting the Bill into effect, they had only secured about one-quarter of the men they expected to get. Therefore, it is not too much to say that this measure broke down hopelessly and must be regarded as a complete failure.

Our Bill seems to me to have one defect, namely, the lack of an organization for carrying out the measure. In Canada they have a Military Service Council, with the Deputy Minister of Justice as Chairman, and four other members, two nominated by Sir Robert Borden and two by Sir Wilfred Laurier, to answer absolute impartialty. The bill there is enforced, not by the Militia, but by the Justice Department, on the principle that a man is a civilian and must be handled by the civilian power until the stage where it transfers him over to the military as a recruit. Canada's Military Service Council has, however, not been a success. Anyone studying the ramifications of a Bill of this character, with all the material of which I have shown you samples today, can readily understand that it is not an easy or a speedy process for the making of soldiers, and the Canadian public have been bitterly complaining at the slowness of the work, and blaming the Minister of Justice, Hon. Mr. Doherty, because he sits for a Quebec constituency, and is alleged by some to have slowed down the machinery to placate the Quebeckers. In the Canadian Parliament a few days ago, Mr. Stevens, of Vancouver, a supporter of the Borden Government, rose in his place behind the Prime Minister and demanded that the Working of the

Bill be removed from the Department of Justice, which he described as an embalming emporium and transferred to some other Department. Premier Borden and Mr. Rowell, whom I might describe as Deputy Premier, both maintained that Mr. Doherty and his officials were doing everything possible, and that the breakdown of the bill was due to the flooding of the tribunals with applications for exemption.

That, I think, is quite true, and it is one of the pitfalls which we must endeavor to avoid in the operating of our Act by us in this Colony

Our procedure will be the same as Canada's to a certain extent. We issue a call and fix a time limit for men to come in. That is to be May 24—or only a month after the announcement of conscription, as against seven months in Canada. But we have to give every man a chance to file an exemption because many men may have valid claims, and, in due course, these claims will have to be heard and dealt with, because no man can be denied his right of common justice under this or any other measure. Moreover, in trying to simplify the proceedings here, we have restricted the work to the three judges of the Supreme Court, and these, with all the will in the world to push matters forward, are physically incapable of dealing with the vast number of claims for exemption which may be submitted to them, as promptly as some people will demand.

Next, it is important to remember, in considering the question of exemptions, that these may be granted on two grounds, first, on medical ground, and second, on the grounds stated in the bill. For instance, if a man claims exemption on medical grounds, he has to go before a Medical Board and be examined, and if they find him

unfit, that disposes of him entirely, but if the Board finds him not medically unfit, then he can claim exemption, this time on the general grounds set out in the Act, namely, that he has been discharged from active service, or that he has brothers on active service, or that he is the main support of dependents. On this claim the judges will, in time, have to pass, and by their decision will his future be determined. But all this is going to take time, and we would do well to remember that, and not to expect too much from this measure, or that its action will be speedy as many expected.

I would like to digress here for a moment in order to point out to the Government the need for an absolutely first class medical tribunal. In regard to this matter, I can speak with some knowledge, and I make bold to say, with some authority from my connection with the various committees and boards associated with what Sir Walter Davidson called "our improvised War Department," for the past three years, I think we have much cause for complaint as to the unsatisfactory medical examination work. Another member of this House, listening to me now, is associated with me on the Pension Board, and can confirm my statement that fully fifteen per cent of those enlisted in the forestry Battalion have had to be discharged because they were not fit for service, and most of them went overseas and were returned by the next steamer or the steamer after, all at a heavy cost. The same is true of a goodly number of men connected with the Regiment, and I think the Government will have to strengthen this Department considerably if proper results are to follow. In saying this I do not wish to be understood as complaining against

any individual or form of administration. This thing prevailed, both under the Patriotic Association at the start and under the Militia Department now. I complain of the system, not of the individuals, but I think the system ought to be changed and that promptly. I spent an hour last night trying to get attention for a man named Parsons. He was tubercular and had been at the Hospital on Signal Hill. From there he was transferred to the Bowcock Sanatorium but left there a few months ago and volunteered for the Regiment. Surprising to say he was accepted, but after a few weeks was unable to stand the strain of training, and had to be sent to the Jensen Camp. Here his conduct was not satisfactory and he had to be put out. He then sought board in the house of a widow who keeps soldier boarders, but is now very sick, is unable to obtain proper treatment, and she has asked us to get him out of her house, as several of her boarders have left and no others will take accommodation with her while he remains in her place. The case, moreover, is one of many familiar to myself and those connected with her while he remains in her place. The case, moreover, is one of many familiar to myself and those connected with patriotic work, and I avail of this opportunity here now of saying that I think that a situation of this character calls for prompt and vigorous action to prevent its further continuance unduly.

After this digression I would say that studying the matter, step by step, one finds that there are three classes of men to be considered, first those who have been coming in by hundreds the past month or so under the stimulus of the appeals by the returned soldiers and the pros-

pect of Conscription; second, those who will come in by May 24th or shortly after when they realize that this Bill is actually the law of the land and that they cannot escape its consequences; and third, those who have made up their minds that they are going to evade it as far as possible and disregard the call until measures are actually taken to force them to do their part. The first two classes offer no difficulties, but the third is one that is likely to prove somewhat of a problem, especially in a country like this, where there are hundreds of small settlements, each with its few eligibles. One of the methods adopted in Canada was to get reports from the officials, such as postmasters, customs officers, and the like as to the number and names of eligibles in each community. Another was to utilize letters from anonymous correspondents which, indeed, was a most successful means of keeping track of the defaulters. Although it is not usual to avail of information obtained by a class we term "informers," they did so in Canada; and they have circulars among this mass of material before me instructing the Conscription officials how to utilize such material. You can easily grasp that those who have their boys on active service and see their neighbours' boys at home, will send anonymous letters to the authorities telling on those, and that by this means the authorities will be put in possession of the facts which will enable them to round up scores, if not hundreds, of the men they need.

The next difficulty they had to face in Canada was that of rounding up the defaulters, and this proved no easy matter. It is not a pleasant task, and the class of men who had to be employed for it were those

who could be readily obtained for a more popular job. Perhaps the best illustration of the difficulty in this regard was afforded by the recent riots in Quebec. In the discussion of this whole subject in the Canadian Parliament, immediately after the disturbances, it was disclosed that one of the parties engaged by the authorities to apprehend slackers was a man with a criminal record, and Sir Wilfred Laurier, in deploring the em- rather startling observation that this ployment of such ptole made the man, Lavasseur, was as well known in Quebec "as Barrabas in Jerusalem." This reference will afford you an idea of how sharply the lines have been drawn in Canada in regard to this grave issue, and how necessary it will be for us to take the greatest precautions when the time comes if it does come, which I hope it will not, to bring to their duty the class of men who, as in England, "waited to be fetched." We should see to it that those employed for this difficult duty are men who can be trusted to perform it with the greatest amount of tact, and with notably clear and cool heads.

In Canada very latest reports say that out of 397,000 men who the Canadian census shows were between 20 and 25 years of age, only 39,000 had been secured up to last week or only one out of every ten and this despite all the efforts that were made by various organizations in Canada to bring defaulters to their duty. I do not say that we are going to find the same results, but I certainly think we ought to make up our minds that we are going to have a goodly number of men who will not respond to the call until the very last moment or who may have to be secured by drastic measures. In passing, I might say here that out of 687,-

000 men summoned to the colors in the United States last autumn, there were only 8,000 defaulters up to December 31st, which, I think you will agree, is certainly a marvellous record.

Possibly, as I make this reference to the United States, hon. members may feel that the time will not be wasted if I tell what the American system has been. Here is another mass of material smaller than the Canadian, dealing with the enforcement of the American Conscription Bill (shows same.) While it is not so bulky, this is due mainly to the fact that in America they have had everything revised and reprinted for the second draft to be called up this spring, and I have it all here in the printed form. In America, when that country went to war, the Government acted with exemplary promptitude. America declared war on Germany on Good Friday, April 6th, 1917, and a week later the Selective Conscription Bill was introduced into Congress. All the necessary preparations had, of course, been made beforehand, and when the die was cast the Military Department was ready. The American Conscription Bill provides for compulsory enlistment of all men between 20 and 30 fit for Military Service, but restricts the first call to 687,000 men. The last American census showed there were between these ages about ten million males in America, and of these called "registrants," or men liable to register, the authorities summoned 1,500,000 under the first call, in order to admit of the weeding out by medical tribunals of those who were unfit for war training. Roughly speaking, two months were allowed to get the machinery for dealing with these men in operation, and this work was likewise done in a manner calling for the warmest praise. The Gov-

ernors of the forty-eight states were made the instruments by which the Act was enforced in their respective States, and upon their State Governments, judiciaries and other departments was cast the duty of working this bill. A national registration was ordered and a day was appointed, June 6th, for such registration, which really was the equivalent of our calling up of men on May 24th. Exemption Boards were appointed in the meantime, so as to be ready to undertake service at once, and of these they were 4,000 employing 125,000 officials altogether, the great mass of whom gave their services free of charge.

In the United States, then, as they called up more men than they were likely to need, the method they adopted for fixing the order in which men were to be called was that of a big drawing or lottery at Washington, and this took place on July 20th. Every one of the 4,000 districts into which the country was divided for registration purposes listed the registrants therein from one upwards. The largest number recorded in any one district was about 8,000, so slips with numbers from 1 to 8000 were prepared and each one was put in an envelope and placed in a large box and then were drawn out, one by one. The first number drawn required the man bearing that number on the registration list in every one of the 4000 districts, to be the first to respond to the call; the second number drawn made the man with that number in each of the 4000 districts liable as the second conscript, if I may use the term, and so on. On Sept. 1st all men so called and who had passed the medical examination were obliged to go into camp in various parts of the country, and one of these camps, or cantonments, there were thirty-two,

designed to accommodate 40,000 men each, as it was intended to have a second drawing early this year, and to add men resulting from it, to those from the first draft who had not been sent overseas in the meantime. When I was going to Washington last September our train was held up for three hours at the station in Baltimore in order to let troop trains go thru which were filled with fine young fellows ready to do their part. On my way home I went out from Boston to Camp Devens, at Ayer, Mass., a run of about an hour, and saw the camp there, a veritable town with 500 wooden and iron buildings of every class, accommodating 47,000 men and having every possible facility for the comfort and conveniences of those therein, even to moving picture shows.

In giving this praise to the American organization, I do not for a moment mean to imply any disparagement of the Canadians, because I know that the Canadians in their way did as good work, notably at Balcarter, Quebec, where the first 30,000 men were trained, which established a record that I do not think can be approached anywhere, bearing in mind that the Canadians had to initiate everything from the very start, having nobody's experience to guide them.

I would next like to deal briefly with some few criticisms which were made yesterday regarding certain features of our military endeavour, and which I think I can show were clearly based on misapprehension. For instance, Hon. Mr. Goodridge complained that one of the difficulties he had to face in making a recruiting tour along the Southern Shore was that the people did not know what the pay or pension was to be. With regard to pay, I cannot understand how any person could be ignorant as to that matter. The pay

was fixed, in the first proclamation issued when the Regiment was started. It was clearly stated that our men of every rank were to be paid Canadian pay of the same rank, and that principle has prevailed all through. If people don't know this, it is not for lack of publicity or efforts to bring the fact home to them, because I cannot conceive of anything more that could have been done to copperfasten that knowledge. With regard to pensions, the conditions, I admit, were different, but in that respect we were only in the same boat as our British, Canadian, and American neighbours. None of these countries settled its pension scheme when the war started. We tentatively agreed that our pensions would follow Canadian rates, but the Canadians themselves did not fix even their first schedules until a year after the war began, and the next year they increased them again, and only a day or two ago in the Canadian papers I saw that a Parliamentary Committee was sitting this session also on pensions, which may possibly mean was still further advance. When I went to Ottawa in September, 1915, or twelve months after the war started, they were only putting in effect their first pension rates, which were \$22 a month for totally disabled man. A year later, when I went there again, they were starting a \$40 rate. Last year they were talking of a \$60 rate. What it will be this year I do not know. In the same way, in England, they have increased their pension rates two or three times, and their separation allowances five times since the war began, so that we of the Patriotic Fund have had to rearrange our grants several times as a result of this. In America, too, they had to adopt a modern scheme of pensions in

Congress last summer, coupled with a life insurance scheme, which is not possible for either Britain, Canada, or Newfoundland, because the Americans are now profiting by the experience of these countries to further ensure the position of their own men.

Several members have voiced criticisms of the Government for alleged defaults, but in speaking, as I can speak, with the knowledge acquired through being closely identified with our war administration from its outset, I can honestly say, without any brief for the Government, that the successive Ministries in this country have all done their utmost to facilitate the Patriotic Association and its various committees in carrying on the war. Some hon. gentlemen have said that Conscription should have been put in force earlier, and perhaps they are right. Their opinion has its value, and I can only set mine against it, but mine is that I do not think any Government two months ago could have induced this country to accept Conscription any more than one could have induced Canada to accept it 18 months ago or Britain three years ago. Conscription here came as a logical result of Lloyd-George's appeal after the German drive, nothing else could have brought it about. We know that when the war started, Premier Asquith had to weigh carefully every step he made, and he declared that Conscription then would have provoked a social revolution in England. He effected certain compromise measures, and then followed the Derby Bill with its twenty-two clauses for calling up men. It in turn had to give way for other measures, and finally, under Lloyd-George, as War Minister, real Conscription was brought into effect. But even a

few weeks ago the Engineers resisted a proposal to further comb out their membership, and then the Miners resisted a similar proposal, and finally Lloyd-George, badgered almost beyond endurance, declared that he did not see where the men were to come from to keep back the Germans if every industry was to succeed in its demand that it should be exempted from Conscriptive measures.

Likewise, in Canada, when the war started, Premier Borden could no more have got Conscription through than he could have stopped the war. It was three years before public sentiment was educated up to the point when the majority of Canadians would accept drastic measures, and even then, one whole Province openly resisted it, and, as a matter of fact, he could not have won the election last December which he was obliged to have only that he enfranchised the women relatives of the soldiers on active service, and denied the franchise to all the other women of Canada, and likewise to half a million of German, Austrian, Hungarian and Bulgarian nationality in the Western Provinces of the Dominion.

Again, in the United States, President Wilson could not have been elected in November, 1916, if he had attempted before that to bring about Conscription. The country was not ready for it and he would have split the nation into two halves, bringing about a condition somewhat akin to that of the Civil War period. He had to compromise and subject his country to humiliation after humiliation, at the hands of the Germans, until public sentiment revolted against any further indignities, and he was thus able to carry a united nation with him in the war policy for which

he ultimately decided. Only last week I had a letter from a literary authority in America, in which it was remarked that his country would have to pay a frightful price in human life for her failure to go into the war after the Lusitania sinking, and the answer I made was that I fully realized that, but that I had never been able to satisfy myself that Wilson could have brought his country in a day before he did if he was to have it united behind him as he ought to have if his war policy was to succeed.

It is easy enough to say our Government should have done this, that, or the other thing, but Conscription is a revolutionary step not to be lightly undertaken lest worse results ensue than those it is designed to cure. Last February the Recruiting Committee, of which I am a member, was invited to meet the Premier and the Minister of Militia, with a view to further action to strengthen the Regiment. At this meeting reports were tabled by the Government spokesman embodying the experiences of men with recruiting parties in various sections of the country, and these revealed that there were communities so hostile to our military effort that recruiters could not obtain accommodation in any house in the place, so that in one locality it was feared that they would have to put up a tent for purposes of shelter. As to other places, it was reported that the people declared we would be as well off under the Germans as we are now. Of another locality a prominent citizen active in recruiting said that if he were asked to go there to carry on a campaign, he would hesitate to do so because the people were so lethargic it was impossible to arouse them. Great praise has been given the returned

soldiers for what they did, and they deserve every word of it, but we ought not to be blind to the fact that some, at least, of the men resulting from the whirlwind campaign started by the returned soldiers, enlisted because they recognized that Conscription was coming at last, and they wanted to have the credit of going as volunteers rather than as draftees.

As to the numbers necessary, my Hon. friend, Mr. Bishop, made a suggestion which strongly impressed me, namely, that class 2 ought to be called up in September. This Bill is not my Bill, and I am not responsible for the principles it represents. If I were doing this thing, I am not clear but that I would call up classes 1 and 2 immediately, I would do this for two reasons, first, because now we are taking a lot of 19-year old lads into the ranks, who will not be fit to send into the trenches for at least twelve months, whereas if we enlarged the class or brought in two classes, we could pick at once the physically stronger men and train them intensively for the fighting line, to which they could be transported in five or six months. Indeed, the Americans now claim that they have so improved training methods that they can make a man fit for the front in thirteen weeks, but whether this claim can be maintained I am not prepared to say. However, there is no disputing the fact that we need men and need them very badly. In his famous appeal to the British nation in the House of Commons on April 10th., Mr. Lloyd-George said as follows:

"It is no use raising men unless they are raised in time to take part in the struggle this year."

Similarly in his appeal to Canada he said: "I . . . urge the Government of Canada to reinforce its

heroic troops in the fullest possible manner, and with the smallest possible delay. . . . Before this campaign is finished the last man may count.

Here he voices such a call for further assistance in the great cause which I trust inspires the whole of us, that no right-thinking man can put it aside. At the same time, with regard to our local circumstances, it is only fair that we should view the other side of it, and remember that if we call up too many men our staple industries will suffer, and we will not be put to the best use meanwhile. We should recognize that our facilities for handling men in St. John's are not unlimited. We found that out in the working of the Regiment in 1915 and 1916. To begin with, it is difficult to get equipment for a large force of men. The demands from every quarter are so great that woollen underwear, khaki outerwear, great coats, boots, and all other equipment are very difficult to get. Then, again, we lack accommodation. The capacity of the rinks is only about seven hundred men—to sleep in the large and eat in the smaller one; and if we bring more than that number here it is difficult to know what to do with them. Moreover, there is the danger of epidemics breaking out amongst them when they are in large forces, and making it impossible for us to send drafts overseas just at the time we have them ready. It will be remembered that we have had this experience more than once already. Further, to train contingents of that strength requires a good many capable instructors, and these are not available, I think, to the extent that we could desire. In that connection, however, I would like to say that I trust more use will be made of those employed in these two capacities hereafter than was made the last

time we used the rinks for barracks. Here, again, I am making no criticism of individuals, but I am criticizing a system which calls upon certain classes of people to give service only for an hour or two while being paid large sums of money. Certainly, no private concerns would stand for such a practice, and when I am answered that this is the system provided by the regulations, and that it cannot be changed, then I say that the sooner we undertake to change the regulations ourselves, the better.

For these reasons I think it is worth while to seriously consider whether the point made by my Hon. friend (Mr. Bishop) as to calling up the second class in September is one to act upon at present. As throwing light on this point, I want to call the attention of the House, and especially of my Hon. friend, to a declaration in the Official Bulletin published by the American Government at Washington, to serve much the same purpose as the Royal Gazette here, which in its issue of March the 12th announces that the War Department is planning to postpone the calling up of farmers until the seed time is over, so that the campaign for greater production of foodstuffs, now at its height in America, may not be hampered in the meantime. Here our fishing class is the equivalent of the farming class in America, and while I do not suggest for a moment that fishermen should be exempted, yet I do think that we ought not to call up fishermen or men of any other class unless and until we are satisfied that we have the equipment, the accommodation, and the training personnel to use this material to the best advantage. Otherwise, it were better to let the men remain at their ordinary avocations and help to up-

hold the economic structure of the Colony until the time when they can be more advantageously used in its military forces. Our point ought to be that made by Hon. Mr. Rowell, at Ottawa, a few days ago, and presented to us through the medium of the public despatches, namely, that Canada's first duty was to find fit men for the firing line, so that Canada's army there might be maintained at full strength, and the task Canada undertook at the outset of the war be carried out to the fullest of her ability, leaving the matter of men for farming and other purposes at home to be a secondary consideration, because the gaps there could be filled by employing women which policy was not possible on the battlefield; but that the men so called up should be diverted to other national needs when such was possible.

In conclusion, I would say that I hope the views I have expressed here will prove helpful to Hon. gentlemen in the consideration of the measure. Having given a good deal of study to the problems of our war effort, having been actively identified with several war committees since the opening of hostilities, and having had opportunities of studying the work undertaken by our Canadian and American neighbors, I felt that I ought to submit these points to Hon. gentlemen with a view to our making this Act as effective as possible, to our getting the men as speedily as might be, to training these men as fully as convenient, so that in perfecting the details of the measure we are asked to pass and in affirming again the principle we have adopted therein, we may preserve the reputation of this country and stand behind those we have sent overseas to fight for the right on the battlefields of Europe or on the oceans where our

flag has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Mr. Chair, man, I must apologize to this House and to the country that I am not in a position to give you a full and comprehensive detailed statement of the Newfoundland Regiment. I have asked for that information from the Minister of Militia, and hope to have it in a few days. I hope also in justice to our own Dominion, to have something to say on behalf of those who joined the Navy.

Mr. Chairman, the Bill before the House has my most cordial support, and further, I believe the Government is in earnest to see that it is faithfully carried out. We want no political shuffling with the measure before us. The bill we are dealing with now, is the first honest effort made by a Government of this country to handle recruiting. A year ago, from my place in this House, I brought before you certain accusations that were made against certain treatment of our boys. What was done in the form of an enquiry? Nothing.

Mr. Chairman, my whole heart is in support of the bill before the Chair, I don't care a rap whether its provisions are carried out by a National Government or by whom. We want man-power, and the soldier boys of our country demand the man-power. My position here today is not to talk politics, but to assist in getting the bill through, and see it put into operation. The Government who were in power from the declaration of war, 1914 I mean, up to the last session of this House, did practically nothing, except to provide the sinews of war. Everything was left to the Patriotic Association, presided over by the Colonel of the Regiment. I am not finding fault with what they did. What they did was done well, and cost nothing. What the work is costing now, I don't know.

It is true, Mr. Chairman, Sir P. T. McGrath, the Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Cashin, and the Minister of Militia, took a great interest in the Patriotic Association, and the work done by these men, and the Association, and all the other war associations, deserve the everlasting gratitude of the people of this Dominion.

I fully agree with the hon. gentleman who spoke yesterday on this Bill. Our people do not fully understand the real meaning of war, and it should never have been explained to them months ago—yes, two years ago. I was a member belonging to the rank and file of the late Patriotic Association, but I had nothing to do with any department of war work. Like many more, I was only a looker on. It was during the trying times of the Patriotic Association that a National Government would have been of great service to the country. When every District in the Dominion was represented in the House of Assembly this was the time for representatives of the people to have preached the gospel of recruiting throughout the country; it would have been an education to our people. I hope the method by which the Government expect to get the required number of recruits will be a great success. I repeat again, Mr. Chairman, the bill before the Chair has my earnest and cordial support. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment has brought glory and lustre to our Dominion that shall never fade away. To keep this glory and the flag flying over our loyal country, we must aim to send more men to help our boys in their time of need. We should at least be able to handle 5 per cent. of our population, of 12,500 for the Army and Navy.

Mr. President, what has this great Empire done in this great struggle for freedom. The figures compiled and quoted by Sir Auckland Geddes in the

British House of Commons. These figures gave the total strength of the British forces as 7,500,000 men. Of this number 4,330,000 had been contributed by England, and the number of men contributed by Wales 280,000, making a total of 4,610,000 by England and Wales, or 13 per cent. of the population of these countries. Scotland has given 602,000, a little over 12 1-2 per cent. Ireland has contributed 170,000 fighting men, or about four per cent. of the population. It is estimated that 900,000 have been contributed by the Dominions and other Colonies, and the remaining million by India and the African dependencies of Great Britain.

What has Canada done for the Mother Country in this great and fearful war now raging for 1265 days?

Sir Robert Borden in the Canadian House of Commons expressed the opinion the figure of 900,000 did not do full justice to what the colonies had done. He thought it should be nearer a million. But anyway the figures spoke for themselves. Australia and New Zealand had put more into the fighting line in comparison with their populations than Canada had done. The latest figures compiled in Canada up to March 31st, 1918, only one month ago, there had been 364,710 men of all ranks; of these 348,000 were N. Co's and men, and 16,000 officers, or about 4 1-2 per cent. of the population. A table of military districts showed that the men had been recruited in Canada as follows:

1. London	25,000
2. Toronto	76,597
3. Kingston.. .. .	39,393
4. Montreal	32,463
5. Quebec	8,389
6 and 7. Maritime Provinces.	37,205
10 and 12. Manitoba and Sas. katchewan.	75,503

11. British Columbia	36,475
13. Alberta.. . . .	33,193

Canadian casualties so far, are as follows: Killed in action, 25,912; died of wounds, 8,671; died of disease, 1,956; wounded, 106,185; prisoners of war, 2,736; presumed dead, 3,938; other casualties, 790. A compilation of those killed in action, died of wounds and disease, presumed dead and missing would show a total of 41,000 young Canadians who have given up their lives for their country up to March 31st last.

What has the Dominion of Canada done in proportion to the population

C.E.F. Volunteers.. . . .	453,600
Permanent Forces.. . . .	2,470
Active Militia	9,052
Can. Naval Reserve	3,310
	468,432 6%

Resident joined Colors various Allies	21,152
Recruited for direct Navy.	5,800
Drafted Under Military Service Act.	25,152
Available	41,644

Total Canadian forces or under flags of Mother Country or Allies, 537,126 or an average of the population about 6¾%.

The Anti-Loafing Law.

Already several municipalities have proceeded to round up their loafers. The rule that every man who is able must work or go to prison is a necessary one in these times, and it has been welcomed by those who do work and from whose earnings the loafers, directly or indirectly, must be fed and lodged. The regulations set forth in the recent Order-in-Council are these:

1. Every male person residing in the Dominion of Canada shall be regularly engaged in some useful occupation.
2. In any proceeding hereunder it shall be a defence that the person is:

(a) Under sixteen years or over sixty years of age.

(b) A bona fide student proceeding with his training for some useful occupation.

(c) A bona fide student in actual attendance at some recognized educational institution.

(d) Usually employed in some useful occupation and temporarily unemployed owing to differences with his employer common to similar employees with the same employer.

(e) Physically unable to comply with the provisions of the law as herein enacted.

(f) Unable to obtain within reasonable distance any kind of employment which he is physically able to perform at current wages for similar employment.

The guilty man be fined \$100 and costs or imprisoned for six months in jail or on a prison farm. The anti-loafing order, by the way, is a reminder of the usefulness of prison farms, for when a man can work and will not do so the prison farm is the proper cure. To put him in jail and feed him at the expense of the workers is a poor practice. The regulations give the police an effective weapon to use against idlers who contrive somehow to live at the expense of their neighbours.

Oak Farm

A few weeks ago, I understand, Oak Farm was offered to the Agricultural Board for one or three years at a very nominal rental. In one of our local papers I observed it had been taken by Mr. Chas. Lester I believe it was a mistake for the Government to refuse an offer of this kind. No greater investment could have been made to help win the war than the taking of Oak Farm. From what I knew of the late John Dwyer, a much respected member for St.

John's East, nothing would have pleased him more than the use of his farm to grow food stuff for our people. I offered to take it myself in the event of the Government's refusal to do so. The object that I had in view was to let it out in allotments to 200 families to grow potatoes, turnips, beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, lettuce, onions, sweet corn, tomatoes or anything the people themselves thought best. The cost to each man would have been about \$1.50 for the families to grow potatoes, turnips, season, the land on this farm is under the best cultivation, and the ground for growing potatoes and cabbage is considered to be the best in the Dominion.

"When The Boys Come Home."

Are you aware, Mr. Chairman, that every country that has been identified with the war has been making preparations for their coming back, and I hope the day is not far distant when earnest and ample preparation will be made for their homecoming and when you as members of the Patriotic Association, if you have nothing else to do, or nothing else to hear about, will spend your nights very profitably in listening to the reports of the splendid doings of our gallant lads. Not long since I read of a report of the Historical Committee and wondered what it was doing. I asked Mr. George Adams, the Chairman, a little while ago what the Committee was doing and he said it was doing nothing. I also saw Mr. P. K. Devine, another member, and asked him to get it together and hold a meeting. He told me there had been no meeting for a long while. Are you aware, Mr. Chairman, that this war has been raging 1245 days, and as far as I know, outside of the little my friend, Sir P. T. McGrath, and Mr. Robinson, Postmaster General,

have done in this connection, nothing of a substantial nature or of the slightest benefit to the people has been done to hand down to generations yet unborn the history of our valiant regiment in this war. I need not remind you what Canada has done in this respect. In every little municipality of the Old Country and that even the smallest town which sent boys to the war are using every means to record their glorious deeds and perpetuate their memory by means of photographs. A little while ago the British Government presented to Scotland, Edinburgh Castle, to perpetuate the valour of Scottish troops in the war.

Mr. Chairman, I observed the other day by a question asked in the Lower House what has been paid for the Stott building, and I find by the answer that the building is leased for a period of time at \$3,500 a year. Now sir, the Government may think they have done well, but sir, it was a mistake. The Government in choosing a building for the Militia Department and the other Departments should have considered one some parts of which might be utilized as a Soldier's Club for the use of our gallant lads who have returned. While we are speaking here of their achievements some of these dear boys are spilling their blood for us on the battlefield, and we ought to be doing more to aid them. We could in this building have something to be an inspiration to our boys after the great war is over; something that will perpetuate the memory of our boys. The Government were too hasty in the matter. Before they decided on this building they should have thought this matter out and submitted their suggestions to the gentlemen of the Committee who are trying to perpetuate the memory of our gallant

lads. Now Sir, it would have been easy to get the money. A loan could have been raised by debentures with coupons attached. Not less than 6 per cent should be paid and the loan could be for ten years. If such a building were put up the Government could have all these offices in the one building instead of having them all over town. It could be a building moreover not only for the Army and the Navy, but it might contain rooms for our boys who have returned home again. You could have there your Militia Staff, your C. H. E., and other offices connected with the Department of Finance and other departments, but this Government has followed out the policy of other Governments, "Save the farthing and never mind the pound." If the Government invested more money in buildings we would be very much better off to-day for buildings in this city. This is a matter not only for which the present Government must be criticized but all other Governments, for they are all alike in this respect. In addition to all these offices there would, as I have said, need to be a large room in this building decorated with pictures of the gallant lads who have fallen, and various war curios, where our returned boys could always drop in and spend a night. There everything would be congenial for them. They would all be at home with their associations and would appreciate it. It would always be a room to which out-ports visitors might go and look at with pride as a perpetual memory of those of their own sons who have died. It should be a comfortable room, open from ten in the morning to ten in the night Saturday as well as Sunday. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of our fallen in this great conflict.

Mr. Chairman, so far as I can find out our gallant lads were not in the thickest of the big battle that has been raging for the past two weeks, but our thoughts are with them thinking of their hardships, sickness and privations in their various campaigns. From late cable despatches we are glad to note that the whole British army and her Allies are in magnificent fettle full of calm confidence and unconquerable cheeriness, imbued with a glorious spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty, determined to stick it out doggedly, when defence is the order of the day, ready to strike, and strike hard. Our boys need men, and above all, they need the co-operation of the Dominion. Let there be no mistake, they are fighting for our national existence, for our lives, and for the lives and honor of our women and children. Mr. Chairman, I support the Bill before the House, being sure of ultimate victory, and of the only peace, the only peace which would not be treason to the heroes. Your sons and brothers, who have passed before us, over the Great Divide, in their self-sacrificing effort to safeguard the honor of our homes and the prosperity of our people, and to ensure the triumph of right, liberty and justice. I support the Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY—Mr. Chairman the hour is very late, and at this stage of affairs we have no time for flag-flapping, and I do not propose to say more than a few words in connection with the remarks of my hon. friend the President. I have already thrown him some bouquets this year, and I think he has done us a practical service today in giving us his review of conditions as they exist in Canada and the United States, and I think he ought to be congratulated on the clear manner in which this matter was placed before us. Now we are not

going to have the difficulties in this country as they had in Canada, but on the other hand we are going to have difficulties of our own; difficulties of an especial nature and I only want to say in reference to this matter that the thought that occurs to me, and that thought only emphasizes the position taken by my honourable friend Mr. Bishop, is that it is well that a date should be fixed in this bill for the calling out of these men by proclamation. Necessity is the mother of invention, and if a fixed date is set by the enactment itself difficulties will have to be met. Otherwise as these difficulties grow the tendency of postponing the call is going to endanger this measure. Considerable opposition (and perhaps an organized opposition from those not favorable to the bill will take form and work to defeat its ends) may tend to induce the Government to delay issuing proclamations under this Act, and so it would safeguard things if dates were embodied in this Act itself. It must be remembered that Newfoundland is going to be a difficult country in which to operate a measure of this kind. You cannot call men to report at St. John's from the Labrador and the Straits of Belle Isle at the same time as you call those of Fortune Bay and Conception Bay, and the method of calling these men out and of dealing with them will require serious consideration and will be difficult. The point that the President has raised with regard to the office of the judges of the Supreme Court as those best able to deal with the matter of exemptions is agreed but I fear the system has limitations. These judges will have to deal with all our men from St. John's up to Bell Isle east and west. Now that is going to be a difficult thing to do. A large number of these people will be unable to read or write, and it is going to take weeks

longer to get in touch with these to deal with their cases than with other of the nearer cases, and I am of opinion that selected recruiting parties might be sent to more distant sections with powers to grant exemptions. I think the Judges of the Supreme Court might adequately take the position of a Court of Appeal, but if they are to be the only tribunal I think important difficulties may arise. Everywhere that we look we can expect to see difficulties arising, and as I said before the tendency will always be uppermost to postpone action under this Bill. We know very well that one man recruited and sent this year is better than ten or twenty men next year; and as the call must come, as the law calls on the Militia Department, or whatever department is authorized under the Act, to call out the first class at least on a specified date, the tendency to postpone action will be greatly lessened. If no date is fixed if it is left to the discretion of the Government or the Department, the difficulties under this Act will become more complex. We have a peculiar political situation in this country and nobody knows just what will happen after a week or so. We can not say what will happen in the course of time before this Act is worked out. We do not know what changes, what political shuffling of the cards might occur in the meantime. Now I think that there should be appointed a committee, who will be come responsible for it. Personally I should like a committee partly at least composed of the acting members of the Returned Soldiers' Association, to whom this whole country is indebted, for doing work which without them would not have been done, and I think they have well earned the fullest gratitude of this House. These men know the circumstances of the

people. They know from personal knowledge things which would be indispensable to such a committee, and if the committee that my hon. friend the President has suggested as being desirable to be appointed for the purpose of carrying out the Act, could be composed very largely of these men who know the need and have themselves faced the facts of this conflict, I cannot but think it would be in the interest of the Act. They could be appointed to administer the Act not as servants but as principals. If these men were given the power of rejection if they could go around the coast with power to exempt, I can think of no fairer court or more honorable court than would be these returned soldiers, and I think then that the tribunal composed under this Act might form the Court of Appeal from these men. If, however, you are going to have this Court of Appeal or this Tribunal sitting only in St. John's, and you have a large number of men applying for exemption as in Canada and elsewhere, except in the United States—or if all these doubtful cases have to come up to St. John's for investigation—you are going to find it very difficult to get satisfactory results. To work out this Act then I think it would be desirable to appoint such a committee with certain powers and consisting largely of Returned Soldiers, as well as fixed dates on which men are to be called out and to have these two points incorporated into the Act.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the remaining orders were deferred, and the House adjourned till to-morrow at 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, May 2nd.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the Military Service Bill. Hon. Mr. Knowling took the chair of Committee.

HON. MR. BISHOP—Mr. Chairman, in view of the very great importance of this bill and the desire which I may say we all have that strict agreement should exist between both branches of the Legislature, I move that instead of attempting amendments here a Joint Select Committee be appointed to take into consideration and if possible come to an agreement upon the various sections.

HON. MR. MILLEY—Will that delay the Bill from going into force? Would we not get through it here quicker?

HON. MR. BISHOP—It is my opinion that it would expedite matters. That is my reason for making the Motion.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I think if I judge the member aright his idea is that if we get a Committee representing both Houses they will be able to agree upon amendments and so avoid our making amendments which they may not accept.

HON. MR. MILLEY—Past experience of these Committees didn't work out along that line.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I think that the session before last we had four of them and all worked out satisfactorily. I would personally support the motion.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—Mr. Chairman, I understand the object of this motion is to refer this Bill to a Select Committee of both Houses. Now I think that would expedite the Bill very much. And I have been unink-

ing over the fact that the ages under this Bill as Class 1, 19-24 years; Class 2, 25-29 years; Class 3(30-34 years, and Class 4, 35-39 years. This is the maximum, but we must remember that many of the brave lads that went across with the first five hundred were away beyond 24 years. We should call out some of the older men first, because one important thing that this House and Committee should remember is that since the beginning of the war in 1914 the Central Powers, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey have been putting additional men in the field who have become of age since. Germany alone has been able to put every year since the beginning of the war 500,000 young men that became of age, into the field. In addition to that Austria has been able to put in 400,000, and it is estimated that between them Bulgaria and Turkey have put in 100,000. Totalling these we find that the Central Powers from that source have put in upward of one million men a year who became of age since the outbreak of war. We have here the classes divided into 1, 2, 3, and 4, and it has been suggested in this House that the classes be combined, one with two, and four with three, as classes one and two respectively. If this were done I have no doubt that there would be no shortage of men after the new class 1 was called up. I beg to support the motion.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to the proposition of Hon. Mr. Bishop, in reference to a Joint Committee. I think that in that manner we could very much more satisfactorily deal with this measure. I would move the Committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—If I might

be allowed I would suggest to the hon. leader of the Government that this Committee be fortified with such statistics of the man power of this country taken approximately from the last census. It may be of very considerable value and I thought it might be forthcoming from the Militia Department before this time. I referred yesterday to important facts that we have not before us. I tried yesterday to get some information from the Department of Militia, but I have not yet succeeded. As a matter of fact they are more than blocked down there with red tape. My clerk went down for the information in question but was told it would take two or three days to prepare. Somebody came into the shop the other day and asked for some red tape. I had to admit to her that I did not have a bit in the shop; and that all the red tape of the city of that particular brilliant shade which she wanted was at the Department of Militia. Now if we have as much red tape as that in this little place of 250,000 people, how much red tape must there be in the large countries. We can calculate how much there would be in proportion. I hope the leader of the Government will get the information so desirable to have.

The Committee rose and reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I beg to move that a select committee be appointed to consider the Military Service Bill, and that the House of Assembly be asked to concur in this and appoint a similar number.

HON. MR. ELLIS—I beg to second the motion.

Hon. President announced the Committee would consist of Hons. Ellis, Bishop, Gibbs, Squires, Harvey,

Anderson, Milley, Goodridge and the Hon. President.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the remaining orders were deferred.

Hon. President informed the House that he had received messages from the Assembly that they had passed the accompanying bills, in which they asked the concurrence of the Council, namely, An Act to amend the Education Act, 1916; An Act to amend the Act respecting the establishment of a Permanent Marine Disasters Fund; an Act to amend the act entitled of the Keeping of Dogs; an Act to amend the Inflammable Substances Act 1916; An Act respecting the reporting of Missing Schooners; An Act respecting the publication of the Consolidated Statutes; An Act respecting the Ministry of Shipping; An Act to continue in force for a period of five years after the termination of the war the act in relation to certain powers in relation to exports; An Act to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, these bills were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

Hon. President read a message from the House of Assembly that in response to the Council's request they had appointed the following select committee to meet the Council's committee in relation to the Military Service Bill; viz., Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Finance, Acting Minister of Militia, Acting Col. Secretary, Acting Minister of Shipping, Messrs. Goodison, Parsons, Moore and Currie.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT — I beg leave to inform the House that it is the intention of His Excellency the Governor to attend here to-morrow at 3 p.m. to give his assent to the Daylight Saving Bill. It is proposed to

adjourn the House till then and to transact such business as may be necessary at 4 p.m. The Hon. gentlemen nominees of the Joint Select Committee on the Military Service Bill will meet their confreres from the Lower House and undertake discussion of the business.

On motion of Hon. M. Ellis the House adjourned until 2.50 p.m. to-morrow.

FRIDAY, May 3d.

House opened at 3 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

His Excellency the Governor having arrived, the Members of the House of Assembly having been summoned to the Bar of the House, His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the Bill Respecting Certain Changes in the Hours of the Day and Night.

Second reading of the Bill to Amend the Patents Act.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is merely a formal amendment to make two sections of the Act read uniformly. At present persons applying for a patent are obliged to take an oath that the patent has not been known or used in any other country. The object of this amendment is to allow applicants to state in their oath that a patent has been applied for in other countries.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Second Reading of Publication of Consolidated Statutes.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This Act will put the third series of the Consolidated Statutes into force as soon as the Consolidation Committee submits its report to the Governor in Council. The Roll of the Statutes will be deposited in the Colonial Secretary's Office and countersigned by the Col-

onial Secretary and Attorney General. This Act avoids the necessity of passing the whole Act through the Legislature section by section. It is mainly a reprint of the Acts which placed the first and second series of the Consolidated Statutes in force. The principal exception being that when the Acts are completed, which will be in about eight months' time, they may be put in force by the Governor in Council after scrutiny by the Attorney General.

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

Second reading of Imports and Exports Restriction Act, 1918.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is a bill which is introduced at the request of the Imperial Government for the purpose of controlling imports and exports after the conclusion of the war. At the present time the factories of Germany and the shipping in her harbors are not being affected by the war. Germany is in a position to dump her surplus stock in the Empire or the Allied countries immediately on the conclusion of the war, unless some such way as this is taken to regulate imports and exports. This Bill is a result of the discussions at the Imperial Conferences.

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

Second Reading of An Act Respecting the Reporting of Missing Schooners.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This Bill has been introduced at the request of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to avoid the unnecessary expense which is yearly caused the Government by sending steamers in search of schooners alleged to be missing. It often happens that the schooners which are

supposed to be missing have been safely anchored in some harbor. To avoid this the Minister suggested to the master of every schooner when wind or weather bound in any port to telegraph his whereabouts to the Department of Marine and Fisheries under a penalty. Appropriate penalties have been provided and a duty has been imposed upon every Customs Officer when clearing schooners to bring notice of the sections of this Act before masters of schooners.

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

Second reading of an Act Respecting the Ministry of Shipping.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This Act creates a Department of Shipping for the purpose of organizing and maintaining the supply of shipping and dealing with matters of transportation by land or sea, freight rates, marine insurance and all questions relating to the movement of freight in connection with the present war. It gives the Governor in Council power to appoint a Minister of Shipping, defines the duties of the Minister, ratifies the appointment of the present Minister and confirms all things done by him as Minister.

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

Second reading of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1908, to enable an employer who has been served with a notice of an accident apply to the Court at his own cost and to pay in the amount he considers himself liable for, before any action has been taken against him. Under the law as it

now stands he has to wait until the employee or the dependants of the deceased employee institute proceedings against him. The second section of the Bill gives the Rule Committee of the Supreme Court power to make rules regulating the practice and costs.

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

Second Reading of an Act to Amend the Education Act.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is merely a formal amendment. When the Education Act was consolidated in 1916 it included a pension scheme which was practically the same as the scheme introduced in the Act 2, George V, Cap. 4, but in the repealing clause of the Consolidated Act the pension scheme of 1912 was omitted. The intention of this Act is to remedy this difficulty and to repeal the pension scheme of 1912.

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

Second Reading of An Act Respecting the Marine Disasters Fund.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is an amendment of that Act to enable necessitous persons such as artisans or laborers to benefit from the fund. At present it is confined to fishermen and seamen.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Second Reading of Inflammable Substances Act.

HON. MR. ELLIS—This is an Act to increase the specific gravity of illuminating oil from 8.05 to 8.17. There is another section which prohibits the keeping of more than two

casks of oil in any place in St. John's, Harbour Grace, Carbonear, Brigus. This is to prevent persons storing oil in open spaces which may be a danger to the public.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

Second Reading of An Amendment to the Law Relating to the Keeping of Dogs.

HON. MR. ELLIS—The object of this amendment is to enable persons living in an area where the keeping of dogs is now prohibited to send a petition to the Governor in Council to have the proclamation revoked. Under the Act as it now stands no provision is made for the revocation of the proclamation and once the Act is in force it apparently remains in force forever, owing to the lack of the necessary machinery being provided in the Act except by implication.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until Monday next at 4 p.m.

MONDAY, May 6th., 1918.

The House met at 4 o'clock p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT informed the House that he had received a message from the House of Assembly that they had passed the following Bills, in which they asked the concurrence of the Council: "An Act to Restrict Temporarily the persons who may engage in Business Connected with Certain Non-Ferrous Metals and Metallic Ores," and "An Act Respecting the Identification of Criminals."

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these

Bills were read a first time and were ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Military Service Bill was read.

HON. MR. ELLIS—Mr. President I have the honor to lay on the table of the House the report of the Joint Committee on the Military Service Bill which sets out that the said Bill has been considered by the Committee and various amendments recommended.

These amendments are embodied in a draft copy of the Bill attached hereto.

For the benefit of Hon. members who were not on the Joint Committee I would say that these amendments are as follows:

First it is proposed to create a Military Service Board to enforce the Act.

The second point is that the age for inclusion in the First Class liable for onscription is raised to 25 years instead of being left at twenty four as in the original bill.

This should give us an extra 200 men, if it assumed as I think it may be fairly be, that the original five year class from 19 to 24 would yield us a thousand men.

By this arrangement the younger lads, those from 19 to 20 who are not physically matured, can be maintained here until they grow stronger, while the other lads can be sent overseas as soon as sufficiently trained.

The third point is that an agreement has been reached whereby, the date originally set for the Proclamation, namely, Empire Day, May 24, is to stand, with the idea that thereby we may be able to get a great number of men to offer themselves during the intervening days.

The fourth is that in order to avoid the bringing into St. John's men obviously unfit for overseas service such as those with visible deformities or again those who would come under the exemption clause by reason of having relatives already in the Regiment, the Judges of the Supreme Court in their capacity as Tribunals under the Act may appoint Magistrates and others in the outports to act as Commissioners, for the purpose of granting conditional exemptions, until the judges can give their final decision themselves.

Finally, as already stated, we propose to exempt Theological Students.

Before closing, Mr. President, I would like to say a word in recognition of the spirit displayed by every member of the Joint Committee in the effort to perfect this Bill, and I think all will agree that the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Bishop that the reference of the matter to such a Committee was a very happy one, and I think that in view of the very great importance of this measure to the whole country—the success of the labors of this Joint Committee is something for which we have cause to be thankful.

I would now move that the report be received and that a draft Bill be referred to a Committee of the Whole House, and if any further information is desired I shall be glad to give it.

HON. MR. BISHOP—Was it not understood in the Joint Committee that the proclamation was to be issued forthwith on the passing of this Bill, and that a Board should be appointed to be called the Military Service Board, to whom would be relegated the carrying out of the Act under the proclamation, that the working of the Act after the Government had issued the Proclamation would be handed to this Board.

HON. PRESIDENT—That I think is

true in its essentials, but hardly so in its details.

HON. MR. BISHOP—If we leave this as it is at present that could not be done.

HON. PRESIDENT—The difficult, that appears, as I see it, is that the Military Service Board, if given such power, might call out all four classes at once. I do not think they would do so, but no such power ought to be vested in any Board. The change my hon. friend suggests would appear to be based on the contingency that the Government may not intend to carry out the Bill loyally. For my part I do not doubt their sincerity and therefore I would not put too many obstacles in their way. I think the Military Service Board should have the right to make recommendations as to the calling out of classes or sub-classes, but it ought not to have the power to call out men on its own motion. I suggest we might insert the word "forthwith," which would require that class one be called out immediately, but after that I would allow the Government to have the power to divide future classes into sub-classes, so that if it were not necessary the full number in a class need not be called out.

HON. MR. SQUIRES, K.C. — The point at issue between the Honorable the President and the Hon. Mr. Bishop appears to be clearly defined. It is now understood that the proclamation shall issue immediately upon the passing of the Bill, and that the proclamation shall set the 24th of the present month of May as the time limit for Class 1, which is to be called up under the proclamation to be immediately issued to report. The actual date at which Class 1 shall be called on to St. John's for active service being left in the hands of the Military Service Board. Mr. Bishop's

contention is that the date upon which Class 2 shall be called up should be determined by the Military Service Board. The President takes the position that that date should be determined by the Governor in Council. I fully appreciate the fact that the Governor in Council, which is the body responsible for the introduction of this conscription measure and responsible for its enforcement, might not be prepared to hand over their powers in that connection to a Military Service Board. On the other hand I am of the opinion that it would be in the interests of the enforcement of the Act if the calling up of the various classes were left in the hands of the Military Service Board instead of in the hands of the Governor in Council. The Military Service Board would be appointed by the Governor in Council, and while not under their control in the absolute sense, would nevertheless be under the guidance of the Governor in Council and would act in harmony with the will of the Governor in Council. I feel that there would be more public confidence in the just enforcement of the Act and in the freedom of its operations from political and personal influence if the carrying out of the Conscription measure were left in the hands of a responsible and representative Board rather than in the hands of the Department of Justice or Executive Government. It is understood that the Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Justice, will within a few weeks be leaving Newfoundland for England. He will consequently be absent from Newfoundland during the months when the enforcement of this Act will be undertaken and largely carried out. I consequently feel that the Bill would be strengthened and would command a larger measure of

sympathy and support if its operation was, so far as possible, left in the hands of an independent Board rather than in the hands of the politicians who constitute the Executive Government.

HON. THE PRESIDENT—I am not here to speak for the Government, but I strongly maintain that no Government can be expected to abrogate its functions and put in the hands of irresponsible people so momentous a matter as that of calling out of any class or classes of men under the provisions of this Act. When I use the term irresponsible, I do not mean it in any offensive sense, but in the sense that a Military Service Board appointed under this Act would have no responsibility to the people such as a Government has, and for which it has to answer to them at the polls. Several gentlemen of this Chamber and both Hon. members who have just spoken, have been members of Executive Councils, and would be loth, I feel sure, to part with the powers which it is here suggested should be given to a subordinate Board. This Board, influenced, solely by a desire to get men, might feel that the whole four classes ought to be called up at once, whereas the Government, having not alone to consider our requirements from a military view point, but also the carrying on of the Colonys trade and the maintaining of its sound, economic position, might feel that the need could be met by calling up only a few hundred. The Governments view would have to prevail, else the whole theory of responsible administration would collapse. In no country that I am aware of, and I have given a good deal of study to these problems, is such power vested in any Board as my Hon. friends suggest placing in

the hands of this new Military Service Board. In England every class of men is called up by order-in-council, and in Canada the same practice prevails. We saw only a few days ago the whole system of exemptions in relation to Canadian citizens of 20, 21 and 22, wiped out and these men called up peremptorily, not by the Military Service Board in that country, but by an Order in Council framed and passed by the Government itself. In the United States, again, the calling up of men by the various drafts is ordered by the President and his Cabinet, not by the organization created under the Selective Conscription Act. Under these circumstances, I think that we cannot assume for a moment that the Government would consent to have its functions invaded and its good faith impugned by any suggestion to take out of its hands the power to call up classes or sub-classes from time to time, and vest such power in any four or five men appointed under this section for the purpose of carrying out the Act.

HON. MR. HARVEY—This clause which deals with offences against the Act is another example of a matter I have taken exception to every year for probably ten years, that is this absolute lack of discretionary power by the Courts. Just fancy a man, a labourer without education unable to read or write, without malice or any intention of defying the law, failing to carry out the Act in this regard and being liable to imprisonment for not less than one year. I object to that entirely. Suppose a man's mother or wife begs him not to go—there will be many such cases—that woman is subjected to a penalty of not less than one years imprisonment. And again if no action is to be taken without the assent of the

Minister of Justice, it means that no action at all will be taken, because no Minister of Justice will sue a woman if he knows she is to be sentenced to a years' imprisonment for such an offence. I dislike these penalties of "not less than" and think they should be cut out.

HON. MR. POWER—I quite agree with Hon. Mr. Harvey. I can conceive of such cases where there might be a delicate woman, and the very fact of her man's going would be enough to cause her to make use of some expression and if it came to the ears of a policeman and she was reported, she would be liable to this terrible penalty. I must object to such a law.

HON. PRESIDENT—I was going to suggest that we put in also a money fine. Cases as suggested by my hon. friend might be met by a fine of say \$50, and not be sent to prison. If we put in a money fine it might be left to the discretion of the Magistrate.

HON. MR. ELLIS—I do not think that is the class of person referred to at all, these mentioned by Hon. Mr. Harvey and the President; but to the out-and-out anti-Conscriptionist.

HON. THE PRESIDENT—As a further precaution, so that no undue penalty be inflicted I propose that a section be included to provide for fines.

The committee rose and reported the Bill passed with some amendment, which report was received, and on motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis it was ordered to be read a third time on tomorrow.

Second reading of the Legislature Extension Bill

HON. MR. ELLIS—I beg to move the second reading of this Bill. As I stated a few days ago the necessity

for this Bill is to give the Government time to carry out this Conscription Bill, and to solve the many problems that will come before us during the next year by reason of the lack of tonnage, shortage of coal and food. These are principal reasons why the Government ask for an extension of their term. If the measure fails to pass and the Government are compelled to go to the Conscription Bill; I believe it would be nullified completely. If we are sincere in the carrying out of this I think the measure should pass unanimously. I beg to move the second reading.

HON. MR. MILLEY — My reasons for opposing the second reading of this Bill are because it has come to us from only 13 members of the House of Assembly, also, and very important too because the City of St. John's is now unrepresented in the House. I am aware that St. John's West is represented by the Minister of Militia, but he is under pay of the Government, and has (or ought to have), all his time taken up in administering the affairs of his very important department. I am also aware that St. John's East is represented by Mr. Higgins, but he has recently accepted the position of Speaker and we all know that in accordance with long established procedure the Speaker's voice is very seldom heard in the House of Assembly on any occasions except those pertaining to the exercise of his office. It is therefore patent to everybody that St. John's is not represented, while other parts of the Island have their full quota of representatives.

The oft-repeated and common sense maxim "No taxation without representation" should not be lost sight of by this or any other government. St. John's has never objected to taxation, it has borne a large share of

all taxation imposed by this and all preceding Governments. Last year when this House rejected the Profits Tax Bill, it was sent broadcast over the world that the wealthy men of the Upper House objected to taxation. Those who were responsible for such reports knew full well how maliciously untrue they were, and some of them have since admitted the fairness of the attitude of those of us whose sense of fair play actuated us to do as we did last year. The very fact that the Government intends adding an income tax to the Profits Bill Tax is eloquent proof of the wisdom of this House last year in urging a fairer and more reasonable system of taxation than the one we considered it wise to reject. As a result of this wise action on our part last year we are now deprived of any power to deal with money bills. We therefore demand that we have as far as St. John's is concerned, proper representatives in the House of Assembly which is the only place where we can be heard when matters of taxation are being discussed. I consider it will be manifestly unfair if another system of taxation is imposed upon St. John's while we are without any proper representation in Parliament. I do not wish to be misunderstood, and here I wish to call the attention of the representatives of the press here present to what I say. I am in favor of taxation and plenty of it, to meet the conditions due to the war, but I am not in favor of taxation without proper representation being allowed to those whose right it is to decide the basis upon which such taxation shall be levied.

I have spoken chiefly of St. John's. I have no doubt other gentlemen present will press the same claim for other unrepresented districts. I would be willing to support an ex-

tension of Parliament if all (or nearly all) the members were sitting; but I cannot assent to an alteration of our constitution when the request for it comes from less than half the members of the Lower House.

Sir Robert Borden wished an extension of Parliament last year and could have secured it by a party vote, but because the opposition would not make it unanimous he appealed to the country, rather than alter the constitution by a mere party vote.

HON. MR. ELLIS—As the hour is late, I move the debate on this Bill be adjourned until to-morrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the remaining orders were deferred, and the House then adjourned until to-morrow at 3.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, May 7th., 1918.

The House met at 3.30 pursuant to adjournment.

The Military Service Bill as amended was read a third time, passed and ordered to be sent to the House of Assembly with a message asking for their concurrence in the amendments.

Second Reading of Legislature (Extension) 1918 Bill.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE—Mr. President before this Bill is read a second time I would like to say a few words. I will be brief. The Bill is a very important one and requires of all very serious reflection and consideration. There was nothing more or less than an attempt on the part of the Government to bracket this Bill with the Conscription one. I personally fail to see any kinship between them. I do not see any affinity between these two bills. The one is a very proper one. One most necessary in order to do our duty towards the Mother Country and ourselves, and very properly it has passed through

all its stages in this House unanimously. But this Bill is one that I do not feel I ought to allow to pass without recording my strong opposition to it. We have not an elective Government. We have not an elective Assembly. They are there as a Government simply by process of unscrupulous conduct—conduct which ought to make this House very careful of the powers which it is asked to place in their hands, for about two years. A Government composed as it is of a majority made up of servants of the Government or officials deriving emolumentary benefit from the existence of this Government. According to the Constitution the House of Assembly should consist of thirty-six members, while as it now stands five of these seats are vacant; two are dead, and four are absent from the country. Mr. Morine I notice has come back, which reduces this number to three. Taking this eleven from the normal 36 you have but 25; of that 25 the majority are office holders, whose interests are to hold on to office as long as possible. It is true they claim to have taken the positions from patriotic motives, but why should they continue it longer? Why not let them appeal to the country now? Why are they not prepared now as I believe they were last spring? Having taken a Registration and shown themselves ready for an election there is no reason why such should not be held here now. Why not do here as they have done in Canada and Australia; and why regard the Military Service Act as an excuse for making it necessary to hold themselves in office over their time. Why need the Government stay in power on account of this Act. They have carefully provided themselves for the future by getting departments created to look after this. We

have for carrying out the Conscription Act a department. We have a department also to look after the Tonnage question. We have a body for Food Control, Sir, a body of which you yourself are Chairman,—and I fail to see how we have been so affected in Newfoundland as to be unable to hold an election.

Now, Sir, this Bill comes up to us and it is for us to see how it is sent up. It was created and passed in the Lower House by 13 to 2. Thirteen is one vote above a quorum which is twelve. There were ten members absent from the House when the vote was taken, and we cannot but assume that their absence was purposely arranged to save them from voting in favor of this measure; otherwise they were grossly negligent in their duties and we may fairly assume that they were opposed to this Bill.

Now these are serious considerations for us to think over before we grant an extension of Parliament.

It is contrary to the Constitution that the term of Parliament should be extended, but it was in the Imperial Parliament, but that case is as different from ours as chalk is from cheese. It prides itself upon its honour, and the government is not a matter of bargaining as it was in this case. They have extended their Parliament, it is true, but if it is so it is only the exigencies of the case that made it so. This Bill comes to this House as the act of a body of men, all of whom are office holders who are anxious to hold on to the spoils of office for another two years, as if the election is postponed it will nearly be that period before they require to meet, and yet we are asked to continue the power in the hands of these men. Now, Sir, we know very well what has been said and written that there are members of that gov-

ernment very fond of that cry known as Confederation. We know they have been associated with outside men of very great influence who are in favor of Confederation, and what is to prevent these thirteen men from carrying Confederation into existence. They have the power but lack the principle. I say again the Government is not an elected one and not representative. They are there simply through false and improper use of their power. There is no more difficulty in an election in Newfoundland where the people are more law-abiding than in any other colony. This election ought to come off next October, and if people are seriously considering their position they will throw out this bill and let the Government go to the country, and if the people then sustain them, let them stay there; they will then be there by the voice of the people. Some may say the people do not want a change, but how do they know that; let the people choose. It is one of the glorious principles of our Constitution that we should have representation. I say again we have no similarity to the British Parliament, where a very large number of the members are engaged in doing their duty on the fields of France and Flanders, and many of them unfortunately have been killed. The same power that these men here have displayed in barring the people from their proper representation is that by which we are now asked to entrust them with power for another two years. The election was postponed last fall on the score of economy. Economy! Economy associated with this Government, when we look and see how money is daily squandered; how parts of the country are favored at the expense of others, and for the benefit of associations or companies. Every

vacancy that occurs in the Old Country is immediately filled, and there is no reason why we cannot have an election here in October. I do not know that I need enlarge on this matter now, when we go into Committee I may have more to say. I beg to record my strong opposition to this Bill.

HON. MR. GIBBS—I desire to make some references with respect to the measure now before this House. I would point out to honourable gentlemen that in considering this Bill and in coming to a decision as to how they shall record their votes, it would be well for them to reflect upon the fact that a very grave constitutional question is at stake. The history of representative government down through the ages has been one of bitter sacrifice and struggle upon the part of men who set duty before self interest; who put the interest of the state before their ease and indulgence in order that those who come after them might enjoy a greater measure of freedom. The rights which we enjoy today have not been won without much sacrifice, trial and tribulation. We are asked in this legislation, which now comes before us, to give up that which is so surrounded by heroism and sacrifice upon the part of men who strove to do their duty and to give to the world representative government and democratic institutions such as we now enjoy in this country. It is true, Sir, that inroads have been made from time to time upon representative government and that some who enjoyed privileges endeavoured to retain them at the expense of the people, but it is the proudest boast of English history that there have always been found men who braved danger and rose superior to their own private considerations in order that they might win from the

privileged classes that which was necessary for the betterment of the masses.

If we are asked, what are the practical results of the work of these men, we have to tell the questioner to look around him, and in the sight which meets his eyes will be found the ready answer. On every side he will see liberty, prosperity and happiness. In our system of Government we intrust in the hands of the majority for a limited period certain rights and duties. We have in this Dominion, as in other parts of the Empire, what is known as party government. Parties seek the vote of the electorate upon certain defined policies, and the electors in turn pass judgment upon those policies and select by secret ballot the party and political principles by which to carry out a certain line of policy. It is returned for a specific period, and it must abide by the laws and customs of the country. In the powers that are conferred we keep alive the spirit of liberty, because if the constitution of the country did not limit and define the period for which a Government can exist, then of course there would be no liberty in that country, where rights and duties of Governments are not limited.

Let us examine what are the limitations which we place upon Governments in this country? If we looked at the law we will find that it is expressly laid down that "The House of Assembly shall continue, notwithstanding the demise of His Majesty, for four years from the day on which it shall by proclamation be appointed to meet, unless sooner dissolved, and no longer." It is not possible to put into the English language words which more clearly define and lay down the principle that the House of Assembly shall continue for four years and no longer, unless sooner

dissolved. That is the law, and are we, who are supposed to be law makers going to be law breakers? Are we going to set an example in the making of laws, and then be breakers of them? This, Sir, is the position we are asked to place ourselves. The words respecting the death of His Majesty are there because years ago his death dissolved the legislature, and as that was undesirable the law was amended.

Now let us go further into this question. The law also provides that whenever a vacancy occurs in a seat in the House of Assembly, the Governor shall within six months issue a writ for a bye election. It does not say he may, but it plainly states that he shall. It is imperative. There is no discretion in the matter. This law has been openly and fragrantly violated for some time past, and we are now asked to continue and to acquiesce in the violation of these laws further.

Let us proceed and examine the conditions of affairs in this country. The law very clearly says that "no person, except Departmental heads, shall be eligible to be elected or shall sit or vote as a member of the House of Assembly, who shall hold any office, place or appointment of profit or emolument, under the Government of the Colony, or from any board or public body connected with it, or who shall directly or indirectly by himself or by any person in trust for him, or for his use and benefit, or on his account, undertake, execute or enter in whole or in part, and contract or agreement for or on account of the public services." Now has this law been carried out? It is just as well for honourable gentlemen to look this matter squarely in the face. Honourable gentlemen know quite well that there are men who have been

appointed to positions by the Government of this country who are still members of the Legislature, who retain their seats in the lower chamber in open violation of the very law which I have just quoted. Three gentlemen were appointed to different positions, one a Purchasing Agent, one a Judge of the Central District Court, and the third as Controller; yet each of these are today members of the House of Assembly, notwithstanding the fact that it is a gross violation of the law. I desire to ask honourable gentlemen in this House if they are prepared to vote for a continuance of this disgraceful condition of affairs, for a violation of public rights that would not be tolerated for twenty-four hours in any part of the Empire except this country. Was public opinion fallen so low; are we so apathetic and indifferent to our rights, to purity of our representatives, to the necessities of electing men who are not the paid servants of governments. Are we going to permit representation of the people by men who are holding their positions at the will of authority who must of necessity do as their masters tell them in order to hold their positions. This is the condition of affairs which this bill asks us to continue.

The law which is as clear as it is possible for the English language to make it, further provides that "whenever any member of the House of Assembly of this Colony shall accept any office, place, or appointment of profit under the Crown or under the Government of this Colony, he shall by writing under his hand, tender to the Government his resignation of his seat as a member of the House of Assembly." Now! has this law been observed? All honourable gentlemen need do is to let their minds go back a short while, and as

I have already pointed out, they will remember that members of the House of Assembly were appointed to public positions notwithstanding the fact that the Act says, that in such cases they shall tender their resignation. They have not done so up to the present time. In fact one of them in open hostility to the very spirit of the Act has taken his seat in the House of Assembly this present session. Are we going to tolerate this state of affairs? Is that the example we are going to set to the country and to the rising generation? Is this the precedent we would set to the youth of to-day, who are growing to the manhood of to-morrow.

We are asked to extend the life of a Legislature whose councils are controlled, which is not free to pass legislation and to do work that is essential and necessary for the welfare of this country. I submit, Mr. President, that it must therefore be apparent to honorable gentlemen that the Constitution limits the life of a parliament to a period of four years, beyond which it cannot be extended without the consent of those who made it. Those who made that Constitution can abrogate it, amend it or extend it as the case may be. The people of the country are the makers of the Constitution and they are the only ones who can alter it, amend it or extend it. It may be said by some honourable gentlemen who do not agree with me in my opposition to this measure that the people of this country elected the present legislature. That is correct but not the present government. The people of this country never elected them. The present government is the result of a dishonest and corrupt bargain made by politicians in this country in order to carry their ambitious schemes and designs. Our Government, like all

other representative governments within the Empire, is elected for a specific period. When that period expires it ceases to be representative and its continuance is in opposition to the law and the constitution of the country. A legislature must represent the whole people, not a part, or a section of it; but the whole people. What is the composition of the present legislature? Does it represent the people according to the spirit of the Constitution? It does not, for a large number of the electors of this country are not represented at all; they have no voice whatever in the enactment of legislation. As has been pointed out by the honourable member on my left, in a house now composed of fifteen members thirteen out of thirty-six have sent this legislation here to us for our approval. Thirteen of them have sent this bill here and have asked us to pass and seal it with our approval.

The Districts of St. Barbe, Fortune Bay, Placentia Bay, Bonavista Bay, St. John's East and West are either not represented at all or only partially so. Notre Dame Bay, Bay de Verde and Harbor Main are short of their representation in the Legislature at the time this Bill was before them, and consequently the people of the districts I have named were not consulted about it, and had no voice in the enactment of this legislation in the House of Assembly.

Now if we compute the population of the constituencies I have named, we find that in the aggregate, they form a majority of the population of the whole country. This, Sir, is a very serious aspect of affairs.

According to the last census Bonavista District has a population of 22,894 persons; Bay de Verde has 10,213; Carbonear 5,114; St. John's East 25,135; St. John's West 20,550; Placen-

tia and St. Mary's 16,099;; Hr. Main 9,471; Fortune Bay, 9,889; Burgeo and La Poile 7,193, and St. Barbe 10,481. These figures show a total population of 137,639, or more than half the population of Newfoundland.

If we compute the population of districts which are short of their full representation in the Legislature, and those districts with no representation at all in the Assembly, we will find that 90,246 citizens had no voice or part whatever in the enactment of this legislation. It is not possible to find such a condition of affairs existing in any part of the world, even in countries where autocracy is ruling. It would be difficult to find a Legislature which does not represent one-half the electorate asking for the enactment of this Bill.

Conditions such as I have described demand the serious attention of all irrespective of political views and party affiliations. Nothing can do more harm or give affairs a more unsatisfactory aspect than the passage of this bill without the people's seal and approval being first placed upon it.

We find in the present Legislature members who have no intention whatever of again seeking re-election, men who have been promised positions, or who have their commissions in their pockets. If you eliminate those who are promised positions, or who have promises of positions in writing, I do not think you will find more than nine members of that body who voted for this bill now before us, because, any man there with a promise of a position or with his commission in his pocket, ceases to be a member and has no right to vote on a bill of this character.

Another section of the representatives are the servants of industrial corporations. The aims of these cor-

porations are known to all of us. It is not necessary for me to refer to that. These men cannot exercise the free-will which their positions as representatives of the Legislature not only calls for, but demands. I now refer to members who are supposed to represent the Fishermen's Protective Union, and in referring to them I do not do so in their personal capacity. I speak only of their public character, as public servants, as representatives of the people. Messrs. Abbott and Winsor, members for Bonavista, I understand, are employed by the Union Trading Company. Mr. Grimes, member for Port de Grave, is in the employ of the Union Trading Company as well. Mr. Halfyard, the present Acting Colonial Secretary, was until quite recently an employee. The Prime Minister, Dr. Lloyd, was likewise until recently the solicitor of the F. P. U. and its subsidiary companies. Mr. Jennings, member for Twillingate, is another employee of the Trading Company. The President of the Trading Company does not mince words when he says "the aims and objects of the Union are represented by him and have for their object the domination of the public life of this country."

The paid servants of the Industrial and Trading Companies are some of the members who voted for the extension of the life of this Parliament.

In a House of fifteen members there are, I think, nine members who are not connected with companies referred to, who voted for this bill. There is still another serious view of the question to which perhaps Honourable gentlemen have not given a thought. It is this: The members of the Fishermen's Protective Union who are at present in the Legislature, according to some rule of that association, when seeking the support of the

organization must pledge themselves under oath that they will obey the dictates of the Council, which nominated them.

In connection with this matter, I do not ask Honourable gentlemen to take my word for the correctness of the statement. They need only turn to the official organ of the organization, the "Evening Advocate," and in the issue of November 19th last, we find there stated in the report of the Convention held at Catalina, the following: "Every candidate selected by the F. P. U. is now to sign a pledge to resign seats in the Assembly when called upon to do so by a petition properly signed by a majority of the electorate of a District. No Union support will be given any candidate that refuses to sign such a pledge. Union members are by their oath bound to resign seats in the Assembly when called upon to do so by the District Council that selected them as well as by a petition signed by a majority of their constituents. Members by their oath are bound to resign their seats in the Legislature should they be called upon to do so by the District Council that nominated them."

The oath they take is not alone illegal, but it strikes at the very foundation of the freedom of the Legislature. These members are not free agents, a restraint is placed by that oath upon their liberty of action; they do not and cannot represent the country, they are subject to the dictation and control of the council that nominates them.

In a legislature, of the composition of the present, can it be said that the welfare of the country is the object aimed at in legislation emanating from such a source. Honourable gentlemen in this branch of the Legislature are supposed, when occasion

demands, to rise superior to party and political affiliations and deal with Bills from the view-point of the best interests and welfare of the country. The time has now arrived, as never before, when it becomes imperative for us to act and deal with this question from a constitutional standpoint; otherwise, what is going to become of our representative government? Is it to exist in name only? Are we to have the shadow and not the substance?

We are told that, because of the tremendous struggle now raging in Europe an election is not desirable. A distinguished cleric some time ago sounded a note of warning in this country when he said: "Let the people therefore take warning and beware lest the well-meaning sacrifices made by citizens of every class and party in the public interest be exploited for their own ends by those who are always found ready to use even the gravest national emergencies for their own advantage." Whether the distinguished gentleman, when he uttered those words, had such a state of affairs in view as now confronts us it is difficult for us to determine, but he at least foresaw with the wisdom of a seer, the condition of affairs that we are now dealing with. Upwards of six months ago we warned the country of what is now aking place.

The war I contend, and honestly so, is made to serve a kind of camouflage to cover the designs and aims of those who today control the Government. Many of us have read that in all ages and lands national crises and disturbed conditions have been taken advantage of by designing men for ulterior motives, and we have history repeating itself today in our own country. In other countries, as pointed out by the Honourable Mr. Goodridge, elec-

tions have taken place. They have been able to find time notwithstanding their magnificent contributions to Empire to place public matters before the people and to ask their opinion on the public questions that confront them, and the people in all instances have given satisfactory answers. Why should we here not have an election. What is there going on here in this country that the people should not be given the right to say who shall rule and control the destinies of the country? There is nothing that should engage our attention more seriously than matters of this kind. We are told that we are not to have an election because it is unpatriotic to do so. Not patriotic! Is patriotism of a different type here from that found in other parts of the Empire

This comes from a House that is absolutely controlled by Ministers of the Crown. Out of thirteen who voted for this measure in the Lower House, eight are Ministers of the Crown. Even though the Legislature had not thus lost its independence of character, we might under the circumstances very rightly ask, what right have we to violate the law under which it came into existence? Its very existence depends upon that law, it could not exist one moment without that law being there. Everything we do in life is subject to the control of some kind of order, either of national or divine origin. If we had no law, for that is what this bill means we must eventually revert to chaos, and anarchy must prevail.

Perhaps some hon. gentlemen may say that they see no harm in consenting to the passage of this bill by voting for it, but I would remind the House that when you establish a precedent you do not know where it will end.

It may be an invasion of the Consti-

tutional rights of the country and the people today, it may be a violation of property rights tomorrow. Once you admit a vicious principle of this character you do not know where it will stop. The viciousness of this principle can be seen if the hon. gentlemen will only think over the matter seriously. We are asked to establish a precedent that is foreign to the spirit of legislation in the Empire. It has never before been attempted in the other Dominions. Once we admit that the political expediency or a crisis such as we are now passing through may be used to violate the Constitution under which we live, then we are standing on very dangerous ground. All we have to do is to read the lesson of English history, and learn for ourselves that invasions of this character have always been attended with dangerous consequences. The brightest pages of English history are those in which such encroachments have been resisted. Men have gone to their death resisting invasions of their rights, such as are being attempted here today.

I think it was Sir Philip Francis, in his appeal to the people of England when they were struggling and making sacrifices to wrest from the privileged classes the rights essential for the welfare of England and its people, who said: "Never suffer an invasion of your political constitution however minute the instance may appear, to pass by without determined persevering resistance. One precedent creates another. They soon accumulate and constitute law. What yesterday is fact, today is doctrine. Examples are supposed to justify the most dangerous measures and when they do not suit exactly the defect is supplied by analogy. Be assured the laws which protect us in our civil rights grow out of the constitution

and they must fall or flourish with it."

He warns the people never to suffer an invasion of their rights no matter how minute, without a determined resistance against it.

Now this Bill, as I have said, is the outcome of a dishonest and corrupt bargain between politicians. It does not date from to-day or yesterday, but goes back further, before the war commenced. We are asked to prolong the life of the Legislature because it suits the designs and ambitions of scheming politicians.

Another eminent man whose name will be cherished as long as the great Republic of the United States lives, Daniel Webster, in a celebrated speech of his said: "The spirit of liberty is indeed a bold and fearless spirit, but it is also a sharp-sighted spirit, it is cautious, sagacious, discriminating far-seeing, intelligent; it is jealous of encroachment, jealous of power, jealous of man. It demands checks, it seeks for guards, it insists on securities, it entrenches itself in strong defences, and fortifies itself with all possible care against the assaults of ambition and passion. It does not trust the amiable weakness of human nature, and therefore it will not permit us to overstep its prescribed limits, though benevolence, good intent, and patriotic purposes come along with it."

The principle introduced in this Bill is a far reaching one in its application, because the right of election is of the very essence of the Constitution under which we live, and if you take away this treasured right of choosing representatives and deprive the people of it you throw down and dismantle an edifice reared by the sacrifices of men in other ages. To admit the right, to change the Constitution without the consent of

the governed, without the assent of the people is to admit that the Governor, the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly have an arbitrary power which they do not possess. The right is not an arbitrary right. The legislative branches which make the law are either directly or indirectly chosen by the people. To admit the principle now before us is to admit the Legislature has an arbitrary right to change the Constitution without consulting the people. When we say that the Legislature is supreme, and you have often heard that expression, we mean that it is the highest power known to the Constitution, that it is the highest power in comparison with the other subordinate powers established by law. We use the word in its relative and not its absolute sense; and I submit with all sincerity, and contend that the position which I have already put forward is absolutely correct.

Functions of the Legislature are limited by the forms and principles of our Constitution. The powers of the Legislature of Canada are limited by the British North America Act. Likewise the powers of the Legislature of Australia are limited by similar laws, so also the powers of this Legislature are limited and defined by the Act under which it was brought into existence.

If this doctrine be not true, then the Executive and the Legislative powers might be united in the same hands and they might dissolve the institution by Act of Parliament. But you cannot admit any such thing. It would create anarchy throughout the world if any such right existed. Rights are subjected to certain qualifications. Members hold their property subject to certain liabilities, enter into contract subject to conditions and stipulations and in like manner the

Legislature comes into existence subject to the law and the Constitution. Members of the Legislature are the trustees of the people. Let us get these facts in our minds, not the fact that the Government, the Council and the Assembly are the sole controllers of the destinies of the people of the country. They do not own the country or the people. They are the trustees of the people elected to perform specific duties.

A great English authority, Lord Brougham, says: "Any interference under any pretence with the rights of the people to full representation in Parliament is a serious infringement of the fundamental principles of the British Constitution. The encroachment of a Sovereign on the rights of his subjects, his trampling upon the liberties which the Constitution secures to the people is a full justification for resistance to this authority." You will note that he counsels the people of England to resist such an attempt. This was said at a time when liberty was not of the type which free institutions have made it. Anson, who is one of the greatest authorities on Constitutional law and whose text books are recognized in all British Courts of Law throughout the Empire, makes this part of the Constitution very clear. He says:

"Efflux of time operates to dissolve a Parliament in virtue of the Septennial Act, 1 Geo. c. 31, and this was a modification of the provisions of the Triennial Act of 1694. The last mentioned Act was a limitation on the prerogative possessed by the Crown to keep a Parliament in existence as long as it pleased. The necessity for such limitation had become apparent, in the reign of Charles II., who retained for seventeen years the Parliament called at his accession. Events show-

ed that a House of Commons, if it was kept in being for so long a time after its election, might cease to represent the people; and if the House depended solely on the Crown for the continuance of its existence it might be ready to favor the policy of the Court. For this and other reasons the Bill for Triennial Parliaments was passed by both Houses in 1693, but William withheld his assent until the Bill came before him again in the following year. It then became law, and so until the beginning of the reign of George I, the law stood. Within six months of the death of Anne, that is, early in the year 1715, the Parliament which had been in existence little more than a year, it became clear that the operation of the Triennial Act might produce serious inconvenience, if not actual disaster. The succession to the Crown was in dispute, rebellion was still smouldering in the north, and there was risk of an invasion. Under these circumstances, and not perhaps from any theoretical preference for septennial over triennial elections, Parliament prolonged its own existence to a term of seven years. This is the present rule, and Parliament if not sooner dissolved by royal prerogative, expires by efflux of time at the end of seven years."

Until recently then the duration of Parliament was for a period of seven years. Prior to the passing of the septennial Act the duration of Parliament has been limited under the Triennial Act, 1693, to a period of three years. This latter measure had abused their power of summoning and dissolving Parliaments at will for the furtherance of their own interests. The necessity for some such limitations had become strikingly apparent in the reign of Charles II., when the Parliament called at his accession was

retained for over 17 years. A House of Commons continued in office so long after their election could hardly be said to represent the people.

It became clear that the operation of the Triennial Act might produce inconvenience if not disaster. The succession of the Government was in dispute and there was likelihood of a rebellion. Under these circumstances the life of Parliament was prolonged for seven years. This Act was passed solely because rebellion was smouldering; because the right of succession was in dispute and because it was necessary to keep the Crown of England from passing into hands not entitled to it. In order to safeguard the public welfare it became necessary to make the life of Parliament seven years. Now, of course Parliament is for a period of five years. In 1911 an Act of Parliament made the life of the English Parliament from seven years to five.

I would also refer to another eminent authority who wrote upon this matter. The following is an extract from the work of Mr. Leonard Courtney, entitled "The Constitution of the United Kingdom."

"Among the early changes tho not the earliest affecting the Parliament of Great Britain was one, the constitutional propriety of which has been much debated. It has been noticed that William III. assented to a Triennial Bill. The first Parliament of George I. had scarce begun to sit before it was apprehended that a new election might return a House of Commons unfriendly not only to the Ministry but to the Hanoverian succession; and an Act was passed extending the duration of Parliaments to seven years. This step would not be justified now when the principle of popular sovereignty is firmly established; and it must be defended as

he necessity of a situation that might otherwise have developed into a revolution. It must be remembered also that the electorate and the disposition of electorate privileges were wholly different in 1716 from what they are now and a general election could scarcely have been described as an appeal to the people without a perversion of language. The greatest danger in the act lay in the possibility of further legislation tending to restore the old abuses of unlimited parliaments; but it has in fact remained unchanged ever since it was passed."

There is yet another authority, Professor Dicey, on "The Law of the Constitution," from which I desire to quote. He says with respect to the Septennial Act: "These remarks miss the real point of the attack on the Septennial Act and also conceal the constitutional importance of the statute. The 31 Peers who protested against the Bill because among other grounds "It is agreed that the House of Commons must be chosen by the people and when chosen they are truly the representatives of the people, which they cannot be so properly said to be when continued for a longer time than that for which they were chosen; for after that time they are chosen by the Parliament and not of the people who are thereby deprived of the old remedy which they have against those who either do not understand or through corruption do wilfully betray the trust reposed in them; which remedy is to choose better men in their places." (Protests of the Lords 1.p. 228.) hit exactly the theoretical objection to it. The peculiarity of the Act was not that it changed the legal duration of Parliament or repealed the Triennial Act: the mere passing of a Septennial Act in 1716 was not and would never have

been thought to be anything more startling or open to graver censure than the passing of a Triennial Act in 1694. What was startling was that an existing Parliament of its own authority prolonged its own legal existence. Nor can the argument used by Priestly and in effect by the protesting Peers that Septennial Parliaments were at first a direct usurpation of the rights of the people; for by the same authority that one Parliament prolonged their own power to seven years, they might have continued it to twice seven like the Parliament of 1641, having made it perpetual to be treated as a blunder grounded simply on the "ignorant assumption" that the Septennial Act prolonged the original duration of Parliament. The contention of Priestly and others is that members elected to serve for three years were constitutionally, so far at least the delegates or agents of their constituents, that they could not without an inroad on the constitution, extend their own authority beyond the period for which it was conferred upon them by their principals the electors." There are countries, and notably the United States, where an Act like the Septennial Act would be held legally invalid; no modern English Parliament would for the sake of keeping a Government or party in office venture to pass, say a Decennial Act, and thus prolong its own duration; the contention therefore that Walpole and his followers in passing the Septennial Act violated the undertakings of the constitution has on the face of it nothing absurd."

I submit it is not possible for the opponents of this measure to stand on more solid ground. Custom, usage authorities make our position clear and impregnable, and prove beyond doubt that this bill has for its object

the enactment of a law which is a gross unwarrantable invasion of the rights of the people of the country

It is urged that because of the extraordinary conditions which prevail oday throughout the greater part of the known world, this Parliament should be prolonged. Hon. members who make use of this argument have evidently not read the history of England. If they go back to the days when the reform movement was launched in England, when the masses of the people, led by such men as Russel Gray and others were demanding the rights which had been denied them for many years, they will find that at that time the Reform Movement involved the country in one of the greaest controversies known in English history. Chaos industrially and commercially existed in England; agriculture was at a standstill. It was a period of great unrest fraught with tremendous issues. Notwithstanding all this, Russel and the other public men associated with him regarded the rights of the people as of paramount importance, and as absolutely necessary to the welfare and prosperity of the country.

During these times of stress and trouble the Reform Movement gradually gained in momentum and strength until it at length succeeded in winning for the people the rights which the privileged and the Tory classes of England had so long withheld. During the controversy which raged round this movement all sorts of expedients were employed for the purpose of defeating it. The opponents of Russell and the Liberal Party did not hesitate to point out the excesses and fiendish crimes perpetrated in the name of liberty and justice during the reign of terror in France. They warned the country against any extension of power to the masses, lest

they might become drunk with the frenzy of their new found liberty and inaugurate a similar state of affairs in England. The inaugurators of reform were likened to Robespierre and Danton. It was said that they would use their power to slay and destroy, to tear down and demolish the splendid structure of the British constitution which had been the heritage of centuries of struggle. But these specious arguments and the subterfuges of the privileged classes could not stay the great wave of reform which swept over the country. The Reformers paid no attention to the gloom and terrible pictures that were drawn by the Tories, but continued their work which was afterwards crowned with such signal success. Their efforts were indeed the turning point on the road to progress and to true Liberalism in the British Isles. It was the beginning of a period, the most remarkable in the history of the world. It gave the watchword of genuine liberty and of self-government a place in the mind of countless millions. It changed the destinies of civilized humanity. It inaugurated a period of great commercial and industrial expansion. It was the golden era of colonial development. It was the time when the foundation of that Greater Britain beyond the seas was well and truly laid. If the British nation had listened to the catch cries and vaporings of the privileged classes who endeavored to withhold from the people their liberties, the hands on the dial of the clock of progress would have been stopped, the predicted resolution might have become an actual reality and that glorious page of England's history might never have been written. I also in this connection refer to the momentous crisis with which the United States was faced during the Civil War.

When the country was divided into two warring factions, one desiring the abolition of slavery, and the other looking upon the traffic of human beings as lawful and necessary.

When the people under the wise leadership of him whose proud boast was that he was a rail splitter and born in a log cabin, declared that the nation could not be half slave and half free; when under this plain man of the people they determined to put an end to this iniquitous traffic in human beings; when Europe was watching with jealous eyes the conflict that was waging, looking for an opportunity to interfere and to prevent the spread of Republicanism; did the Republicans and Democrats then debate as to whether or not in the midst of this fratricidal strife there should be an election? Not at all. They regarded an election as of the utmost importance. The free institutions for which the men in blue were fighting and dying could not properly exist without a reference to the people. An election was held and at a time when the men in grey were encamped within sight of the White House, and hundreds of thousands of men were under arms and fighting in the ranks of the Union armies. The people chose a second time as their President that great and unique figure of the world's history, Abraham Lincoln. And what happened? Not long afterwards the country was thrilled with the news of Sherman's march to the sea. The Union went on its way in triumph. Sheridan through the fall and into the winter cleared the valley of the Shenandoah, the avenue through which the North had been three times invaded. Thomas defeated and dispersed a Confederate army in Tennessee. Within a few days after that President

Lincoln addressed the people and said: "You cannot have a representative Government without an election." He told the people that if the rebellion could force the country to forego a full election, it might already claim to have defeated the constitution of the country. He retorted it as absolutely essential to the existence of the Republic that that people sitting in Congress should be elected representatives of the people.

We are asked here in this House, with very little to disturb the people, to invade the rights of citizens and to take away from them that which is preserved and guaranteed to them by the Constitution. We are asked to place our mark of approbation on the acts of men who are now leading the other House of this Legislature and who are there as the result of a corrupt political bargain. We are asked to place our seal of approval on the actions of the Government now in power, a government that does not represent the free will of the people of this country

I ask Honourable Gentlemen to view this matter in all seriousness, because we cannot afford to give our adherence and support to the principle that without the consent of the people any government can stay in power just as long as it wants to.

I appeal to this House to exercise its undoubted right in this matter by rejecting the second reading of this bill.

TUESDAY, May 7th., 1917.

HON. F. McNAMARA—I have given this matter a good deal of consideration, and while I am very much opposed to an extension of Parliament, and to the placing on the Statute Book of such a precedent, I feel that in order to have the Conscription Act a success, I must support the

measure now before the Chair.

The Conscription Act and the Extension of Parliament Act must go together. You cannot separate one from the other. Unless the Extension of Parliament Act is passed, the Conscription Act cannot be a success.

There is a feeling in some quarters that the Conscription Act is likely not to be enforced, and that it is to be "smoke-screened" and that it is likely to be discrimination in favor of the fishermen. This report is being circulated by disloyal people, and those, possibly, not in favour of the measure. Of course, there is no truth whatever in this statement, but the mere fact of its being said will give some idea of the kind of matter that would be used if we were to have a General Election at this juncture. I have had some little experience on political campaigns and I know enough to say that some candidates, at least, are not always honourable enough to say exactly what they mean when addressing their constituents. I can imagine a case of a candidate on the platform appealing to his hearers to uphold the traditions of the Flag, and devotion to the Empire and other "falluting platitudes, and "on the quiet" his agents, canvassers and possibly he himself would be going to the people and saying, "Look here Tom, Dick, or Harry, this military business is all right when left to soldiers and to countries with large populations, and even if they took every man out of your district, it would make no difference to the war. Never mind that talk I got off at the hall last night, you vote for me and I will see that you and nobody belonging to you will be asked to risk your lives fighting the Germans." This is the kind of material that would be used to-day in connection with an election,

and this is the kind of language that will help to kill the good expected from the Conscription Act. The most imperative need of the hour and the one and only thing that matters in the world to-day is to win the war, and as Newfoundlanders, are we, after playing such a glorious part in this struggle going to jeopardize the continued withdrawal of the Regiment from the ranks by creating trouble, confusion and discord amongst the electorate by starting an election under the present trying conditions of the Empire? I say no, and I feel that there is loyalty enough amongst our people to see this Extension of Parliament Act in the right light and agree with the Government that under present extremities the holding of an election would not be conducive to the welfare of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, or to the share we are taking in this titanic struggle. The Conscription bill may be dropped unless the Government get a chance by the enacting of this Extension Act and I therefore feel it my duty to support this measure.

HON. MR. ANDERSON — The Bill before the House calls for the extension of the life of Parliament. A year ago we discussed extension of life. Under the Bill before us we are asked for one more year, bringing the date of expiry of the present Government to the autumn of 1919.

Mr. President, the old picture of the absolute monarch, or autocrat, directing the whole of his people's lives by the fiat of his word, has no place in modern politics. Conceivable ne may have been in the tiny states of Greece, in which it was possible for a ruler to know every one of his subjects by name. The so-called autocracies of modern Europe, of which the most conspicuous are Russia and

Turkey, are wholly bureaucracies. In such countries nineteen-twentieths of the daily work of government is in the hands of a caste, which is always open to the peculiar claims of class prejudice, selfishness, and corruption, and which must be ranked as the lowest type of government possible in a country with any pretensions to civilization. The close official atmosphere in which its members live renders them peculiarly insusceptible to those popular feelings which must, at times, be either respected or stamped out by force; while the traditions of their profession cause them to regard the community as existing to serve their own purposes rather than to realize its own happiness. In international politics, such a government is, no doubt, a formidable power. It maintains a tenacity, a calculating selfishness, a continuity of policy, an indifference to means, which often prevail for a time against the more human methods of higher organizations. But, even in external politics it is apt to fail in the long run, because it does not command the sympathy of its subjects.

The next type of government is that which we may describe as constitutional. It arises where a community, which has formerly been ruled by a bureaucracy, has succeeded, without destroying its bureaucracy, in placing legal limitations upon the executive authority. Such limitations usually take the form of a charter, or "constitution" granted by the former autocrat. Governments of this type are those of Spain, Austria, Prussia, and other German states; and the mark of them is, that that the executive authority is bound by legal limitations, and by legal limitations only. The head of the state has guaranteed to his subjects certain legal rights; but there is no

pretence for saying that, beyond these limitations, the discretionary power of the executive is exercised at the pleasure of the people. The presumption is, that the head of the state may do anything which the constitution has not expressly bound him not to do. Every day we see the Federal executive in Germany doing things of which the Reichstag, as a whole, disapproves; and such a state of things is not unknown at Washington.

The third type of government is that which may fairly be called popular. It is constitutional element of great importance, viz., that the executive, be it king or president, exercises its undoubtedly legal functions according to the wishes of a body which may fairly be said to represent popular or public opinion.

The machinery by which this harmony is achieved is usually that of the cabinet of ministers amendable to a popular chamber, which is itself amendable to a popular electorate. But there is no necessity for this precise form of machinery, as we see it in Switzerland.

It is, of course, well known that England, after passing through the stage of constitutional or limited monarchy, which we may reckon from 1215 to 1715, gradually and almost imperceptibly entered upon the stage of popular government which it is a misnomer to term monarchy. Since its nature has been realized, it has become the great object of the ambition of democratic movements. It has been introduced at least nominally, in France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway and Greece, and very generally in the English-speaking colonies in Australia, Canada, and South Africa. Unlike the constitutional type of government, it is rarely formulated in official

documents; it depends on custom rather than on express law.

In this Dominion the term of Government has been four years.

In the month of October, 1913, two parties went to the country, what was popularly known as the People's Party, and a combination of the Bond party associated with the Union party. When the poll was declared it showed 21 for the Government and 15 for the Opposition. Since that time many political summersaults have taken place. The member for Fortune Bay, Hon. Charles Emerson, was appointed to be Registrar of the Supreme Court. From Placentia Bay, Mr. Devereaux has gone into the distilling business, popularly known as "putting spots on the crackie;" a beautiful business and a position to be proud of, which position was manufactured by an act of parliament. Then my friend, the Hon. Frank Morris, occupies a very comfortable position which had been long vacant, a Judge of the Magistrate's Court Bench. Then John Dwyer, member also for that district has passed on. He represented that district for many years, and I question very much if anybody who occupied a position in the Lower House was more popular with all parties than my old friend, Honest John, who to-day lies sleeping in the silent city. Then we come to the Speaker of the House, W. J. Higgins, not dead but sleeping. He has become silent because he is the moving machine. In St. John's West, Sir E. P. Morris, now Baron Morris, dead and buried so far as Newfoundland is concerned. Another old friend who is now amongst the past is Mr. M. J. Kennedy, one of the most successful contractors in this city. I knew him for many years, and never knew him to say anything against any man. He has often come to me on Saturday

nights during the sessions of the House and asked me if I thought he had done his duty during the past week; if he had done what the people had sent him there for. If any man ever did his duty, that man was the late M. J. Kennedy. Mr. J. M. Kent resigned his seat in March 1916, and why that seat has not been filled I do not know. Then Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Kennedy died in January 1917.

The point I wish to make is that St. John's East and West are not being represented in the Lower House, and that the National Government of to-day is only a burlesque. We have a government composed of Hon. Mr. Lloyd, Hon. Mr. Coaker, Hons. Crosbie, Cashin, and Mr. Ellis and Mr. Clift and others, all excellent gentlemen, but a peculiar and most marvelous combination; and it is the first time in the history of the colony at least as far as I know when the capital of the colony has never been properly represented in the Lower House or on the Executive. When I say it is a burlesque, it is better, it is a dramatized comedy. Now there is a note of warning sounded; I note in the Telegram to-night, and that is that this combination is about to lead us into confederation. It is called "the plot." I am not acquainted with the plot, but so far as I am concerned, I dare them to lead this country into confederation at least without the people's consent. Now we have had so many ministers created in this country during the past two years I do not know whether any of them are likely to occupy ministerial positions other than political; but there is one thing I would suggest and that is that in addition to the other ministers, there be created a Minister of Economy. A year ago when we were discussing the Business Profits Tax

Bill, the Government got an extension of time to carry it out. If the government at that time had taken the advice of those who were opposed to that tax, not with any hostility to the government because they were only too anxious to do everything possible to carry it out, but if they had taken the advice relative to an Income Tax on the lines of the Dominion of Canada Act, we would be better off to-day. It should make little difference whether ideas come from the Government or the Opposition, if they are good, they should be accepted. But last year when the Lower House retired to their Chamber and introduced a bill to clip the wings of this House, and some of the vile speeches made at that time were no credit to the country of those who made them, this House was not represented in the spirit they wished to be represented to the country. There were misrepresentations and every conceivable attempt was made to lower and degrade this House! and I do not care a rap whether the government or any government passes measures to carry out vindictive policies it is not fair or reasonable. Notwithstanding all these facts I believe the government are in earnest in the carrying out of this Conscription Bill, and if I did not believe so, I would not be a party to supporting the second reading of this measure, because as I have said before, the representation in the Lower House is not only a burlesque and a comedy, but it ought to be dramatized. I could understand a National Government being composed of the best brains the country could produce at this time; I could have understood a National Government if composed in 1915; I could have understood a National Government at this time if composed equally of members of both

sides, but what do we find? Out of two parties in 1913, with a Government membership of 21, and an Opposition of 15, we find six Opposition and three Government men in the Executive to-day. That is not a National Government; if you want a National Government you should have an equal number of both sides. Mr. President, the life of the Government expired 30th October last, but it has had a resurrection. We gave them one last year, now we are giving them another on conditions, and they are, that if Confederation is going to happen, the people of this country are to have an opportunity of expressing their opinion. I note the Minister of Finance anticipates a revenue this year of over five million dollars. He is going to get it, for with ad valorem duties on our commodities, and with the prices of everything in some cases three times as much as before, the revenue will correspondingly benefit. And with foodstuffs all over the world advancing, I would not be surprised at our fish being worth this year from 12 to 15 dollars a quintal. Mr. President, I am going to support the second reading of this bill, and I re-echo I do so for two reasons; first, the government in the carrying out of the Conscription Bill will be serious and in earnest; and second, that in any question of an international nature which may arise at any moment, the people will have a voice. So far as the Conscription Bill is concerned, I should like personally to see my hon. friend the Minister of Militia severed from party politics, and to have plenary powers in the carrying out of that act, and the executive to have no control. It is a military measure, and the Government are only artificial soldiers. One man will do more than your board of four or five, because there will be no

strings to pull. As it is they are bound to be pulled the wrong way. And I believe if the power were given entirely to the Minister of Militia it would be more satisfactory to the government and to the country, and would give better results. Under ordinary conditions were we not faced with this Conscription Bill I would vote at once for the dissolution of the government and an appeal to the country. For these reasons I support the second reading.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I have very much pleasure in congratulating my hon. friend opposite on his witty and wise speech. I feel that what we want here is a clear daylight on the broad situation, and daylight is the specialty of Hon. Mr. Anderson. The great question with me is what effect this measure is going to have on our war effort. I have listened to the most eloquent address from the hon. gentleman on my left, but what interested me most was the question why he had not delivered it at the last session. I may be astray in my interpretation of the matter but I cannot see that there is anything particularly sacred about the four year term. I know my hon. friend thinks differently and feels strongly that the freedom of the people is wrapt up in this four year period. But, if so then why did he agree to and urge the extension of the life of parliament last year if he now feels that it is such an absolutely essential matter that the life of the present parliament should be no longer extended. The fact is that the four year period was merely created by an Act of the Legislature of Newfoundland, and this Legislature can alter that period if it thinks it is in the interest of the country to do so. We altered it last year, the English Parliament has altered it several times and notwith-

standing all the constitutional authorities quoted here, we are up against the fact that Great Britain has extended the life of its Parliament two or three times and that this Legislature extended its life last year. I feel that the call, the necessity and the cause which induced the Legislature to do this last year are infinitely stronger this year than last, and I find it difficult to believe that Hon. Members of this Council who are one and all united to see the Conscription Bill through, to keep the Colony in the war, I cannot believe they will jeopardize it by a refusal to extend the life of Parliament. I cannot understand how people can think of it otherwise than as making for the success of our war effort. Talking about Government departments, and our having the Militia Department to carry it out. No Department in the country has any vim behind it in my experience unless they have the mainspring and steam pressure of the Executive behind them. I may say, however, on the other side, that I could sympathize with many of the arguments put up. The situation as it stands today may be wrong. I am quite willing to admit that. The non-representation of the districts by the failure to hold bye-elections is constitutionally wrong and indefensible. Judging by the extracts read here this evening it was one of the duties of the Governor to hold these bye-elections within six months of vacancy. I do not criticize our late Governor, he was a very able, careful, patriotic man, and he may have had good reasons for not issuing writs, but in any case it was not questioned by the Legislature last session. I doubt whether members of this Council knew the law, that it was the duty of the Governor to issue writs within six months after vacanc-

es occur. This omission was not considered during last session and no criticism was heard against it. There were a good many vacancies then in the Lower House. Furthermore the very strong argument that we have had put up here as to the illegality of gentlemen holding positions of emolument under the Crown and retaining their seats in the House seems to me to be no illegality at all at the present moment. Surely at the last session of the Legislature we passed the same act which we now have before us and which also provided that "notwithstanding anything in previous acts a member shall not vacate his seat by reason of his acceptance of any office."

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—At the last session of the House the question arose as to whether the Minister of Militia, then about to be appointed, stood in any different position under the Act from other Ministers of the Crown, and I think it was my Hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Harvey) who said he thought the position should be permanent, and I protested against being a party to any such appointment. Later we found that my hon. friend was wrong and that the Minister of Militia was to accept office under precisely similar conditions to those under which others did.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I do not remember any such thing and doubt if the House understood any such thing. The wording is identical with last year's act, which is absolutely clear as it stands and I cannot see any illegality in it in spite of the vigorous attack made on the position as being illegal. It may be improper possibly, although I do not say so, but to call the position illegal does not appear to me to be correct. We are all parties to it and nobody

protested except the Hon. President who says he did.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT—I did not protest against the proposition that there should be a Minister of Militia or that he should retain his seat without election, but I protested against the suggestion that the Minister of Militia was to enjoy a permanent office and pay, say, like the Postmaster General. I agreed with the principle of creating a Department of Militia with the Minister in charge responsible to the House and country like the other Ministers.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I do not want to argue the question in any abstract way, but I think I see daylight in the matter. It seems to me we must have conscription enforced with vigor, and I cannot see that a general election is not going to add to the difficulty. Last session I was unfortunate enough to have to propose or second the Address in Reply, and believing it to be the all important public question then I devoted my entire effort to an endeavor to show how absolutely important it was that there should be unity, amalgamation and resultant vigor on the part of the Government. It was hoped that amalgamation, not then in sight, would add vigor and force to the war effort. The amalgamated government are now showing vigor, are doing the right thing, having hesitated however for a very long time. That Government, minus two gentlemen who are members of this House, and whom I regret they have lost, is the same Government for all practical purposes. The principal change is in the Prime Minister. I am not in any way holding any retainer for the Government; far from it. Aybody who followed the debates of last year will recognize I am prepared to fight the Government when I think they are wrong,

and I have no particular desire to blow their trumpet, but I will say I would infinitely sooner see the Conscription Bill in the hands of Premier Lloyd to be put through vigorously and honestly, than in the hands of Premier Morris, for after what I cannot but term that gentleman's outrageous and unjustifiable diatribe upon the attitude of this House as one of his last acts as responsible Premier of Newfoundland, his deliberate attempt to lower with dishonor a number of gentlemen in this Chamber who, I will not put it too high, were at least as honorable as Baron Morris himself, his effort to show that they were wrong when as a matter of fact they were right, and when he knew that they were right, I say, Sir, that the stigma of it will follow him whether he were a humble member of the House of Assembly here or a Peer of the Realm.

I feel that a man capable of taking such an attitude is not the man that I would choose to be in charge of the carrying out of this Act, and I infinitely prefer to trust the present Premier to put the Bill in force. I believe that he means to do it honestly and fearlessly. We have heard some speeches on Confederation. It is indeed a blessed word. What the present situation has to do with it I do not know. I do not believe the Government has the faintest idea of forcing confederation, and if they had they must put it through the Legislature and we can deal with it when it comes up. If this is a valid argument against the extension of the life of Parliament it beats me. We talk about the autocratic methods of government, but every democracy and every Legislature has had to follow such tendencies. Our own War Measures Act passed immediately after the outbreak of war followed the exam-

ple of England and her Colonies, and endowed the Executive Government with exceedingly wide and indeed dictatorial powers. In a state of war such things are unavoidable. Democracy must abandon many of its cherished rights. It must abdicate some of its sovereignty and give up its powers. In time of war it has got to sink occasional rights to protect its ultimate life. I want to see this Government put this Conscription Act in force. We all want to see it put in force.

The Government has hesitated a long time, but now they have gone into the thing vigorously and properly. We must remember (and I am not discussing and will not defend the position of the F.P.U. members and the alleged oath that they take) that this Act has been taken up now by them, they are definitely committed to it, and that being so, I hope it will be put in force by the Government, which if not dominated by, at least is very largely composed of members of the strongest fishermen's organization ever formed in this country, and this in my opinion is an imperative reason why they should be left to take charge of the Bill. If a general election is held, and another government elected, I would ask hon. gentlemen who have unbiased minds, what more could such other Government do towards the war effort than this government is now pledged to do? They might deal with minor matters more effectively, may conceivably correct errors like those in connection with bye-elections, or reduce expenditure, or they may not hit the main point. We must watch at this time their action towards the war and the Regiment, and if any other Government is in sight which can improve on the efforts this Government is making, and will make in this regard,

then I would like to know something more about it, and until we can see where their efforts can be improved upon, I say, we should support this Government until the Conscription Act comes into force and we have had an opportunity to see what they can do with it. In regard to this Bill we must give the Government the chance to put the Legislative orders in force and give them time enough to do it. Not to do so would be to jeopardize the strong desire of all the hon. members who have expressed themselves upon the Conscription measure. I again emphasize my personally very strong view that the call of the day and the necessity of maintaining our war effort demand the extension of the life of Parliament.

Some do not know why bye elections should not be held. I am strongly of opinion that they ought to have been held but I think that it would be inadvisable to hold a large number of bye elections at once as it would be bound to create turmoil, would organize opposition to the Bill, and all sorts of specious arguments would be used against the Government but really for the purpose of defeating Conscription, and what occurs in the case of a general election will be so though possibly to a lesser extent in the case of a number of bye elections. By degrees they ought to be held. I am not defending the position that bye elections ought not to be held,—they should be held, if the success of Conscription is finally assured—but I reiterate my belief that we ought to retain the present Legislature until the Regiment is at the front again and with sufficient reserves behind it.

HON. MR. MILLEY—Before adjournment I would ask the leader of the Government if Baron Morris is

at present a member for the district of St. John's West.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until 4.30 p.m. to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, May 8th, 1918.

The House met at 4.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

Second reading of Parliament Extension Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP—It appears to me that this House is asked to consider and discuss this Extension of Parliament Bill at an inopportune time. To have coupled it with the Military Service Bill was, in my opinion, a mistake, and it does not, as it seems to me, manifest on the part of the Government the Union or National idea of administration; it is not indicative of encouragement to "union," but is rather provocative of "party" opposition.

The only reason advanced for extending the life of the present Parliament is that the excitement and turmoil of a general election will be so great that it will dominate everything else, that it will in event of an election, commence at midsummer and continue until the votes in the various districts are counted in November, and that the members of the Government will be so concerned about securing their re-election that they will neglect the needs of the Royal Nfld. Regiment, and of the requirements of the public in respect of tonnage, etc. Altho this has been stated by the gentleman who voices in this Chamber the opinion of the Government, I cannot think that he expects to be taken seriously, but if he does I refuse to believe that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Militia, Minister of Finance, Minister of Shipping, Minister of Fisheries and others will neglect the duties of their office

and will disregard the claims of the public service, if an extension of their term of office is not conceded them.

The fear that such will happen has possibly influenced the hon. member and induced him to sound the warning, but I feel convinced such fears if he entertains them, are groundless. The Ministers of the Crown, Mr. President, will do their duty this year as faithfully as they did it last year whether this Bill passes or not.

Moreover, Mr. President, rumor has it that several of them will not be submitting themselves to their constituencies again, but be that as it may, the calling up under the Military Service Bill of Class 1 in May and Class 2 in September, or possibly not at all, cannot seriously interfere with the holding of an election in November, and those who most strongly urge that it will know as well as I do or you do, Sir, that it will not.

There may be other reasons which make it to seem most undesirable to have an election the coming fall, and if so, they should be advanced, but those who argued with such vehemence last year that an election should and must be held in October last, when the conditions were practically the same as they are now, cannot convince anybody that they have any sufficient ground for their change of front.

The very persons who tell us now we should avoid an election this year planned and prepared for an election for this month. Were they acting without consideration for the requirements of our Regiment or of the country's trade? The condition a few weeks ago were worse and very much worse than they are at present, then no volunteers were coming in, now they are coming in in scores, thanks to the splendid efforts of the returned soldiers. It might with some reason

be argued that a spring election would interfere with the season's operations, and with the year's trade possibly, but the voters in a fall election go to the polls when their season's operations are nearly finished, and who, Sir, in recent years has seen all this tumult in election years that we are now being told so much about? Now it has been represented here with much force and reason that the neglect of the Government to have writs issued and bye-elections held to fill vacancies afford sufficient reason for refusing assent to this Bill.

Some vacancies have existed for quite a long period, but what is most extraordinary in this connection is, that the present Government, in appointing to permanent offices members of the Legislature, did not require of those members the resignation of their seats. It cannot be argued that this is proper, nor that it is beyond remedy. If their appointments did not deprive them of their seats the Government know what means to employ to end the anomaly.

The position taken by Hon. Mr. Milley and supported by other speakers in reference to the small number of members now sitting in the House of Assembly, must be acknowledged to be sound and reasonable, and instead of the seriousness of the present conditions surrounding us offering an excuse for delay, surely it is rather a reason why they should not continue longer and that writs for bye-elections should issue at once.

There is also much force in what the same hon. member says respecting taxation. I entirely concur in the idea of an income tax, as I do in a profits tax, and I know of nobody objecting to either one or the other, providing it is a reasonable and equitable tax, and not one ignoring all recognized rules of finance. There cer-

tainly was no reason shown last year why our Profits Tax should so greatly exceed the taxes levied in Great Britain and in Canada. When I left St. John's on July 31st last, the understanding was that 6 per cent. upon the capital invested in any business would be conceded, and upon profits earned beyond that figure 25 per cent. should be paid to the Government as tax. This would then have provided for taxation of profits considerably greater than is demanded by Canada or Great Britain but it would bear some resemblance to fairness.

The Minister of Finance is no freebooter, he is, as far as my knowledge goes, disposed at all times to be fair and to recognize what is equitable, and I cannot understand how he was influenced to agree to the charge that was made in the Bill. It appears, however, that business people are showing a spirit that is consistently loyal and patriotic in respect to the payment of the tax. I refer to this subject here because this House is unlikely to discuss any other Bill imposing taxation.

I feel that the absence of any intimation by the Government that it is intended to open districts this year, which have been for a long time unrepresented or to ask those who have accepted permanent appointments to resign their seats, indicate defiance of public opinion and of constitutional rights which ought not to be countenanced by hon. members here.

I can see no evidence of a desire on the part of the Government as a whole, to sink party differences and to work united and solely for the interest of the state, and those dominating the governing party are losing no opportunity to secure personal and party advantage. There is no

real union and it is not intended there shall be.

The speeches delivered in this House upon this Bill will rank among the best ever delivered here and indicate the importance of the measure and the realization of hon. members of their responsibility in relation to it.

There are differences of opinion upon the measure, of course, but I agree with the remarks of Hon. Mr. Goodridge that this measure should not have been coupled with the Military Service Bill nor should it have been sent up to us at the commencement of the session. When the work of the session was nearing completion would, it seems to me, be the time that an Extension Bill should come here. The plea that it comes coupled with the other Bill, because the one will be inoperative without the other, is one which the least reflection must convince hon. members is not the real reason.

We have been told by the Prime Minister the aim of the Government is to meet the request made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which is 300 men at once and sixty per month to follow. The 300 are in sight without any Conscription Bill, and two men per day from the whole of Newfoundland is all the Government are aiming at, and yet we are asked to distrust our intelligence and accept the assurance of the Government when they claim that two men per day cannot be secured without the whole and undivided attention of every department of the Government being left undisturbed throughout the year, notwithstanding the fact that Deputy Ministers and an able staff in every department are permanent officials and will do 95 per cent. of the work entailed, anyway.

If two or three classes were to be

ordered to report at once and the demand was for 1,000 men within three months, I could understand the plea that such an effort might be prejudiced by the holding on an election in October, but when the acknowledged aim is two men per day only, it is an insult to the intelligence of this House to endeavour to make us believe that the enforcement of the Military Service Bill is the real reason for asking an extension of parliament.

Mr. President, the vote will go in favour of the Bill. I am no master of English, but the Prime Minister is, and as such, it must be presumed that Bills which pass the House of Assembly and come up to us are entirely framed in accordance with his instructions, and to meet his ideas. Take the Bill as it is, give it the assent of this House without amendment, and when will the life of the present Government end. Will it be a year hence, will it be at the end of 1919? Oh, no, not unless the war has ended, or the Government elect, because it may suit them, to go to the country. They can under this Bill decide in 1919 to extend their term indefinitely. Now, please, don't tell me such is not the intention. There is no person in this House who can, and no person elsewhere who will tell what is the intention. Apart from this Bill, it is my intention and desire to assist the passage of all legislation which is calculated to be of advantage to the Dominion, or the carrying on of the public service, and I believe that is the sentiment of the House.

HON. MR. MEWS—Mr. President, I have very few remarks to make on the Extension Bill now before the House. I listened with great interest to the speech of Hon. Mr. Gibbs yesterday. The subject of represen-

tation of the people is one which I have thought of a good deal since I left school, and I enjoyed Hon. Mr. Gibbs' speech because he gave me data that perhaps I should never have had the opportunity of gathering in relation to constitutional law and practice. But what mystified me, Mr. President, was the fact that when I turned up the official report of the proceedings of the House of July 26th, 1917, I find that Hon. Mr. Gibbs voted for an extension of Parliament, the very Act that he now declares is illegal and against the Constitution. At the same time Hon. Mr. Gibbs was a member of the Executive and realized exactly what the Bill was and what it involved. Yet now Mr. Gibbs gives an elaborate dissertation on the iniquity of extending the life of Parliament this year. What was all right a year ago is quite wrong this year. Hon. Mr. Gibbs also took us into the realm of figures, following the example of our Hon. friend Mr. Anderson. He told us that there were about 125,000 of the population not represented in the lower House. Because members of the House do not happen to be here when legislation is passed it does not necessarily follow that such legislation is at all vitiated. As a matter of fact there are but two districts in the Island which are unrepresented at the present time. There are districts partially represented, but surely such districts cannot be put down as wholly unrepresented. Hon. Mr. Gibbs' figures are altogether misleading, and are very far from the truth.

With regard to the reasons for the Extension of Parliament, there are two things to my mind that are of importance. First, the Regiment, second the Imports and Exports of the country. We have just reached

our crisis, and while and until that crisis it tackled no one will want an election. Whether that crisis was caused by the present Government or past Governments—does not concern us—it has been tackled and in a manner acceptable to all members of both Houses.

And yet the passing of the M. S. Act is not the only thing, there must be unity if its enforcement would be harmoniously carried out. The Government are not afraid of an election.

see no reason why they should be, but they are certainly in earnest in looking after the needs of the Regiment, and in making sure that in these unusual times our trade shall not fail, and that the year may see us enjoying as much prosperity as we may expect.

On motion of Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Patents Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Bishop in the Chair.

HON. MR. HARVEY—I do not think these bills should be allowed to go through without some explanation. I personally do not know what his Bill means.

HON. MR. SQUIRES—In response to the inquiry of the Hon. Mr. Harvey would say that this action is merely intended to correct an irregularity which appears in Chapter 109 of the Consolidated Statutes entitled "Patents." Section 4 of that Chapter provides that before any person shall receive any Letters Patent that person shall take oath that he believes that the patent has not been known or used in Newfoundland or in any other country. Section 10 provides that an applicant shall not be deprived of his right to take out a patent in Newfoundland by reason of his having previously taken out Letters Patent for the same invention in any other country, subject to a certain

provision that the invention shall not have been introduced into the Colony and in public use in Newfoundland prior to his application for a patent in Newfoundland.

The conflict between these two sections is apparent. An inventor who has patented his application in a foreign country and has his invention in actual use in the foreign country cannot take the oath required in Section 4 that the invention has not been known or used in any other country. This Bill merely amends Section 4 by a provision which excepts the circumstances set forth in Section 10, so that a person who has patented his invention elsewhere is not called upon to take oath that the patent has not been used in any other country. As a matter of fact Section 4 of the Chapter has not, I believe, been enforced in so far as to suggest that an inventor elsewhere and who had his invention in actual use elsewhere should be prohibited from getting a patent in Newfoundland for that invention, but it is important the Section should be so amended as to make it reasonable and consistent with Section 10.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and it was ordered to be read a third time on tomorrow.

On motion the House went into Committee on the Imports and Exports (reduction)

HON. PRESIDENT—The Bill is something in the nature of a war measure to protect the Colony and the Empire for a period of five years after the termination of the war against possible attempts by Germany to dump its products into Newfoundland. It is a development of a movement now being worked out by the Allied nations to put into practice matters in connection with their own

trade, as Germany is supposed to have great quantities of material accumulating during the war which she may attempt to dump into this and other Dominions hoping to work up a trade lost in consequence of hostilities. I think, under the circumstances, the Bill ought to meet with the hearty co-operation of the whole House.

HON. MR. SQUIRES—The object of this Bill is to empower the Governor in Council by a Proclamation to prohibit the exportation or importation of any goods of any class, description and origin, from Newfoundland to any place or from any place to Newfoundland. The Act is intended to form part and be included in the Customs Management Act of 1898. The provisions of the Customs Management Act are made to apply to this Act. The powers vested in the Governor in Council hereunder are conferred for a period of five years after the termination of the war. The object of this Bill is to prevent the dumping after the war by the enemy nations of their goods into Newfoundland. This Act is in harmony with parallel legislation enacted in Great Britain and elsewhere. I feel that the Bill will commend itself to the favorable consideration of the members of this Chamber.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Missing Schooners Reporting Bill, Hon. Mr. Murphy in the Chair.

HON. THE PRESIDENT—I think we ought to have some redefinition of the term schooner. There may be small steamers or motor boats also. Another point I note is that the power of prosecution is left with the Minister of

Marine and Fisheries. Now I have no objection to the present Minister; I think Mr. Stone is very fair and capable and will do his duty as fearlessly as is necessary, but we may not always have men of his calibre, and I think this matter of prosecution ought to be put in the hands of the police, because there may be cases when for political or other reasons the Minister might not do so.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I think this Bill might be allowed to stand over, as there are some other matters which will require to be changed to make the Bill effective. For instance, confining the date to the period between September 15 and December 31. I would suggest the committee be raised and in the meantime we can consider the desirable amendments.

The Committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

The House went into Committee on the Workmen's Compensation Acts Bill, Hon. Mr. McNamara in the Chair.

HON. MR. ELLIS—The object of this Bill is to enable an employer to pay into court the amount to which the dependents of an employee may be entitled in case of his death. Under the present practice employers must wait until they are sued by deceased's representatives before paying the compensation, even when liability is admitted.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment, which report was received and said bill was ordered to be read a third time on tomorrow.

House went into Committee on the Marine Disasters Fund amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Mews in the Chair.

HON. MR. ELLIS—The object of this amendment is to enable the Committee dealing with this fund to assist persons other than fishermen

who may suffer through their relatives losing their lives in marine disasters. In the case of the Florizel, for instance, the family of a member of the crew who signed on as a carpenter could not be relieved by the Committee under this Act as the Act confined them to granting relief to fishermen only. The bill is for the purpose of altering this to enable the Committee to deal with cases of this kind.

HON. MR. SQUIRES, — Under the Act respecting the establishment of a permanent Marine Disasters Fund the Committee found themselves limited in such a manner that some very deserving cases arising out of the recent Florizel disaster could not be assisted by them because of the fact that the cases did not come within the classification of fishermen & seamen as provided in the Marine Disasters' Fund Act. The object of this Bill is to extend the scope of the Permanent Marine Disasters Fund to provide for the dependents of any person domiciled in the Colony who may have lost or shall lose his or her life on the high seas within the territorial waters of the Colony. This provision enlarges the scope of the Permanent Marine Disasters Fund Act, and gives greater latitude to the Committee. The amendment is made upon the recommendation of the committee, and is, I submit to the House, a most desirable enlargement of the scope of their benevolent activities.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time on tomorrow.

Second reading of the Keeping of Dogs Amendment Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS. — The object of this bill is to enable the people in any community where a proclamation prohibiting the keeping of dogs

is in force, at the end of the time that the proclamation calls for to take steps by means of a petition to revoke the law. According to the present Act there is a difficulty in doing that. There is at least one case where the people are anxious to go back to the old state and revoke the law, but without an amendment to the old Act that would be impossible.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the second reading of the identification of Criminals Bill was deferred until tomorrow.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

HON. MR. MILLEY—To ask the Hon. Leader of the Government is Baron Morris is at the present time a Member for the District of St. John's.

HON. MR. ELLIS—In reply to the Hon. gentleman I beg to state that Baron Morris has not resigned his seat in the Legislature, though I am not in a position to state whether or not his seat is vacant. It is likely that this will be a matter for the Court to interpret should the question arise later.

Hon. Mr. President informed the House that he had received a message from the House of Assembly intimating they had passed the Fire Patrol Bill in which they asked the concurrence of the Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Ellis laid upon the table the Reports of the Newfoundland Agricultural Board and the Postmaster General for 1917.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until 4 p.m. tomorrow.

THURSDAY, May 9th, 1918.

The House met at 4 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the Patent Amendments Bill, Imports and Exports (Restriction) Bill, Workmen's Compensation Bill, and Marine Disasters' Fund Bill, were read a third time, passed and ordered to be sent to the Assembly with a message intimating that this House had passed the same without amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Legislature Extension Bill (1918), Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

HON. MR. MILLEY—I wish to move an amendment to Section 1 of the Act by striking out all the words after "until" in the third line, and substituting the words "30th day of April and no longer." I feel sure that it is the wish of the House that something of the kind should be done.

HON. PRESIDENT—Before the motion is put I would like to say something in regard to this measure which I did not have the opportunity of doing yesterday on its second reading. Last week, on the same stage of the Conscription Bill, I took occasion to congratulate the House on unanimously affirming the principle of that measure, and I much regret that it is not possible for me today to offer similar congratulations on the unanimous passage of this measure also. The second reading was adopted by a vote of twelve to seven, but I think it would have been wiser if the House had accepted the Bill without a division. In my judgment the Government acted fairly and wisely in sending these two bills to be linked together as it were. I consider that when the Government took the position that in order to make Conscription effective it

was necessary to be freed from the difficulties certain to crop up, if they were asked at the same time to face an election in a few months, they did only what was reasonable. I disagree entirely with my hon. friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Bishop) in his argument yesterday that once the Bill was on the Statute Book and the machinery provided for putting in it force had been promulgated, no other duty was cast upon the Government, and that the Government could then pursue the even tenor of its way. I do not mean that he used these very words, but I claim that the effect of his argument was that once the Bill had become law, the Government's relation to it would be of a secondary and subsidiary character. I maintain however, that this Government—that no Government—could hope to carry out a Conscription Bill successfully with one hand, and with the other try to induce the electors to give them a new lease of office. My hon. friend argued that the Premier's view was that all we were asked to do was to meet the call of the Imperial authorities to furnish 300 men at once, and 60 a month for twelve months, but I do not know if that is really what the Premier said. I have no authority to speak for him, but I do not think the quotation embodies the intention of the Government or of this Chamber. It certainly does not embody mine. I support the Bill, not that we shall be content with raising the number the War Office seeks but that we shall have the machinery to get all the men necessary to keep this country in the war until it ends. If our effort is to be no more than the hon. gentleman suggests—300 men at once, and 60 a month for a year—there would be no need for Conscription at all because of that 1000 men, some two-thirds are now enlisted, and the re-

mainder will be in khaki within a month. Consequently no Conscription measure is needed to get that number of men. Why I think this Bill is needed is because we now recognize that voluntary effort has failed, and that we must have the machinery to enable us to compel men to do their part so that this country may be prepared for any emergency, and in a position to uphold itself properly until the present struggle ceases.

The next point my hon. friend made was that no serious mishap could follow from an election. But the hon. gentleman has never fought an election and "he jests at the scars who never felt a wound." Of course I do not mean this allusion in an offensive sense, I merely emphasize that hon. gentlemen here who have never been into a political contest, are mistaken when they think that this measure will have no bearing on the political situation. I have been in the hurly-burly of politics for twenty-eight years, fighting election after election thru a newspaper, and I honestly and sincerely say that the prospect of a general election in this country, while an effort was being made to put this Bill into effect, would be something that I would not view with equanimity.

I will go so far as to say that in my opinion the failure of the Canadian Conscription Act was due more largely to the injection of politics into the matter than to any other cause. In certain parts of Canada the most vigorous opposition to the measure was stimulated by politicians for vote-getting purposes, posters and pamphlets were printed—I have copies of them at home—on behalf of the Opposition Party, pledges were given that if Laurier was elected the Conscription Act would be repealed, and I have no doubt that if an election

was attempted here in the near future, politicians for their own ends would make similar appeals and perhaps succeed thereby in bringing disgrace on the good name, the honor, and the standing of Newfoundland. We have already seen something of the methods that might be employed in this direction, and we know how ready people are to seize upon a chance to make trouble for the Government, especially on an issue as important as this, regarding which many people have already shown a strong feeling, and the consequences of which are certain to be felt for many years. What renders the situation more serious, to my mind, is that recently we have had a revival of political warfare in this country which shows signs of increasing rather than abating, tho it is all very deplorable, while the great war outside continues. From the outset of hostilities in Europe I advocated a political truce here, because I considered that only by union could this Colony do its best in the struggle. Therefore, I advocated a Union Government before that was effected, and after it was brought about I supported that Government. When troubles arose at the time of its reconstruction last January I urged that the breach be healed, and that the men who went out be brought back and restored to their old positions, and I have since maintained that everything else ought to give way to united effort for Nfld. to do her full part in winning the war. Hence I think that present conditions form an additional reason for an extension of Parliament until we have solved this whole Conscription problem. My hon. friend, Mr. Squires in his address, scouted the argument that an election would mean trouble, and claimed that our political contests have been devoid of serious incidents,

but I can recall at least three cases of disorder—the case in 1897 when Sir Edward Morris was sodded at Bay Bulls, the case in 1909 when Sir Robert Bond was thrown overboard at Western Bay, and the case in 1913 when Hon. S. D. Blandford had to fly for his life at Bonavista. I quote these, not to cast any reflection upon the people of this country, but to show that we are human after all, and that when our fighting passion is aroused, as it is at election time, disorders occasionally occur. I might add that recently I heard that a certain gentleman prominent in public affairs, when asked if he would run for one of the northern districts, replied that it would be more than his life was worth.

Then we were told that the Government had no standing with regard to this measure, and had no right to enact a law to extend its own life. This is a contention I cannot understand. I can understand a man who says that the Lower House, constituted as it is today, has no right to pass any legislation whatever. I can understand a man who says that owing to their being certain vacancies the authority of the Assembly is nullified, but I cannot understand a man who argues that the Assembly has authority to pass a Conscription Bill, tho there are only thirteen or fifteen members present, and then asserts that these are debarred, according to the argument of hon. gentlemen here from passing this Extension Bill because they are not representative of the people.

However, the argument as to there being only a handful of members in the Lower House has no force to me. There are only four vacancies in the Assembly today. Starting at the West; Mr. Downey's seat is not vacant, nor is Mr. Moulton's—the latter

gentleman is on the train due today. Mr. Emerson's seat in Fortune Bay is vacant, but there is no vacancy in Burin or Placentia. It is true that two members from Placentia, Messrs. Morris and Devereaux, have taken official positions, but under the law as it was phrased last year they did not thereby vacate their seats, and they cannot be removed except by an Act of this Legislature. There are no vacancies in Ferryland, but there is one—and only one—in St. John's West, that of Mr. Kennedy, who died last year. Sir Edward Morris's seat is not vacant; he has not tendered his resignation. There are two vacancies in St. John's East, one caused by Mr. Kent's elevation to the Supreme Court Bench, and the other by Mr. Dwyer's death last year. But there are no vacancies in any district north of St. John's; not even in St. Barbe, for if Mr. Clapp be away in England, he has not resigned, and, until he does, his seat is not empty. Therefore there are but four seats vacant in the Lower Chamber, as I have said, and yet we are told that the Lower House is incompetent to pass this Bill because it is depleted, and does not represent the country.

Another argument against this Bill is that the Government did not come here with clean hands, but I say with regard to Conscription that no Government ever came into a Legislature with cleaner hands, or with more sincere desire to deal fairly and squarely with the Legislature. When the Bill reached this House there were certain objections raised to its progress. Thereupon the Government acquiesced in a postponement. Next day certain amendments were offered and it was suggested that the Government and representative members of this Chamber might get together to discuss them so as to

have a unanimous vote by the Legislature. The Government accepted this proposal, and the outcome was a decision to have a Joint Select Committee of nine from each side. That was agreed to, and at a meeting of that Committee last week, every proposal advocated there was accepted by the Government, and the report was signed by the eighteen members, representing every element in both Houses. This surely evidenced good faith on the part of the Government, and it is all the more commendable when we remember some of the arguments, if not threats, that were made against the Bill in certain quarters.

The next contention is that the Executive Government has not any authority to introduce such a measure, and is not representative of the people of this country. As to that, the answer is that the two gentlemen who left the Government at the New Year were not members of the Lower House but of this Chamber, but these gentlemen were members of the Government last year when a Bill to extend the life of Parliament was introduced, and they supported and advocated the measure.

Another argument, and one on which great stress is laid, is that this proposal is unconstitutional. This, to my mind, is the most illogical contention yet put forward. There is nothing sacred about the constitution in the way that some people imagine. The constitution is what the Legislature makes it. I venture to say that there is not a member of this House, including the two hon. gentlemen who have spoken so lengthily and learnedly on the constitution, who can stand up and say what exactly our constitution is. There are many vague theories current about the constitution and many peo-

ple speak about the Government chest, thinking it is a tangible thing through which they can materially help themselves.

If the constitution is being violated now, it was violated equally last year when the Legislature was invited to extend its life for twelve months, and did so. Recognizing that their contention is weak because of the knowledge that this transpired last year, some of those who talk of the procedure being unconstitutional say it is unconstitutional because we have a new Premier in office; but that argument is destroyed by the fact that in England, where the life of Parliament has been extended four times, two of these extensions were made since Lloyd-George became Premier, and the two previous ones were made under Asquith. Lloyd-George was not elected Premier of England any more than our own Dr. Lloyd. He came into power as a result of conditions arising out of the war, and so did our present Premier. Nobody in England serious questions the power of Parliament to extend its life, even with a different Premier in office, and no person who views our problems without bias can hold a different opinion.

The Canadian Parliament extended its life last year, and would have made another extension this year but that Sir Wilfred Laurier, leader of the Opposition, opposed extension because he thought he could gain office by doing so. He reckoned without his host, however, because Sir Robert Borden outplayed him at his own game and forced him to face the country after having as the Liberals complained, "packed the electorate" by enfranchising women relatives of the soldiers on active service, and getting hundreds of thousands of votes thereby, while refusing votes to the

women whose boys had not enlisted, and by also nullifying the naturalization granted to Austria, German, and Bulgarian settlers in Western Canada, who had been made British subjects within the past 15 years. The Liberals in Canada inveighed just as strongly against this being unconstitutional as people here decry the present procedure on the same ground, but it bears out my argument that there is nothing sacred about the constitution and that it is merely what the Legislature makes it. Again, only last month the Ontario Parliament extended its life until six months after the war and the motion was actually proposed by the leader of the Opposition and went through with but one dissenting voice. Of course in Ontario they have only one House having no Upper Chamber, but stating this fact enables me to emphasize the constitutional contrast between that Province and the other Province on this side of the Ottawa River, namely, Quebec, which has two Houses. No one sees anything wrong or unconstitutional in these two Provinces having different machinery yet people here ask us to believe that because it is now proposed to extend the life of this Legislature another twelve months, the constitution is going to be wrecked and the British Empire come to disaster.

They are changing the constitution in England today where they have passed a new Representation of the People's Bill which will give votes to 8,000,000 more persons, 6,000,000 of them being women, and where they are amending the law as to a man not being permitted to vote until he is 21, so as to allow every young fellow who has gone into khaki, of 19 years old, to cast his ballot in the next contest, and will anyone say that this

is not a constitutional deviation which has everything to commend it.

We are next told that other parts of the Empire have had elections, but we are not informed as to why or under what circumstances. It has been said that all the seats in England have been filled thru bye-elections, but they have not told that 95 out of every 100 have been by agreement between the two parties that there should be no contest, but that the party which formally held the seat should have the right to name a man to fill the vacancy, and if we had bye-elections here on that principle, I do not think anyone would object. A similar attempt was made in Canada two years ago, when Borden made the same proposal to Laurier, a proposal that was not carried out because of the bitter partizan feeling of some elements on both sides. Here the idea appears to be to have a party faction fight. I have no objection, if the House so decides, but I frankly think that the fewer elections we have the better, until we have beaten the Germans.

Then we are informed that all the people who voted for this Bill in the Lower House are placemen. Precisely the same argument is made in England. Here is the British Hansard, the first pages of which are devoted to a list of the members of the ministry, and their subordinates. They make a total of 95 in all, holding salaried places and seats in the House of Commons, and in England the cry is just as frequent as here that the Government is kept in power by those in its pay. The same is true of Canada. When Sir Robert Borden made up his Coalition Cabinet last autumn, he had to provide for 24 Ministers each on salary, so that there should be an equality between the Conservatives and Liberals; and

the same argument is made by opponents there, namely, that they are supporting certain policies because there is money in it for them.

The next argument adduced against this measure is that the people supporting it are inconsistent in that until quite recently they were opponents of one another. That is quite true, but it is not to their discredit in these times. I was in the Assembly the other afternoon when Mr. Coaker spoke. He stated his position very frankly. He said he was for an election last fall, last summer and last spring, and up until Lloyd-George's message appealing for men from the Overseas Dominions. Then, he said, he abandoned the idea, because our first duty was to see the war through, and we could not do so properly if an election took place. That, I think it will be admitted, was a very fair position; and that is the attitude of many others. But the same charge of inconsistency might be made against English public men as well. Last night, after going home, I read from the British Hansard a quotation which struck me very forcibly, so much so in fact that I determined to read it to-day. It is a statement made by Hon. Lewis Harcourt in May, 1914, two months before the war began, in which he said that he could not conceive of any situation in which the landing of a British Army on the Continent to take part in a Continental war, would be other than an infamy. Will any man in this House suggest that Mr. Harcourt should be ruled out of court to-day because he was a party, as Secretary for the Colonies, to the despatch of the British Expeditionary Forces across the Channel in the opening days of the war. Again, we see Lloyd-George and Lord Robert Cecil sitting together at the same

council board in London, two men who in bye-gone days had been most bitter opponents. Crossing to Canada we find Sir Robert Borden and Hon. Frank Carvell, two men who were at daggers drawn until two months ago, rowing in the same boat to-day, and right here in this country we saw last fall the hon. gentlemen who are now opposing this measure so strongly and Mr. Coaker and his associates, sitting in the same Executive. But for some reason best known to themselves they left the Government and now they tell us that those who remain are inconsistent and unreliable and have not the public interest at heart. Similar charges were made against Lloyd-George when he assumed power in England in December, 1916. A British newspaper printed a most scathing article of him under the title:—"Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?" This was a direct insinuation that Lloyd-George had obtained power by selling out his chief, but the great mass of the English people are behind him to-day. Again, take President Wilson of the United States. He is, according to the standard set up here to-day, guilty of most flagrant inconsistency because he said two years ago that the United States was too proud to fight, and said again that he was for Peace without Victory. But no sane man would rule him out under present conditions because of these assertions.

My hon. friend (Mr. Gibbs) told us here a day or two ago of conditions in England at the time of the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, and drew a glowing picture of Gladstone working for the amelioration of the condition of the masses, whereas the fact is that at the time the Bill was passed, Gladstone was not in Parliament at all but a student at Oxford,

and for years after he entered Parliament was opposed to Reform, and was described as "the rising hope of the Tory party."

One or two gentlemen remarked here that this Bill violated the principle taxation without representation. This was a curious argument because there is nothing in relation to taxation in the Bill. Such an argument might reasonably be advanced if this were a money bill, but it has no bearing here. As to the point of representation, I would say also that the vacancy caused by Mr. Kent's elevation remained unfilled for 18 months, and that by Mr. Emerson's appointment for almost a similar period, and yet neither of these gentlemen (Hons. Squires and Gibbs) while in the Executive Council made any protest against the vacancies continuing or took any measure to have them filled up. Again, Messrs. Kennedy and Dwyer died within a day or two of each other early last winter, and their seats might have been filled at any time after that, but no attempt was made to fill them, and no call was made or themf to be filled, by these gentlemen, while they remained in the Executive Council up to the end of 1917. In view of the present world situation I make bold to say that it would be a fatal mistake to put any term to the life of his Legislature. I know it has been suggested that some people want no election while the war is on, and I know other people say those who want no election during the war are sensible men; but that is beside the question. I do not say that, but I do maintain that the present is no time to plunge the country into the turmoil of politics. It will suffice, I submit, when the war situation looks sufficiently improved to guarantee us that the

end is in sight, and satisfactory to the Allies, for us to consider the matter of an election. I am not prepared in the present serious crisis to vote for any motion to end the life of the Legislature and bring about a political conflict in this country when the energies of all ought to be devoted to the measures which will suggest themselves as the ones we should adopt to make more effective our participation in the task of winning the war.

HON. MR. ANDERSON—When this Bill was before the House on its second reading, I strongly gave it my approval though at that time I did not think the Lower House represented the people of the country. I am not pessimistic like my hon. friend to the left of me, I am rather optimistic, as I feel we do not know the day or hour that negotiations for a declaration of peace. I did not know my hon. friend to the right (Hon. Mr. Milley) was going to suggest an amendment. I take it that it is the intention to limit the time for holding a general election. I am not going to apologize for any member of the Lower House who did not attend the session when the Bill was before the House. At that time 15 members were present out of a House of 36; 21 absented themselves. That is their business, not mine, and it is their business to explain to their constituents or the country. Of those who voted for the Bill 2 represented Twillingate, 3 Trinity, 2 Ferryland, 1 Fogo, 2 Bonavista, 1 Hr. Grace, 1 Port de Grave, and 1 St. John's West, in all 13, a good substantial "baker's dozen." Against the Bill were 1 from Burin and 1 from Placentia. A few days ago Hon. Mr. Gibbs drew the attention of the House to the fact that there were 100,000 people of the country disfranchised. A correction

was made by Hon. Mr. Mews, and he could not make it more than 60,000, a discrepancy of 40,000, and a correction was made by Hon. Mr. Gibbs that he had estimated 90,000. What are the facts? They are that the District of Bay de Verde with a population of 10,213 was represented at the time. Bonavista, population 22,894, was represented by 2 members with 1 absent. Burgeo & LaPoile, population 7,793 was unrepresented. Burin, population 5008, divided; one on either side. Carbonear with 5,114 unrepresented, the member not being present that day. Ferryland, 5,793, both members present. Fogo, population 8,257, one member, present. Fortune Bay, 9,989, not represented. Hr. Grace, population 11,923, two absent, so that 7,950 are not represented and 3,973 represented. Hr. Main, population 9,471, both members absent. One of these gentlemen since 1908 has been Minister of Public Works. Placentia & St. Mary's, 16099; two absent, and I refer to Mr. Devereaux and Judge Morris, and common sense dictated their conduct and they stayed away. Mr. Walsh who was with the Government when he was returned, was on the other side, and he goes to the credit side of Placentia. Port de Grave, one member in the Government, population 6,986. St. Barbe, 10,481, one member, who might be excused as he is absent in England, but the district was not represented. St. George's 11861; the member was absent for reasons best known to himself. St. John's East, 3 members, one the Speaker, give them therefore one-third and credit the Government with 8,378 and there were unrepresented 16,757. St. John's West, 3 members, 2 vacancies, one through the lamented death of Mr. Kennedy. I thought the other was dead, and he is so far as

St. John's West is concerned. I can assure the House that Sir E. P. Morris "died" in London in January last after a long and severe illness, fortified with the rites and emoluments of a British Knighthood. But there was a resurrection, and he is risen again, Baron Morris. In speaking of St. John's West, I must refer to the Minister of Militia. No one has more respect than I for the work the Minister has done since he represented the district. In the absence of the Prime Minister he was deputed to the office of Colonial Secretary, and now he has plenty of work on hand without representing a district of nearly 20,000. Trinity, with a population of 21,788, goes to the credit of the Government. Twillingate, 22,705, has 3 members, 2 were present and 1 absent. Now there is the position and the figures I have quoted show that 113,413 were represented, and 155,236 were unrepresented. On the voters list were 61,451, representing roughly 25 per cent of the population and the number who voted at the last election were about 80 per cent. of that. We have embodied in this Bill that the life of Parliament should be extended one year, the date for its termination to be fixed by the Governor-in-Council. The 30th April, 1919, has been suggested, but in all fairness and justice I think a general election should take place not later than next fall. I do not think, with all due respect to the Government, and with all fairness to the country and to those Districts unrepresented, that, it is fair for 13 members of the Lower House, against 2, to carry by Act of Parliament a prolongation of their own existence. It is stated, but I do not know with what degree of truth, that it is the intention of the Government to create more Ministers. If so, I hope some of these will be

used to fill the vacancies. One of my hon. friends has referred to four vacancies in the Lower House. I disagree with him. Fortune Bay has been vacant for some time; and 9,989 people are unrepresented. Placentia Bay has two seats to fill, those of Messrs. Devereaux and Morris. I look upon these as vacancies. St. John's East was made vacant by the appointment of Judge Kent in 1916, the death of Mr. John Dwyer, and the appointment of Mr. W. J. Higgins as Speaker; so that 25,135 people were not adequately represented. There are two vacancies in St. John's West and I contend it is unrepresented; so that in Fortune Bay, Placentia and St. John's East and West there are 71,773 people who had no voice in the passing of this Bill through the Lower House. But I am no political partisan and believe the Conscription Act will be carried out as well by this Government as by any that preceded it. However, let us play the game fair and square; let it not be said that the Lower House with a vote of 13 passed the Bill to extend the life of Parliament indefinitely, for as far as this Bill is concerned it is indefinite in one way.

Hon. Mr. Milley suggests the 30th of April, 1919, and no longer. You have up to May now, and can have an earlier session of the House; but I think it should be extended until October, 1919. And if there is anything which should come up next session—if we are still at war and it is necessary to introduce another bill to give a further life to the Government—I will be only too delighted to give it all that support it deserves; and in the meantime we have these vacancies. It is up to the Government to fill the vacancies in the House. I do not know if it is in the interests of the Government or of the Opposition to

have bye-elections in St. John's East or West, but if there is to be a general election in October or November, 1919, the different parties will be in a position to know what to do. I say it is unfair for the Government to have to hold an election in the spring.

I supported this bill with all my heart as far as Conscription is concerned; but yet I think there ought to be something in Section 1 not to extend the life of the present Government indefinitely. Let it be October or November, 1919, instead of April, 1919; and if there is anything of importance at the next session of the House it can be dealt with then. But from now to the 30th of April, there are at least 9 or 10 months to do considerable work in; and as it has been stated that 300 recruits were wanted immediately and that we are likely to get two a day, which is what we are asked to do, or 300 now down and sixty a month, which for 10 months would make 600 more, or let us say 1000 in all, and it is apparent that all these will come forward, and that not more than Class 1 will have to be called out before 1919, I would take the position that some date in 1919 should be fixed whether it be October or April; but the date should certainly be embodied in the Bill.

HON. MR. GIBBS—Mr. Chairman, the Hon. the President of this Chamber in his closing remarks stated that he was for an election if circumstances in his opinion demanded it; I suppose we must be grateful for small favors. We ought certainly to feel grateful that he has condescended so far to state that if an election were necessary he would be prepared to advocate one. The hon. gentleman made reference to certain parts of the Empire and gave reasons which I will later show to be incorrect, as to why we should adopt this measure.

He said that in Great Britain they have extended the life of Parliament three or four times, but the hon. gentleman did not state that the life of Parliament here was extended upon the declaration of the Prime Minister, Lloyd George, that if there was opposition he would be prepared to go to the country and get a mandate from the people as to whether he should be Prime Minister or not. The hon. member also recited the case of Canada. In Canada it became necessary for the British Government to consider the amendment of the British North American Act. The Constitution of Canada, and the duties of the Government are covered by the British North American Act; and the Parliament of Canada has no right to extend its own life without the consent of the British Government. If the Canadian Parliament decided to extend the life, that Act would have to be amended by the Imperial House before it came into effect; and consequently, when the matter came up in the Imperial Parliament it is quite probable that nothing would be done in the case of an Act to which there had been some opposition in Canada. In this country we have opposition to the extension of the life of Parliament. In this country there has been strenuous opposition to a measure of this description. No country possessing representative Government would undertake under such circumstances, except under the most rigid necessity to extend its own life. The hon. gentleman refers to the Bill brought in here at the last session of the Legislature. The whole country demanded that such should be done. There was not a dissenting voice in either branch of the Legislature upon the extension of the life of Parliament. It would be idle to think for a minute of vetoing

a measure which was adopted by both Houses unanimously and considered by them and by the people of the country to be absolutely necessary under the circumstances.

The hon. gentleman endeavors to show that there is nothing unconstitutional in this measure; because we make the laws, and we extend the franchise to the people. We do make the laws, but he forgets to say that we should make laws according to the spirit of the constitution. It is the will of the people that an election should be held, and if the will of the people is not heard then an over-riding of the will of the people results, which means a violation of the spirit of the Constitution. If they extend the franchise to the people; if in England they have extended it to thousands who had not had it before, that is in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution, but the extension of the life of Parliament by Parliament in opposition to the electorate of the country is a violation of the constitutional rights of the people. The hon. member says that there is nothing sacred about the Constitution. I can quite understand the position of the hon. gentleman, for few things are regarded as sacred in his mind; but I would remind him that there are people in this country who do regard the Constitution as sacred; and who will continue to hold it sacred in spite of his statement.

The hon. gentleman in his speech said: "For the first time I witness in this House a debate on which views are advanced pro and con in which the people have not taken any sides." I think it is the first time that the President of his Chamber has taken sides in a partisan debate. I say his actions are contrary to the high traditions of his office, and that no previous occupant of his position has

dragged it to so low a level. We know that the Speaker of the House of Commons would not participate in a debate of this character because his position like that of the hon. President is one of a semi-judicial character. The Hon. the President ought to have borne this fact in mind and not to have participated in a partisan debate such as he has taken part in to-day.

The hon. gentleman said he supported coalition. There are some petty enough to believe that he did so because it suited his political schemes which were of a sordid and selfish character. The gentleman whose behests he now carries out, Mr. Coaker, commented in an editorial very caustically upon his attitude with respect to coalition. I will not read the whole of the article because it is of too abusive a character: "He remained silent for months. Everybody wondered what was doing. To us there was no reason for wonderment. He was doing the Micawler act, waiting for something to turn up. Not a single editorial appeared in the Evening Herald for months. Coalition was in the air and the . . . of the Herald was waiting his price, but alas the best laid plans of mice and men gan aft alee.

The coalition bubble burst, and presto, Patsy, donned his war paint, and gets down to his familiar gutter and launches forth anathemas against all and sundry who cared to espouse the cause which would mean the emancipation of our toilers." According to the President's bosom friend of recent date he was like Micawber waiting for something to turn up in the political arena, watching the political deal and his political activities for sale to the highest bidder. I remember hearing on different occasions of negotiations with a view to

coalition taking place between members of the Government and of the opposition, and I remember hearing of it being said in public places time and again that the terms had been agreed upon before the declaration of hostilities in Europe, but that something always intervened to prevent its accomplishment. Three years ago the present Minister of Finance and Customs was blamed by admirers of coalition, and I think correctly, for upsetting the plans laid to bring it about. Several people had a hand in the matter, including Sir William Reid, who made a special trip from Canada here for the purpose of making smooth the path which influential politicians on both sides wanted to travel, but failed. There then appeared in the Advocate gross libellous charges against the present Minister of Finance in connection with bounty paid on the ship Lorina. Mr. Cashin being the stumbling block to Coalition, Sir Edward Morris thought he saw in this an opportunity of driving Mr. Cashin from public life, because if the charges made in the Advocate were proven to be correct it meant his ruin politically. Sir Edward Morris appointed a commission to investigate the charges believing, according to statements of Mr. Cashin's friends, that the report would have the effect of removing Mr. Cashin from the Coalition path and so silence opposition, but as Mr. Coaker said about the Hon. the President, "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft alee." The enquiry resulted in a complete exoneration of the Minister of Finance and Customs from these libellous charges. This is a small portion of the inside history of Coalition. The object of coalition of parties was and is Confederation with Canada. It was the intention of certain politicians to send a delegation to Canada last

December, but because differences could not be utilized it did not materialize. My friend the President supported Coalition, because according to Mr. Coaker in 1915 he made a "visit to Ottawa for the purpose of looking over the red plush seats of the Senate Chamber to see just what a nice place such a perch would be for such a distinguished (?) son of Terra Nova."

There is a gentleman named Sir William Reid who wrote a letter to a man named Lord Shaughnessy in which he defined his attitude upon certain matters in connection with this country:

"Let me now refer to a matter which concerns not merely the fortunes of the Reid-Newfoundland Company, but of the country where that company operates—a matter of Confederation of Newfoundland with Canada.

"You will remember that you were in possession of my views concerning the terms on which Confederation could be arranged between the two countries, and that I had requested you to conduct the negotiations leading up to that consummation with the authorities at Ottawa. You will not forget that tho these negotiations occupied you for a space of four or five months, nothing came of them, and the question seemed as far from solution as ever. When I heard that you were leaving Canada for England

made it my business to join you on the train and to take up the matter with you. I suggested that during your absence I should myself undertake the negotiations, and I asked you for a letter to , intimating that I was in a situation to discuss terms with him. It was not at all necessary for me to have this letter, as my relations with enabled me to approach him with the certainty that my views would be re-

ceived with respect, and as a matter of fact I never delivered your letter to him, but approached him at my own instance and not at all as your representative. But I wished in view of your connection with the company, whose fortunes were so intimately bound up with this question of Confederation, to have the benefit of our endorsement of any action which I might take to that end. And in addition, I was willing that your previous efforts at terms of union should not be regarded as futile, but that you should have the benefit of the success that I believed that I was able to achieve. Perhaps you know the result of my negotiations. Suffice it to say that in the course of a month I brought the matter to an issue which promises complete success. The terms approved by were formulated by me, and by me alone, in the interests of Newfoundland and of our Company.

I beg to remind you that in order to ensure the success of Confederation in Newfoundland, it was deemed necessary to secure an union of political parties here. With a view to effecting such a union, Mr. H. D. Reid and Mr. Crawford had been doing their best to gain the co-operation of Mr. W. F. Coaker, the President of the Fishermen's Union here, when it was an organization of great political influence. These two gentlemen arranged that Mr. Coaker should take a trip to the Southern States, and to divert Mr. Coaker's journey in the direction of Ottawa, as they were desirous that he should be educated in the matter of Confederation. It thus paved the way for that community of interest between the rival political parties here that has resulted in the amalgamation of their forces. I ask you to believe that all this work was not unimportant either to the inter-

ests of Newfoundland or of the Reid Nfld. Company.

"When I was conducting these negotiations and union of our local political parties, I became aware that our competitors in handling the traffic in Newfoundland had raised their freight rates. The necessity of our Company also raising their rates could not have failed to impress itself upon our Directors then in Newfoundland. The exceptional circumstances of the times made the former scale of rates wholly unprofitable. Nevertheless the local directors could not muster courage enough to tackle the question which had of necessity to be dealt with in the near future. They feared the expression of popular disapproval which might follow upon an increase and held on to the old rates at a time when freight rates all over the world were increasing hugely. The situation clearly demanded more courageous dealing with than this, and I determined to raise the rates, not indeed to the same extent as our competitors had done, but to a degree that reasonably met the exigencies of the time. The situation had to be met, and it was better to meet it at once. The result answered my expectations. The fears which influenced the other Directors proved to be groundless, for the public was reasonable enough to see that the old rates could not be maintained in these times of high prices, but must be accommodated to the new conditions. But you may be sure that this craven fear of public opinion would, but for my intervention, have influenced the Directors to maintain the old rates at a time when the cost of operating was daily increasing. By my action the treasury of the Company has benefitted largely, while the action of my colleagues would have landed it in heavy losses.

"I select these matters as only illus-

trative of my active interference for the best interests of the Company in matters of prime importance during a time when you seem to think that I was rendering no efficient service to the company. I could add many particulars to these, but for the present I refrain.

"The statements which I make in his letter can all be verified by reference to documents which I have in my possession, and I reserve the liberty at any future time of referring to this documentary evidence. I may also find it necessary to bring other matters of large importance which I have conducted for the Company for your attention.

"I reserve also the right of making such use, either in a public or a private way, of my correspondence with you at this juncture."

"We have now some evidence which will show hon. gentlemen why Coalition was brought about. It was only when the Reid interests quarrelled amongst themselves that this scheme which had been in process of formation for upwards of three years had the light of day thrown upon it. In view of these facts we have some honourable gentlemen standing up here and stating that they supported Coalition solely for patriotic motives. The gentleman occupying the position of President of this Council supported it from motives which can be inferred from this letter. Most certainly it was not the Empire or the Regiment which induced him to alter so quickly the attitude which he had adopted towards Coaker and his following prior to the commencement of the war, and which he continued to pursue for the three years following.

Sir Edward Morris led the members of his party in the Executive to believe that he was not resigning the Premiership of the Country, he assur-

ed them that he intended to retain the leadership until at least the end of the war. In spite of these solemn assurances he betrayed his associates upon his arrival in England and handed over the Government of the country to those who a few months previously were bitterly denouncing him.

There was never a greater or more disgraceful scandal in the political history of the country than this so-called Coalition which the spokesmen of the Government have so loudly extolled as essential and necessary to the well being of the Dominion. Coalition was conceived in the interests of the Reid Newfoundland Company for the purpose of the Confederation of this country with Canada. A perusal of the letter which I have just read will show how skillfully the plot was conceived and how near it was to being carried into execution. Negotiations with the Canadian Government had progressed so far that arrangements were made within the past six months for a delegation to proceed to Canada, and an election was to be sprung on the country in February last. It would be interesting for the Government to inform the House why it was at the last moment they decided that an election would not take place. Was there a split in the Government or did any members oppose an election at such juncture? At that time patriotic considerations would not have deterred the Government from springing an election upon the country, if by so doing their own interests would have been furthered. The needs of the Regiment played but a small part in the deliberations of the Government until they were forced either to go to the country or to pass Conscription; fearful of facing an outraged electorate, they preferred to take the latter course.

I deem it necessary to make

these statements here today because I feel that this House and indeed the whole country has a right to be made acquainted with the trickery and intrigue and dishonesty which is rampant among a certain section of public men, and which is a disgrace to the honor and fair name of the Dominion.

If further confirmation is needed of my remarks in this respect, we have only to take into consideration the attitude of a certain section of the public press a short while ago. Then the very men who are now most eager and unrestrained in their desire to extend the life of Parliament, denounced in the most unmeasured language any attempt at extension. The following is an extract from the 'Mail and Advocate' shortly before Coalition was arranged between Morris and Coaker:

"Avowed and unashamed, the Government are still contemplating the idea of attempting to extend the life of the present Government. In defiance of the opposition expressed inside the House and outside of it. This will show at once that the first consideration of the Morris Govt. is to hold on to office by any and all means that can be used toward that end, whether they be legitimate, constitutional or no. And further, who are those that now use such sophistry in saying that all parties should get together at this time? And who are those to whom we shall look to know whether the people desire an election or not? Shall we look to those who sit in luxuriously cushioned ease in the Upper House? Shall we take the word that the country does not want an election from those whose pockets are bulging with profits made because of war conditions? Shall we go to those who are still buying new motor cars, and who, in a natural sense,

have not known in any degree what sacrifice has meant in these years of war? Shall we ask those whether they need a change? No, a thousand times NO!

"On the fields of Europe millions are dying for freedom; not so much for the freedom of nations, as the freedom of MEN. To free men from oppression, to give the peoples control of their countries, in a word to give them that freedom of self-government that it crystalized in the House of Assembly the People's House.

"These institutions of self-Government Sir Edward Morris now seeks to violate; he seeks to take from the people the right which is given them to elect their representatives every four years. It is a question, it is a precedent that should be immediately condemned by every newspaper in the Colony.

"As we pointed out on Saturday, it is not now a question of the desirability or otherwise of an election, but it is a shameless attempt which is being made to ride roughshod over the greatest safeguard of democratic Government and destroy the very essence of popular control.

"Look at the condition in Canada to-day The question of coalition is hanging in the balance, but the alternative is clear—if there is no Coalition there will be an election, and there is no suggestion of anything else.

"In Newfoundland, the question of Coalition has been settled. There will be no Coalition. Therefore should an election be any further delayed?"

Now, that was a short time before Coalition, and we have those very men who were urging an extension of Parliament but a short time before that Coalition took place denouncing it in the most unmeasured terms. Now

I ask hon. gentlemen who are not hide-bound partisans to ask themselves the question seriously: Can you believe in the professions of men who can write in this manner who will speak in the manner which I shall relate later on? What honesty can you place on anything they say? How can you construe their actions to be for the good of the Empire of which we form a part?

The hour being late, the Committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again tomorrow.

The President read a message from hanging in the balance, but the altered bills entitled respectively: "An Act to amend the Beaver Preservation Act"; "An Act to authorize the Raising of a Sum of Money by Loan for Naval and Military Purposes"; and "An Act for the transfer of properties of the Congregational Home Missions," in which they requested Concurrence.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these bills were then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

The House then adjourned until tomorrow at 2.45 p.m.

FRIDAY, May 10th, 1918.

The House met at 2.45, pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Extension Bill.

HON. MR. GIBBS (Continued.)—Mr. Chairman, when the House adjourned last evening I had dealt with some of the arguments advanced by the Hon. the President of this Council as to why this Extension Bill should be passed. I pointed out to him and to the House with reference to the Canadian precedents that the Imperial Government had to amend the British North American Act in

order that extension might take place there and, that because there was no unanimity in relation to the extension that therefore an election had to be held. In the case of Ontario the life of Parliament was extended, but there was unanimity on the subject. The leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Parliament made the motion that the life of Parliament be extended, and both the Government and the opposition agreed to the principle that the life of the Legislature might in that case be extended and it was done accordingly. In this country matters are entirely different. There is no unanimity either in the House or in the press of the country. The majority of the Press favor an election. Members in both branches of the Legislature favor an election and therefore to extend the life of the present Parliament in the face of all this is, I submit, not Constitutional. It is not according to the spirit of the Constitution. The hon. gentleman said the Constitution may be changed at any time; but that change can only be made with the consent of those who made it. The spirit of the Constitution demands that an election take place, and if the people, or a large mass of the people are of the opinion that an election should take place, then I most respectfully submit that this desire should be acceded to. Now the Hon. Mr. Anderson clearly demonstrated that the House of Assembly as it was constituted when this Bill was put through, did not represent upwards of 125,000 people; and nobody disputes the hon. gentleman's figures because I feel assured that Mr. Anderson is the highest authority on statistical matters in this country. Now 125,000 people in this country to be disfranchised at the time of the passage of a measure which is contrary to the

very essence of the constitution of the country is a very serious matter; the only serious justification advanced is that conscription has been adopted and that therefore we should pass a Bill of this character. What has the Conscription Bill to do with the Extension Bill, and why should the two go together?

The question of who is to be conscripted is not going to be decided by the Government of the day no matter who they may be. That is a matter which the Judges of the Supreme Court have to decide. The question as to how that Act is to be put into force is not for the Government. Provision is made that that shall be done by the Board appointed under the Act, so that then what has the Government got to do? The reason is advanced that we should not have elections because there is a war on. Now I want to tell this House something which perhaps it may not know, and of which some of us have known only recently. Before Sir Edward Morris left this country for England in 1917, when he failed to get his party to agree to coalition upon the terms on which Mr. Coaker wanted it, he arranged with certain men in this country as to the literature that was to be prepared for the forthcoming election. Preparations for a general election in 1917 were being made; and when he came back from England he made full preparation and discussed with certain men matters in connection with the forthcoming election in 1917. His failure to get coalition upon his own terms with the opposition forced him to the necessity of making provision as far as his party was concerned for an election. He prepared for one and arranged for the campaign literature. This was all done in the spring of 1917. In the light of these facts it is somewhat surprising

to hear hon. gentlemen who are acquainted with these matters get up here and tell this House that because there is a war on, we should have no election. When one of those gentlemen pointed out to Sir Edward Morris at the time he was discussing the matter of a general election which he was going to hold in the event of his failure to secure coalition, the incendiary appeals that Mr. Coaker was making through the Assembly and the effect of those appeals would have upon the country, Sir Edward Morris said to this man—"Coaker and I understand one another." That was away back in 1917, and now we are told that because there was a war on patriotism should be uppermost in our minds.

I have said that the question of whether the welfare of the Empire was at stake or the maintenance of the Regiment was not uppermost in the minds of those who were pressing for an election in 1917. It was only when a coalition was brought about that an election was then postponed. If that coalition had not been brought about by the betrayal of the party of which Sir Edward Morris was the head we would have had an election in 1917; but it was because of the betrayal of his party that Sir Edward Morris was able to bring about Coalition, and it is upon that we are asked to place the seal of approval; a betrayal which shows the tactics of a political adventurer.

Now let us examine the attitude of those who were advocating an election up to a short time ago. The Hon. Mr. Coaker in a speech delivered in the House of Assembly not eleven months ago when the Opposition held up the business of the Assembly until they sought some promise as to whether the Government intended to hold an election or not, said:

"If you attempt to prolong the life

of this Government you will have the people rise up against you: you will turn the country upside down—more so than at present. Why should you not have an election? Is it because of the war? What have we to do with the war except to vote the money necessary to carry out our obligations in connection with it. What have we to do with recruiting or with the expenditure of the war loans? These are not sufficient reasons to have the elections put off. If we were never here the war would go on just the same. Are you going to be in a better position next year to hold an election. I say here that in my opinion for the next five years you will not have a more favorable time than this fall during which to hold an election. Are you, in prolonging the life of your Government, prepared to have the country turned upside down? Do you want to have a revolution in this country? Are you as a Government going to defy the very principles for which our soldier lads are fighting for today in France? Our volunteers are battling today for liberty, freedom and justice and the right to do as they wish; for free speech and for the right to decide for themselves whom they are going to have governing them. They are fighting for democracy and for all that word signifies; for things near and dear to the heart of every right-thinking man; for the downfall of the principle of might over right. And what is your position in this land of theirs? What attitude are you assuming on the situation that now faces this country? You are in the majority in this House—you have four or five members more than we have, and because of that, because you have might on your side, you are going to perpetuate a deed for which this country is going to suffer. You are going to abstain from holding an

election at the proper time—this fall. The principle for which our boys are gone to fight you are going to set at nought. The Germans are doing the very things you are going to repeat in this country; you are going to do something the people do not want done. Are you going to coerce the people? Are you going to muzzle the country? Are you going to deny to the people the constitutional right of choosing for themselves those whom they wish to govern them. If the Executive is prepared to upset conditions in this country, to start an agitation that will shake the country to its very foundations let them deny the people the right they demand. I know what I am talking about and I know the people want an election. All the country has its eyes on you. Every man that has gone across the water has his eye on you, watching your every movement. If you defy the people where are you going to get recruits? Where did you get recruits the past year or so? I warn you in all sincerity, as a man who wants to do right, that if you attempt this thing you are doing the sorriest thing that has been done in Newfoundland for the past fifty years. I regret that we have not been able to accept the Government's invitation to form a Coalition Government. The people of the country would not consider such a proceeding proper now. You are treating the people as if they were babies or had no sense; but you cannot fool the people that way. I was surprised the other day at Catalina to find a body of men calling on me and telling me not to come back to Catalina looking for votes if I did not stay here in this House till September and demand a general election.

It certainly does look as if common sense had departed from your councils. You will find though, that if you

carry out your intention, you will cause a disturbance throughout the country which you will most certainly regret. If the Premier does not want to have the news of internal agitation in Newfoundland flashed to the other side of the water he will not attempt to extend the life of the present parliament. We are not trying to play with the Constitution. We are not trying to present false issues to the people in an attempt to prove that we should not have a general election.

I wonder if the Premier will venture to open the two seats in the district of St. John's East. There is one vacant seat in Fortune Bay. Will he venture to open these seats in twenty one days and find out whether the people want an election or not?"

It was not possible, Mr. Chairman, or a public man in the public position which Hon. Mr. Coaker then occupied, to speak more vigorously or more strongly in favor of the position he then took, that an election should be held in justice to the boys who went overseas and who were shedding their blood in France and Flanders for the rights in which he charged the then Premier was trying to take from them. We are now asked to believe that in the interests of the country and of the Empire an extension of the life of Parliament is sought. The present Premier, Dr. Lloyd, not eleven months ago, stated in the House of Assembly:

"It is true that on August 28th, 1914, in the first month of the war, an offer was made thru the 'Advocate' of amalgamation with the Government. It is true, too, that a few weeks ago, viz: on May 25th, 1917, the Government asked the Opposition with them, and that the Opposition decided not to entertain the proposition. But that is only a partly told story. The Opposition opened the door for a National Government in

August, 1914, and kept it wide open until the end of December, 1915. The Opposition closed the door only when it found there was no good purpose to be served by keeping it open any longer.

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They wanted Sir Edward Morris to resign in order that the old Government should go out of existence and that the slate might be wiped clean.

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We were willing to leave the leadership of the Government to Sir Edward Morris, but we were not content to extend the term of the Assembly. Our determination was in quite the opposite direction. Our decision was to have an election in the Fall of 1915, if a National Government had been formed, in order that we might put the proposal squarely before the electorate and ask for a new mandate for the new Government.

In connection with our readiness to join in the formation of a National Government, we never entertained the idea of extending the term of the present House of Assembly. Now, the question may arise in your minds why the Opposition left the door open so long, and also why the door was not closed until at the end of December last. We left the door open until December last because we had hoped that the Government was ready to deal with us, and not drive the formation of a National Government until the term of the Assembly was almost over.

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When the end of December came and all hope of forming a National Government had disappeared, the Opposition decided to give up the idea of an amalgamation of political parties and to appeal to the country in the fall of 1917 for a sufficient majority as would ensure sufficient strength

to tackle these problems themselves. It was hopeless to look to the present Government for aid. The Government appeared paralyzed, and were leaving these problems untackled. It seemed idle to look to the new Government for a new stimulus, a new spirit and a new power. The Government had done nothing for some two years and four months. It was apparent to the opposition that the country could not rely on the Government doing anything themselves, and they showed no disposition to accept the terms of the Opposition, which were the only terms which would ensure sufficient power to make certain that urgent problems would be solved. It seemed useless to expect anything from men who were determined to hold on alone until the term of the present Assembly had nearly expired and then show a readiness to co-operate as one of the principal supporters of the Government assured me was his intention, and the fact of the overture coming a few weeks ago shows that he was by no means aloof in this partisan policy. The Opposition determined to have nothing to do with a party whose policy was apparently to hold on alone as long as they could and then offer coalition as a measure of avoiding the facing of the electorate.

The Government waited until it was too late. They waited until the term of the Legislature had nearly expired and then at the last minute they asked us to join in, and we refused. We refused because we saw it was useless to hope for anything to be done which would be worth while. We were not prepared to begin negotiations at the end of May, which might be protracted through the session and then broken off and an Extension Bill introduced and passed by a majority, while we had been beguill-

ed into letting the Estimates through and thus lost a proper opportunity of rousing up the country against the postponement of elections."

That is the declaration of the Premier of the present Government, delivered in the Assembly not eleven months ago, insisting that a general election should take place, and accusing the Government of endeavoring to use the Opposition for the purposing of holding on to power; accusing it of coming in in a dying moment and endeavoring to be kept in office for a further period. He then absolutely refused to have anything to do with Coalition or with a Government which would attempt to extend its life beyond the term for which it was elected, and I ask hon. gentlemen in the face of declarations of that kind, in the face of the solemn words and assurances given by the Leader of the Opposition party, what dependence can they place upon their words today? What dependence can they place upon the professions of men who only a short while ago vigorously denounced Coalition and an extension of the term of the present parliament in the most emphatic language. The present Colonial Secretary, Mr. Halfyard, was no less pronounced in his opposition to the extension of the life of Parliament and to coalition. He said:

"I regret very much that no provision has been made in the estimates this year for the taking of the voters' list this summer for the purpose of a general election. There is no uncertain sound that in the interests of the country, the interests of recruiting and in the interest of the Empire a general election should be held this fall.

"Does the Government intend to remain in power despite the express

wishes of the people? A general election is a necessity not only from a local but from a constitutional point of view.

"I am not so far convinced that a Coalition would have been the best thing for the country at any time. I believe a general election should be carried on and men could be elected to this House of Assembly, clean, upright, honest and intelligent things as they are to the best interests of the country.

"Do not try like ostriches to hide your heads in the sands of deception and intrigue with the hope of covering up your political sins of omission and commission of the past four years. You talk about patriotism keeping united and acting as one to carry ourselves through the present crisis, and yet you think it not right to go to the country and ask a man for his vote.

"I trust that the Government will view this matter of a general election not from a party standpoint but from an Imperial standpoint. Because, as expressed by Mr. Coaker yesterday, that would be the worst thing that could happen this country at the present time. If you are the patriots you profess to be, if you are interested in keeping up recruiting, if you are interested in having Newfoundland represented as a unit, on the sodden, bloody fields of France and Flanders, if you think it would be a disgrace to the name of Newfoundland which at present is held in such high esteem, honor and glory on account of the sacrifice of our noble boys, not to keep up that unit. Give them what they want—a general election next fall. Are you playing the game? No. Who do you take as an example for your proposed action in connection with a general election. Do you intend to introduce Conscription? Sir Robert

Borden came back and made the announcement that he would introduce Selective Conscription, which set certain sections of the great Dominion in an uproar. Sir Edward Morris came back and he tells us that his intentions were wrongly interpreted by the newspapers and that he never thought of it. In fact, we would almost infer from his pronouncement that he did not know the meaning of the words. What is there to keep this country apart? What is there to cause those squalid squabbings of which we have heard so much. Whether we get recruits or not does not seem to matter.

"There is nothing which you may say which will prove to the intelligence of this country that it is not to our best interests to have an election this fall."

That is the declaration of the Colonial Secretary made only last year when the House was in session, and when matters were just as critical as they are today. In view of the declarations of these men I ask hon. gentlemen how can we accept their professions today that what they want done is in the interests of the country at large. Then Mr. Grimes, the member for Port de Grave, said:

"Surely the Government does not want ampler proof of the sentiment of the people on this question than has been afforded by honorable members in this House. Surely the Government is practical enough to see that the only way to aid the Empire in his present crisis is to obey and follow the desires of the people. Our men in the battlefield fight for freedom, liberty and constitutional rights. Is this going to be denied them at home by a Government that does not attempt to secure their consent in the matter?"

It is clearly beyond doubt that the Hon Opposition regarded the question

of the extension of the life of Parliament as a grave constitutional matter. What brought about the change? that is the most important part of it. How did the lion come to lie down with the lamb? When the present Premier asserted that the only terms on which they would accept coalition was that Sir Edward Morris should resign? Did Sir Edward Morris go behind the backs of his followers and make a bargain? Did he not betray his followers? Do not events which have since happened show he did? It is evident that a part of the bargain was the extension of Parliament, and another part of it was that he should resign and hand the Government over to Lloyd and Coaker without even consulting his followers, and without letting them know anything about it. We are asked here to solemnly perpetuate bargain of this character, which bears on it the imprint of a political adventurer. Later we find Mr. Coaker in the Evening Advocate, not 12 months ago, writing:

"Shall we look to those who sit in luxuriously cushioned ease in the Upper House? Shall we take the word that the country does not want an election from these whose pockets are bulging with profits made because of war conditions? Shall we go to those who are still buying new motor cars, and who, in a material sense, have not known in any degree, what sacrifice has meant in these years of war? Shall we ask those whether they need a change? No, a thousand times no! On the fields of Europe millions are dying for freedom; not as much for the freedom of nations, as the freedom of men. To free men from oppression, to give the peoples control of their countries, in a word to give them that freedom of self-government that is crystallized in the House of Assembly, the People's

House. These institutions of self-government Sir Edward Morris now seeks to violate; he seeks to take from the people the right which is given them to elect their representatives every four years. As we pointed out on Saturday, it is not now a question of the desirability or otherwise of an election, but it is the shameless attempt which is being made to ride rough shod over the greatest safeguard of democratic government, and destroy the very essence of popular control. Look at conditions in Canada today. The question of coalition is hanging in the balance, but the alternative is clear—if there is no coalition, there will be an election—and there is no suggestion of anything else. In Newfoundland the question of coalition has been settled. There will be no coalition. Therefore why should an election be any further delayed?"

It is not possible, Mr. Chairman, to frame a stronger indictment than the words of the man who dominates the present Government, against this unconstitutional act, which according to him might be regarded as an outrage perpetrated upon the people of this country, on millions of men who are dying in Europe not so much for the freedom of nations but for the freedom of men.

Again, he says in his paper under the heading of "Unrest in Newfoundland"; "The unrest has broken out in Spain now, and is, as in Russia, directed at those in authority who have been too complacent about the ruthless warfare of Germany. It is also apparent that the day of autocracy has passed away, and that democracy faulty as it may be in some respects, is taking its place.

"Here in Newfoundland we are in the transition stage too. The Morris Government which arrogantly as-

sumed the title of the People's Party, has proven itself to be one of the most autocratic and unconstitutional governments that has ever held power. The outrages which Sir Edward Morris has perpetrated upon the country have been such as to make thinking people grasp.

"Happily there is no need of a revolution here with the coming general election so near. The opportunity of turning this Government out of office is ours then and will be eagerly availed of by the people. Such a thing as postponing the election this fall is unthinkable. Not only does this country's interests demand it, but the Empire's interests demand it as well. His Excellency the Governor dare not support a plea for the extension of the present Parliament.

"The leader of the Liberal-Union Party, Dr. Lloyd, emphatically stated at the sealers' meeting that any move of this sort would be fought in the House of Assembly with all the power that the Opposition could command. The people will join in the fight and altogether a resistance such as the House of Assembly has never before witnessed will be the outcome.

"We give this warning now, and in giving it we feel that we have the people with us. Such an influence cannot be disregarded. If we have to speak plainer we shall do so. We shall stand no longer to see our democratic institutions trailed in the dust by a Government which four years ago was in a minority in the total number of votes polled, and which today stands as one of the most unpopular and friendless governments the country has ever known."

Now, Sir, these are the written and spoken declarations of men who are today asking this House to extend the life of Parliament; and I want honorable gentlemen in the light of those

printed and spoken statements, to ask themselves seriously, what is behind it all? What has brought such diverse political elements together? What is the game that is being played? Can you conceive of men, who at a short time ago hurled the vilest epithets possible, both in the House of Assembly and through the Press, at one another, charging one another with every conceivable crime in the political and the other calendar as well. Do you think they have composed their political differences to come together solely for the benefit of the country, solely for the interests of the taxpayer? If hon. gentlemen of this chamber can arrive at the conclusion that these men have come together for the interests of the Empire, and if those grand and noble addresses which we have heard so much of were delivered in truth and sincerity, then it passes my comprehension. But, Sir, I contend that there was a dark and sinister plot in connection with the so-called union of the opposing political parties as represented in the House of Assembly, and I adduced some evidence here last evening to prove that there is something behind it all. It was not the intention of Premier Morris to have a general election in this country until this war terminated, be it one year or five years, and it is part and parcel of the policy they then had in view, which we are now asked to carry out here. Men connected with these parties were aware of it, and also of some of the things which I have told the House today. No doubt some have not been aware of it, but if they were unaware of these things they are not now in the light of what was revealed here yesterday. Nor can they conscientiously support such

The President of this Council is very fond of citing the precedents of Can-

ada, and what has been done in Canada. We have heard more of Canada within the past week than we have during the past ten years. What has Canada to do with this country? What has its precedents to do with Newfoundland? Conditions here are vastly different from these prevailing in Canada. Precedents which apply to Canada cannot apply here. And the Honourable the President seems to have a fondness for Canadian institutions. This spirit is, possibly new born, it is not very ancient. I remember reading the Advocate during 1915, at the time when the Herald and the Advocate were waging war on another, where the Advocate, in referring to the President of this Council, says:

"As for P. T. McGrath's visit to Canada the past summer, he says he had no political mission, but what he went to do he did. We hasten to reply that he did go to perform a political mission but he failed ignominiously. He did not even succeed in seeing Premier Borden. He could only secure the ear of a few fifth-rated officials respecting the nature of his political mission and he returned disgruntled and defeated. P. T. then proceeds to insinuate that Mr. Coaker did have to camp on the Premier's doorstep on Rennie's Mill Road until he was allowed in, and when he got in made propositions for a Coalition Government, that his scheme only failed because leading members of the Morris Party would have nothing to do with Mr. Coaker. If we are compelled to defend Mr. Coaker against Mr. McGrath's false insinuations respecting Coalition, we will show the whys and wherefores of these transactions as Mr. McGrath's infamous remarks on this matter will be held as releasing Mr. Coaker from all honourable confidential restraints."

Now, what were the restraints placed on Mr. Coaker before and during the negotiations between himself and Premier Morris? These negotiations went on between two public men in relation to public matters about which the country has a right to know. This Chamber has a right to be fully informed about them before they make up their minds to give an extension of power to the men who carried on these negotiations which, according to their own statements, cannot bear the light of day. This House is entitled to know if Mr. Coaker camped on Sir Edward Morris's doorstep. Why did he camp there? What restraints were placed upon him? What were the insinuations against his personal honor and so forth that Mr. McGrath made reference to? I mention these matters because there are charges being made in the press in relation to matters vitally important to Newfoundland and our people. If we are to have Confederation let us go in with our eyes open, and, as a free people realizing what we are doing, and knowing what we are about; but, do not let us go in merely at the behest of men doing political bargaining, not in the interests of the country but of themselves.

The Hon. President then proceeds to lecture this House. He thinks we should have accepted the Bill. I cannot imagine that an honorable gentleman occupying the position that the President does here, a position of a semi-judicial character, where he has to decide upon questions that arise between honorable gentlemen in this House, questions that may be of grave importance and on which he has to sit in a semi-judicial capacity and decide as such, coming down here from his high position, to pose as the defender of the Government, to assume a par-

tisan attitude which does not conduce to the dignity of this House. The hon. gentleman referring to the arguments put forward by men against the Extension Bill, said that because conditions in this country and in the world are abnormal we should not plunge the country into a general election. He endeavoured to show that I falsely quoted history to the effect that I identified the name of Gladstone with the Reform Bill of 1832. Gladstone is and will always be connected with the great Reform movement which starting at that date continued for over half a century and was successful in inaugurating the greater part of the social and industrial reforms which have placed England in the forefront of the nations of today. The Reform Bill to which I refer was introduced into Parliament by Gladstone at a somewhat later date in order to extend the franchise and to give to the masses of the people a greater voice and share in the councils of the country. At that time there was a commercial and political crisis in England Conditions were verging on chaos, a war was imminent on the continent of Europe. Gladstone was appealed to by the Tories to postpone these reforms because of the unsettled state of affairs, but he did not hesitate to brush their importunities aside. He saw no reason why these conditions should prevent the masses from having a greater share in the Government of the country. He went on with his Reform Bill and carried it by a majority of five. If the Reformers in England had listened to those who desired to postpone the various measures of reform which they were introducing, if they had allowed unsettled conditions to interfere with their measures for the amelioration of the lot of the people, the progress of Reform would have been stopped and

the foundation of the great Colonial Empire of today might not have been laid for a quarter of a century later. From the passage of the Reform Bill of 1832, and for upwards of half a century later a great era of national and industrial prosperity set in and the greatness of England from an economic and industrial standpoint may well be said to have commenced from that time.

The Hon. President then went on to say that there were only a certain number of seats vacant in the Assembly. As I have already stated, the Hon. Mr. Anderson has shown that upwards of 125,000 people were unrepresented in the House when this Bill was passed. In order to justify the action of the Government in this respect, the Hon. the President says that he had known when Clerk of the House, members to go to their homes when Supply was being passed, but has he known, or has any honorable gentleman within sound of my voice known, the Assembly to sit since Responsible Government where more than one-half of the people were not represented and thousands more disfranchised altogether?

He then goes on to justify the accusations made here by honorable gentlemen that a great number of members who constitute the present Government, directly or indirectly are in the pay of the Government by producing some figures to show that 69 or 89 members of the Imperial House were directly or indirectly in the pay of the Imperial Government. But he did not mention the fact that in the Imperial House there were nearly 700 members, and, if 8 per cent. or more of that body were in the pay of the Government it would be a very small percentage. I contend, Sir, that the attitude of the President of this House was of a partisan nature, most uncall-

ed for, and for which there is no precedent in this or in any other Legislature within the Empire. Honourable gentlemen talk about the necessity of enforcing conscription. The Conscription Bill has passed both Houses and to make it the law of the land all it now needs is the assent of the Governor. Why is the assent of the Governor withheld? Why is it not assented to? Why is the Governor brought down here when such a step is necessary to make this law binding upon every person in the land, so that the patriotism of the country can be rallied in the defence of the Empire. My honorable friend, Mr. Anderson, introduced a bill at the opening of the Session for the purpose of saving daylight. The Bill was passed and the Governor was quickly brought down here and assented to it. I feel sure that had he charge of the Conscription Bill he would have as quickly secured the assent of the Governor to it. I again repeat, why has not the Governor been brought down here to assent to this Bill, which in the opinion of the Government is so vitally necessary to the country and to the Empire? Why is this consent withheld? We are told that these two bills, the Conscription and the Extension Bill, must be linked together. If there was to be no extension of Parliament, it is evident that there would be no Conscription Bill.

In view of these conditions, it is indeed high time that the electorate should be consulted on matters so vitally important to them. The people demand that their verdict be obtained upon the evidence before them and upon the acts committed by those in power who are now striving to withhold from the people their rights in order that their hunger or the spoils of office may be grati-

fied at the expense of the electorate and of the welfare of this Dominion.

HON. MR. MEWS—It seems to me that the title of the Bill is being taken rather too literally, and that the debate has been extensive and promises to be still more extended. The debate seems to have gone back to the standing of the Government which presented the Bill and asked us to pass it. It is right and proper that this should be so—that the Government which asks such an important Bill as this to pass may be worthy of the high position they hold. During the first part of the year the town was filled with rumors of sinister plots and all sorts and conditions of forebodings. History repeated itself the other day, and the rumors and suggestions of plots were brought up in this House. In January the perpetrators of those rumors became so excited that they could not contain themselves and so “the mountain labored and brought forth a mouse,” a creature deaf and blind and with at least three game legs, a mouse that has been resurrected more than once in this country, otherwise called the bogey of Confederation. And history repeated itself in this House yesterday when Hon. Mr. Gibbs brought this bogey before the country. If it had been something not so well known that he had to spring upon us we might have forgiven him. But an old parliamentarian like himself should have brought something forward which we could have taken seriously. It was based upon a letter of Sir W. D. Reid to Lord Shaughnessey, and I also have a copy of that letter. I noticed that when Hon. Mr. Gibbs read that letter he filled in the two spaces which are not filled in in my copy. Evidently the hon. member had access to the original document, which all could not get access to, and in speak-

ing of the party with whom the negotiations were carried on, Hon. Mr. Gibbs referred to Mr. Borden in this letter he read, but in my copy the name is not filled in. This letter reminds us that sometimes the president of a large company and the office boy are much in the same position as to the security of their jobs. It is an apparent effort on Sir Wm. Reid's part to ingratiate himself in the favor of Lord Shaughnessey with reference to his position as President of the Reid Nfld. Co. This is what we see on the face of it, but I notice the letter is dated December 19th, and the meeting of the Reid Nfld. Co. was held on December 20th, so that how Sir W. D. Reid could expect Lord Shaughnessey to consider his claim when he would get the letter five days after the general meeting of the company, I am at a loss to know. We must place another construction upon it, viz., that this letter which Hon. Mr. Gibbs quoted from yesterday was written with a purpose, and may be it was done with the purpose of injuring Mr. Coaker. It contains, as the Hon. Mr. Gibbs has told us, Sir W. D. Reid's assertions regarding Confederation. The opening paragraph of the letter I do not think Hon. Mr. Gibbs read, and I shall read it to show the tenor of the whole letter:

St. John's, Nfld.,

Dec. 19th, 1917.

Dear Lord Shaughnessey:—

I think it necessary, before any action is taken by the Reid Nfld. Company to deprive itself of my services as its President and General Manager, to make a short reply to the criticisms which you have been pleased to make of my activity in the Company's interests during the past three years or so. I do not pretend to make an elaborate defence, but only to indicate to you the fact that

even during the time of my severest illness I was not merely a factor, but the chief factor, in promoting the welfare of the Company; that its largest concerns were always engaging my attention; that I was able to direct matters of policy affecting its future well being and the well being of the country where it operates, that I achieved results affecting both the company and the country which had long been desired by the best friends in Newfoundland; and that I achieved them when others had failed. I contend most emphatically that there is no foundation whatever in fact for any of the criticisms which you have passed upon my conduct."

That is just to show you, Mr. Chairman, the tenor of the letter. The Hon. Mr. Gibbs has already read to you other parts. These also show the type of the letter Sir W. D. Reid wrote. In that letter, as it has been read by Hon. Mr. Gibbs, there is a reference to Confederation with Canada, with which is coupled the name of the Hon. W. F. Coaker. When this appeared in the press Mr. Coaker demanded an investigation as promptly as possible and took rather severe methods to bring it to a head. He wanted to have it brought before a Judicial Tribunal separated from politics, but he was refused that investigation. He commenced legal proceedings before the Magistrate and the Magistrate dismissed the proceedings at the instance of Sir Wm. D. Reid on the grounds that the words were not libellous, but did not say it was true or untrue. Then Mr. Coaker began an indictment before a Grand Jury. They also threw it out because they considered it not libellous; but I am informed, Mr. Chairman, that the Grand Jury did not examine a single witness. Now, Mr. Chairman, without any further delay, I will read the affi-

davit which the Hon. Mr. Coaker made a sworn statement of fact, sworn before John McCarthy, J.P.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

St. John's,
S.S.

I, WILLIAM F. COAKER, of St. John's, make oath and say as follows: I am and was at the time of the publication hereinafter referred to a Member of the House of Assembly and a Member of the Executive Council of Newfoundland. Annexed hereto and marked "A" is a printed paper which purports to be a copy of a letter written by Sir William D. Reid. The said annexed printed and written papers containing the same words and arranged in the same manner and order and to the like effect have been at divers times since the 11th day of December last past published at St. John's by the said Sir William D. Reid and as I have been informed and believe have been read by a number of persons. The words "Mr. W. F. Coaker" and "Mr. Coaker" in the said annexed printed paper refer to me and mean my name. The inuendoes to be gathered from the following words which are a portion of the contents of said annexed paper, namely:

"I beg to remind you that in order to ensure the success of Confederation in Newfoundland, it was deemed necessary to secure a union of political parties here. With a view of effecting such a union, Mr. H. D. Reid and Mr. Crawford had been doing their best to gain the co-operation of Mr. W. F. Coaker, the President of the Fishermen's Union here, when it was an organization of great influence. These two gentlemen arranged that Mr. Coaker should take a trip thru the Southern States, and to divert Mr. Coaker's journey in the direction of Ottawa, as they were desirous that he should be educated in the

matter of Confederation. It thus paved the way for that community of interest between the rival political parties here that has resulted in the amalgamation of their forces. I ask you to believe that all this work was not unimportant either to the interest of Newfoundland or of the Reid Newfoundland Company."

are that I secretly and corruptly negotiated or treated with the said H.D. Reid and Mr. Crawford to co-operate with a person or persons to secure the success of Confederation in Newfoundland, meaning the political union of Canada and Newfoundland, and to secure a union of political parties in Newfoundland for that purpose; that I was a party to an arrangement with Mr. H. D. Reid and Mr. Crawford that I should take a trip through the Southern States and that my journey should be diverted in the direction of Ottawa in Canada, for the aforesaid purposes and objects and that my visit to the United States and Canada in 1916 was in pursuance of said arrangement and that my expenses in connection with same were provided by or through Mr. H. D. Reid and Mr. Crawford. The said words and the said inuendoes are false, malicious and defamatory. I never had any negotiations directly or indirectly or at all with Mr. H. D. Reid or Mr. Crawford, nor did I co-operate with any person or persons for the purpose of promoting or securing Confederation or Union of Newfoundland with Canada. I did not at any time discuss or communicate with any person or persons a union of political parties for or with the purpose of Confederation or of furthering or aiding the same. I never was and am not now in favor of Confederation. At the time of or during the negotiations which led up to the union of political parties in Newfoundland or since, the subject of

Confederation was never mentioned or discussed by me or by any person or persons acting for or associated with me. The said union of political parties effected last year and all the negotiations which led up to same were in so far as I was a party to same entirely devoid of all reference to or consideration of the question of Confederation. All expenses in connection with my visits to Canada and the United States in 1916 and 1917 were paid by the Union Trading Company, Limited, and other Trading Companies associated with the Fishermen's Protective Union which I represent and no part thereof was paid by any other person, firm or company whatsoever, and I was no party to any arrangement with Mr. H. D. Reid or Mr. Crawford or any person other than the said companies whereby they or any of them should pay my said expenses or any part thereof directly or indirectly.

And I pray a warrant for the arrest of the said Sir William D. Reid.

(Sgd.) W. F. COAKER.

Sworn before me at

St. John's, this 11th
day of January,
Anno Domini, 1918.

(Sgd.) JOHN McCARTHY, J.P.

This is a sworn statement, Mr. Chairman, and I think I can leave it to anybody here or in the country to say that this statement will offset any other statement made by the hon. Mr. Gibbs in this Chamber or elsewhere regarding the planning and aspirations of Sir William D. Reid concerning Confederation.

At the same time, in January, a statement appeared from the Prime Minister, Dr. Lloyd, about the charge that the Hon. Mr. Gibbs now makes in this House, that the Union of parties last year was based on Confederation. Dr. Lloyd says:

"Much has been said by those who know no better than the main object of the amalgamation of the political parties last summer was to promote Union with Canada. That is not so. The question of Confederation was ever taken into consideration, and has ever been discussed since the National Ministry was formed last July. Mr. Lloyd is not an advocate of Confederation. He has no desire to see the Dominion of Canada rounded off by the inclusion of Newfoundland. He is strongly anti-Confederate, and has faith that Newfoundland will be able in the future as in the past, to 'paddle her own canoe.'

And in reference to that I am prepared to take Dr. Lloyd's word against that of the Hon. Mr. Gibbs, whose words are based upon absolutely nothing but suspicion, heightened by prejudice.

I think now, Sir, that this matter has been disposed of. What I have said is the truth based upon accredited statements of two men who ought to know whether Coalition was or was not with a view to Confederation. Mr. Gibbs' case is not based on any solid foundation at all, but on the supposition that Sir William D. Reid has tried to bring about Confederation I have proved that, so far as the Liberal-Union Party is concerned, Mr. Gibbs' statement is false, and I think I can trust this House to see matters in the right light.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I have no desire to provoke a controversy, indeed to make a speech at all, but would point out to my Hon. friend that he has produced a document here written by Mr. Coaker in his capacity as President of the Fishermen's Protective Union and we have no means of testing at present the authenticity of this document, we should be informed by the government as to whether it is

authentic or not. My Hon. friend knows that a document of that character would not be admitted in Court. It is quite possible that it may not have been written by somebody else. It has come to me as a complete surprise, as I think it has come to other members of the House. I understood someone to say it is published in the newspapers, but I think we should have an opportunity of reading it and having it tabled. My Hon. friend evidently did not read it all, and I think we might have an adjournment until after tea in order that Hon. gentlemen might read the document and get an opportunity of adjusting our position in the light of this new development.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—I am sure we have all listened with pleasure to the speech of Hon. Mr. Squires. The arguments he brought forward are strong and powerful. Now we are all here residents of St. John's, and in this house we have no political shuttlecocks and I further say that in this House every Hon. gentleman desires to use a safety valve to protect the constitutional government within reason and fair play. Now in connection with the Minister of Militia, to whom I referred the other day, I think he should be relieved of all political influence and pay at least two trips a year to the Old Country to look into all matters in connection with our boys, some of whom are now at Wandsworth maimed for life. Now I supported this bill on its second reading and was desirous that it should go to committee, but I cordially endorse some definite date for the extension of the life of this parliament. I have the assurance of our soldier boys that not less than 1800 boys will be recruited before the end of the year, and I am also assured that they will in no way interfere with the work of the government. A great deal has been said about the vacant seats. If

Squires' speech - p. 215 below.

the two contesting parties are known on the 30th of April next there will be a dissolution of parliament and then the public will have a chance to settle the question. Now a great deal has been said about the districts of St. John's East and West not being properly represented.

It has not been so for 12 months or two years. What is the reason? There is no such thing as public opinion, it is dead and buried, and the only fight put up is in the press, which is its own representative. The right of scribbling a letter is not the expression of public opinion, but only that of the individual. A little while ago you thought that public opinion was expressed by "Mechanic" on the Daylight Bill. The man who writes a dirty letter is a hero because he gathers public opinion in many cases and believes he is in with public opinion in St. John's East and West. Let us have an expression of public opinion, but let the people put their veto on emendations of this character. I think on the last occasion on which I addressed the House, I put before the country at that time at least, that 125,000 people of the country were disfranchised. Surely this should not be the state of affairs, and while I will support the Government within reasonable bounds and give them between now and the end of the year to bring 1800 soldiers together, and four months to get things in order for a general election, there is very little evidence if it will be held in the Spring or Autumn, but I will ask that you play the game fair. I do not take an advantage and camp behind the scenes, but I would let the country know it and have a proper expression of opinion, and if the Government is returned, or any other Government with the voice of the people, let them have a majority. I referred recently

to the Government as a National Government. It is not; it is a heterogeneous mass or combination of political forces. One other matter before I sit down I wish to bring before the House. We have had a lot of boys in the Old Country who went with the first 500 and some have written to me that they have had no furlough home and have been kept on the other side without getting a chance to come across. This is another matter for the Minister of Militia, and I hope the leader of the Government will convey the excuse with my compliments and tell them a pleasure trip must be given the Minister as soon as he has a lot of work to do on the other side, and the best time to do it is in July and August. The boys are in various hospitals and I hope the visitors will make a special effort to get over to the front, and I hope by that time we can send over 500 or 600 men more and I hope the Minister of Militia will carefully see that the first boys who went across will get the holiday they deserve. I support the Bill because we want the Conscription Bill to be enforced and a commission to enforce it at once. The definite date upon the Bill I do not think they need be afraid of. This House has been unanimous in its battle, and the lower House has been unanimous in seeing it passed. The whole country is behind it, and this is a strong reason why I support the amendment. We have a whole year to get ready the machinery now and to have an election not later than next Spring and a dissolution by the 30th April. I agree with my Hon. friend Mr. Squires when he states that the months of January and February are the best months for the Government to meet, and if there is to be a session next year let us have it then. It is too late for business men to

have to attend a session in June and July as we did last year, so that the amendment has my cordial support.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—I will not say more than two or three words. I am going to vote for the amendment and want to make my position clear to the Hon. gentleman opposite. Last year when the Extension Bill went through, I understood from his speech that he gathered that we of the Council had arranged that there was to be a general election. As far as I am concerned there was nothing of the sort. When Extension came up last year, I fully expected another Extension Bill would go through this session, and as regards the next session which we will hold here prior to April 30th, as far as I know nobody is bound to say that they will not vote for a further extension. I will give my support to the amendment proposed.

On a vote of the House being taken Hon. Mr. Milley's amendment was carried by the assent of all the members.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT: — Before this is put I wish to say I do not want to enter into a controversial discussion with the outcome of recent developments. I stated yesterday though these positions were held by these gentlemen, they were still members of the House of Assembly. My friend dissented from that; my Hon. friend here confirms my view that under the terms of last year's Act, these two gentlemen, Messrs. Morris and Devereaux still have the right to go into the House. My Hon. friend said it was the intention of the Government that these were not to be included. The extent of the difference between us is that my Hon. friend opposite was discussing a view which may have been reached at a meeting of the Executive Council, but since the debate of yesterday there was put in-

to my hands a copy of the original Draft Bill as discussed in the Lower House and the amendments to it in pencil made by the present Lord Morris. Striking out the marks which conveyed the intention, my Hon. friend claims, was that of the Government and substituting the phraseology which is in the Bill at present, according to the copy in the Colonial Secretary's office, which gives power to any person who might accept office between that time and 8th August and 31st December to retain their seats in the House. I strongly support the amendment of my Hon. friend. It is unseemingly that it is possible for a gentleman outside of a Minister of the Crown to hold a seat and hold a permanent position. Twenty years ago, under the Government of that day, certain members accidentally laid themselves open to the liability of the Placeman's Act, and it became necessary for the Administration of that day led by the late Sir James Winter to indemnify or relieve them from the obligation and permit them to remain in the Legislature, where they had rendered themselves liable to a fine by doing certain work not of a permanent character, but which was in contravention of the Act. Here provision was made by which gentlemen were able to retain their seats in the Legislature and also permanent positions. If the principle was once recognised and allowed to pass even in war time, it might be open to grave abuses. It was because of being gravely abused 40 years ago the late Sir Frederick Carter brought in the present Act known as "Carter's Purge," which was adopted from the British measure of the same effect and which was known, I think, as "Reid's Purge." Now that all the facts are clear to the Legislature and the position under which these gentlemen have been occupying their offices is

manifest and the fact that they did not exercise the option which they possess of going in and taking part in the debates and that the third has resigned his position to go back again, it is desired all such condition of affairs as was brought about last autumn should not continue.

The Committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion the House went into Committee on Consolidated Statutes Bill, Mr. Bishop in the Chair.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Mr. Chairman, the Bill now before the House makes provision for the publication of the Consolidated Statutes which has been in the hands of a committee for some time. There was a Bill providing for the revision, but now it becomes necessary to have an Act passed for the publication. It is a merely formal matter whereby the published book shall have the effect of law, but of course that does not effect any contracts. The Act is a facsimile of the 1892 Act under which our former Statutes were published.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill passed without amendment, and it was ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.

On motion the House went into Committee on the Missing Schooners Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Mr. Chairman, as the Hon. members will see, this Bill makes provision that every person who is master of a vessel or schooner, and whose vessel has been forced by weather or otherwise to take refuge in some port, to report that fact to the Department of Marine. I understand this is necessary because a schooner may be driven off, and the Government is oftentimes compelled to send a steamer out to assist her. It has been found that sometimes the schooner for which they are searching is safe in some

port lying up. This section will prevent such happenings. The second section provides for the penalty which may be recovered by any person suing for same before a Stipendiary Magistrate. The next section provides that every customs officer must call attention to the passing of this Act before clearing a vessel, and that no prosecution can be taken without the consent of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I understand that the term scrooner is very vague, and it may be necessary to define just what it covers.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I move that this first section be struck out, and that this amendment be substituted therefor. (Reads Amendment.) I may say this amendment has been approved of both by the Minister of Marine and the Prime Minister.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I would suggest that the penalty be "not exceeding \$50."

The Committee rose and reported having passed the Bill with some amendments, and it was ordered that the Bill be read a third time tomorrow.

On motion the House went into Committee on the Education Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Winter in the chair.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—This is merely to correct an omission in the 1916 Consolidation. A printer's error occurred in the printing of the Bill, and an amending Act was not repealed.

The Committee rose and reported having passed the Bill without amendment, and it was ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.

On motion the House went into Committee on the "Keeping of Dogs Amendment Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill passed without amendment, and it was ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.

Second reading of Bill re Identification of Criminals.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—The object of this Bill is to provide for the better identification of criminals. In other countries where crimes are more common than in this country, they have more systematic methods of keeping track of criminals by photographs, fingerprints, etc., and it is proposed to give power for such an introduction into Newfoundland. By doing this Newfoundland criminals in Canada and Canadian criminals in Newfoundland may be more easily identified, and so on. I would move for the second reading of this Bill.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Gibbs the (Identification of Criminals) Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to Committee on to-morrow.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I beg to move the second reading of the Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Bill, which is introduced in this country at the request of the Imperial Government. A similar bill was introduced in the legislatures of other Dominions and is for the purpose of enabling the Empire should it become necessary to conserve its supplies of ores and other minerals for the use of the Empire.

The said bill was then read a second time and ordered into committee on to-morrow.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I beg to move second reading of the Fire Patrol Bill which is for the purpose of increasing the grant from four to five thousand dollars, as it has become necessary owing to the increased cost of living.

Said bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed to-morrow.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I beg to move the second reading of the Congregational Missionary Society Transfer of Property Bill, which is for the purpose of enabling this Society to trans-

fer under one head various properties held by them throughout the country and now held in trust for them.

Said bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to committee to-morrow.

House went into committee again on the Legislation Extension Bill, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the chair.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—We should not include the Minister of Militia, whose work is urgent and requires his constant attendance and he should not go back for re-election. I do agree that those members who are living abroad should vacate their seats, and I agree that except in special cases those who hold offices of emolument should be obliged to stand up for re-election, but the Ministers of Militia and Shipping should not, in the general interest of the Dominion and in view of its military effort.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The amendment on the amendment to my mind makes clear that incumbents of certain departments in the amendment made by Hon. Mr. Squires will have to vacate their seats by September which would include the Militia Minister and possibly the Minister of Public Works. My amendments only affects Messrs. Morris and Devereaux but your amendment affects the departments of Militia, Shipping and Public Works.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT:—As I see it three principals are involved. Shall we eliminate from the House of Assembly the two or three gentlemen, Messrs. Morris and Devereaux? We are all clear as to that. Then the second principle is, shall we require the gentlemen holding acting appointments (so as not to complicate matters) to go back for election or not? The third question is, shall we create miniature general elections by requiring all seats actually vacant, including these acting depart-

mental appointments, to be filled by holding contests in the Districts concerned? These are the three principles. Now, Mr. Squires propose to deal with these matters under three amendments. My Hon. friends, one amendment provides first that Messrs. Morris and Devereauxs' seats shall be vacated. The point is, as I see it, to provide for the contingency of these gentlemen coming in at the next session and exercising their right to vote. By passing Sec. I of Hon. Mr. Ellies' amendment we render that impossible. Then his amendment No. 2 says that departmental officers holding acting appointments shall not need to go back. My view of it is that it is undesirable for the Ministers of Marine, Shipping and Militia to have to begin without delay canvassing their constituents to try and get elected next fall. As to the vacancies which are covered by the third question, if it is argued that a lot of constituencies in various parts of the country must be opened we might just as well have a general election.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—Where is the necessity to hold bye-elections this fall coming in on the amendment?

HON. MR. PRESIDENT:—If you can deal with the whole question under one amendment, if there is a possibility of advocating that the deadlock be adjourned, we should adjourn, but I should like to answer the point as to the obligation of the Governor as passed upon by law, has been disregarded by previous Governments. In two instances under discussion, I think it was in 1905 or 1906 the late Oliphant Fraser was member for Fortune Bay, and his seat became vacant, but was not filled. There have been other cases since. This was twenty years ago, and I do not know if I am prepared

to speak on it. This does not affect the position whether it was arranged or not. I do not know that anyone seriously contends that two political parties should settle the law or not. No election was held in these cases. Other vacancies in the past couple of years do not answer with the object of reviving the issue between my Hon. friend and myself, for vacancies have existed in the past with no outcome, and as I see it, it is most undesirable if we are to get on with the war and to get the Regiment up to full strength, and to cope with conditions that might become much more serious, we are to have an election during the fall. But if it is the feeling of my Hon. friend that he and Mr. Ellis might get together and make better arrangements, he should do so.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—There are three separate and distinct issues which should not be confused. The first is well put by the Hon. the President when he says that that point is to the effect that we should eliminate from the House of Assembly the two gentlemen who have accepted permanent offices. I refer to Mr. F. J. Morris, K.C., who is the Judge of the Central District Court, and Mr. R. J. Devereaux, who is the Controller under the Liquor Law. These gentlemen, apart from their acceptance of office, were admirable representatives but it is incongruous that a gentleman who has accepted the permanent office of Judge of the Central District Court should also hold his seat as a representative for the District of Placentia, and that Mr. R. J. Devereaux, who has accepted the permanent office of Liquor Controller, should also retain his seat as member of the House of Assembly for the District of Placentia. In accordance with the recognised constitutional practice, this could not be so, but the 1917

amendment makes that possible. The effect of my first amendment is consequently to nullify the 1917 Act in so far as it applies to these gentlemen who have in the past and any gentlemen who may in the future accept a permanent office of emolument under the Crown. The second amendment provides that the Ministers of the Crown who now hold acting appointments, having accepted their appointments in January last, when the National Government was dissolved because of the retirement of the Prime Minister, Sir Edward Morris, and the new Government organised by Dr. Lloyd, should, in accordance with constitutional procedure, secure the approval of their constituents. Under the 1917 Act it is not necessary for them so to do. The object of this amendment is to modify the 1917 Act so that these new appointments made in January, 1918, shall be governed by the recognised constitutional procedure applicable to cases where members of the House of Assembly accept offices of emolument, namely, that on accepting the office of emolument they shall submit themselves to their constituents. I appreciate the objections which have been made by the Hon. Mr. Harvey, Sir Patrick McGrath, the President, and others on behalf of the Government, that the burden of responsibility resting upon Ministers under War conditions is such as to make it highly undesirable that they should be called upon to take such time from their offices as would be necessary for a canvass of their constituencies. I feel, however, that while there may be some considerable force in that argument in its application to the Minister of Militia, there can be very little, if any, force in it in its application to other ministers, and in the case of the Minister of Militia, his constituency is that of St. John's

West, the remotest section of which is but a few miles from the Militia Department. I feel that I have given full weight to the importance which the representatives of the Government attach to the continuous daily attendance of the Minister of Militia to his office duties, and that these should not be disturbed by campaigning. I admit the very great responsibility of his post and agree with the Government that his entire time and thought should be devoted without distraction or absence from office to admit that I do not regard him as likely to take his duties so seriously as to bind him unduly to his desk, but as it is a debatable question as to whether, under the circumstances, he ought not to be permitted to give his entire time, thought and effort to the organisation and direction of his Department, I am prepared, in accordance with the suggestion of the President, to discuss the matter with my friend the Hon. Mr. Ellis, Leader of the Government in this Chamber, with a view to seeing whether this amendment might be modified or withdrawn. The third amendment deals with the question of the complete representation of the Island in the House of Assembly. At the present time there are a considerable number of seats vacant. Some have been vacant for a long period of time. The President, who is always able to produce precedent, has pointed out that on one or two previous occasions individual seats have not been filled promptly in accordance with statutory requirements. If this were a case in which one or two seats were vacant and we were sure of an election this autumn, this amendment would not be important. There is no precedent, however, for a depleted House of Assembly such as we now have being permitted to continue in that depleted condition, and even if there were a pre-

cedent, the fact that the law and practice of the constitution had been grievously and flagrantly violated in the past would be no justification for an effort being made by the Government to conduct its affairs contrary to the elementary principle of representative government, conduct it with a "Rump Parliament." The suggestion has been made that there are so many seats vacant and so many acting Ministers who would have to submit themselves to their constituents that there would be so many bye-elections that it would be just as well to have a general election. My answer is, let us have a general election. In the United Kingdom, where the burden of responsibility for the war is infinitely greater than it is in Newfoundland, seats are not kept vacant in this way. In the Dominion of Canada, where the war responsibility is likewise very much greater than in Newfoundland, they are not keeping seats vacant, nor do they fear the upset and turmoil of a general election. In Australia seats are not being kept vacant indefinitely, nor do they fear general elections. There is, in my opinion, nothing more injurious to the satisfactory prosecution of the war than a non-representative House of Assembly. I am quite prepared to accept the suggestion of the President of the Council and let this matter stand over for discussion between Mr. Ellis and myself. If it be the honest opinion of the President, the Hon. Mr. Harvey and others in this Chamber who speak for the Government that these Departmental Offices are so exceedingly important at the present time that the Ministers in charge should not be called upon to leave their offices for the hours and days which would be necessary if they were compelled to submit themselves for re-election to their constituencies, then, in the interests of the

Colony and in the interests of the prosecution of the war, I would be quite prepared to waive that point, but I doubt very much the sincerity of that position as put forward by the Honorable gentlemen who have taken that view on behalf of the Government. I am, however, prepared to give them the benefit of the doubt, and if it is honestly felt by the Government that the affairs of the Colony and the prosecution of the war will be prejudiced by these Ministerial heads absenting themselves for hours or days from their offices in connection with the exigencies of a bye-election in the constituencies which they represent, then I would be quite prepared in the interests of all to waive this particular point in the amendment.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—It is a matter for debate whether the Ministers of Militia or Shipping would come back for re-election, but I think Fortune Bay so long vacated by Mr. Emerson should be attended to at once, while the seats of Messrs. Morris and Devereaux should be filled. The seats of Justice Kent and the late Mr. Dwyer in St. John's East should be filled, as well as the late Mr. Kennedy in St. John's West. In the Old Country even the Speaker drew the attention of the House to vacancies when they occurred, and I have known of a writ issuing before a deceased member was buried. I have known from the constitution of the House that someone would do it, but neglected it, and if we put the responsibility on the hands of the Speaker he should do it within the law and six months is the time in which it should be attended to. The six seats are vacant too long and the people are clamouring so long that they should have an opportunity to fill them. Somebody should see to a public meeting tomorrow for an election in St. John's

and the question is where you would get a building large enough to hold it. It is the duty of the Speaker of the Lower House to call His Excellency's attention to the necessity for holding an election.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Ellis gave notice that on to-morrow he would move the suspension of the 33rd rule of the House with regard to legislation upon the Extension Bill or amendments thereto.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until 3 p.m. to-morrow.

SATURDAY, May 11th., 1918.

The House met at 4 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the following bills were read a third time, passed and sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment:—

Publication Consolidation Statutes; Missing Schooners Reporting Bill; Education Amendment Bill; Keeping of Dogs Amendment Bill.

Notice of Motion

Hon. Mr. Ellis moved the suspension of the 33rd rule of this House with regard to the Legislature (Extension) 1918 Bill, and all amendments relating thereto.

This motion was carried.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on Legislature Extension Bill.

Hon. Mr. Knowling in the Chair.

HON MR. SQUIRES:—Mr. Chairman, on yesterday I moved an amendment to Section 2 and on the suggestion of the President the House adjourned to enable the Hon. Mr. Ellies, the Leader of the Government, and myself to discuss the matter of the amendments. Mr. Ellis has agreed

to the amendment which on yesterday's debate was referred to as amendment No. 1, namely, that gentlemen who have or who may in future accept permanent office should on their acceptance of office vacate their seats. At the present time this applies, so far as I am aware, to two gentlemen only, Mr. F. J. Morris, K.C., who has accepted the office of Judge of the Central District Court, and Mr. R. J. Devereaux, who has accepted the office of Liquor Controller. The second amendment as set forth in yesterday's debate was to the effect that the Acting Ministers of the Crown under the new Government of January of this year under the premiership of Dr. Lloyd should be called upon, in accordance with the recognised constitutional practice, to seek confirmation of their acceptance of office at the polls in their constituencies. The Hon. Mr. Ellis has pointed out that it is the opinion of the Government that the burden of responsibility resting upon these departmental heads is now so great and will during the entire continuance of the war and for months afterwards be so great as to make it impossible for them to safely leave their offices for sufficient time to seek re-election in the constituencies. Mr. Ellis was particularly emphatic in this regard in connection with the Department of Militia and pointed out that the Minister of Militia had a responsibility which required his personal attention day and night and that he should not be asked to take from the personal attention and direction which he could give to his Department such time as would be necessary to seek re-election in his constituency, the District of St. John's West. In other words, Mr. Ellis, as Leader of the Government in this Chamber, has asked me for patriotic reasons to consent to the Minister of Militia

and the other acting Ministers retaining their seats without bye-election, and while I entirely disagree with the principle while it is contrary to the elementary constitutional usages of this Colony and of Great Britain, I take the representations which Mr. Ellis, as Leader of the Government in this Chamber, has made to me, in good faith and agree to withdraw the amendment the effect of which the Government says would be to take certain important Ministers of the Crown away from their offices at a time when they should day and night be giving personal attention to the efficient organisation and management of their departments. With respect to the third amendment, that of the vacant seats being immediately filled, I am very strongly of the opinion that these seats should be filled promptly. They should be filled this autumn, so that in the next session of the Legislature to be held presumably in the spring of 1919 the House of Assembly will not present the depleted appearance which it presents at this session. That is a matter, however, which I presume may safely be left in the hands of His Excellency the Governor. His long connection with the Colonial Office is a guarantee to us that he will act in accordance with constitutional practices in this country. The seats are vacant; His Excellency's attention has been drawn to the vacancies on many occasions. His Excellency has been advised as to the law, and I cannot conceive it possible that the Governor will fail to discharge his constitutional duties. His Excellency has made it very clear on several occasions that he intends to see the law and practice of the constitution properly carried out in this country. From his record and from the fact that he is the representative of His Majesty the King, I cannot think that he

would act otherwise, and I consequently am prepared to content myself with an amended resolution in the following form. This amendment has been agreed upon between Mr. Ellis and myself: (The amendment is here read.) The effect of this amendment is to provide that the seats of Messrs. Morris and Devereaux, who have accepted permanent office, are declared vacant, that the seats of any others who may accept office of emolument other than Ministers of the Crown will thereupon become vacant, that the acting Ministers of the Crown who took office after the dissolution of the National Government in January last and the organisation of the new Government under the premiership of Dr. Lloyd will not be called upon to submit themselves to their constituencies for re-election, and the question of filling vacant seats will remain upon the same constitutional and legal basis as it was before the war. On this point I may observe that the Opposition has every confidence in His Majesty the Governor as the representative of His Majesty the King to carry out the law and constitution of this Colony, so that at the next session of the Legislature these vacant seats will be filled.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I accept the amendment moved by the Hon. Mr. Squires. I have two other slight amendments which will be noticed when the clerk reads the next section.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill with amendments.

The Bill as amended was read a third time.

The House went into Committee on the Inflammable Substances Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Mr. President, I move that this Bill be now read a second time. The object is to lower the standard of Kerosene Oil. At present the specific gravity of the oil

imported must be 8.05. It is proposed to reduce it to 8.15. This is the Bill as it is on the Continent, and we are simply conforming to their practice.

The Bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House on tomorrow.

The House went into Committee on the Identification of Criminals Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

The House went into Committee on the Non-ferrous Metal Industry Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and on motion it was ordered to be read a third time on tomorrow.

House went into Committee on the Fire Patrol Bill, Hon. Mr. Murpny in the chair. The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and it was ordered to be read a third time on tomorrow.

House went into Committee on the Congregational Property Transfer Bill, Hon. Mr. Harvey in the chair. The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment, and it was ordered to be read a third time tomorrow.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I beg to move the second reading of the Loan Bill, which provides for a loan to take the place of the war loan of last year, with the exception that the rate of interest is to be increased to six and a half per cent., and the loan is increased from three millions to six, half of which it is proposed to raise in this country and the other half in Canada.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—Before this passes, I should like to make a few observations. I hope the Government in raising this loan will have abundant success. I trust the Government in launching this loan throughout this country, will put it

in such denominations as will enable everybody throughout the country to buy a few bonds. It might be started as low as five dollars so that boys and girls may subscribe. It has been customary in loans in this country to have the interest payable every six months, and I think it would be more convenient in this case to have the interest payable quarterly. This loan is asked for military and other purposes, and in this connection I think we should have a national balance sheet issued showing the cost of our war activities. We should know just what everything is costing; what the Pay and Record Office in London is costing, and what every other department is costing. These things would be of interest to the people of the country and should be made known. I have not yet learnt to what extent the Government proposes to perpetuate the memory of those brave boys who have laid down their lives for us and for this country and for the Empire. Now it seems to me there is dereliction of duty somewhere. A Historical Committee was appointed in 1915 to make records of the work of our Regiment, but recently I have been informed that Committee is dead and buried and forgotten, and probably the boys who have gone will be forgotten also. Many little spots along the banks of the Somme in France, and also in Gallipoli will be forgotten also, but I think the leader of the Government should take due notice of this point and call the attention of the Government to it. I need not remind the House as to what England has done. Not so long ago Edinburgh Castle was handed over to Scotland as a National Memorial in this connection. Then, only recently a large collection of exhibits of the part Canada is playing was held in Manchester, and nearly every town in England,

Canada, New Zealand, France and Belgium has started something, some sort of everlasting memorial; but here nothing has been done, and what little interest was taken by the Historical Committee is now dead and buried. The gentleman who is my informant told me they applied to the Government for a small vote of from ten to twenty thousand dollars and were promised something would be done, but nothing has been done. In the Old Country in many churches memorial windows have been put up, but here these would not be everlasting memorials. Now, I myself have made a little collection of what I believe will receive the general approbation of the country in a National War Gallery. I suggested some little time ago that the policy of the Government in taking certain buildings was penny wise and pound foolish. It is more, it is five cents wise and ten dollars foolish. There is a vacant spot to the East and West of the Court House and there should be erected there a National Gallery and a collection of 25,000 to 30,000 photos of our boys placed there with a record of the part they have played. In addition with that, the Government could have some of their offices there, and there should be a large room where the boys could go and meet. If we cannot have the substance of the boys, we can at least have the shadow in their photographs. Any hon. gentleman in this House who has not seen the collection I have myself, will I am sure feel impressed with the interest such a collection will have for the people of the Country. When this loan is launched to the public, I wish it my best unbounded success and hope that the shares will be made sufficiently small to be subscribed to by the poorest.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—I want to express once more the regret I feel

that this House is no longer allowed practically to influence money Bills. Composed as it is of men representing concerns which are engaged in carrying on three-fourths of the trade of the Colony perhaps, and who are in the habit of dealing with financial matters as their business in life, people who I think we may claim are independent and patriotic—it is a pity, I think, that the power of the House to exercise influence on money Bills has been taken away. Of course, it will be replied that it is our fault. I do not want to revive the Profits Bill controversy. I merely say I regret what has occurred, and I do not think it was the Council's fault; as a matter of fact, the Council was right throughout. I am glad to see this session that the reports of the debates in this Chamber are going before the public pretty promptly. Not that, as a rule, perhaps, many read them, but in order that when a contentious matter arises and the motives of the House are called into question, those who do want to post themselves on the question will be able to turn to the arguments and speeches that are being submitted to the House. Last session, I believe, rightly or wrongly, that very considerable prejudice was caused by the fact that no reports of the speeches, arguments and objections to details of the Bill as it stood were put before the public in their original form, and up to today not one word of the arguments put forward or the speeches made, or points at issue in this House, have come before the public. There was steady misrepresentation without the House being given the chance of justifying itself; and up to this day entire misapprehension exists in the country as to the true points at issue in connection with the Profits Tax. I am not going back to that tax or resurrecting it, but I

feel that a very considerable amount of misapprehension has always existed and still exists owing to the absence of authoritative reports on the Profits Tax Bill. I myself made a statement in the House in the course of the debate in which I practically used the following expression. I said I could not believe that the Executive of the Colony was so ignorant or was so hidebound as to refuse to listen to the reasonable proposals and the modifications which were demanded by principles of fairplay. I was quoted on the street, in the newspapers and in the House as having simply said that the members of the Lower House were ignorant or the Executive was ignorant. I said nothing of the sort. I said I could not believe they were so ignorant as to refuse to listen, and yet that small point had a great deal to do with the establishment of an amount of bad feeling which I think prejudiced the whole position of the Council. I call the attention of the House to it because I am glad to see that the reports of the speeches this session are coming out fairly and promptly, and I regret that not one word has been printed of our last session's debates in this Chamber on the Profits Tax, which, through the entirely unjustified attitude of the politicians in the other branch, resulted in the effort to suppress permanently and by way of retaliation all such modifying influence as this Chamber has hitherto been able to exert upon the money legislation of the Government of the day, a thing which I feel is to be regretted. There has been a good deal of misapprehension in the country regarding the Council's attitude due largely to deliberate misrepresentation the House took on the Bill, which I believe was absolutely sound. Turning to this Bill, I have said I regret that the Council, which is composed

largely of experts, in so far as we have them, in financial matters, are unable to exert proper weight with regard to these Bills. This particular Bill is a new departure. I foresee very great difficulties. We have the money here in a shape that ought to render it readily obtainable for any purpose, and I am sure I wish, in the interests of the country, of the individuals who own the money and the Government, every success. It should do mutual good to the Colony, the Government and the individual depositors of the money in the banks. But to get at these people, the depositors and owners of from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 now in the Savings Banks is difficult—very difficult anywhere in the world, very difficult where large financial transactions are going on all the time. You will want to circularize the depositors. I noticed in the papers lately that an offer had come to the Government from the leaders of that splendid organisation, one of the first which had ever taken shape in this Colony, the W. P. A., offering their services to the Government in connection with the loan. I could not help thinking that that organisation may be able to do something tangible to place the loan particularly in the outports, and I do not know of any better helpers this loan could enlist in its service than these ladies who are keen patriots and have exerted an amount of unselfish enthusiasm which is entirely new to the colony. I want to say further with regard to the loan that it is to the class of depositors, who have money at 3 per cent. in the banks, that the Government must specially appeal for the money they want. It is well known, I think, to all here that at the present time business concerns generally are pretty well extended, with the present high cost of everything appertaining

to business and supplies. When the loan was first started, I proposed to the Government two things that would have assisted both the individual, community and the Government entirely on the lines which have been adopted in other countries in connection with loans like this. My suggestions were that the Government should accept these War Loan Bonds at full value against payment of death duties, and (1) they should consider the acceptance of a small proportion of the profits taxes in these bonds at par value. I thought not exceeding 20 or 25 per cent. of the profits tax might be accepted in these bonds. This would have several advantages. Of course the great trouble about local loans is the absence of a local market. The trouble with debenture holders is that they will put money in debentures and 5 or 6 years afterwards they may want to get the money out; but there is no market. In every other country there are stock exchanges where one can get a figure for such bonds, approximating their value at any time. Here we have nothing of the kind and there is generally no market except at an enormous sacrifice in value. If my suggestion had been carried out there would be not only an immediate patriotic demand, but a continual demand for these bonds, which might very well be worth the cost. And if these bonds were certain some day to be accepted by the Government at par, the money which commercial concerns wished to invest might not be considered as in any way sunk as far as the capital aspect is concerned. It would be considered as collateral and worth its face as capital, and would be accepted as such and business concerns which invested would not feel that they might be permanently tying up productive capital. The same con-

sideration applies to the profits tax. If a small percentage of that tax were accepted in bonds it would tend to create a permanent demand, to make them popular and to keep up their value and educate the country, while at the same time a portion of the public debt would be extinguished annually. In the United States I see the Victory Loan Bonds are acceptable against death duties, provided they are held by the deceased within six months of the time of death.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Before the motion is put I may say in reference to the remarks made by Hon. Mr. Anderson, that I regret, deeply, that something to perpetuate the memory of the brave boys who have lost their lives fighting for truth and justice in the world, has not been done before this. I entirely concur in his remarks that something should be done and something, I have no doubt, will be done by the people of the Country to erect a fitting memorial to the gallant dead. What shape it may take I cannot say, but I do not know that it is altogether up to the Government to move in it. Suggestions should be made as regards the form it should take and where it should be erected. It might be referred to the newspapers for suggestions from the public, which would in time lead to Governmental sympathy when intelligent suggestions were forthcoming. As regards the loan, I am inclined to think that the high rate of interest offered will cause people who have large sums to invest to take kindly to this loan.

On motion of Hon. M. Ellis, the Bill was read a second time, and on motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House tomorrow.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—In moving the second reading of the Beaver Bill, I would observe that the object is to

make a temporary extension of the Act, so as to consolidate it and turn it over to a Board of Administration to recover fines for offences against the Act in the same way as the other Game Laws.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—The main point of the Act is to extend protection for another year. It is an amendment to the Act of 1913. I sent to the Legislative Library to get that Act and could find no record of the Act up there at all. I may say I called attention to this matter before. Every year there is a shortage of Acts. Why the printing arrangements do not provide for a sufficient number of copies of Acts passed I do not know. Every year there is a shortage and for several years there is no record there and nobody can find out what the Acts are. Under the Consolidated Statutes Act they will no doubt be reprinted now; but I suggest that in future whoever is responsible for the printing would see that more books of the Acts passed are supplied and books showing proceedings of the Council might very well be reduced. In regard to Beaver Preservation, I think there is no doubt whatever that many beavers have been killed and taken out of the Country. I know it from hearsay and from those who handled skins. I can't help thinking, and I mention it now to interest people, that the proper way to deal with beavers is to arrange for some company to lease the rights to beaver killing, something in the way in which the Priboloff seal herds are handled, to limit the number of skins allowed in any year. If the beaver killing is thrown open, the habits of the animals are such that they are liable to be entirely exterminated the first year. If the protection of beavers were put into the hands of either the Game Board or of any company

which must register for the purpose of dealing with this matter under charter, it would be to the interest of those people to see that the beavers were protected and that they increased and the Government hold a controlling interest in such a company. The Government could take 51 per cent of the stock which would show continuous profits to the revenue of the country. But to go on to "preserve" them in this way and then throw them open to extermination in a season or two bye and bye, seems to me the essence of futile legislation. I recommend to the authorities the advisability of adopting some such programme as I have spoken of.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and referred to a Committee of the whole House on tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. President announced that he had received a message from the Assembly that they had passed the Weights and Measures Bill, Soldier's and Sailors' Wills Bill, and a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting the Military Forces of Newfoundland," in which they asked the concurrence of the Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis these several Bills were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Ellis acquainted the House that His Excellency the Governor had signified his intention to be here this evening at 7.30 for the purpose of assenting to the Conscription Bill. It was also the intention of His Excellency to assent to the appointment of the Military Service Board. The Proclamation is being set up at The Royal Gazette office and will be in the hands of the Government before 7 o'clock and there will be no delay in the matter.

HON. MR. MEWS:—I shall not

take much time to reply to my Hon. friend. There can be no doubt as to the impropriety of my getting up here and reading a private document of the L. O. A. or some other secret society.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—The L. O. A. would issue no such infamous document. The Grand Master that would for one minute contemplate such a treacherous document would have the Association in special session within twenty-four hours, and he would be fired from his job.

HON. MR. MEWS:—These circulars are sent to the office, and later we get a message asking us not to publish them. The Hon. member can be quite sure I would not disobey such orders. The best and only answer I can give to the Hon. gentleman, is to remind him of the fact that at 8 o'clock this evening His Excellency the Governor will assent to this Bill, and that the proclamation will instantly issue calling up Class I. Mr. Coaker, meanwhile, remains a member of the Executive.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Mr. President, I desire to call the attention of the House to the fact that on the opening day I gave notice of question, and also a few days later notice of another question in relation to public matters; and that the answers to the questions have not yet been tabled. Now I am not finding fault with my Hon. friend the Leader of the Government, for I know that he is not responsible for the delay; but I desire to point out to the House that the information has not been obtained; and I propose, if such information is not given here Monday to move an Address to the Governor asking that he direct his Ministers to table the information asked for. It is not fair to this House and the Members thereof that, when information which I think, is of public importance, be-

longing to the public, is asked for, there is such considerable delay in tabling it; and I give notice today that if the answer is not tabled on Monday, I will move the Address to the Governor. Now I have no desire to take part in the discussion over the matter which has been referred to by the Hon. members here this afternoon, but I would remind my friend who maintains that the circular in question was a private document, that the Organisation to whom it was published is a political organisation, not a private one. The objects of the Organisation, which are so many, include one which has as its aim the control of the country, and I hardly think my friend can expect to be endorsed when in view of that he thinks this circular should be classed as confidential. If the future of our country is going to be dependant upon the issuance of secret circulars, then the sooner the public are made aware of such conditions the better.

The House then adjourned till 7.15 p.m. this evening.

House met pursuant to its rising.

President read message from the Assembly that they had passed the Council's amendment to the Conscription Bill without amendment, also the Legislature Extension Bill, and also that they had passed the accompanying Bill, re Missing Schooners, in which they asked the concurrence of the Council.

At 7.45 His Excellency the Governor arrived, and the House of Assembly members having been summoned to his presence, His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the Military Service Bill, and the Legislature Extension Bill.

Hon. Mr. Ellis gave notice of motion for the suspension of the 33rd rule of the House and all other rules in connection with all matters now

before the House or to come before the House for the remainder of the session.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the House then adjourned until Monday at 4 p.m.

MONDAY, May 13th.

The House opened at 4.30 p.m. Pursuant to adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Ellis laid upon the table information as regards shipments of fish to Italy and as to Cold Storage.

Hon. Mr. Ellis moved the Suspension of the 33rd Rule and all other Rules of this House with regard to all Bills, Addresses, Petitions and all other matters now before or to come before this House for the remainder of the Session.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Identification of Criminals, Non-Ferrous Metal Industry, Fire Patrol, and Congregational Missionary Society Transfer of Property Bills were read a third time, passed and ordered to be sent to the House of Assembly.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Departmental Shipping 1918 Bill. Hon. Mr. Ryan in the Chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—We had an informal talk at the last session regarding this Bill and I thought the Hon. Leader of the Government would bring in some amendment to it, to change the words "Ministry of Shipping" to "Department of Shipping" to conform to the other departments under the Government like the Department of Finance and others. Unless there is a special reason why it should be different from the others I beg leave to move that the wording be changed and that it be called the Department of Shipping instead of the Ministry of Shipping in the title or wherever it occurs.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the

Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The House went into Committee on the Inflammable Substance Bill. Hon. Mr. Cook in the chair.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Mr. Chairman, I take it all the members understand the purport of this bill. It is proposed to raise the Specific Gravity from 8.05 to 8.17. There is also another section which refers to the places where oil may be stored in safety. This is at the suggestion of the Inspector General. The Government Analyst has been consulted and he thinks the change is one which will not effect the quality. There may be some difference of opinion with regard to the lighting properties of the lower test oil, but we are assured that it will be better for motors and such like. At the present time the oil for lighting purposes is 150 test, and there may be some question as to whether we should allow this Bill to go through.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I happen to know that 120 test oil is a pretty poor illuminant. There may be a little objection to this low test oil going around, Mr. Chairman, but I expect this is a matter which must have been considered by the Government.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, why this legislation is needed? What demand is there for and why? Oil today is a drug on the market in the States; they can hardly give it away, because the demand is not equal to the supply. Large quantities of oil are stored in the States and they cannot sell it. I do not know if this has anything to do with this legislation, but we are substituting under this Bill a very low grade of oil with poor illuminating powers. This oil does not give as good a light; the light is of a different color. The light of 120 oil is white. The light of this oil is

yellow, and it may have a very bad effect on the eyes of people who might use this for lighting their homes, and I think we ought to have some information before the House in order to determine whether it is advisable in the interest of the public that the test should be lowered. This oil may be for use in other ways, but I would like to have some information.

Hon. Mr. Ellis read a letter dealing with the matter written by D. James Davies, Esq., B.Sc., F.C.S., etc., Government Analyst.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—That is all very well, Mr. Chairman, but where is the necessity for this law. Who has asked for it. For instance, the Imperial Oil Co. is a large purchaser of the crude oil. It is a Canadian Company, with headquarters in Canada; and why we should adopt laws that are made in Canada in relation to kerosene oil or anything else, I fail to see. I understand that the higher the test the better the combustion; the lower the test the poorer the combustion.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I had much the same view of this oil as my friend, thinking that the lower you fix the figure the greater danger there was of explosion, and possible serious danger and loss of life. In England until a few years ago, they were accustomed to a very low grade of oil with the result that they had many explosions, much destruction of property and loss of life. As a result therefore they were obliged to take more drastic measures in connection with distilling kerosene oil and gasoline. I was under the impression that the 120 test was perhaps an undesirable oil, but I got in touch with the Government Engineer and he is fairly familiar with the subject—he participated with the making of the Act two years ago—and he said he

did this with Mr. Davies approval, and he was satisfied that the amendment proposed here would not militate against the securing of fairly safe oil here. Of course the best oil is the 150 test. That comes from the States. It gives a clear flame. The 120 test gives a more yellow flame; and this test here which is possibly 117 test, gives a poorer flame still. There is a 210 test which gives nearly a colorless flame. I had a conversation with the agent of the Standard Oil Company and he says they sell mostly 150 test, and he believes people will use nothing inferior, and that of course there will be a big trade for the crude oil for motor boats, etc. It is largely for that purpose that provision is being made for the importation of that inferior grade of oil. My friend asked why we were required to adopt Canadian legislation. The only reason I know is that the Canadian concern handles a great deal of what I might call 2nd class oil, and if we are not prepared to facilitate the Company in getting that into the country we may find ourselves faced with a shortage. Speaking from memory of my experience on the High Cost of Living Commission, I might inform the House that it is not an easy matter to distribute kerosene oil. To begin with, the Imperial Company has been distributing their oil in steel barrels, but their supply is small, and because of the necessity of oil for war purposes these are not now obtainable. Then it was traded in oak barrels, but these could not be used more than twice. When they come back the first time they are treated with resin and go on their second voyage, but after that, the Company say, it does not pay to send them out the third time. They may then use so many of these for crude oil. As a result therefor of war conditions,

both companies are finding it difficult to ship their oil. While I have no brief for the companies, I would like to say that I think no serious injury is going to accrue from this and I think on the contrary that we are going to have a greater assurance of an adequate supply of oil for the next twelve months than we would have otherwise.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I am sure the House is much obliged to the Hon. President for this information. It seems to me that the Bill should provide that this lower grade oil should be branded by some distinguishing mark, and that it should not be allowed to be sold as illuminating oil. We all know what the outport man will do if he finds he can get oil for one cent. less a gallon. Everyone tries to get the lowest price on kerosene oil; and I do not think we ought to allow the traders the opportunity to sell this low grade for illuminating oil this fall. It will be most unsatisfactory, Mr. Chairman, but if the casks were marked 117 test oil, or motor engine oil, there will be no objection to the Bill.

HON. PRESIDENT:—Of course it is going to be hard to work this in the outports.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I do not look for trouble of that nature. Although this oil will sell more cheaply by one or one and one-half cents, I think, notwithstanding, that the people will pay the higher price and use the superior oil. For motor purposes it may be advantageous to use this oil. They have accepted it in Canada, and it may be that, to have oil according to the present requirements of the Newfoundland market, they may have to make a special oil for us.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I agree with the Hon. Mr. Bishop, and think this ought to be used only for motor purposes. I would not for a minute sup-

port an indiscriminate sale of this oil. Such should, in my opinion, certainly be stopped.

The section was passed with an amendment providing for the branding of low grade oil.

Committee on Inflammable Substances Bill rose and reported the bill with some amendment, which report was received, and the said bill was then read a third time, passed and ordered sent to the Assembly with a message that this house had passed the same with some amendment in which their concurrence is asked.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the Loan 1918 Bill. Hon. Mr. Bell in the Chair. The Committee reported the bill without amendment and said bill was then read a third time and passed and ordered sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

House went into Committee on the Beaver 1918 Bill, Hon. Mr. Goodridge in the Chair.

HON. MR. McNAMARA: — I would like to say a word or two about the Measure now before the Chair. The amendments suggested, I understand, come from the Game & Inland Fisheries Board, and on account of being a member of that Board since its formation (nine years ago) I may be pardoned if I claim that I speak with some little knowledge on this subject. The Game Board have positive proof and evidence that Beavers are increasing in the country the past few years at a very satisfactory rate. At Whitbourne two years ago the Board were confronted with a claim from a prominent resident of that district for damages done to ornamental trees by these little animals. The claim was settled satisfactorily and the Beavers removed, by servants of the Board, to other districts. Then again at several points from Humbermouth

to Bishop's Falls the Railroad track was flooded by the culverts being damned at different parts of the line. At Stephenville Crossing the Board also had to remove Beavers on account of their dams flooding the lands of some of the farmers in that vicinity. We have further evidence that the only places where they have not increased is where poaching is being carried on. Hr. Grace has been asking for the transfer of Beavers to their waters, and the Game Board has the promise of prominent citizens in the second city that they will be looked after and poaching prevented, and their request will be met as soon as the Board have time to attend to the removal. Bonavista and Ferryland districts also ask that they be sent some, which will also be attended to from time to time. Section 4 of this act reads as follows:—"Upon a requisition in writing, made to the Game and Inland Fisheries Board, permission may be granted to any Scientific or Zoological Body or Society to hunt and capture not more than six live Beavers for exportation from the Colony or otherwise." In the original act permission had to be given by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and we want to have this read from the Game and Inland Fisheries Board, as we are occasionally asked by Scientific Institutions, such as the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, of the Zoological Society of New York to grant them this permission for scientific purposes, and that is that the Government take some active interest in this Measure to prevent the inevitable extermination of the Beaver from Newfoundland, — what shape this action may take can be determined later. It will be time enough of course next session to take action in this matter, and I only refer to it now, so as time may be given the Government to think out some

scheme of protection, and save this industry (small though it may be) from total destruction.

7. The Beaver season opens in Quebec this year, and under their law no Beaver Skin can be traded in, unless it bears a Government Coupon. The Coupons are sold by the Government at a fixed price, and the quantity of Beaver to be killed is limited. A law such as this would likely cover our requirements; anyhow, it is the opinion of all our supervisors and game-wardens (as well as trappers) that six weeks of open season would completely destroy our Beavers unless some limit be put on the killing. I submit, therefore, Mr. Chairman, that the Government should take this matter seriously and use effective steps to prevent the total extermination of Beaver in Newfoundland.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment and it was then read a third time, passed, and sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

Second reading of Weights and Measures Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—This Bill merely provides for an amendment to make regulations regarding the sale of hoops. I beg to move the second reading.

Bill was read a second time, and House then went into Committee thereon, Hon. Mr. Winter in the Chair. The Committee reported the Bill without amendment, which was then read a third time, passed, and ordered sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

Second reading of the Soldiers and Sailors' Wills Amendment Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The object of the Bill is to change the Act by strik-

ing out the words "Attorney General" and substituting the words "Minister of Justice."

On motion the Bill was read a second time when House went into Committee on the Bill, Hon. Mr. Murphy in the chair.

HON. PRESIDENT:—Would the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill be good enough to inform us as to the reason for this amendment.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—The President has inquired as to the reason for this amendment. In last year's Act a certain certificate had to be given by the Attorney General. The object of this amendment is to provide that this certificate should be given by the Minister of Justice or by his Deputy. The Minister of Justice and Attorney General is the same person. In his capacity as Attorney General he has no Deputy. In his capacity as Minister of Justice he has a Deputy. The reason the both terms are used in the Act creating the Department of Justice is that the Attorney General is the title of the chief law officer of the Crown in England. The criminal law of England is the criminal law of Newfoundland, and our chief law officer when dealing with criminal matters deals with them as Attorney General. Thus when the chief law officer of the Crown appears before the Supreme Court of Newfoundland he usually appears in his capacity of Attorney General, and the tendency in Newfoundland to follow English proceedings and also English terminology has maintained the use of this term in reference to the chief law officer of the Crown. I anticipate that the reason this change is now suggested is that the Hon. Dr. Lloyd, who is now the Attorney General, is reported to be leaving Newfoundland, and will probably be absent from the Colony for several months. He consequently feels it

desirable that the certificate which, according to the previous Act should be given by him should be given by the Deputy Minister of Justice; hence the desirability of changing the wording of the Act. My own personal preference in legal matters is that the term Attorney General should be continued in accordance with the English custom and terminology rather than the entire adoption of the term "Minister of Justice," which is the Canadian terminology. In Newfoundland by virtue of the English criminal law and practice being ours, the Statute creating the Department of Justice provides that the person occupying the post of chief law officer of the Crown and head of the Department of Justice shall be Attorney General and Minister of Justice. Section 1 of Chapter 18 of the Acts 61 Vic., being the Department of Justice Act of 1898, provides: "The Minister of Justice shall, ex officio, be Her Majesty's Attorney General of Newfoundland." Section 4 provides: "The duties of the Attorney General of Newfoundland shall be as follows: He shall be intrusted with the powers and charged with the duties which belong to the office of the Attorney General of England, by law or usage, so far as the same powers and duties are applicable to Newfoundland." Section 6 of that Act provides: "Wherever in any enactment at present in force in this Colony any words are used applicable to the Attorney General the same shall be deemed and taken to apply to and include the Minister of Justice." In view of the intended absence of the Attorney General from the Colony and the desirability of the work being done by the Deputy Minister of Justice, and in view of the fact that Section 6 just quoted has the effect of making the terms "Attorney General" and "Minister of

Justice" interchangeable only in enactments in force in Newfoundland at the time of the passing of that 1898 Act, the Department of Justice has felt that instead of amending Section 6 and making the terms interchangeable in connection with all Newfoundland legislation, that a change should be made in the Soldiers' Wills Act.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment and on motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the House went into Committee on the Departmental Shipping Bill, Hon. Mr. Ryan in the chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP—I beg to move that to Section 1 of the Bill those words be added: "The work of the Shipping Department shall be conducted by a Board consisting of not less than two members, in addition to the Minister, which Board shall be appointed by the Governor-in-Council."

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—I think the Minister of Shipping should be a man who is not engaged in the business of the country. He should be a man of independent salary and not mixed up in politics in any way. He should be paid a decent, independent salary and should have supervision over all local and foreign shipping.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Bishop was passed.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendment, after which it was read a third time, passed, and sent to the House of Assembly with a message that the Bill had passed the Council with some amendment, in which their concurrence was requested.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the Military Forces Amendment Bill was read a second time and referred to a Committee of the whole House, Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I would wish to be informed upon one point in the Bill. Page 3, Section 9, reads: "Commissions of officers shall be granted by the Governor." Section 13, page 4: "The Governor-in-Council may from time to time put under the command of such generals or officers of H.M. regular Army as His Majesty may appoint or designate all or any of the officers of said forces and of the men enlisted in class A and class B of the Military forces of Newfoundland." The question arises as to the promotion of officers during the period of time when the Regiment is under the command of such generals in England and France. It appears, with Section 9, that commissions could have to be issued by the Governor.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I may say, speaking with some knowledge of the Colony's war work, that my understanding is that the Governor at the outset appointed the Officers for the Regiment and that afterwards a Committee of the Patriotic Association known as the Officers Selection Committee made recommendations of men for commissions. Still later, owing to dissatisfaction over some appointments and public criticism as to the manner in which Officers were chosen, the matter of appointment was given to the Commanders of the first battalion in France and the second battalion in Scotland who picked men as they needed them, and sent the names out here, when the Governor officially promulgated them over his signature. Still later the War Office decided that no men should receive commissions unless they had passed through training

schools established in the British Isles for the purpose, and then the Commanders of the two battalions selected men to go to these schools, and if they passed the examination there, the Commanding Officers recommended them to the Governor for Commissions and these were issued in due form. After the Militia Department was created the validating of such commissions passed to the Minister of Militia, but the actual selection of the men is done on the other side, and for about 18 months, I should think, there has been no appointment made except the men who previously passed the examination prescribed by the War Office.

Committee on Military Forces Amendment Bill.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I think here the question arises whether a man enlisted becomes liable under the King's Regulations. Is it the intention to embody the power to inflict the death penalty.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—As I understand the position, Mr. Chairman, and I have made some enquiries, I think the explanation is that this section 10 is in reality an additional protection to our men against the death penalty. As matters exist at present the Governor in Council does not convene a Court Martial, nor has it the power so to do. The Court martial is arranged by the Military authorities in England through the authorities there, and court martials are carried out under that authority. Under the clause as it exists here, they must be carried out under the authority of the Governor in Council and the Governor in Council has a power of veto which they have not at the present time. As a matter of fact I think this is a protection to our men rather than otherwise. In other words there is an appeal from the military to the civil authorities. I have looked into

this matter because several people have spoken to me and urged the adoption of such a restriction. Under this the Governor in Council have power to appoint a court martial and to call court martials.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—I hope this committee will be very careful in dealing with this matter. We are not a military country here and all our soldiers are soldiers made within the past three and four years, and they are bound to be very ratifical. We have not the men on our staff here who could be called upon to make a Military Court martial. Very few of them are so qualified. What are they, tailors, coopers, ship-builders, painters, lawyers, and—and a job lot of drapers. I fail to see where any of them have knowledge of any military law. It is all very well for the authorities in the Old Country to enact legislation where they have so many troops, but here there ought be no need for such a Bill as this, and I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the power of inflicting the death penalty will be carefully reserved and guarded. There is no one in this House who desires more than I do to see military discipline carried out strictly, but sir, to have some of our gaudy peacocks given this power, is bringing matters a little too far. I think there, Mr. Chairman, with my Hon. friend who has charge of this Bill that we should have this matter very explicit. We are a recruiting country, not a Military country and we should bear in mind that the boys themselves require a great deal of kindness and consideration rather than punishment. We are only a recruiting station and our boys have come voluntarily. I am really surprised at the Government's bringing in a measure of this magnitude for such a small body of troops as we are sending forward; for it certainly cannot be necessary

to need an act like this one, of five pages, to conserve military etiquette. I want to see discipline as I have said, strictly carried out, but this is going too far.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—But the final Court of appeal is the Governor in Council.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—Yes, and I am glad the Governor in Council have that veto, but I hope they will not need to use it. Our boys will be called upon to make sacrifices. They are recruited and have volunteered in a desire to defend their country. They are not graduates of any Military College. Many of them have never been outside of St. John's before, and therefore they cannot be well posted in military etiquette. I ask that they be protected not so much by law as by kindness; no so much by punishment as by encouragement.

HON. PRESIDENT:—Mr. Chairman, I would draw attention to the fact that in section 7 here there appears to have been an omission. Section 7 is substantially the same as Section 9 in the Volunteer Acts, 1914, but the proviso at the end of the Section in the Volunteer Act has been omitted here. This proviso is that no man shall be subject to corporal punishment other than imprisonment, and is to protect our men from some of the English punishments. The reason was to prevent the infliction on our men of degrading punishments such as flogging or tying them by the arms to posts, fences, wheels and such like. That was the idea of the Act, but our men overseas were subject to a punishment, known in the army as "Crucifixion." In this punishment the men are tied with their arms up to a fence or wheel and have to be so subject for one or more hours a day for two or three weeks. It is inflicted for offences against the Military reg-

ulations, and this was done in Egypt as well as at the other places and very strong representations were made about the matter. Early in 1915 I made some representations to Governor Davidson as to this and he assured me that such punishments would not be inflicted any more. Now it was in the olden time the practice to flog the soldiers in the British Army, but now the position is different, and it is generally conceded that no such degrading punishment should be meted out in the armies today. Now then comes the question of the Death Penalty. No one who has followed closely the progress of the war can fail to realise that there is a growing feeling in the old country at the frequency at which the Death Penalty is sentenced out there. It has been bitterly complained of in the House of Commons. I make a practice of reading the debates and I can speak from what I have read. It is complained on the one hand that men are shot for offences for which they ought not to be shot; and while the men responsible for the administration make defences which are in most cases adequate, yet on the other hand the sentiment of the House of Commons is against the infliction of such punishments. I can quite recognise cases where it is necessary. For instance, men who commit offences of certain characters ought to be shot; offences against women, murder, and the like; but the last case was that of a young man shot for what was called cowardice. He had been in action for some time and suffered from shell-shock. He went back when out of the lines and told his colonel, asking for a transfer to the navy. The colonel advised him to stick to his job, and he undertook to do that, with the result that in the next action he was sent to the front, and he funked it and ran away to the

rear. He was found there a few days later in poor condition, and was brought before court martial, sentenced to be shot and was shot. Of course I know nothing of the case other than this, but I can conceive of circumstances where men may be similarly misunderstood, and I think the most rigid regulations ought to be made to prevent such a contingency arising. It is suggested here that the Governor in Council have the power of veto, but this only applies to Newfoundland; and I consequently think, while I have no desire to delay this Bill or make it unworkable, that there should be a clear understanding that the men of our regiments are not to be subjected to such treatment as this.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—I rise to support the position taken by my Hon. friend the President of this Chamber. This is a very important matter, and I cannot congratulate the leader of the Government on trying to rush it through in the short time at our disposal here this evening. I can talk with a great deal of feeling on this matter, Mr. Chairman, because the blood of one of my own on the fields of France and Flanders; and I feel that this is a Bill which should have the careful thought and consideration of every member before finally accepted. As the Hon. Mr. Anderson has so well pointed out, this is a very important matter and before we give any man the authority the Hon. the President has just referred to, we ought to be quite convinced that he is able to fairly administer it. We are going to send some more of our best and most vigorous blood over to France, and it is certainly up to us to guarantee that the men who will be placed in charge of these men will be men worthy of that high office. As has been pointed out, what the men want will be

kindness, and not punishment. One of the members speaking to this Bill referred in a rather disparaging way of the work of the outports in connection with the war. What better can you expect? You cannot compare conditions at all. Here in St. John's you have your brigades; and you have the other influences which the people in the outports are denied. In many of the outports the question of volunteering has not been fairly tried, and I cannot for one moment accept the remarks of some of the people of St. John's, who sneer at the people of the outports. Our outport people are just as good, every bit, as the St. John's people; and a lot of them are a good sight better. To find out that, all you have to do is to glance at a few of the men holding highest offices in the country here today. They are men who have worked their way up. They incidently show that there is good stuff yet in the outports, and rather than criticise, some should exercise a little more patience. The men of the outports have been criticised. Wait for a month or two. These are the men you are hoping to get to go now in their turn to the front. You will find that as soon as the question is put to them in an honest light they will prove themselves men, just as well if not even better than the men who left our shores with the first draft. Now, Mr. Chairman, let us not rush this matter through. We are clothing the Governor in Council with powers under this Act. Let us consider the question in all its lights. I have not had an opportunity of carefully going into this matter, but it appears to me that the General is the man to take charge of our men. What do our local Executive Councillors know about military affairs? Nothing. Leave it then, sir, to the General in command to mete out justice to our

boys, but at the same time see to it that they are fully protected against such treatment as has been referred to here today.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Mr. Chairman, I quite agree with the last speaker in that something should be done in connection with the section now before the committee. Section 10 as we have it only applies to our men while they are in this country; and just as soon as they leave our shores they become subject to the Army Act and the Imperial regulations made thereunder. The position of Newfoundland in this connection is different from that of any other part of the Empire. We have no military knowledge or experience and we ought not to attempt to put through this legislation without first being quite sure that what we are doing is in our own best interests. We have no criminal class in this country, such as they get in the towns of the other countries, and consequently our armies are not the same and should not be subject to the same treatment as theirs. In some cases laws such as these before us would certainly require to be made to protect the Army against such men as these, but as I have said, we have none such in this country. I might consequently suggest to the leader of the Government that if the committee would rise, we might have a further chance to consider this matter if, in the opinion of the House, the same was desirable.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT:—I would like to suggest to the Hon. gentleman in charge of this Bill that when we sit again he might be able to inform us as to why the proviso I referred to was cut out of the Bill now before us. That was put in the 1914 Bill to protect our boys, and I would like to know just why it was stricken out. This Act repeals all former Acts, and for that reason I would like

to see this provision included in the Act now before us. There may of course be a perfectly good reason for leaving it out, but I think we ought to know it before we pass on and the Committee reports having passed the Bill.

In Canada they have their own organization, but I presume if they were under some British general, he is the last court of appeal. In England there is an appeal from Haig to the Secretary for War, but I cannot say if the Canadians have that or not. But I know the Canadians were very strong against this. There is a story told of an Englishman who settled in Western Canada, and was put in charge of raising a battalion in Regina in the early days of the war, and he tied a man up by his hands to a door and kept him there for three or four hours. True, he had a doctor there and he certified the man came through the ordeal without permanent injury, but Sir Robert Borden investigated the matter and decided they would not stand for keeping any man in a position to treat men so, and cashiered the man off hand. I do not claim our men are altogether blameless and must agree with Kipling, who said: "Single men in barracks aint no Plaster Paris saints." But I had a great deal to do with military matters and have seen a large number of the papers of men who went over and came back, and with the exception of a few cases of men who were not born here I think the standard as good as any elsewhere. But I think it would be better if the Hon. gentleman in charge of the bill would ascertain for us why this provision was left out of the bill. I know that field punishment No. 1, known as crucifixion, was inflicted on our men, and I do not think we should stand for it. That may do for the Southern

States, but not here, and I do not think it should be tolerated.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I quite agree with the remarks of the previous speakers as to punishment, but what have we to do with that; we cannot alter the regulations of the British army. I take it these regulations refer to conduct in this country.

HON. PRESIDENT:—Oh, no.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Then what have we to do with the British Army Regulations?

HON. PRESIDENT:—We can exempt our men from this. I do not think that admits of any criticism. We say our people shall be subject to the King's Regulations except so and so.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—Will the President tell us why men were tied up in way he referred to in the face of this provision?

HON. PRESIDENT:—Because the man in charge did not know of such a provision.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—There is no reason why it should not be put in, but I am very doubtful if it can do any good. They have to be subject to the regulations of the British Army.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—I do not believe they will ever have a chance to do that with Newfoundland men. They would not submit to it.

HON. PRESIDENT:—It has been done; there is no doubt about that.

The Committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Hon. President read a message from the Assembly that they had passed the accompanying Income Tax Bill, in which they requested the concurrence of the Council. Said bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on to-morrow.

House then adjourned until to-morrow at 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, May 14th.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

House went into Committee on Military Forces Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I would ask the Hon. gentleman in charge if he has ascertained why the clause regarding punishment was dropped from this section.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The reason is that whether it is there or not it does not make much difference once our Regiment goes overseas. When they do go they are subject to the regulations of the British Army and any regulations we might make here are not likely to affect the regulations there. We may make recommendations but anything we put in our laws would have no effect on the regulations of the British Army.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I do not agree with the Hon. gentleman, because if we wish we can stipulate the conditions under which our men shall go to war and the conditions under which they shall perform active service. The British Army Regulations would not affect them if this House is of opinion that it is necessary for us to make a reservation in this particular, we have a perfect right to do it, and our men would then go forward under these regulations. The *lex loci contractus* would govern.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I am certainly of the same opinion. We can stipulate in this Act the conditions of service and the obligations to which they shall be liable, either all the King's Regulations or part. It is quite possible that at the front the particular officer in command of our battalion may not be familiar with these clauses and may not carry them out. That was the case in Egypt when certain things were done which should not have been done. For

that reason I am going to move that the words dropped from the previous Act be now added to section seven.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I beg to second the amendment moved by the Hon. President. While it is quite true the officials in command of our boys may not carry out our regulations, yet that should not prevent us looking after the interests of our boys. I do not know if it will help them a great deal, but we can make ourselves clear.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—For this Legislature to try and impose its ideas of discipline and punishment on an organisation like the British Army today is perfectly ridiculous, and I think under those conditions they would probably rather be without the Regiment at all. There are certain regulations and conditions to which all regiments are subject.

I dislike this punishment as much as any man or the idea of having the men subjected to it, but I think it is an evil that has got to be faced. Personally I am averse to dictating to the Imperial authorities, who have this terrible responsibility on their shoulders. Our men are brigaded not by themselves but with the best regiments of the British Army, and I can't think it will have any effect over there.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—I feel as strong on this matter today as ever. I refer to certain punishments meted out to our boys, and I hope the Minister of Militia, during his visit to the Old Country to enquire into matters concerning our Regiment, will see that the matter is investigated with a view to preventing a recurrence of such scandalous treatment of our men.

HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.:—The Hon. Mr. Anderson has just informed the House that he understands that the Hon. John R. Bennett, Minister

of Militia, is about to leave the Colony for an extended absence. I cannot think it possible that such can be the case, because on Saturday last Mr. Bennett was appointed Registrar in connection with the Military Service Board, in which is vested certain powers in connection with the carrying out of the Conscription law. I am aware, however, that the rumour is current that Mr. Bennett expects to be leaving town within the course of a few days for an extended absence, but whenever I have heard it I have expressed my disbelief of the rumour. If it be true that the Minister of Militia is vacating his post for ever a few weeks it finally disposes of the arguments advanced by the Hon. Mr. Harvey and the Hon. Mr. Anderson on the second reading of the Extension of Parliament Bill, when they took the position that conditions in Newfoundland were so critical that no ministerial head should be called upon to vacate his office to engage in a general or a bye-election. The Hon. Mr. Harvey and the Hon. Mr. Anderson thought the argument particularly strong in the case of Mr. Bennett, who they said should not be called upon to go to a bye-election this autumn, as being an acting minister only he would, in accordance with the ordinary principles of our Constitution, be called upon to do, because the time which he would give to matters appertaining to the election would be time which it would be impossible for him to afford to take from his Department. It must be remembered that St. John's West is his constituency, that his Militia office is in St. John's and that he would not to any considerable extent be absent from the city. But these gentlemen nevertheless thought that the emergency of the Department was such that he should not be disturbed or be called upon to lose any time whatever from his De-

partmental duties. That was the argument which was put forward by the Hon. Mr. Harvey and other gentlemen who fought energetically on behalf of the Government to disfranchise the people this autumn and give the Rump Parliament, which at present controls the legislature, a further term of unconstitutional life. If, however, at this moment when the Conscription Act is about to be brought into effect—a time infinitely more important in connection with the efficient organization and control of the Department of Militia than the autumn,—the Government feels that Mr. Bennett's services in the Department can be dispensed with even for a fortnight, and I am informed he intends to be absent two months. Then the argument which was advanced by Mr. Harvey on behalf of the Government is absolutely refuted. As I stated on many occasions, the argument was not in my opinion sound. There were no grounds whatever for extending the life of Parliament or for relieving acting ministers from the necessity of submitting their acceptance of office to their constituents for confirmation, other than the political expediency which a Government or a minister feels it desirable to take advantage of when there are grave doubts of securing re-election. But this incident if there be any truth in it, would entirely destroy every vestige of strength in the position taken by the Hon. Mr. Harvey and other members of this Chamber. In fact, the position of the Government and the Hon. Mr. Harvey in that connection has been a palpably absurd one because it has been a well known fact that the Prime Minister, who is also the Attorney General and the only lawyer in the Cabinet, intends to absent himself from the Colony for several months, and if the local situation is such, as has been argued by the Hon.

Mr. Harvey on behalf of the Government, as to make it impossible for any responsible head of a Government Department to give any time or thought to anything except his Department, then it is entirely incongruous for the Prime Minister, who is also the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, to find himself at such leisure, so free from responsibility and such an unneeded personality for the administration of the affairs of our Government, as to be able safely to leave the Colony on a holiday tour which can be of absolutely no advantage whatever either to the Empire or to the Colony.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—I have no desire to delay the House, but I must say I confess I am surprised that the Minister should contemplate a visit to England in the near future. I don't entirely but partly agree with my Hon. friend.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—I was merely informed that the Minister intended to leave shortly, but I don't say my information is correct.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:—With regard to the amendment before the chair, I have sufficient faith in our boys to believe that they should not require harsh treatment. Still I think it is going rather farther than we have the right to, to dictate to the military authorities. I don't think our two thousand men require any different treatment to the seven and a half million Allies. I think the Bill is entirely unnecessary.

HON. MR. POWER:—I wish to make a few remarks on the matter before the Chamber. Hon. gentlemen have spoken about the severity of the punishment that might be inflicted on men of our Regiment. I think the imposition of the death penalty is going too far. It is a reflection on the character of our boys, is going to unnecessary extremes, and is not at

all necessary, and I most strongly and emphatically protest against it. It will serve no purpose whatever and is uncalled for and a stigma on the characters of our boys who do not at all deserve such treatment.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—The amendment proposed by the Hon. President does not pretend to ask that our men be excluded from punishment altogether. The amendment means that if a breach of the Army Regulations is committed, instead of being subjected to punishment as described here, the guilty party may be imprisoned. But the penalty of crucifixion as referred to, and other forms of punishment, I do not think should be tolerated. If our men break the regulations, imprisonment would do. For instance, a man transgresses the law here. If the crime is other than murder in the first degree, the punishment meted out is imprisonment under the civil law, the only crime punishable with death being murder. If the punishment meted out by the civil law for any crime a man may commit, is sufficient to satisfy the ends of justice, why should not this amendment meet with the approval of the House, because the amendment gives the right to Army authorities to imprison offenders. Some of the boys were marching over a part of the Sahara and because they were not able to march as great a number of miles as other men, they were tied to stakes and left there for hours under a scorching sun. It is not fair to permit punishment of this kind to be inflicted on our boys, and certainly it is not necessary. Were this a country with millions of a population or hundreds of thousands of people congregated in cities, we would have a vicious criminal class on which it would be necessary to have regulations made to deal with such a class. We send boys and

young men of a different kind, because they have not been brought up in the midst of temptation and danger and are not vicious or criminal. Personally, I favour the adoption of the amendment which is that no men are to be subject to any corporal punishment excepting imprisonment.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I do not think the amendment will have any effect and feel like voting against any such amendment as the one offered, as I do not think such punishment would be given if it were not entirely deserved.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—In all the Army regulations I have come across I could not find that such punishment would be meted out to the boys of this Colony and the amendment to my mind would not have the slightest effect. The Bill is to bring our boys under the same Army rules as the other regiments of the British Army. This Bill is a joke, a huge joke, and the Hon. Leader of the Government put it plainly when he said our boys would be treated fair and square on the other side. The solicitor of the House could devise a better Bill than this, a Bill which the boys and the authorities could understand. If the Bill is passed it will be another joke, for it will be necessary to give every boy a copy, and the sections they can't understand will have to be interpreted by the military interpreter. I hope the House will see the absurdity of passing such a measure.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I beg the pardon of the Hon. member but I think he is a little off the question. He says our boys would be tried first; but they were not always so tried, and because they were not I am raising the point here now. They were not so tried in Egypt when they were subjected to the punishment known as crucifixion. They may have deserved it. I was not

there but I do know that when the matter came to my knowledge and I made representations to Governor Davidson, undertook that it would not happen again. If he could do that there must have been some way. There must be some class of punishment instead of it. That being so it may be taken as absolutely clear that we have a right to make these amendments on the Bill's passing and as far as possible make it possible for people in charge to know that this punishment must not be inflicted. I have grave doubts if any such practice exists now, and because of the attitude of the British House of Commons I think that body will put an end to it. I ought to have said yesterday but in the hurry of debate I overlooked it, that the Hon. Secretary of War had intimated that the subject was being discussed and that enquiry was being made; and that as soon as that board of enquiry reported he would be quite satisfied to have it abolished; and from this and other sources I feel that it will be eliminated from the British Army before long. That however is no reason why we should not put this on record and make it clear that this Legislature is prepared to protect men. As for the Bill I cannot see eye to eye with my Hon. friends who complains that it is long and so forth. If he has seen the King's regulations he would know that it is composed of 600 pages and I presume they would not be able to run the Army without them. I can see no objection in principle in the present Act, it is not unduly long. It covers only 4 pages, and even if you only have 5,000 troops on active service, surely that is not an excessive publication. I see no reason, sir, why this amendment should not be adopted, and I am glad to learn from the leader of the Government that the amendment is acceptable to the Government.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—Before the House accepts the principle of this Bill I would like to ask if the matter of men who have enlisted and been exempted have to report under Con-
scription, and if so what relation they hold to the Act. Do they have to claim exemption? I would like to get a statement on this matter.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I will have this question looked into.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill with amendments. The bill was thereupon read a third time as amended. Passed and sent to the House of Assembly for its concurrence.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I move that this Bill be now read a second time; and I feel there is no necessity for making any observations on it. The object of the Bill is to make revenue to enable the Government to meet the increasing expenditure for the operation of the war. It is based in a large measure on the Acts of the English, Canadian and American Parliaments, particularly the Canadian Act. Here it is five per cent. There it is four per cent. The difference is therefore one per-cent. In Canada the exemption is 500 dollars if single and \$1000 if married, and then four per cent, but in this Bill it is five per cent from the beginning. From \$6,000 to \$10,000 it is 2 per cent. in Canada. It comes to three per cent here. The Bill is retroactive and takes in 1917. The purpose of the Bill is to include persons who did not come within the scope of the Profits Tax Act 1917. I do not know that I need say any more until we get in Committee. We can then go into the details.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—Mr. Chairman, while we cannot amend or take any action on the Bill, I am quite sure that my Hon. friend will endeavor to correct what is obviously wrong in the Bill as it comes here. I do not

say that there is anything obviously wrong, as much as obviously injudicious; and it is not my object to oppose the Bill as much as it is to point out to the Hon. gentleman a number of things which I cannot have received, and which ought to be received, a very large amount of consideration. I may say that I took the trouble this afternoon to post myself on the present relation of the Council to this Bill. The Council has no power in Committee on this Bill excepting that if it finds that the Bill is objectionable or unfair, as the position of the Council is today, it does possess the power of holding the Legislature up for a month. I will read the Act: "If a Money Bill having been passed by the House of Assembly and sent up to the Legislative Council at least one month before the end of the session, is not passed by the Legislative Council without amendment within one month after it is so sent up to that House, the Bill shall, unless the House of Assembly direct to the contrary, be presented to the Governor and become an Act of the Legislature on the assent of the Governor being signified, notwithstanding that the Legislative Council have not consented to the Bill." We have got power in this House that appears to be confined to the right to hold up this Bill for one month. Well, obviously no such action would be taken under such conditions, and I do not anticipate any hold up at all, for I want to see the Bill put through in view of the situation in the Country today, but all the same I desire to go through the Bill more or less roughly for I have not had time to study it out; and point out these suggestions that occur to me and no doubt to others here, which may result in the improvement of the Bill. I may say that, while there is no Bill before us, I have a copy of the

Resolutions which I understand have been changed somewhat. Now the first thing I would suggest is this: Its object is to improve and supplement the Profits Bill of the last session; and I suggest this, that as it now stands it taxes people for the whole of 1917; people of all classes down to those who have an income if single of \$1,000, and if married of \$2,000 a year calling on these people to whom the tax will probably be of very serious amount, calling upon them to pay this in 1918 or a double tax for 1918. I cannot help thinking that that is a hardship which will effect many people. I would suggest then to the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill that he would consider exempting payment on account of 1917 incomes under say \$5,000, \$6,000 or \$7,000, according to the wisdom of the Government. I think the men with the smaller incomes of two, three and four thousand dollars who are asked by this Bill to pay double, and more than they would have to pay in Canada or the States, that these should be exempted from the 1917 tax. By all means tax the rich people, but if the Government desires to impose this legislation, I think it would be injudicious to come now and make the men with the smaller incomes pay this tax twice in 1918, especially as it is already double the tax in Canada and that means four times as much in 1918 as this class of taxpayer pays in Canada or the States. I note, going into details, page 2, sub-section "A" that a reasonable allowance may be made for the depreciation and the exhaustion of mines. Now I am aware that this has been taken holus-bolus from the Canadian Act, but is there not sufficient common sense in the country to take it that all legislation from Canada is not necessarily good? I consider that the principle of that clause

is bad; for why should you allow for the depreciation and exhaustion of mines any more than for the depreciation of any other property? I cannot see why the exhaustion of mines particularly should be considered when all property depreciates in the same way, though the same provision is not made. Now, sub-section "C" exempts the amounts paid by the taxpayer to the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross Fund and certain other funds. I would suggest to the Hon. gentlemen that they should also exempt charitable funds, educational funds and Church funds approved by the Minister.

There is no country in the world where voluntary subscriptions play so important a part in the large number of educational charitable and church institutions, and where these institutions rely upon this support more than in this country, and I think if these contributions are going to be taxed (a man say giving five hundred dollars to Mt. Cashel or some other institution and be taxed therefore), these institutions are going to suffer. I make these suggestions so that these institutions may not suffer unreasonably. I cannot understand subsection B. I think this point has perhaps been overlooked. Take a company which is foreign registered and has already paid taxes there; there are a large number of those here, for instance the Red Cross Line which has a certain number of shareholders here, who are taxed in England. Is it the intention to tax them here also? This affects myself slightly, but other gentlemen here, of great value to the country, much, and if they reside in Newfoundland and are taxed on English and American investments, the chances are they might be driven out of Newfoundland; they may decide to carry on business here and reside in Halifax or in England. For instance take a

prominent government official I have in mind who has property in England. That man is doing good work here and is receiving a salary and has also income from investments in England and has to pay taxes twice, and he cannot afford to do so, and the result is he will probably be driven out of the country. That is the general tendency of a tax which is levied here one and also elsewhere. I suggest this ought to be considered by the government. Now we come to the tax itself. Under our tax the small incomes pay a great deal more than the small incomes in Canada or the United States. That may be considered judicious; we cannot object to it here but it seems to me to be unwise.

(Read figures)

So that our tax as regards small incomes is considerably higher than in Canada and as compared with any other Income Tax enormously oppressive. On page four, it may not be the intention, but it looks to me on the face of it as if corporations and joint stock companies are to be called upon to pay the Income Tax in addition to the Profits. I shall read it:

(Reads)

The next sub-section, three, I cannot understand at all. I hope the Hon. gentleman will inform the house as to the meaning of it. I want to know whether registered companies are taxed differently from unregistered companies. They may or may not be, but it looks to me as if unregistered companies are put on a different basis to registered companies. Then subsection five is one which, if I am rightly informed, must certainly be changed.

(Reads section)

It ought obviously to read 1917 and 1918. Then in clause six it appears that an employer is liable for the tax due by the employee. It is going to be very difficult to carry that out.

The employer pays a monthly wage and does not know if the employee has an income of his own, and it is going to be very difficult where an employee may want to avoid the tax. And if it applies to 1917 where an employee may have been paid off, it is going to be very awkward for the employer. Then there is the date of March 31st for returns to be made. Why have March 31st. The experience of the Profits Tax shows that that date is improper. I presume this is one of those slavish imitations of the Canadian Act. Why not have sufficient time allowed and not have everybody applying as they did this year for an extension of time to put in their returns. These are the principal points that I have marked in the bill, and as I say, I am not making any captious objections to it. I do not want to do it, but I am calling attention to them so that when this matter comes before the Government again they may be considered. If it is of any interest to the House I will read the figures of what an income pays:

(Read figures).

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I would suggest to the Hon. Leader of the Government that in view of the fact that this Bill has not been printed and we do not know what the Bill really is, the matter might be deferred so that Hon. members might have a chance to peruse it. There may be some amendments made, and we cannot intelligently discuss it at present.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—I quite agree with the Hon. gentleman. I have seen the Resolutions for the first time, and while we have not power to alter it, I want to be fully fortified with the meaning of each section as far as I am concerned, and if we are not competent in this House to deal with and criticise the financial concerns of the country then we ought to be. The Government of to-

day is a continuity, but it may not be tomorrow. I do not know what became of the previous criticisms or a similar Bill before this House a year ago, or whether the debates were handed down to the Museum as an accumulation of curiosities, but I think the gentleman who is responsible for the supervision of the debates in this House, ought to let the House know what became of them. If this House, with the vast interests financially and otherwise who are the principals of the trade and commerce of the country, are not competent to deal with the financial problems of the country, then I fail to see why insult should be added to injury. As far as I am concerned I like to be frank, and I think we ought to be treated in a similar manner. As far as I know this House has never attempted to throw down a financial Bill of any Government in the history of this Colony, and why curtail the good that this House might do by giving it no power at all in matters of this kind? I could quite understand in the British House of Commons—I do not quote Canada, we are always quoting Canada in this House, and I suppose this is also from Canada—where they have a membership of 800—but here where you have a House of barely two dozen I can't understand why such a Bill should have been introduced in the Lower House as was introduced last year. This House never had such an insult put on it before. If we were in opposition to the Bill introduced last year, we were conscientious in it, straight in it, and stuck by it, and the best evidence of our justice, is to find the suggestions made a year ago embodied in the present Bill. When the Bill comes before us in detail, we can at least make suggestions, whether they are carried out or not, even if we have not the power to change it. But

I hope I will not leave this House until every section is explained, and not be passed in silent contempt as was done last year. Now as regards the Bill being retroactive; I think that is going a little too far. I think sleeping dogs ought to be allowed to lie. One thousand dollars or two thousands dollars is only equal to half that amount a few years ago, and people with incomes under six or seven thousand dollars found it hard enough to live last year, without being called on to pay taxes for two years in 1918. I think we should start with this year and let 1917 alone. But I think we should defer the Bill until we have copies furnished every member.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—It seems unnecessary to attempt any review of this Bill after the very able way in which Hon. Mr. Harvey has dealt with it. He has in the main shown what at first instance appears to be faulty in the Bill as it stands. The greatest objection I see is that it is retroactive, and it seems to me it will be quite impossible for the Government to collect an income tax from the man with a small income only and which we all know has been fully expended during the past year. I submit that not one person in a hundred who had an income less than five thousand dollars spent any less than that income last year. That being so, how is an income tax for the past year going to be collected? If men receiving salaries of three or four thousand dollars are made liable for it, it must be evident that the employer or such men will be called upon and expected to pay the tax which will be in addition to the salaries paid last year, and as Hon. Mr. Harvey pointed out such men will be called upon to pay two taxes in the one year. I submit that whatever justification there may be, and I do

not say there is none, for a retroactive bill, the figure at which it ought to become effective should be five or six or seven thousand dollars. I think those who had an income exceeding that might be expected to pay the tax for last year, but I think beneath that the Government would be acting wisely if it accepted an amendment which would exempt incomes of five thousand dollars or less, so far as 1917 is concerned. The figure quoted by Hon. Mr. Harvey as to what is payable by persons in the U. S. and Canada and Newfoundland are not quite correct, because in the U. S. a married man is allowed abatement of \$200 for each child under eighteen years of age or for any incapable of self support because medically or physically defective. That is a married man in the U. S. does not pay as much by a good deal in certain cases as the smaller amount named by Hon. Mr. Harvey.

It would appear to most persons as being strictly more fair if our Government had been fit to reduce the scale of the Canadian Act, by which persons with a \$5,000 income will not be paying as much as appears now if the Bill is to go through as it stands. I submit that the Act would have been much more acceptable if it had been framed upon the exact lines of the Canadian Act. Why the discrimination was made against the people of the country I cannot understand. The people here are not earning more money than those in Canada, they have not the means to do so. It is unnecessary to take further time until we are in possession of the Bill and have some information as to what the return of the Government will be regarding it.

HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.—I heartily support the principle of the Income Taxation Bill. When a year ago it was my privilege as Colonial Secre-

tary to introduce on behalf of the Government the Profits Tax Bill I pointed out that that Bill was the first attempt to introduce into Newfoundland the principle of profits or income taxation. I ventured the opinion which was the opinion of the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Morris, who was then Prime Minister, as also my own opinion, that the Profits Tax Bill, undoubtedly incomplete and undoubtedly raising questions of inequalities and hardships under certain circumstances, would at this session be followed by a more perfect and complete bill dealing with Profit taxation and possibly with income taxation. I am glad that the intention which I then expressed has been put into effect by the Government, and this bill is the result. Certainly it is quite impossible at this moment to enter into an intelligent discussion of the measure itself because the bill as it has actually passed the House of Assembly is not yet from the printer's hands, and no member of this Chamber has had an opportunity of perusing even a proof. Within the past hour or so, however, some of the members have received a copy of the original resolutions as introduced in the House of Assembly. There has been no opportunity of giving these more than a casual perusal, and I am informed that the bill which has actually passed the House differs in several material points from these resolutions. I shall consequently confine myself at this moment to an expression of earnest approval of the principle of income taxation in conjunction with profits taxation, and call attention to three points in connection with which I am not quite clear, though I presume the matter will be clear to all when we have an opportunity of reading the Bill as it has finally passed the House of Assembly.

The first point is that this bill is

intended to cover not only income for 1918, but to cover income for 1917. In other words, the tax-payer is called upon to pay out of 1918 income a tax, first on his income for the year 1917, and secondly, a tax on his income for year 1918. That is, there is double taxation for 1918. In the case of gentlemen who have very large incomes, and those whose annual incomes are largely in excess of their normal annual expenditure, this provision may not be unreasonably, but in the case of those whose incomes are no greater than their expenditure this matter of retro-action is one which should receive careful consideration. For the man who is in the \$10,000 a year income class double taxation may not be a hardship, but for the man who has an income of \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year and has for years been living at that rate it may be a hardship for him to so adjust his 1918 accounts, having regard to the fact that we are now in the fifth month of the year 1918, so that he can pay a substantial income tax out of 1918 account on his income for 1918, and in addition pay out of the same account a similar tax for the year 1917, and as a general principle the lower the wage of the taxpayer the harder that will be. The \$4,000 a year man living in St. John's and maintaining a home and attempting to educate a family has undoubtedly spent his \$4,000, and had the \$4,000 been \$5,000 or \$6,000 would undoubtedly have spent it, particularly if he has a number of children who are going to school, and if he be of the class of man who carries substantial life insurance for the protection of his wife and children in the event of death, how it is going to be possible for that man to so reorganize his expenses for the remaining seven months of the year 1918, having regard to the enormous cost of living, and during the

remaining seven months of the year so curtail his expenses that during these seven months he will be able to save the substantial tax which he has to pay upon his income for 1918, and in addition save an equal sum of money to pay as a tax upon his income for the previous year. That is indeed a problem. For wealthy men who have coastal, patrol or other big contracts with the Government, such as the case in which I recently observed that \$140,000 was paid to one firm represented by one who is a member of the Executive Government during the past year on account of Government contracts, it would certainly be no hardship, but for the business man, accountant, or professional man who has no Government contracts, it may be an entirely different proposition. That is a point which I think is worthy of consideration and debate when the bill reaches its committee stage.

The second point which is suggested by the Act is that relating to employers, who from the observations of the Hon. Mr. Harvey, I gather are to be held liable for the taxes payable by their employees. I presume the Leader of the Government will be able to inform the House as to just how that is to be worked out. An employee who is a taxpayer may, for instance, be drawing a monthly salary. Is it suggested that the employer should open a tax account for that employee and after having cross-examined the employee to find out what his total income from all sources would likely be, deduct from his wages monthly one-twelfth of the annual tax, placing it to the credit of the employee's tax account, so that the money would be available to pay over to the Government at the end of the year as that employee's tax. How is that going to be worked out when the employee is a monthly ser-

vant and liable to leave his master's employ or be dismissed at the end of any month, and how is it to be worked out when new men are being employed. It must be remembered that the income of the employee received from his employer may be but a part of that employee's total income. In what way is the employer to estimate the amount which he should deduct so that the employer may be protected from any claim being made against him under the Act. I have no personal knowledge of what the provisions of the Act are in this connection, but I base my remarks upon the very clearly voiced opinion of the Hon. Mr. Harvey, from whose observations I gathered that there was a liability placed upon employers in that connection.

The third point concerning which I would like to be informed is the comparative way in which married and unmarried men are considered for the purpose of taxation. In the draft resolutions which we have before us, being the copies originally tabled in the House of Assembly, the unmarried man is free to the amount of \$2,000 and the married man is free to the amount of \$3,000. I understand that has been subsequently reduced by the House of Assembly, and that the Bill as it passed the House provides that the unmarried man is free to the amount of \$1,000 and the married man is free to the amount of \$2,000, but if that is the only distinction which is drawn, then I fear the Bill will not work out with any reasonable degree of fairness. Take two brothers of the prosperous outport planter class, who may each make during the year 1918 the sum of \$3,000, one married and with the proverbially large Newfoundland family, the other unmarried and having no dependents. The married brother will have to provide for himself in

just the same way as his unmarried brother would have to provide, but he has in addition to provide for a wife and provide for the upkeep of a home and provide for the maintenance, support and education of from three to eight or ten children. If he is a sane man he is carrying substantial life insurance for the protection of his wife and children in the event of accident. It is much more important to him that he should develop his business and have something to leave to his children than in the case of the unmarried brother, and the difference in taxation in these two cases is entirely unfair to the married brother. It must be remembered that the man who has the wife and children is paying in the purchase of his groceries, provisions and clothing a very large amount annually to the revenue of the Colony, while his unmarried brother is paying only such customs taxation as is necessary for his own personal food and clothing. I think this is a situation which should receive earnest consideration. The married man who has established a home and is raising a family is a very much greater asset to the country than the bachelor, but the effect of this Bill in so far as I have been able to gather its contents on that point places a burden of taxation upon the married man, having regard to the taxation which he already pays upon the purchase of imports, very largely in excess of the taxation placed upon his bachelor brother. In similar legislation in both Canada and the United States special allowances are made in the case of the taxpayer having children. I am quite sure that it was the intention of the House of Assembly to have this Bill balanced so that it would bear as fairly as possible upon all classes of the community, and while I feel that this taxation Bill

will bear with very great hardship upon the class of man who is really the strength of our country—the independent and successful outport planter who is a married man with a large family—yet I feel that this aspect of the matter must have received the careful consideration and decision of the gentlemen of the Executive Government who are responsible for the Bill in this form. The Bill itself is carrying out the policy of income taxation which I enunciated in this Chamber a year ago, but there are many details in this Bill which must bear harshly upon the independent and virile class in this community whose industry in their business undertakings and whose desire to give a reasonable chance in life to their children by providing them with a good education which class is one which should receive every encouragement in their efforts for the advancement of themselves and their families. So far as a Bill of this nature is concerned, this Chamber can do not more than debate it, as it cannot amend the bill, but in view of the fact that the measure has not been discussed at any length or with any degree of vigor and wisdom by the members of the Government in the House of Assembly, I think it should be very thoroughly debated in this Chamber so that the Executive Government may be educated in the scope, meaning and effect of the Bill for which they are responsible, and consequently have an opportunity of making such amendments as may appeal to them as reasonable by re-submission of the Bill itself to the House of Assembly.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Income Tax Bill was read a second time and then referred to a Committee of the Whole House. Hon. Dr. Skelton in the Chair.

HON. MR. ANDERSON,—Is it the

intention to proceed with the committee stage of the bill when Hon. members have not had an opportunity of even reading it.

HON. MR. ELLIS—There are still seven or eight bills to come up and it is the mention to prorogue the House to-morrow.

HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.—I would submit that under all the circumstances the proper course is for the committee to rise, report that it has made some progress and ask leave to sit on to-morrow. This bill was read a first time yesterday afternoon. It is one of vital importance and requires very careful consideration, and discussion than it has received in the House of Assembly, for in the House of Assembly it has been rushed through as a Government measure with very little intelligent consideration and debate, and practically no thought as to the details of the measure. The bill has been read a second time this afternoon. The members of this Chamber spoke on it, pointing out that it was quite impossible for them to discuss the bill with any definiteness because it was not yet printed. It is true that an hour ago copies of the original resolutions tabled in the House of Assembly were handed some of the members of this Chamber so that they may get some idea of the measure, but these resolutions do not represent the bill in the form in which it has passed the House of Assembly in that material alterations have, I am informed, been made. I venture the opinion that a bill ought not to be read a second time in this Chamber without a printed copy of the bill being in the hands of the members, and as this bill has already been read a second time without the bill being available for perusal, I feel that this House should not now proceed with the committee stage by reading a copy of the original resolutions as

tabled in the House of Assembly, which copy is not a copy of the bill as passed by the House of Assembly, and attempt to consider it section by section and debate upon it while the members of this Chamber have had no opportunity whatever of making themselves acquainted with its contents. I am surprised at the Hon. Mr. Ellis attempting to force through under suspended rules a bill of this sort under the threat that it had to be put through forthwith as it was the Government's intention to prorogue the Legislature tomorrow. I also understand that there are a dozen bills passed by the House of Assembly which have not yet reached this Chamber. Some of these bills are undoubtedly of trifling importance and under suspended rules could be rushed through all their stages in a few minutes, but there must be bills of considerable importance which would require discussion. Of the contents of none of these bills have the members of this Chamber any definite knowledge whatever. I consequently think that the further consideration of this matter should be deferred until tomorrow, that a copy of the bill which we have to consider should be in the hands of each member this evening or early to-morrow morning so that when the House meets to-morrow afternoon the members may have an opportunity of entering into an intelligent discussion of this bill, which is of vital importance to the whole community. The principle of an Income Tax is one which I earnestly support, but the manner and method by which the tax is levied and collected, the matter of exemptions and the many details required in a finance act of that nature are certainly worthy of some consideration and debate.

HON. M. ELLIS:—Why not sit tonight and dispose of the Bill and the others in the Order Paper? I move

the Committee rise and sit again at 8 o'clock to-night.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I regret very much that the Hon. Mr. Ellis seems to have made up his mind that he is going to force this bill through all its stages this evening if possible. It is very unfair to this Chamber, many of whose members are senior men of long financial experience and ability, to have a bill of this importance placed in their hands at 6 or 7 o'clock and be called upon to debate it and pass it in final form within a few hours thereafter. It is well known to the Hon. Mr. Ellis that there are distinguished members of this Chamber who will find it quite impossible to attend a session this evening. The Hon. Mr. Goodridge, who a few minutes ago objected to this bill being rushed through in this summary manner, has already made it clear to the House that it is quite impossible for him to attend an evening session. The Hon. Mr. Ellis will remember that when Mr. Goodridge spoke on the Military Service Bill he pointed out that his age and health made it impossible for him to attend this Legislature in the evenings. He told us of the great disappointment which he had experienced because he had been unable to attend patriotic meetings which had been held in the evenings, and we know that with Mr. Goodridge's enthusiasm for patriotic work he must have found it absolutely impossible to attend these meetings or he would have been one of the most active members of the Patriotic Association. The Hon. Dr. Skelton, who occupies the Chair of this Committee would also find it impossible to attend an evening session. There are other members of this Chamber similarly situated, and I feel that the least courtesy which the leader of the Government should extend to the senior members of this Chamber, some of whom

are gentlemen whose financial experience, practical knowledge and ability, would add a very great deal to the complete consideration of this measure, would be that they should not be debarred from taking part in the discussion of the bill. Because Mr. Ellis or myself may be prepared to come back to the House after dinner and remain until midnight or early morning is no reason why a bill of this importance should be rushed through second reading, committee stage and third reading at one sitting under circumstances when some of the gentlemen whose opinions are of the most value would by their inability to attend the House be prevented from aiding in the discussion of the measure.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—If there are seven or eight Bills to come up, and these are not yet printed, it seems to me that it would be a hopeless effort to get through in time to close the House tomorrow.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Mr. Chairman, if it is inconvenient or a hardship for any Hon. member to come here, I will not force my motion. When it was made I did not anticipate that it would be a hardship to anybody. The Committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit tomorrow.

The following Bills were received from the Lower House and were read a first and a second time:

On Act to amend the Revenue Act, 1905.

A Bill an Act to amend the War Pensions Act, 1917.

An Act respecting Municipal Affairs.

An Act to Tax Telephone and Telegraph Companies.

An Act respecting Stamp Duties.

An Act to amend Consolidated Statutes, Cap. 36, re Nuisances.

An Act respecting the Operation of Saw Mills.

An Act respecting Sheep Raising.

An Act respecting Crown Lands was read a first time.

The Public Service Bill was read a first time.

The Public Service Bill was read a second time.

The House resolved itself into Committee on this Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill passed without amendment.

This Bill was now read a third time.

An Act respecting certain Retiring Allowance was read a first and a second time. The House went into Committee on this Bill.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

This Bill was then read a third time.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Bishop the amendments made by the lower House to the "Shipping" Bill were read a first time.

The House went into Committee on these amendments.

The Committee rose and reported the Amendments passed without amendment.

The Shipbuilding Act, 1916 Amendment Act was read a first time.

The order of the day being completed the House adjourned until 3 o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, May 15th.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

Hon. Mr. Ellis tabled reports of the Newfoundland Patriotic Fund and the Permanent Marine Disasters Fund.

House went into Committee on the Revenue Act, 1905, Amendment Bill, Hon. Mr. Knowling in the chair.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The object of this Bill is to make certain increases in the duties on tobacco, leather, and

to provide for export duties on fish and fish oils. The changes came into effect Saturday last in order to prevent any unfair advantage being taken of them.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—Of course we have nothing whatever to do with this Bill increasing taxation, but I note some time ago certain promises were made by the Government that civil servants would have increases made in their salaries, but I understand nothing has been done. I am told that the salaries of many of these men are the same today as they were twenty and thirty years ago, and everyone knows perfectly well the cost of living today has increased to more than twice as much as it was then. Now there is something wrong there. There are too many officials for the work they do, and it would be better to fire half of them and give the others a decent wage. I understand that some of them are merely ornamental figureheads in the civil service.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—In the matter referred to, I may say that last year the Government advanced the salaries of the civil servants all round, and they are well aware that at the present time it is hard to get along on small salaries and they are doing the best they can. The increases amounted to fifty thousand dollars.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—The point I wish to make is, while there has been a surplus of \$650,000 for 1916-1917, and almost an equal amount for 1917-1918, that has been utilised for the carrying on of the war, and only a paltry \$50,000 was distributed amongst the civil servants. That was a mere nothing, and would be gobbled up in the Custom House alone. Why \$50.00 would not buy a suit of clothes for all the men in the civil service. There are a lot of ministers who get salaries from \$2,000 down. I

have been asked in the Old Country what salaries the heads of our public departments get and I have been ashamed to say it. Their salaries equal about £400 sterling. They should be paid properly if the positions and the work are worth it. The firemen, police, customs officials and others want an increase of salary and rightly so, because of many commodities of every day life the increased cost is at least three times what it used to be.

HON. MR. MILLEY:—With regard to Section 6 of the Bill, I notice that this Act comes into force on the 11th of May. I would ask the Hon. Leader of the Government if any notice to that effect has been given the public or the Post Office, because letters posted since have been carried at the usual rate. As this is a tax on the public, I would move that we postpone the debate until we have the Bill before us. It is not fair that we should be treated like this.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—I entirely agree with the observations of my Hon. friend. This is purely and simply a burlesque, and a waste of time and we might as well be out in the President's room smoking. It is adding insult to injury to ask us to pass this Bill without seeing it. The House and Hon. members never hesitated to pass reasonable and just legislation and are anxious and willing to assist the Government in every reasonable way. We all know of the friction caused here last year, when this House was subjected to criticisms of a vindictive and vile type, and now a Bill is brought in which there is no necessity to have before us at all. If it was not necessary to print this Bill, it is not necessary to read it.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I think the Hon. gentleman is altogether wrong. This Bill came in here with certain

items omitted, which the Clerk of the House did not discover until today and he now brings it in typewritten.

HON. MR. MILLEY:—Why not have the copies re-typed. Surely correct copies should have been given us.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—This is an important matter, as every Hon. gentleman is interested in the trade and commerce of the country, and upon the export duty to be derived on various articles. It is the first time in the history of the country that such a tax has been levied to any extent and we, for this reason, should carefully consider the matter. The sum of 50 cents a case on lobsters will make a great difference in price, and somebody—whether the party catching the lobster or sending it to market—must pay it. We must remember that the day of \$20 for lobster is gone in Vienna and Hamburg, but now the question is, can we sell them at all?

HON. MR. ELLIS:—This Bill went through the Lower House without being printed and was sent down to this House in the same way.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—If things were done in a certain slipshod way in the Lower House, there is no reason why we here should do the same.

HON. MR. McNAMARA:—I notice that the same export duty is applied to salmon and lobsters. There surely is some mistake here, for it is hardly necessary for me to point out that there is great disparity in the value of the goods, the former costing about \$8.00 per case, roughly, while the latter would be in the neighborhood of \$25.00. This certainly requires rectification.

HON. MR. GOODRIDGE:—I agree with the contention of Hon. Mr. McNamara in this respect. The disparity in price as between the two

articles is too obvious to need any further reference to it.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—There is much force in what both Hon. gentlemen say about the export tax on lobsters and salmon, but it is not the only incongruity in the Bill. The same thing applies to codfish and medicinal oil. Surely medicinal oil might reasonably pay a higher rate. While I am on my feet might I say that while it is not compulsory for the Government to send up full copies of money Bills, still the Hon. Leader of the Government will agree that if Hon. members take sufficient interest in the trade of the country they would desire to be able to answer questions put to them regarding the export tax upon our staple commodities, and if a copy of a Bill is placed before us here it should be a completed one, not like that which is before us today. However, the assurance of the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill that correct copies will be put before us is satisfactory. I know he is anxious to get through legislation as quickly as possible.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—It appears to me to be too serious a matter and I cannot quite agree with my Hon. friend. It is the duty of the Government to provide complete copies of any Bills sent to the House. These Bills are submitted for our assent, and the most we can do with a money Bill, is to postpone its passing for one month. Personally I am not inclined to pass a money or any other Bill on which I have a doubt unless the Bill is here in paper form, and the Council should insist that those Bills brought here should be complete and entire.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment. It was then read a third time, passed and sent to the Assembly with a message that

the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee on the War Pensions Bill, Hon. Mr. Bishop in the chair.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The object of this Bill is to provide that if a member of the Pensions Board becomes ill, the Government may appoint a temporary substitute for him, until he is able to attend to the work of the Board.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Committee rose and reported the Bill, which was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

Committee on Crown Lands Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The object of this section is to prevent ship-building companies from coming here and having the right to go on leased or licensed timber areas of individuals. As the Statutes are at present they have power to do this.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I do not think the interpretation of the Leader of the Government is strictly correct. I think as the law is at present, persons building ships for fishery purposes can go on any land for the purpose of cutting timber, but of course it was never intended at any time and it was never within the purview of the framer of the Act that vessels would be built here for fishery purposes solely, over 100 tons. I understand ship-building companies have gone on land of other persons and cut timber for vessels very much over 100 tons. I do not think they ought to have any such right, and another phase of the situation is that if they are given the right to use Crown Lands they will denude it, and leave the fishermen short of timber for building small boats. Why the Government gives the right in the one

case and not in the other, I am unable to see at the present time. Ship-building companies under our law are given protection and encouragement of a most extraordinary character, and why they should be permitted to go on Crown Lands and denude them of timber that must be required by the fishing population of this country in the future for the purposes of building smaller class boats, I do not understand. Perhaps there is some reason for it.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—Is this law to prevail against the people who hold areas and have spent large sums of money for the same? Have they no rights? In Nova Scotia where they build much more than we do, they have to buy their timber or get a guarantee and I don't think they would think for one moment there of taking timber from wherever they like without paying for it. More than that, we have the finest type of timber property and very suitable for making paper and pulp, and it is pretty hard to sell it. Great efforts have been made and thousands of dollars have been spent to get people to come here and start an industry. At the present time most of this property has been stripped of all its large timber, and there is nothing left but scrub wood, and the owners would like to know where they are going to sell it. Before these parties come here they do not know where they are going to market their output. The timber remaining is small, only fit for pulp, and it would not pay to export it. There is already too much in the States, while as for the pine which we have, there is still an unlimited supply. Now it is not very encouraging for people trying to induce capitalists to come here and spend thousands if not millions of dollars on the country if they are told in the beginning that any fisherman

who wants timber can come on his property and cut it if it suits his convenience. This is not a very great encouragement to get people to come here.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—Of course they can only cut it for fishery purposes.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—When I got my timber there was only a one mile limit. Now there is a three mile limit. I never saw men go three miles into the country to get timber, but if they are allowed to take advantage of what others have spent and take their timber, it is certainly not very encouraging to those who have money invested in timber lands. As far as I can see, Mr. Chairman, the section is going to be of no help at all. It is not in the interest of development in any way. As for the next clause that is more objectionable still.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I may say, Mr. Chairman, that the privileges held by holders are not altered by this Bill. They have exactly the same rights as they had before. It does not refer to Crown Lands. It refers to lands licensed. Another Bill, the Saw Mills Bill, refers to that.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—I agree with the Hon. Mr. Murphy in this connection, and think that those who have spent so much money in this way should be protected. I do not think this Bill is fair and it should not pass.

Section 1 was read.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Hon. member in charge of the Bill if he would kindly name one or more condition of license, the breach of which would subject the holder to forfeiture.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—As I remember the Act, under a timber license you have got to build a mill within a certain time, and again you have got to survey and also build a

boundary line. These are the principal items as I remember them. I do not presume that in the event of the breach of these you would be fined \$10,000. Fortunately the wording is "not exceeding." I suppose this section is directed mostly to fire control.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—This is very vague. Why not specify these conditions? It may be these cover the building of a mill and the cutting of so much timber a year. If so, I would like to see it in the Bill, because on these areas there are thousands and thousands of miles with nothing on them but scrub wood. It would never pay at all to erect a sawmill, and I think if this is included in the conditions we ought to know it. I propose that the Committee rise and defer the Bill until we get some information on this matter.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—Why not let just this section stand?

HON. MR. GIBBS:—The matters, Mr. Chairman, to which the members have referred are in the 1903 Crown Lands Act. I will read section 25 for the benefit of Hon. members. (Reads Section 25.) Hon. members will see by this section that a sawmill must be erected, with a capacity of so much per square mile. Such other manufacture may be started as may be agreed upon. The next section provides for the payment of the bonus and the annual rent, with the royalty to pay as well. Then provision is made for the keeping of books of account, so that returns may be easily and properly made. There is a penalty also of not more than \$10,000 or less than \$100 for every day that the breach of conditions is continued, and that may be obtained by suit. Now the difference in the conditions imposed on licenses under the Crown Lands Act, 1903, and the Bill now before the House, is that provision is

made whereby that forfeiture may be enforced, and heretofore there was no procedure by the Act by which that might be enforced, and there is a section here by which suit may be taken by the Minister of Agriculture and Mines for the purpose of setting aside the license under which the property is held. It makes more clear the rights of the Crown so far as the licenses of timber lands are concerned, in that suit may be taken by the Department against the holders of timber lands whereby they may become forfeited to the Crown because the conditions have not been observed by the holder. As the Hon. gentlemen will know a very large quantity of timber lands is held by persons who pay rent but perform no other conditions; and while it is desirable that power be given such as is contained in the Bill for the Government to sue for the forfeiture upon the ground that the conditions with regard to the erection of mills and the conversion of the timber into products, etc., it is desirable that that should not take place. If, for instance, timber lands are held and are not capable of being operated as a milling proposition, then there should be some other provision in the law by which persons could hold timber lands of that character under a different license. One of the Hon. gentlemen has stated that certain areas not capable of being utilized for milling, might be utilized for pulp, etc., except of course that being holders of a pulp license, they are likely to have their licenses forfeited. Of course under the law as it now stands, if one has a license under which it is necessary to erect a sawmill, and the lands are not capable of being so operated, he may ask the department to have the license changed to a pulp one; but I would point out that this section makes it obli-

gatory to sue for the penalty. I would suggest that the obligatory part be altered to read "may be recovered." If made obligatory, I think it would stop the idea that people with pull have the advantage over others who may have no pull with a Government. There are tens and thousands of dollars due in the country on these areas, and this Act gives the Government the authority they need to bring these matters to a conclusion.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—Mr. Chairman, I confess I am puzzled by this Bill. There are other obligations than those just referred to, and one of the most serious is that—Mr. Murphy will appreciate the point—by the Crown Lands Act, in Section 31, it says: "Every applicant for a timber license shall at his own cost cause the limit mentioned in his application to be surveyed by a surveyor, the boundary lines of said limit to be cut to a width of three feet, and the diagrams thereof filed in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines within one year from the date of the approval of his application, etc...." Now I venture to say there is not one area in the country apart possibly from the Harmsworth Area, which has a boundary line cut around it for three feet; consequently every license today is liable to the penalty provided by this section. That is one point. Now Section 35 (2): "The licensee shall, within four years after the date of such license bona fide, expend a sum of not less than twenty thousand dollars in the erection of buildings and machinery necessary for the establishment of a factory or factories for the manufacture of paper pulp, the said expenditure to commence within two years from the date of such license, and continue thereafter at the rate of not less than twenty-five per cent. per year of the whole sum." That is a thing that al-

most no one has carried out. As a matter of fact the Crown Lands Act is a dead letter. It is an unsafe and mischievous Act, and ought to be entirely changed. A further obligation on the license holder is this. Section 35 (5): "The licensee shall prevent the unnecessary destruction of growing timber on the said licensed land by any firm whomsoever, and shall exercise strict and constant supervision to prevent the origin and spread of fires, and shall preserve the growth of young timber trees." That is a necessary qualification to a license, but one which I think is more honored in the breach than in the observance. Now, I see here the licensee shall be liable to forfeiture, for the non-payment of rental. We have that very clause in the old Act. Speaking generally I am opposed to this Council passing this particular sub-section at the present moment. I am opposed unless we get a very clear explanation to Section 3. I want to point this out. The life of this legislature has been extended outside of constitutional practice for the purpose of enabling the Government to carry on the war, to carry out such measures as are necessary. Now, I am of the opinion that this Legislature should not pass any legislation which is not absolutely necessary, absolutely essential to the carrying on of the war, or absolutely and essentially desirable. At this late season the Legislature is sitting for other purposes and I do not see how we can get it through at this late hour anyway, and I think the Council should refuse to pass these sections. I do not understand why they are necessary if they are already in the Act, and I do not think that, without very clear explanation, we ought to pass these sections which we do not understand.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I was going

to ask the Hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill to give us some information. So far as I can see the only difference between the essential terms of this amendment and that in the Bill before is that the new provision is made whereby the Supreme Court can be called upon to enforce a forfeiture which previously was provided for in the Bill, but which provided no machinery for enforcement.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Up to now the Minister of Agriculture and Mines did not have the power to bring the matter before Court, and that is the reason this change is asked.

HON. PRESIDENT:—I think that is all right.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I submit there are other conditions here that are not in the old Act, and this Act would not be filled with all these sections and all this phraseology just to give the Minister power to take suit. I suggested before that the other sections might be read and then we can see what explanation can be given, but unless explanations can be given we should certainly defer the Bill.

HON. PRESIDENT:—It seems to me that if there are a lot of people refusing to pay licenses and holding on to lands, the Minister should have power to take them into Court and find out what they are going to do. The Court will decide the proper punishment to fit the crime, and if they decide there should be forfeiture, I presume it justifies that. I don't know much about the Crown Lands' Act—

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Nobody does.

HON. PRESIDENT:—Well my Hon. friend will agree with me that there are a lot of people who know enough about it to circumvent the Government. The Solicitor has just pointed out to me other sections which make

the matter more confusing, so perhaps we had better refer it to a select committee and have the Deputy Minister up here and find out what is the matter. It would not be fair to pass it until we know something about it, and if the Government think enough of it to pass it, we can defer the closing of the House until the end of the week.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I may say there is no Act that is so utterly confusing as the Crown Lands' Act. Two years ago when Attorney General, I discovered the Act is one which required entire revision, consolidation and adjustment. At that time perhaps two dozen foolscap pages of amendments were submitted and it was decided that it contained such a number of opposing ideas that the whole thing would have to be revised and material changes and amendments made, and I think that any attempt to interfere ill advisedly with an Act so conflicting, so frequently amended, so absurd in its provisions, an Act that there is no attempt made by the Department to carry out, would be really dangerous in the dying hours of this Legislature. If it were referred to a Select Committee to be taken up with the Assembly and the Department, I think something might be done of benefit, as no lawyer can decide what is meant under present circumstances. If, however, this is merely a definite proposition to put the Minister in a position of power to go into the Supreme Court, this is a matter which might reasonably be considered and dealt with in an hour or two.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I think it is quite plain here what the Government wants. A person getting a license from the Department and not carrying out its provisions, if he refuses to pay the rent, and the carrying out of other obligations such as

the building of a mill, etc., this amendment is for the purpose of making forfeiture compulsory in those cases.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—It goes further than that. There is a provision for a three foot road around his lot, and he would become liable if that was not cut. Then he has to make certain surveys. Is it suggested that because a man has failed to cut this three foot line around his property or some such irregularity as that, that his license is liable to forfeiture? I do not think that was contemplated by the gentleman who drafted the section.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—It is an order to cause the forfeiture of the land that this section is put in.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I entirely agree with the principle behind it, but the idea is to get it in such a form as to make it intelligible to all.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—This Bill is brought in at the last moment and we are asked to vote without knowing what is the effect. I think it is most unreasonable, and we all know many of the Acts on the Statute Book today are ridiculous. One of these is that provisions for cutting the three foot line around the property. The man who drew that up should have been put in the penitentiary for six months. The idea of cutting down trees worth hundreds of dollars today for the purpose of making a three foot line is absurd. In Canada they blast the trees, that is, put a mark on the bark, and that does not destroy the timber. Then if you do cut it the young birch grows up in a few years and your line is obliterated. Other things in connection with this Act are entirely ridiculous, such as allowing rivers to be dammed only two-thirds the way across. Of what use is a dam two-thirds of the river's width? The whole thing is an outrage and should be changed, not now

at the last moment, but in the first part of the session. This Act has been enacted and amended by people who knew nothing about the business, and the proper thing to do now is to leave the matter until next year when it can be handled properly. I have no desire to prolong the session, but I do not like to see these things rushed in here, not only this Bill but any other Bill, and that we should be asked to pass them without knowing anything about them.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—I think the whole Crown Lands' Act, as I said before, needs overhauling. It is an absolute impossibility to carry it out. There are breaches every day, as it is impossible for men to carry it out. The whole Act needs re-writing. I think it a reflection on this House that these Bills should be rushed up here at the last moment and that we should be expected to pass them without explanation. Now this sub-section three appears to me to mean that if a man discovers a lode of copper, say, and takes up a discovery location, the Government may step in and prevent anybody else getting anything. That may be good policy or bad, but in my opinion will tend to tie up property without anything being done. But still there may be a good deal to be said on the other side, but I think the reason for Section Three being enacted at the present time ought to be very clearly and definitely explained, and if the Government are to have this reservation it ought to be dealt with at a regular session and time given for its consideration. Otherwise I do not see at the present moment why Section Three should be enacted at this late date.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The meaning of the sub-section (3) is to enable the Government to reserve any lands they desire to. The law at present

gives anyone the right to apply for a license and get it, but the Government want the power to reserve any section which may be required.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—This is one of the provisions which do not seem to be called for at present in connection with the war or for other particular reasons, and I oppose it.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Before the section passes, I do not think the House should be called upon to agree to legislation of this character, which I do not think is necessary and essential. If it were for the purpose of the maintainance of the Empire, carrying on the war, or the conservation of the national wealth of the Country, then there would be justification for the enactment of such a section; but to give the Government the power to reserve all unleased, unlicensed or ungranted mineral lands in the Country, is not fair, and legislation of a character which is not found upon the Statute Books of any country in the world. The Governments of some countries reserve certain lands for public uses and such are clearly defined. If the Government want to reserve any particular sections of the Country and the mineral wealth of the Country and say so, I am prepared to support it, provided that there are good and sufficient reasons. If they want to reserve coal areas, let them say so, and upon good reasons being shown why the areas should be reserved Hon. gentlemen will support it; but until we are informed of the necessity or the advisability of the enactment of legislation of this kind, I most respectfully submit we should not be asked to pass it. We all know that a great deal of the success of mining development the world over is due to the energy and enterprise of private individuals. The greatest mines held in British North America are due to

private and not to government enterprise, and possibly the mineral wealth of Bell Island might not have been exploited if not for private enterprise. The same thing applies to the development of copper in Notre Dame Bay. This Bill gives the right to the Government to reserve any areas, they may in their wisdom deem necessary. It would not be right to give them powers of that character. If they want to reserve particular areas let them say so. The United States Government reserved certain oil areas in the State of California for public use, and the right of the taxpayers in the State and Country in which the areas were situated. This particular section ought to be taken up in conjunction with a revision of the whole Act. The Crown Lands' Act as has been stated by one Hon. gentleman is illegal and are we going to add to the complications that exist by enacting additional clauses that were never in it before? There may be some justification for some sub-sections, but no justification for putting in something that was never there before this time, when there is neither time or information, in order to make up our minds as to whether it is necessary in the interests of the Country. Suppose a man goes down and finds copper on Crown Lands and makes application to the Government to give him a license of the place where he finds it, the Government can refuse it. They are going to reserve this or may impose such conditions in the license which issues to him as to make it utterly impossible for him to take the license. Now, to show the inconsistency of the law as has been pointed out, the Government has been offering a bounty for some years past to persons who discover mineral wealth, and here is a section put in the Bill which nullifies

the very provision they make for its existence. How can we keep the section in the Bill which offers a bonus of \$3,000 to \$5,000 to men who discover minerals, and put another section in the Bill by which the whole mineral wealth of the Colony may be reserved to the Government? it is absurd. As pointed out, there may be some justification or good reason in future for the enactment of some such legislation as this section provides, but there is nothing before us at present and are we going to vote for something for which there is neither evidence or reason in justification of its enactment?

The motion that Section 3 be passed was put and lost.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis, the Committee rose and reported the Bill with some amendment. It was then read a third time, passed and sent to the House of Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the Bill with some amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House went into Committee of the whole on the Income War Tax Bill, Hon. Mr. Milley in the Chair.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I have here, Mr. Chairman, amendments made by the House of Assembly to the Income Tax Bill. Mr. Clerk will read them.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—Mr. Chairman, may I ask that the Committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again later. I want to study the effect of these amendments.

The Committee rose and reported progress, asking leave to sit again.

The House went into Committee on the Stamp Duties Bill.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I understand the amendment made is "Customs entries of all kinds, 20 cents?"

HON. MR. BISHOP:—Surely, Mr. Chairman, the gentlemen in the Lower House can tell us why this change is necessary. The wording of

the original Act was "All Customs Forms." In this it has been changed to "Customs forms of all kinds." Now sir, the passing of entries means only one transaction, and if the Customs want two, three or four forms, the payment should be on one only, for it is only one transaction, just as a Bill of Lading is. In the case of a Bill of Lading only one is stamped. I think we ought to know just why this change has been made.

HON. MR. McNAMARA:—Another point is this. Take a set of warehouse entries. These constitute two entries and a bond. Two entries constitute a set, and I think that it was the intention to put the ten cents on the set of entries.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The error here is a clerical error. The Minister of Finance says it was the intention to charge twenty cents on a set of entries.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—That is a very heavy charge. This twenty cent addition is greater in comparison than any of the other charges. However, if that is the intention of the Government, we will let it pass.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT:—I have looked into this matter and I find it is a clerical error due to the fact that the Bill was engrossed before it left the other House. It was altered in Committee there. The idea is that every transaction shall pay a tax of twenty cents.

HON. MR. MILLEY:—Supposing, Mr. Chairman, I pass a set of entries and find that the goods have not all arrived. When they come later, I have to pass others. Are these two transactions, two in the meaning of this Act?

HON. MR. MEWS:—I should say so. The first set were for your own convenience.

HON. MR. McNAMARA:—I cannot agree with that idea. Suppose Mr.

Milley has his goods here with no invoices. He has to pass a Bill of Sight. When the invoices come he has to pass entries. He should not have to pass twice.

HON. MR. WINTER:—I would not take that position. Suppose, for instance, 100 barrels of sugar came and you took it in lots. You should have to pay on each lot.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment. The Bill was thereupon read a third time.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the Saw-Mills Act.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I would like to ask if this Act applies to all Saw-Mills wherever situate.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The object of this section is to prevent timber being cut on the three mile limit and brought to a licensed mill inside the limit and cut there.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I do not quite understand the objects of the Bill, but it would appear to me to be a hardship on the public. If a fisherman cuts timber now on the three mile limit, he will be unable to take it to the mill and get it sawn. The consequence is that he will have to use a hand saw. That seems rather hard on him. If the object of the Bill is to prevent saw mills from operating on the three mile limit, then it is alright; but that ought to be perfectly clear. As it is a millman cannot take timber from anybody and saw it for them, without knowing where it was cut.

HON. PRESIDENT:—Is there not the contingency that this bill is designed to prevent collusion between the millman and the fisherman. For instance a man may arrange with another to cut a lot of wood to be sawn up by him.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—If the fisher-

man is in collusion with the millman both should be penalized.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—If the fisherman cuts logs on the three mile limit and wants them sawn he takes them to the nearest mill on the halves to get them cut, and under this if the millman cuts it then is liable to the penalty. Suppose for instance down in Green's Harbour, where Drover Bros. have a large mill, for which they get logs from other people. People there take logs to Drover's mill to have them sawn for building houses, etc., and what is going to happen to Drover if he saws them, under this section, which says he is liable to a fine of twenty dollars for every log so sawn.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I take it that may be the intention, but I submit that not an hour ago we passed a bill permitting a man to go anywhere to cut timber which he wants sawn for the purpose of building of a vessel, and the man who owns a mill and has a license dare not saw one stick under a penalty of \$20. I am taking it for granted that this is to protect the small man who holds a license. But even if that be so the man who is building a schooner cannot take his timber to a mill operating under a license to be cut, as the millman dare not cut for that man any of his timber into planking, decking or ceiling or for any purpose under a penalty of twenty dollars and one that may mean a very great hardship to the man who wants his timber cut. I do not think that is the intention of the Government or this act, but that is the effect of it.

On motion the Committee on the Saw Mills Bill rose and reported the Bill with some amendment. It was then read a third time, passed and sent to the Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the Bill with some amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House took recess until 8 o'clock.

GALLEY 26—

The amendments made by the House of Assembly to the Income Tax Bill were read a first time, and ordered to be referred to a Committee of the House later.

The Salary Bill was read a first time. Second reading was deferred.

The House resolved itself into a Committee on the Street Traffic Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—It is rumored on the street that the intention is to change the rule of the road from the left to the right. I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, if that is the intention.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT:—I should presume that the idea is to reduce to a business method the idea of using the streets for processions. In other cities, to have a procession one must apply to the police authorities before they can use the streets. Then the traffic is changed on that street and the ordinary traffic is diverted to other streets. When I was away last year quite a number of streets were shut off and we had to go by a different route altogether. I think that is the object; rather a new idea on the part of the Inspector General.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—If there should be anything of the other nature I think we ought to know of it. I am certainly in accord with the object as defined.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—A similar Bill to this is before the New Brunswick Legislature, but this was in the New Brunswick Bill. If we should adopt the "right" system, or stick to the "left" system, the same ought to apply to pedestrians, as it is most objectionable as it is at present. One could save a lot of time by such a system.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—I presume such a change would not apply

to the outports? In winter time down there we are glad enough to walk in the middle of the roads.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I may say that this Bill has not the effect suggested by Hon. Mr. Harvey. It does not alter the rule of the road.

Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was read a third time.

Hon. Mr. Ellis moved the House into Committee on the Telephone and Telegraph Tax Bill.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—Mr. Chairman, before we go into Committee I have been asked to present the following communication from the Commercial Cable Company to the Council. I wish, however, to make clear that I do not identify myself with the petition. I merely present it. It reads as follows:

I do not, as I have said, identify myself with this. I merely present it. I think that the principle of retroactive legislation is very unjust, but I believe there are in the present case some circumstances which make it less unjust than appears on the face to be.

The House went into Committee on the Bill.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—Mr. Chairman, I think it is due to the House that the gentleman in charge of this Bill should make some explanation of the Bill which he did not do at the second reading, and I think the general objects of the Bill might be pointed out to us.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Mr. Chairman, the object of the Bill is this: The Act of 1905 which provides for an annual tax of \$4,000 on each cable of a Company, was decided not to apply to the Commercial Cable Company because that Company was not doing business in the country. When the other Companies came here it was provided that they were to have the

same terms as other Companies. The Government, therefore, consider the Company should be taxed as are the others.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Mr. Chairman, I beg leave to support this Bill which is now in Committee, and to show that I have no antipathy to the Government on measures which I deem should be enacted. The Commercial Cable Company, when they came into this country, came in under certain stipulations, and I think there was an Act passed giving them certain concessions. This Act is for the purpose of enabling the Government, not to collect taxes from the date of the passing of the 1905 Act, but to enable it to take taxes from the date of the Privy Council's decision in 1910, when suit was instituted against the Commercial Cable Company by the Colony. The Commercial Cable Company's contention at that time was that they were only liable to pay upon two cables, and they paid into Court the sum of four thousand dollars on each cable, a total of \$8,000. This they contended was all they were liable for and they also shewed an agreement which was entered into by the Government in 1906 or 1907 by which they were given further concessions; but that agreement did not receive the sanction of the Legislature and the Privy Council held that concessions of that character, enabling as they did the Company to enter certain articles free of duty, could not hold when issued only by the Governor in Council. The right to exemptions could only be granted by the Legislature. In view of that, and in pursuance of the point urged by the Hon. Mr. Milley here a few days ago, the Privy Council held the Agreement invalid. The other cable Companies doing business here contended that they should be given the same treatment as the Commercial

Cable Company; if the Colony did not purpose to collect taxes from the Commercial Cable Company, that being similarly situated, it would be unfair to discriminate against them; and that was a very sensible position for them to take. The other cable companies are satisfied to pay any reasonable taxation that may be imposed upon them by the Government for the privilege of bringing cables into this country; and in return for this it is only fair for the Government to exact this tax from the Company. The other cable companies actually contracted to pay this tax imposed on them, and they are ready to pay it, but of course it would be unfair to collect the tax from these companies if you are going to exempt the Commercial Cable Company from the tax it is proposed to collect from them. The Commercial Cable Company, when they came into this country, did not come here to oblige us but because it suited their business. It enabled them to increase the messages sent by them over 30 per cent.; in other words as a result of coming here the Company brought in thirty per cent. more business because thirty per cent. more messages were sent. Now that was a very valuable concession for them to receive, and it is only fair to expect some return to be made for it. The Commercial Cable Company is one of the richest companies in the world. I believe the paid up capital is sixty or eighty millions; and we are taxing our people very heavily, and if we are going to allow rich corporations of that character to flourish unmolested while others have to pay, it would be very unfair. The contention of the Colony was that the Commercial Cable Company should pay on four cables. They contended they should pay on two. We contended that they should pay sixteen thousand instead of eight

thousand per year, and this Bill simply enables the Government to go back to 1910 and collect the taxes from 1910 until the present time and so on; and the same applies to the other companies as well, and I do not think there can be any reasonable ground for objection to exacting from a Company taxation for the revenues of the country which is necessary to the vitality of the country when the concessions granted in that way is of such a valuable character that it increased their ability to send messages more than thirty per cent. I remember when I had the honor of being Mayor of this City that the Commercial Cable Company wanted to take an extension through to St. John's, from the station at Cuckhold's Cove, and built a station here. I objected to the Commercial Cable Company who had actually started to do the work and I was prepared to take proceedings if necessary to prevent them from doing so; because the streets of this city are built and maintained at the expense of taxpayers; and if the cable companies or others want to use our streets, they must be prepared to pay for permission to use them.

Committee on Telegraph Companies Taxation Bill rose and reported the Bill without amendment. Said bill was then read a third time and passed and ordered sent to the Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

House went into Committee on the Cattle Raising Encouragement Bill, Hon. Mr. MacNamara in the chair.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The object of this bill is to encourage cattle raising. A short time ago the Government received a petition from quite a number of people on the West Coast in regard to cattle raising, and under the present act large areas of land necessary to carry out such a project

cannot be granted, and it is to provide for this encouragement that this act is brought in.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill 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.

House then went into Committee on the Income War Tax Bill, 1918, Hon. Mr. Milley in the chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—Before the Income Tax Bill goes to its third reading I wish to say one or two words. It is gratifying to me as to other Hon. members, to note that it has been intimated, by the Hon. Leader of the Government that the House of Assembly propose to make certain amendments to the Bill. I think it is entirely to the credit of the Government that that intimation has been made. I regret they did not see their way clear to accept another suggestion, which I made yesterday, which was that upon incomes of \$5000 or less that this income tax should not be exacted for 1917. I repeat that it will be exceedingly difficult to collect that tax for the reason that in 90 per cent of the cases people will have their entire income spent and it will be a great hardship indeed for men to find the tax for the present year doubled. It is more than men with an income up to \$5,000 are able to bear. However, as I said, I am gratified, as I believe the House is, that the Government has intimated it is their intention to make some amendment to the Bill, so that it will be much more acceptable generally. Retroactive legislation is always objectionable, and, I submit, not defensible except in extreme cases. In such a case as the one before us this evening, that of the Commercial Cable Co., there is a clear

and obvious reason why the Bill should be made retroactive, but ordinarily it is not good government and not good politics. Nothing is so disturbing and annoying to persons as to find that they have to disgorge or find money for something they had not anticipated. Further it is objectionable, because it is a deterrent to capitalists to come in here and engage in operations when they do not know what the action of the Government may be that will interfere with them so seriously that their operations and expenditure may be entirely lost. There is nothing provided as a penalty for a breach in this suggestion and it is a pity that Bills should be brought in having a retroactive effect unless there is something exceptional in the circumstances and purposes which induce such legislation. I would like to say also that it is wrong and it is unfair for any government to suppose that Hon. members of this House who find themselves compelled occasionally to take a view, contrary to that which the Government takes, are to be considered as necessarily in antagonism to the Government. This is far from being the case, and I am sure that Hon. gentlemen who claim for themselves independence should be ready to act equally in dependently when some question comes before the House, which they conceive not to be in the best interests of the country. I do not purpose dilating on this subject and I am glad that the legislation of the session has on the whole, passed satisfactorily. I must, however, comment on the number of Bills that came to the House at the very last moment of the session. This is unfair to the House and unfair to the country. There may be a reason for it because of the lateness of the season at which the Legislature met, but I think it should be the aim of the Government to have the Legislation

prepared beforehand. And certainly the various Bills should be printed and in the hands of them embers some days before they are expected to stand up here and debate them. I have further to add in this connection.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Mr. President, I had intended to make some extended observations in regard to this matter, but I shall confine myself to a few statements in order to remove some impressions which are thought to be conveyed by the remarks of the Minister of Finance and Customs in the other chamber that conditions in this country are of such a character as justifies the imposition of taxation which exists in Canada, the States and England. Now Sir, I take issue with the Hon. gentleman upon that point. Conditions are totally different in this country to those perhaps of any other country in any part of the world. The greater portion of the things that are necessary for the maintenance of the people of this country both of food and of other products have to be imported into the country; and they are imported at a very high rate of taxation. When the Hon. gentlemen speaks about conditions of an economic or industrial character in England, the States or Canada; and states that we should apply conditions here as they exist there, then he is entirely mistaken in his view of conditions there; or he has not made himself familiar with them. In this country everything that is on the table of the workingman pays a high rate of taxation and the imposition of more duties means that his purchasing powers decrease; while everything on the tables of the people of Canada, the States and England come practically free of duty, while we pay the highest rate. In addition to that we are called upon to pay taxes which are an increase over those paid by people who can sit down to a free

breakfast table. The Legislature forgets that the purchasing value of the salary of a man of one or two thousand dollars per year, is only half to-day what it used to be in 1914. The man who had one thousand dollars in 1914, the purchasing value of that is only \$500 to-day and in like manner the man who had more than \$2,000 per year then has only \$1,000 purchasing value to-day; and when you depreciate so a man's earning power with which he has to sustain himself and his family, you cannot impose on him the same taxation in other countries, in the face of our different economic and industrial conditions. Now in other countries there are many forms of industry. In this country we have only one, the fishery, and any taxation, no matter how you levy it, no matter what kind, must ultimately fall on the fishermen, and therefore every form of taxation must bear upon that form of industry, and in doing that you are simply depreciating the purchasing value of the people. The higher you make the necessities of life the more you decrease the quantities the people use. If you decrease the cost, they will buy more and better goods; and they will be permitted to enjoy more of this world's goods. But when you increase the cost of these articles you are decreasing the purchasing value of the people. That is what taxation of this character and other taxation is doing for this country. We have a very few wealthy people in this country. We have quite a few with moderate means and that is a good thing. When you take from these people something that is necessary for the development of the business they are engaged in, whether the business be here or in the out-ports, whether cod trap or cod seine, for carrying on that industry, then you are burnign up capital; are decreasing the amount of reserve of the

country. Anything which decreases capital is not good for a country. Business men in this country, as has been pointed out, have all that they can do to finance their business. Why? Because it requires a double amount of capital to do so and if you decrease the capital that is necessary for the carrying on of business, to the expansion of it, then you are not adopting the system of taxation which is in the interest of the welfare of the people, because the people must suffer in the long run. And when you are increasing taxation, more especially direct taxation, you are decreasing the capital that is necessary for the expansion of trade and business. You take a fisherman that has a couple of traps. He earns say \$3,000. You take away a portion of that, and you will find that he will contract instead of expand, and this is the result of such taxation. Nobody objects to a reasonable amount of taxation. Nobody objects to paying the amount necessary for have the country fulfil its obligations; but when taxation is applied as it is here, it is a mistake to do so. For instance in this very bill you exempt from taxation incomes accruing from foreign investments; and you say to the people of this country, "This taxes the money which you have invested in this country. We will tax that but the other can come in free." Is that fair? I can think of amounts of more than forty or fifty thousand dollars from foreign investments and under this bill these are exempted. Apparently some people do not understand this.

If you are going to pass taxation of this character all the people have to do is to invest their money abroad, simply because it will not be taxed here. I do not want to oppose this Bill, but I wish to point out that because such taxation exists away, it is no reason why it should exist here. You forget that the clothes

they wear abroad pay no taxation; their foods, their boots, their furniture all pay no taxation, but in this country everything they eat and wear has to pay taxation and in addition to that they have to shoulder taxation in excess of the taxes imposed in England, the States and Canada as has been shown here. The people of this country are to be taxed more than the people in Canada, the States and England, these countries with huge export trades, the richest in the world today. And in this country where we are dependent upon one resource we have people who have to pay a greater proportion of taxation than the people in these countries referred to.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I move the second reading of the Municipal Amendment Bill. Mr. President, I may say that the object of the Bill is to extend the term of the Municipal Council until the 31st December, 1919. It is thought not advisable to have an election just now, and their charter is ready and will be dealt with by the Government at the next session of this Legislature. The idea is to extend the life of the present Council until the Charter becomes Law next year.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—Mr. President, in view of the fact that the Government of Newfoundland has at this session of the Legislature seen fit to disenfranchise all the electors of this country, without any seeming request, desire or reason, I feel that it is only in pursuance of this same policy for them now to turn around and disenfranchise the people of St. John's City. In view of their former Bill I feel that this Bill ought now to pass.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—Mr. President, I would like to ask who has asked for this extension. I have no opposition to offer, but I would like

to know from whence comes this request. Does it come from the Mayor, the Councillors or the people?

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I may say in answer to Hon. Mr. Anderson that as the Hon. Mr. Squires has pointed out, this is in pursuance of the Government's policy. The understanding in this matter between the Mayor and the Prime Minister was that it would be inadvisable to have an election this year. I do not know if the request has come from the Councillors, but the Executive understands that they are willing to remain in office another year.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—I think I may say a word here. The object I think is to get through the charter at the next session of the Legislature so that the new election will be under the new charter, and will take place prior to the end of 1919. The only way that can be done is by keeping the present party in office until 1919. I know that personally the gentlemen in office are not desirous of remaining in office. They want the new Act, and their only hope is to get it through the next session and keep the present Council there until that Act is law.

HON. MR. ANDERSON:—The explanation of my friend is quite satisfactory, and I am sure that this Chamber will be only too glad to give the Municipal Council every encouragement. I saw a little while ago they made application to the Government for power to raise \$40,000 for some purpose, while I know that as a matter of fact at the present time there are arrears on the books of that august assembly to the amount of over \$100,000, and I think while that may be so, it would be perfectly safe to wipe off \$50,000 of that which is not worth the pages it occupies; but I do not think the Council has ever had the power wipe out bad debts in

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stead of bringing them forward; and my sympathy is entirely with the Mayor and Councillors and I trust that the Government will give their charter the mature consideration that its importance deserves. Now I notice here that they want to appropriate land for building purposes. Since the beginning of the war building has been suspended, but if the Government can help that Council in any way, I hope they will, and that the Council will be in a position to build at least 500 houses in St. John's. The British Government is at the present time accumulating evidence all over Scotland, England and Wales, and they are determined to assist any town to a reasonable amount to build houses for workingmen. We know perfectly well that in St. John's there are old hovels that should be torn down, and if you build at the expense of the city or state then the sooner the better. The latest information I have is that the British Government are giving their support and financial promise to the extent of about 2,000 houses to be started immediately peace is declared, and if that is so, I hope Mr. President, that some effort will be made by the Municipal authorities of this town on the same line and so have the fullest support of at least the citizens of St. John's. There is an amount fixed by the British Government not to exceed three hundred thousand pounds sterling. If you can build 500 houses in St. John's at a cost of \$2,000 each, first class houses, with conditions that after a given number of years the tenant may buy out, you will have a thriving state of affairs to meet the interest on the money so invested. That could be easily managed in the city of St. John's.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—Before the second reading takes place, I would

endorse the stand taken by the Hon. Mr. Squires that as the Government has seen fit to disenfranchise the people of the whole country there seems no great objection to disenfranchising the citizens of St. John's; so I for one cannot support the principle of the Bill. I have every sympathy with the Mayor and Council of this city. I think it is an excellent Council. The Mayor is an excellent man, and has adopted ideas from outside which were profitable; and if an election should take place there might possibly be a worse and inferior Council to the present one returned. At the present time the only regret is that the Government has not seen fit to pass into law that very excellent charter which has been before the city for some time and only awaits the assent of the Legislature to become law, so that now we could have an election in accordance with the provisions thereof.

The Bill was read a second time.

The House went into Committee on the Bill.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:— Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask one or two questions on this Bill. See Section 2 (f). I would like to know what land the Council is taking over. Hon. Mr. Anderson talks about finance. I can tell them where they can get a source of revenue. Let them collect the horse manure that lies unmolested on our streets. They can sell it to the gardeners, and the benefit would be two fold in that the gardens would improve and profits would accrue to the Council, while the lungs of our people would not be subjected to the continual flying of germs, breeding consumption.

During the last ten years the people in the East End have been flooded out and their property washed away because the Municipal Councillors are too indolent, too careless, too indiffer-

ent to walk down and see the damage, and because the people are too soft-hearted, and soft-headed. If Mayor Gosling went down that way in his motor car he would see some of the dirty and filthy houses that exist there. He is a good man in his way, no doubt, but I have never seen him go down Plymouth Road. Talk about there not being sufficient revenue to do the work. I can tell them where there is a good source of revenue. If they would gather up the horse manure that is all over the streets and sell it for gardens, it would bring in a few dollars. But instead of that it is gathered up and put in nice little piles and left around the streets overnight and the next day is blown away again. That all means extra expense, having the same work done over and over. The houses in the East End, in the section I refer to, are a disgrace to any city, any hamlet or village. You would not see the mon the Labrador; there are far better houses there than many of these in St. John's. Now if that is the land the Council is going to take up I think it would be well. That land is owned by wealthy absentee landlords and some of those houses have not been occupied for years. They are simply places for people to stand around and commit all kinds of filthy practices. Now this bill is like many of the bills that come up here. Perhaps the leader of the government will give us some information as to what land it is intended to take over.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—The Hon. gentleman's structures of the Council (I have been there myself), are not altogether fair and I think he will admit they are not fair when I tell him that the Council has not or never had enough money at its disposal to do even a small proportion of the work so absolutely necessary in this city. It has not the power to erect houses for the people, or to appropriate land for that

purpose, or to raise money upon the security of the city. It is only those who have been there who know the very limited means that the Council has at its disposal and the very great demands made upon it and know how utterly unable the Council is to meet the demands made upon it. If the Councils in the past had had power to appropriate vacant lands or lands upon which there were houses unfit for habitation, the houses now in the city would be much better than they are to-day, but because successive governments have denied successive councils that right, is the reason for the present conditions. Until the taxpayers are prepared to pay taxes to enable them to do so, we cannot expect any better conditions. We do not pay any taxes here as compared with other places. Take the small town of Sydney, N.S., with a population of about 14,000 and they pay five times as much taxes as we do in this city, and it is because our system of taxation is of a character that has been borrowed from England and is not adapted to a place like this that people who should be paying taxes escape them and until the citizen makes up his mind that he wants a cleaner and better and more beautiful city than he has now, it is going to remain as it is. Now if citizens are prepared to shoulder the burden and provide the money necessary for cleaning streets and taking away garbage and do the thousand and one things necessary, these things are not going to improve. It is not the fault of the Council, but of the citizens; they are indifferent and the bulk of them do not care what the city is like. I have no doubt if the matter was properly presented to them the average man would be prepared to shoulder his burdens. Now we have sixty miles of streets in this city, and the Council has \$26,000 to keep in repair that mileage over

which there is very heavy traffic every hour of the day. And the average citizen never takes into consideration the work to be done or asks himself the question what amount of revenue the Council has to do this work. If he did he would find that the money is not enough to keep these streets in repair. I have been there myself and I know.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN—Did you ever see the money wasted on the streets?

HON. MR. GIBBS—I have seen the money wasted by private firms just as well.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN—I have seen men shovelling mud up and putting it on the side of the road, and there it was left overnight and frozen, and had to be shovelled up again, and that has been done ten times. Did you ever see that done by a firm on Water Street? Did you ever see an employee of a firm shovelling up a bucket of manure ten times? I have seen this many times myself.

HON. MR. GIBBS—I do not desire to prolong the debate but some of the Hon. gentleman's statements need contradiction. For instance, he refers to piles of mud and other refuse that are gathered around the thoroughfares of the city. Now in order to cart away all the refuse that it rakes off the streets would require a very large number of horses, and the Council has only a small sum of money to spend on cartage, and they have to do that work piecemeal. If they could employ enough horses to cart it away in one day it would be done, but they have not, and consequently these piles are sometimes left for days and days. If they have only \$500 to \$3,000 worth of work, it cannot be done. Now, no doubt there are employees of the Council like those of every other hiring concern who do not give full value for their

hire. The Council when I was Mayor asked for tenders from the public for the removal of the garbage, etc., and we found that we could do it thousands of dollars cheaper than the lowest tender we received, notwithstanding the waste of labor referred to by the Hon. gentleman. Now the houses he refers to belong to Newman's estate and the Council has no power to deal with them. They have been seeking this power for many years and cannot get it, and if this Legislature withholds powers sought by the Council, why should the Council be criticized? I am not here to defend the Council, but I know what little they can do with the means at their disposal and the great demands made upon them and how few of these demands they can respond to. If this city were in Canada instead of having a revenue of \$250,000 it would be a million. And if it had that amount it would be possible to remedy the conditions complained of. When I was there we petitioned the Government repeatedly to allow us to alter taxation and they refused to do so.

HON. MR. ELLIS—The condition of the streets seems to have got on the Hon. gentleman's nerves. I think that can be explained. When you take the mud off the streets you must let it stiffen up before you can successfully remove it in carts; that is the only way it can be done, and I think the Council are not wasting money, but are doing very well. I think we should give them every consideration. They have a man in the East End now, no better in the country, Mr. Coaker, a thorough boss, and a splendid man. There may be some laborers who do not give full value for their hire, but on the whole the laboring men on the water works and the other departments of the city can compare favorably with any

other employees in this city or in the country. They do well, and I agree with Hon. Mr. Gibbs as to the revenue. I was there also myself. I think our city laborers compare favorably with any I have seen in Halifax or neighboring cities.

The Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment. Said Bill was then read a third time and passed, and ordered to be sent to the House of Assembly with a message that this House had passed the same without amendment.

Second reading of the Shipbuilding Act, 1916, Amendment Bill.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—The object of this Bill is to limit the bonus for vessels not over 120 tons.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—I think this is an opportune time for me to say that I hope and trust that without delay the Government will take up now the protection, as far as may be possible, of the coast of this Island against accidents, and particularly the coast between St. John's and St. Mary's Bay. I think that a very small expenditure either of energy or money might be made in order to save the Colony from the horrors and losses to which we have been subjected during the last twelve months. The lights between here and Cape Race are notoriously bad. There is an absence of fog alarms which is deplorable. A very few bell buoys between here and St. Mary's would make an enormous difference towards the comfort and safety of navigation. I cannot help feeling that two or three bell buoys, had they been in use, would have saved us from these terrible losses and horrors which have been with us during the past twelve months. I feel no apology is necessary for bringing this matter forward now, and I seriously hope the Leader of the Government will be able to assure us

here tonight that immediate and definite steps will be taken to try and improve conditions. The lights on Ferryland Head and Bull Head are poor and there are no bell buoys at all, and bell buoys are comparatively inexpensive things to run and not difficult to get. Now we have had this last accident at Mistaken Point, and surely a gun would have protected that ship, and certainly a gun on Ferryland Head would have saved the Florizel. I imagine a fog alarm is not so reliable a protection as a gun, as, for instance, the fog alarm east of Cape Race will not sound on the western side, whereas a gun would. In any case, I hope something will be done here to assist those who are in the habit of navigating that very dangerous and disastrous coast.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I would like to add just a word in support of the remarks of the Hon. gentleman who has just sat down. It must be apparent to every one that that section of the coast cannot be supplied with too many safeguards, and I think it is incumbent upon the Government now to immediately consider what are the best means of providing some measures by which navigation between Ferryland and Trepassey Bay may be protected by means not at present in existence. Whether a gun is the best, ought of course to be left to the gentlemen in charge, but something should be done immediately to protect mariners who have occasion to use that treacherous coast.

HON. TASKER COOK:—Mr. President and Gentlemen: I support the Hon. Mr. Harvey in his remarks regarding the lights and more aids to navigation on this coast. There has no doubt been a considerable number of light houses and fog horns erected on this coast the past number of years, but somehow they have not in

any way decreased the number of wrecks. It has been suggested many times that whistling buoys or gas buoys be placed at the most dangerous parts of the coast. It would aid navigation considerably. There is no doubt that if such buoys were placed in different positions on the coast between Cape Spear and Cape St. Mary's it would probably tend to lessen the wrecks. On the other hand those buoys would only be kept in position for a certain period of the year as the ice conditions would compel them to be removed. Another grave fact in which many of the ship masters who have been unfortunate enough to lose their ships contend that what lights that are on the coast are inferior, and that the difference between the different lights are not sufficient and that the flashes of the different lights are not sufficient at times and that they are often very misleading. I state a case when a steamer ran ashore last summer in the same place as the *Florizel*, but fortunately she was taken off next day with considerable damage done. In this case the master of the ship and the mate saw a light some time before she struck. The weather was thick and hazy and they took the flashes of this light for the light of Cape Race. They timed the flashes of the light and it agreed with Cape Race flashes. The master allowed sufficient margin for passing. The light was not visible all the time but only at short intervals. They considered they were around Cape Race, hauled the ship up, and within half an hour or less they were hard and fast ashore at Cappahaden. The master got in touch with me and the next day we had steamers at the place and pulled her off. But she had received considerable damage. She was a new steamer; only her second voyage. This is a case in which there is not enough difference between the

different lights. On the other hand people say that there is as much difference between Ferryland light and Cape Race light as there is between a tallow candle and an electric arc light, and no doubt there is. But we must recollect that weather conditions and fog can obscure the most powerful lights and give the land quite a different appearance. A principal port in Canada held a consultation of all the ship masters going to that port to get their ideas of the best way to aid navigation and to make it less dangerous. Amongst a number of suggestions made by the ship masters, one was that the horn of Cape Race was so like the horn of a steamer that some day the master of a steamer might take it for such, and probably find himself ashore. Not twelve months after the man that had made that suggestion was ashore himself less than a quarter of a mile from Cape Race. He had made the mistake he had warned others about. He had heard a horn; him and the second mate heard it, and they thought it was a steamer and he altered her course. He heard the horn again, and he thought the steamer was going the same way as they were, and he altered his course to the north east. He had mistaken Cape Race horn for a steamer. I could mention dozen of other cases of this sort which would show the defective horns and lights; but if a little more care was exercised by the ship master those cases might not happen. But the same mistake cannot happen again for they have a very powerful horn and light at Cape Race today. A few years ago there was a serious casualty at St. Mary's Bay; I mean when the ill-fated steamer coming from Sydney to here with coal ran ashore there and all hands were lost. Another fine steamer, owned by a party in this port—she cost them a

large sum to have her refitted and rebuilt—she also went ashore, but fortunately there was no loss of life. Another very large ship with a cargo amounting to over two million dollars and probably the ship worth over one million, struck the main place, but fortunately struck in the outside of her bilge; she then started making water very fast. She reached this port, was discharged and put on dock and repaired. If she had been a few hundred feet further in, if the weather had been boisterous and bad, this ship would have been probably lost too. There is no doubt that a bell buoy, a whistling buoy, or a gas buoy would be of the utmost value. Then there is another very dangerous place off Cape Freels—Cape Freels Rock—which is dangerous, and it is absolutely necessary that something should be done there. We all know of the considerable loss we had a few months ago, and there is no doubt that in the case of this ship that if we had a proper rocket saving apparatus, it might have been of considerable value. I am not in a position to say whether it would have been or not. There is no doubt of the value of such an apparatus, and two or three of those placed in different parts of the coast would no doubt be of the utmost value some day. In the case of the steamer Heligoland it might have saved the whole ship's crew if such an apparatus had been available, but unfortunately none was available and none were saved.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—I may say I concur with all that has been said on the subject, and I think that I can safely promise the House that the Government will shortly take into consideration this very important matter with a view to doing something that will minimize the dangers of that treacherous coast because of so much loss of shipping and life;

and I think before this Legislature meets again the Government will have done something towards that end.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Bill was read a second time and then taken into Committee of the whole, Hon. Mr. Mews in the chair.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—This, it will be observed, is another instance of retroactive legislation. The Bill as it stands will prove entirely unsatisfactory to a number of persons. It will be noticed that the bounty is not to be granted to any builder of a ship, the keel of which is laid after October, 1917. There are some 3 or 4, possibly 5, ships in the course of construction, the keels of which were laid after that date, or between it and the end of the year. In some instances the timber was cut and all the material for the building of the ship drawn from the woods and assembled at the place of building, in the month of August. And yet, because the people building the ships had not laid down the keels before October, they will be debarred from the bounty provided. There are other cases where contracts were made where men were in the woods cutting timber and arrangements for building contracts made and the necessary outfit for the ships had been ordered, but the keels had not been laid. There are instances where the keels were laid a day or two previously to this date and no work done on one ship for a time after that date, and yet such ships will be entitled to the bounty, and the other cases I have mentioned will not. It will be seen that this is unfair and cannot be other than vexatious to the parties concerned. There were a number of persons contemplating the building of large vessels the past year, but on the publication of a notice that the bounty would not apply after this

date, they were deterred from building and abandoned the idea. Some had accumulated lumber, others had not, but then, at the present time there are very few vessels which will come within the provisions of the Act if this date is extended to a later date in December instead of October; and I submit, it is only fair that those who have made preparations should be permitted to come under the Act and should be entitled to the bounty. The amount will not be large and it would seem very much more fair and will be a relief to the Government from the change which I am sure will be made that persons who had knowledge of what was being done sought to take advantage by laying down keels, as I have said without being prepared to do the work for some time, and the vessels will not be launched before the vessels which were not under construction until later in the season, but will come under the provisions of the Bill and get the bounty. This House should make an amendment to this Bill as it stands and send it down and ask the Government to accept it. I therefore move that instead of October 19th, the date be made December the 31st.

HON. MR. BELL:—Mr. Chairman, the work of shipbuilding and repairing having been with me a life occupation and deeply interested in all matters appertaining to shipping, as, by virtue of the position I hold, I must necessarily be, I crave the indulgence of the Chamber in making a few observations on the Bill now before the Committee, and what I have to say I hope will prove a source of information to the House on the measure with which we are dealing. Some 25 years ago the late Hon. Capt. Clearey was manager of the Dry Dock at a period when I was most actively engaged at the shipwright business. It was then usual

for vessels to come into the dry dock and, under the conditions then prevailing, the majority of them were generally in very bad condition. In one of many conversations I had with the captain, he said to me: "We must make some improvement in these vessels" because as he stated, "they are practically floating coffins." He then told me that he would advocate the procuring of a Lloyds surveyor for this country so that our shipping of all kinds would be kept in a seaworthy state, as both he and I knew that some of them were not fit to go to sea at all times. The large number of people who went to Labrador on these vessels risked their lives year after year, and that one or more marine horrors did not occur could not be ascribed to the foresight of man, rather could one impute it to the merciful dispensation of Providence. On the first session of the Legislature after the conversation to which I have alluded had occurred, Capt. Cleary made some vigorous and impelling speeches in advocating the securing of a Lloyds surveyor, but his agitation in this respect had to be prolonged for two years before the Government of the day recognised its wisdom and utility and took definite action in the matter. Eventually they opened negotiations with Lloyds of London and they sent a representative of the Great World-Wide Insurance Bureau to St. John's and undoubtedly afforded us the right type of man in the person of the late Mr. Whiteley. That gentleman was for two whole years weeding out the undesirable class of vessels that then existed here. He had repaired the class of vessel proved not to be unseaworthy when properly attended to and condemned unsparingly those that were. At that time, Mr. Chairman, there was a bounty given for shipbuilding, but, if I may use the

term it was of a very primitive character. The old slip shod system of surveying prevailing at that period was certainly not of an exacting nature. The surveyor would merely go down and stand on the wharf where the ship to be surveyed lay, would look at the work in a casual and perfunctory manner, and without much further ado would give a certificate for the bounty, which was then at the rate of \$4.00 per ton no matter what class of vessel was up for scrutiny and his work was finished. The advent of Mr. Whiteley, however, put this important matter, almost immediately, on a better basis. In his expert knowledge of the requirements of the case he adopted a system of classification, placing the vessels to be surveyed in four classes, A. B. C. and D., awarding the bounty to be given according to classification. "A" of this order came under Lloyds classification; vessels in class "B" received a bounty of \$8.00, "C" \$5.00, and "D" \$4.00 which proved very satisfactory to the whole country and its business and shipping interests. This satisfactory state of affairs continued, Mr. Chairman, until the bounty was doubled last year, 1917; and this action I consider was a great mistake. I respectfully submit that the building of large vessels was not due to the increased bounty, but to abnormal conditions, directly the outcome of the present great war, under which vessels built of over 120 tons are not surveyed, consequently, viewing these matters as I do in their proper relationship to an important and promising Department of our industrial life, I deem it advisable to move the following amendment to the Act as it stands: "That a section be added to this Act, to compel all vessels under construction to be surveyed by a surveyor twice, once in the frame and once when finished; in this

way protecting the seamen that will sail in all Newfoundland built vessels." Since formulating this amendment, however, certain circumstances have come to my knowledge in consideration of which I would beg leave to withdraw it. The most important of these is that Lloyds surveyor suggests a survey of vessels each year, whether new or old, but the object I had in view was that vessels under construction of over 120 tons, should be surveyed while under construction, to be assured that the construction frames were of the best material, because it has occurred in the past that some of these frames were of inferior character, containing bad wood and round sticks. My ardent wish has always been to see these vessels well and substantially built to protect and properly secure the lives of the people who cross the ocean in them in all weathers, but especially in the boisterous winter season when they negotiate the stormy Atlantic with salt and other such weighty cargoes.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I was more than pleased to hear the remarks of Hon. Mr. Bell, and delighted to hear the expression of his views which would imply that inspectors of shipping here are not called upon to look at vessels under construction, provided they are over 120 tons. It is no business of the inspector to know if the vessel is going to receive the bounty or not; it is his duty to look at every such vessel under construction for the safety of the people and the men who will man them, and for no other purpose. We have two surveyors now where there was one formerly, and they are acquainted with all vessels under construction in the country. If not, they ought to be, and should inspect those ships which are under construction and when completed and docked for that pur-

pose. The Act as Hon. Mr. Bell observes, was amended and the bounty increased. Personally I think it was a mistake to increase the bounty to the present figure. My position is that all vessels which were started last fall should be treated alike and rightly or wrongly should receive the bounty, though I do not contend all should receive the bounty, and I will be satisfied if the bounty system is stricken out if all are treated alike.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—I wish to make a few remarks in support of the contentions of Hon. Mr. Bishop. I think with him that in regard to the bounty for building ships the Government made a great mistake in making the figure so high and then cutting it down so suddenly. It is not fair to Newfoundland or to strangers coming in to build ships here. Instead of cutting the bounty out it should be continued for at least another year when it might be reduced to a reasonable figure. It is not fair to argue that people build ships purely and simply to get the bounty. Gentlemen, the Hon. Mr. Bishop has referred to those who have been getting building timber, and it is not fair for those men who did not have the wisdom of some gentlemen who have friends at Court and have the advantage of their knowledge not to get their bounty as well as those who laid down their keels in October and have not touched them since. I consequently think a satisfactory bounty should be arranged.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—The Proclamation was dated October 19th. It appears to me that in view of that it would be fair to extend the time somewhat, as men might be at the woods getting their timber when this was published and might not know of it; and they may have had the wood out from the woods before that,

and having invested their money ought to be protected. I therefore think if the notice was October 19th that the time ought to be extended at least one month or two months after the date so that the people may be protected; and it appears to me while this is a Bill which we may not have the power to amend, we should consider the suggestion just thrown out by the Hon. member.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Mr. Chairman, I may say in connection with this matter that last year this question came up and it was shown pretty clearly that there was a large amount of money paid for building ships, and the bounty was too large, and I think the matter was proved sufficiently to warrant the action of the Government which was to immediately give two or three weeks' notice in The Royal Gazette that after that time bounties would not be paid. I cannot make quite sure of the date, but the Minister thinks some weeks were allowed to lapse after the first publication before the bounty was to be stopped.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—Yes, but the Hon. member should remember that canvas, chains, and all the other fittings have advanced tremendously, and away more in proportion to the increase in the prices paid.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Well, I know nothing about building vessels, but one of the gentlemen who brought this Bill forward was building vessels and he said the profit was quite sufficient without this bonus.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—That may be perfectly correct, but how about the contract between the Government and other persons. The Government was just as well aware of that last year. They knew approximately the amount to be paid, and I submit that that was the time for them to consider the amount of bounty and to provide for its discontinuance. But

instead of that, parties were engaged for the building of vessels, and then on the 19th of October the door is shut. I know of an instance where a keel was here awaiting shipment but it was impossible to get the keel through before the 19th of October. The timber for the ship was being cut and a very large crew of men were in the woods under contract for the ship. I can also cite other cases where extraordinary difficulty was experienced getting keels, and in many cases they did not get them in time. In one case I heard they did. They laid down the keel; whether the vessel is complete or not now I do not know, but I think she is under construction; but although nothing was done to her for months, they will be protected and will get the bounty just as if they had built the vessel months ago. I submit this is entirely unfair, and even if the cost does amount to twenty, thirty, forty or even fifty thousand dollars, it is not sufficient justification for doing this injustice to those building vessels. Moreover, I can state positively that one of the largest vessels built here showed a very small margin of profit over cost, notwithstanding the bounty, and if there had been no bounty there would have been no profit. It is true that later in the year the price of vessels depreciated some, but this is the result of circumstances that will not occur again. And furthermore, sir, would it not have been better instead of sending \$500,000 to Nova Scotia within the past few months, if that money were spent here? Certainly it would have. However, as has been said, I think that the rate of bounty is too high. There was no justification when the Bill was brought in for it, and that was as well known at the last session as it is now. At that time we should have

decided to change the Act and given notice to the people.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Mr. Ellis has referred to the question of raising the bounty. I have some knowledge of it. The Executive Government decided that at the next session of the Legislature it would introduce a Bill to do away with bounties on certain tonnage and published Proclamations in October for the purpose of making it plain that such an Act would be brought into effect. I know that there was very considerable delay in the publication, because the Minister of Marine and Fisheries took the position that it was unjust to the man who had made contracts with others for securing lumber for ships and other things for the purpose of the construction of the vessel, as in spite of that he might not have the keel laid. The idea expressed was just similar to that outlined by the Hon. Mr. Bishop. It is quite true that a number of the people arranged for lumber during the summer season, and that work was in the course of preparation. In certain cases they proceeded with the work though keels had not actually been laid, and took the risk on the construction bounty being paid, taking the position that the law could not be changed except upon notice or statute. I remember the circumstances with more than usual particularity because of the difference of opinion in connection with that matter. It was with more than ordinary pleasure that I listened to Hon. Mr. Bell in this matter, a matter to which he has given much time. I understand his point, which was that if there was no bounty to be given on a vessel of over 120 tons, we had no law on our statute books to compel a survey of that vessel; and if that is so, it is for the Leader of the Govern-

ment to take some action on this matter. I have very great pleasure in supporting this amendment of Mr. Bell's, that all vessels should be twice surveyed: one in the frame and once on completion. That provision will have the effect of protecting the lives of our seamen engaged in the trade of the country and the lives of our people. I do not know whether it is necessary or not as our vessels have a good reputation, but in any event I would support the motion that the ships be surveyed twice, as we are thereby protecting our men and the cargoes which will from time to time be carried in these ships.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—I was engaged for many years in ship-building, and we were very glad indeed to get \$8.00 per ton bounty. It was quite enough, and I find it hard to believe that a vessel hardly paid, as Hon. Mr. Bishop has said, for itself. The prices of ships are today very high, and there ought to be no need for a bounty at all; but if a bounty is required make it a reasonable bounty of four, eight or even ten dollars per ton, but don't keep it twenty dollars. Twenty dollars is far too high. It ought not have been necessary for our people to spend \$500,000 on Nova Scotian ships this year. We ought to have built our own vessels. We have good juniper and other woods good for the construction of vessels, and our vessels are just as good if not better than those of Nova Scotia. We can turn out a class of ships here suitable for our local trade, and I cannot understand the necessity for such a large bounty. At the present prices there is lots of encouragement today without any bounty, and I am prepared to support such a motion or one to greatly reduce the present bounties, which ought never to have been introduced.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—I think

the Government are making a big mistake in cutting this out entirely. It will not encourage shipbuilding. I think they should allow a reasonable amount; perhaps not twenty dollars, but to come down to nothing is going to excess. For years and years we have been buying vessels in Nova Scotia and the money is going there, and now we start in Newfoundland building on our own account, and just as things get under way you shut down on the whole thing and discourage everybody.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—It seems to me a matter of fair play that people who have committed themselves to the building of ships and undertaken obligations prior to the notice which was published in October, 1917, ought to be protected. It may be that the bounty is too high; it may be that advantage has been taken of it, but I do not think that justifies advantage being taken of bona fide builders who were committed to building prior to October, 1917. On the other hand I would like to ask the Hon. President how he would rule as to this being a Money Bill. If it is a Money Bill it is not worth our while holding it up.

HON. PRESIDENT:—It is not usual for the President to give a ruling in Committee, but I would express my opinion that the Bill is a Money Bill, certainly within the understanding of the Legislature for many years past. If the Bill is to be amended in one particular, it is open to amendment in another; but if the Bill went down to the Lower House it is quite competent for them to say we will accept this amendment but not the other in that it is an amendment dealing directly with a money matter, whereas the amendment proposed by my Hon. friend opposite is not an amendment in that sense, but merely provides for a safeguard being taken in regard to the saving of life. There-

fore it would be quite competent for the Lower House to accept that amendment with the clause inserted that such amendment is accepted without any derogation of the privileges of the Lower House.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I think the House ought to consider the question as to the justness of the amendment which has been proposed. If the Government unintentionally has deprived some persons of a right which they had prior to the 19th of October, 1917, I take it that if that be sufficiently established they would not persist in carrying out an act of injustice. I take it the object of this amendment is to enable persons who have made contracts for the building of vessels to take advantage of the law which was then in existence. The principle of British law is that you cannot deprive a man of something he has, some contract he has entered into which is legal, without compensating him therefor. Personally I do not think the Government are actuated by any such motive or that any person by any act of theirs would sustain loss. And if it were possible without taking a vote on this to come to some understanding, it would be much more satisfactory.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—With the consent of the House I propose to withdraw my amendment. I think that I have said sufficient to show the unfairness of the Bill as it stands, and I think at least it might have been intimated that a man building a schooner larger than 120 tons is entitled to a bounty on at least 120 tons. However, there is no intimation that any such amendment would be accepted, and with the consent of the House I shall withdraw the amendment.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—I think while we are taxing the people more and more every day, and if this war

continues much longer we will have to pay still more taxes, to give away \$20 a ton in the face of that is an outrage and should not be tolerated. It is taking it away from the people and giving it to a few. Such a Bill should never have been enacted.

HON. MR. BELL:—I wish to withdraw my amendment as well.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I regret that that amendment is withdrawn. I seconded it as I regarded it as a strong and reasonable one, and I now beg to move it.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—I entirely agree with the amendment, but shall not vote for it for the reason that I think it would require a very large amount of machinery to carry it out. I do not know whether Mr. Bell has thought out the machinery necessary or whether he has talked it over with the Government; but without doing so I think it would be injudicious.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—A year ago Mr. Bell was doing the entire surveying himself; today there are two gentlemen doing it, but Mr. Bell points out that they would not have the responsibility of surveying ships over 120 tons.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I regret Mr. Bell has withdrawn his amendment as I think it a very proper one. The "Douglas Haig" has been mentioned here tonight; a first class ship which went to sea and has never been heard of since. That has been the experience in many cases. I think it would be a proper addition to the Bill and a proper precaution. I can see one reason why it might be withdrawn, but do not think it would affect the Bill. I do not see any reason why the Government Surveyor should not watch the construction of a ship simply because it was too large to qualify for the bounty.

HON. PRESIDENT:—It appears to me the Hon. gentleman may have

withdrawn his amendment because of the ruling I made on the point, but I would point out that my observations do not apply at all to his amendment. On the contrary I think both Houses would agree with it, that every vessel built should be surveyed to see that she is in seaworthy condition to undertake the work for which she is designed. If this amendment is put and carried and goes to the Lower House, I think it would be accepted without prejudice to the rights of the Lower House as to its being a money bill. Personally I think it will be a pity if the Hon. gentleman persists in withdrawing it.

HON. MR. HARVEY:—There is no use having a survey if there is no certificate provided for, and you cannot do that at this late time of the session.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I would point out that that amendment as it is here is valueless, because it only provides for a survey but does not say for what purpose. It should provide for classification or specification of a ship in order that she might get a certificate that she was fit to proceed to sea. What is to prevent her going without that. We must have something to make that amendment of some effect.

HON. MR. TEMPLEMAN:—Are we to understand that all vessels being built here now are to be built without any survey? That is how it appears to me. The Newfoundland Government will not have any survey after this Bill passes. Now we need vessels larger than 120 tons; we have too many small vessels now. The Government is going backward instead of forward.

HON. MR. BISHOP:—I am inclined to think that though our act only applies to vessels claiming a bounty the Lloyds' Surveyor must visit and report upon vessels under construc-

tion and this gives the safeguard we seek here. Lloyds' Surveyor may be called upon to go and survey vessels under construction even though they do not claim a bounty. This protects them.

HON. MR. BELL:—He is not supposed to go, he can be called upon to survey a vessel when she is ready for sea.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—There is a Section of the Newfoundland Lloyds' Classification and Registry of Shipping which remains unrepealed, Section 4. Under that section steamers and sailing vessels engaged in foreign trade or prosecuting deep sea or the Labrador fisheries, registered in the Colony, shall be annually surveyed for the purpose of showing that such vessels are in efficient condition. Before any such vessel shall proceed on a foreign voyage or prosecute the fishery the owner or master of the vessel shall give notice to Lloyds' Surveyor that the vessel is in every way ready for service. This will meet the situation that vessels engaged in the foreign trade and deep sea fisheries will be required to be annually surveyed and Lloyds' Surveyor performs the work. A penalty is provided if his recommendation be not carried out and sometimes in view of that it is not necessary.

HON. MR. COOK:—This does not apply to vessels already built and going to sea and is not applicable to vessels being built.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—This applies to vessels that are new and about to sail on foreign voyages. They would come under the provisions of the law. But the difficulty is, that at this late hour, to apply the necessary machinery and have the intentions of the proposer of the amendment carried out is very difficult. We all are desirous of protecting the lives of our people, but this thing coming on at

this late hour it is difficult to provide the proper machinery to carry it out. But Section 4 of the Newfoundland Lloyds' classification will cover the object aimed at by the Hon. Gentleman who progressed the amendment.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—Hon. Mr. Bell clearly stated its effect, which is that before a vessel can go on a voyage she shall be surveyed. The object of his amendment was to provide that while a vessel is in frame she shall be surveyed. If Hon. Mr. Bell, who has expert knowledge, thinks the point is not one to discuss I must agree with him. I feel I am ready to be guided by the experience and direction of Hon. Mr. Bell in the matter and thought his point of importance and value.

The amendment being withdrawn, on motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Committee rose and reported having passed the Bill without amendment. It was then read a third time, passed and sent to the Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Ministerial Salaries Bill was read a second time and referred to a Committee of the whole House, Hon. Mr. Bell in the Chair.

HON. MR. GIBBS:—I would like to ask why the salary of the present Premier and Minister of Justice is \$5,000? Why increase it 130 per cent, when a number of officials in the Civil Service do not get enough to keep body and soul together. If we are to be generous and just let there be justice all round in the salaries paid to officials in the discharge of their duty. There are a number of men in the Civil Service of the Colony to-day, men of families who do not get sufficient to provide suitable food and clothing for themselves and families. We are asked here, but have no control, in face of these facts to vote

a salary of \$5,000 or an increase of 130 per cent to the gentlemen who occupies the offices of Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Possibly he may be entitled to it. I do not reflect on the man holding the offices. He is a man of eminence, who is going to other parts of the world to represent this country and who has earned the respect and admiration of men, competent to pass upon his ability and fitness, and consider him doing the work for \$2,000 per year. Now without reason the salary is made \$5,000 per year. If it becomes necessary to pay the Prime Minister and the Attorney General \$5,000 per year, I think it is equally necessary to give men with records in the Civil Service salaries of \$700 and \$800 per year who have wives and families and who are endeavoring to maintain homes and send their children to school and who have to keep them often at home for want of sufficient clothing. I hesitate before assenting to a matter of that kind.

HON. MR. MURPHY:—I am inclined support this for I consider it is about time that the Premier be paid for his services. Goodness knows we have had enough of experience of having a Premier without salary and it is about time we paid such, nor is it desirable that the two offices should be combined. The Premier now has his hands full and should be paid. I am happy to support this, and the sooner the two positions are separated the better.

HON. MR. ELLIS:—Before the Government decided on the matter it was shown conclusively that the office of Minister of Justice alone cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000 per year for a number of years past. It was shown that though it seems a large salary it will not cost any more than the office of Minister of Justice did before.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I disagree with the observations of the Hon. Leader of the Government if he says it averaged from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per year. He is mistaken as to his facts. The Department has control of law and the Minister's patronage is given to various lawyers who take cases into court, just, as I understand, cases are handled today. They are being handled by lawyers outside. It is well recognised that the Attorney General and his deputy are not in a position to go into court in all cases in which the Crown is interested. Their time is fully occupied with the multitudinous matters of the ordinary office routine. In years gone by large retainers have been paid for Hague Conferences, Privy Council appeals, etc. The late Mr. Martin Furlong handled on many occasions very important items of business in London and Newfoundland and was paid large sums of money. But the amounts were paid to counsel entirely distinct from the Department of Justice, etc.

(NOTE:—Following are speeches delivered by Hon. R. A. Squires on the second reading of the Extension Bill, and also in reference to a Circular Letter that was sent to Councils of the Fishermen's Protective Union by Hon. Mr. Coaker, President of the F. P. U., which was delayed in printing in regular order owing to manuscript not having been received.)

HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.,—I have listened with the closest attention to the addresses of these honourable members who have indicated to this Chamber their intention to support the Extension Bill, in the hope that I might discover some reason which

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the Committee rose and reported the Bill without amendment. It was then read a third time, passed and sent to the Assembly with a message that the Council had passed the Bill without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Ellis laid upon the table the Reports of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Board of Education for 1917.

HON. MR. PRESIDENT:—Before putting the motion for adjournment, I wish to inform the House that I have reason to believe it is the intention of His Excellency the Governor to prorogue this House at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ellis the House adjourned until this afternoon at 2.45.

THURSDAY, May 16th, 1919.

The House met at 2.45 p.m. pursuant to adjournment. At 3 p.m. His Excellency the Governor formally assented to the Bills passed during the session and prorogued the Assembly.

would justify this Chamber in passing the extension sought, namely, that the session be extended until such date in the year 1919 as the Governor in Council may by proclamation fix. This Bill, if it becomes law, will enable the Government to hold office until the 31st day of December, 1919; the period of this Legislature would not lapse until such date in the year 1919 as His Excellency the Governor might determine by proclamation. If this Bill passes it undoubtedly means a spring election in the year 1920 because the present Government would undoubtedly hold on to office to the very last minute, which would be the last of December, 1919, and decide upon an election in May, 1920. That

is the proposition which this House has to face in considering this Bill, and I have failed to discover any argument advanced by any of the honorable gentlemen who have supported the bill to justify the acceptance of any such probability. We are indebted to the Hon. Mr. Anderson for a clear presentation of reasons which would defeat this measure, but in spite of the strength of his arguments he himself comes to the conclusion ultimately that he will support the measure. He pointed out that this measure has been supported by a Government which mustered thirteen men to vote for it while only two voted against it. That is correct. When the vote was taken but two of the five members of the Opposition had taken their seats and the Government force was thirteen. In other words, thirteen members of the House of Assembly, being the Government, pass a bill to extend their life up to the 31st day of December, 1919, unless they choose to terminate it at an earlier date. The effect of the bill is to provide that the Government has until the 31st day of December, 1919, unless they want to cease their own life at an earlier date and so fix it by proclamation. These thirteen men, thirteen out of thirty-six, a bare quorum of the House, assume to deal with this vital constitutional amendment, assume to take from the people of this country the right of expressing their opinions at the polls in the autumn of this year and force themselves upon this Colony as its Government until it may be possible to dislodge them from office by an election some time after the 1st of January, 1920, I presume in the month of May or early in June, 1920.

That argument advanced by Mr. Anderson is an argument against the acceptance of this Bill by this House

though Mr. Anderson says that as thirteen members of the House of Assembly supported it he, too, would support it, and that, to quote his own words, "In spite of the want of confidence which he knows the country feels for the Government."

Mr. Anderson also says that he supports the bill in spite of the fact that the Prime Minister had not been elected for that post nor for any departmental office and in spite of the fact that that gentleman did not dare to face a constituency since his acceptance of portfolio; he supports it in spite of the fact that there are a large number of unfilled vacancies in the House of Assembly either by death, by appointments to public office or by absence from the Colony.

There is, however, one condition which Mr. Anderson desires to attach to his support, and that is, that it be an extension for one year only. Under the present law we would expect an election in the autumn of this year. Mr. Anderson thinks that the election ought to be deferred until the autumn of 1919, and that the bill should not be in such a form to enable the Government to retain office until the end of 1919 and go to the country some time after the first of January, 1920, with all the hardships and inconveniences which would attach to a winter or spring election.

Mr. Anderson's argument was that in spite of all these reasons why this bill should not pass he would vote for the bill on the ground that the Government ought to have a free hand without being interfered with by an election so that they might take up the vigorous prosecution of the War. If an election would interfere with the vigorous prosecution of the War, then I would be happy to see the election postponed to the time Mr. Anderson indicates, but, Sir, I am of the

opinion that the prosecution of the War would be conducted with greater vigor by a fully representative House of Assembly and by our Government having the confidence of the people than it can be conducted by a Rump Parliament whose Prime Minister holds office through party political dealings and not on the fiat of the people, and whose departmental ministers have, in defiance of the recognised principles of the constitution and dependent upon a special amendment of their own, avoided an appeal to their constituencies on accepting office.

The Hon. Mr. Harvey, who also supported the Bill, took the same position, that in spite of it all, the Government should be given the year 1919, that a year's extension of life should be theirs, that they should not be called upon to go to an election in the autumn of this year, but should feel that they had another year added on to their lives in which to work out their own salvation; he felt that the Government would not efficiently enforce the Military Service Law in this country if they had to go to the Polls within twelve months after passing it. To the Hon. Mr. Harvey I would merely repeat my reply to the Hon. Mr. Anderson, namely, that the enforcement of the Military Service Act is not a matter for His Excellency the Governor in Council; its enforcement is not within the power of the Government; it is not under the control of a bunch of politicians, but is to be put in the hands of a non-political, absolutely independent Military Service Board, and the arguments that have been advanced against an election in the autumn of this year cannot be held to apply to the enforcement of the Military Service Law, because on the Military Service Board there is not supposed to be a man who is a party

politician, who is dependent upon party politicians for his preferment or who will be offering himself to a constituency in November next. The question as to when this Military Service Act comes into force, how it is to be enforced, the calling up of the classes and all other matters relating thereto, are not political matters in which politicians as such should in any way interfere, but these are matters for the Military Service Board and for the competent tribunal which is to be established under the Act, and such arguments should not be used by the Hon. Mr. Harvey. Coming from him, they have a subtlety and some weight, but in fact and logic they are utterly fallacious. I note that the Hon. Mr. Harvey and the Hon. Mr. Anderson agree on two things. First, that they have made up their minds to support the Bill although their support be based upon no sound theory of logical deduction, and second, that they are both supporting an extension for the year 1919 only and not such an extension as would enable the Government to run on to the spring of 1920 for an election. I am glad that the Hon. Mr. Harvey has made these points at least clear, but if he is supporting the Bill in the form in which it now is, there is no guarantee whatever that the Government will themselves be pleased to curtail their own life by proclamation, and that they will not run on until the end of the year 1919, with the result that the utterly undesirable proposition of a 1920 spring election will be faced. With respect to the general election, and without occupying the time of the House further to answer the specific points raised by the two gentlemen from whose remarks I have already quoted, I would point out that a clear distinction must be drawn between the Military Service Act and this Ex-

tension Bill. The Military Service Act was passed unanimously by both branches of this Legislature and was a non-partisan measure in the interests of the Empire, and this the oldest Colony.

This bill is a bill passed in the House of Assembly on a strict party vote, the Government mustering in support of the Bill a substantial majority it is true, but nevertheless only thirteen votes out of thirty-six, the Opposition opposing the measure. The Military Service Board would not be affected by the question as to whether there was an election or not, and the Governor in Council would be merely performing a function prescribed by the Act of putting the machinery with respect to the second class in operation upon the recommendation of the Board. The securing of these men could not be the subject of political influence or intrigue. If the matter of exemptions were in the hands of the Executive Government such a state of affairs might exist. If the actual work of getting in the recruits from the outports, the selection of the places and classes from which these men would be taken, and the detailed administration of the Act were in the hands of the Executive Government political influence would undoubtedly have sway, but with these matters left in the hands of a non-political Board of gentlemen of high standing such as those whose names were suggested by Dr. Lloyd recently, I am absolutely sure that the question of a general election could not in any way be detrimental to the work of the Board in securing the men needed. Let me further point out that the Prime Minister made it very clear that in his opinion the first draft now called up will much more than meet all the requirements for the next twelve months. He even went so far as to state that he did not know whether it was necessary

to practically conscript at all, as all classes were coming in as volunteers, and a sufficient number might be secured in that voluntary manner without actually enforcing the Conscription Law to any considerable extent, even in Class 1. If the statements of the Prime Minister in this connection are to be relied upon, then the arguments advanced that an election in November of this year would interfere with the carrying out of the Government's conscription program, is entirely worthless and of no weight whatever.

It has been said that feeling runs to such an extent during a general election and that such animosities develop and acts of violence committed that the entire conscription system may be destroyed if an election were held in November next. I submit, Sir, that since the days of the secret ballot, there has never existed such bitterness, such acts of violence as would justify a grave reflection of that nature being cast upon the honor of our law-abiding fellow-countrymen. I have fought three elections in a section of the country in which the electorate are as vigorous and as pronounced as in any section of the Island of Newfoundland, and with the exception of some personal insults extended to me by a very small body of men who felt that in doing so they were doing valiant work for the present Prime Minister, who was one of my opponents in that district, acts of bitterness and violence were practically unknown.

HON. R. A. SQUIRES, K.C.:—Mr. Chairman, the motion before the chair is that Section I be passed. This Section provides that the life of the present Parliament shall be extended until such time in 1919 as the Government may set by proclamation. In other words, it extends the life of Parliament until the 31st day of

December, 1919, unless it be the pleasure of the Government to shorten it. As I cannot think it probable that the Government are likely to want to shorten their own term of office, it is highly probable that they will hold on until the 31st day of December, 1919, and then arrange for an election as early in the spring of 1920 as it can be arranged. I am entirely opposed to any such program. The honorable members of this Chamber who supported the second reading of this Bill were likewise opposed to such a program and laid down the proposition that their support on the second reading was based upon an assumption that it was the extension of the life of Parliament for a year. Under the existing Act there should be an election this autumn. An extension for a year means an election not later than the autumn of 1919, and this section should be amended, not only to meet the views of the Opposition, but the views of the Government members of this Chamber, so that it may be quite clear that the Government cannot run on into the year 1920. A number of months might reasonably be allowed to elapse after the cessation of the life of Parliament and before a general election. Under Newfoundland conditions, as there is but one session of Parliament a year and that usually in the months of March or April or May, ten weeks being regarded as a long session, it is quite in accordance with probabilities that a Legislature the life of which expired on the 31st day of December, 1919, would not be replaced by a new Legislature until May or June, 1920. If that were done there would be no opportunity for a protest and as there would be no Legislative business and no session of the Legislature required during the winter of 1919-1920, the Ministers of the Crown might reason-

ably claim that they could hold office until the end of December and let the matter of an election stand over until the spring.

The amendment moved by the Hon. Mr. Milley limits the life of the session to the 30th of April, 1919. That amendment makes it clear that there must be an election some time in the year 1919. It does not assure an election in the spring of 1919 because it would be a very simple matter for the Government to meet the House in February or March, pass supply and all other necessary legislation and conclude the entire business of the session, and as there would be no further session required until the spring of 1920, they would put up a strong argument in favor of an autumn election, and in view of the difficulties in connection with all spring elections, such an argument might be accepted as very plausible by the country. The essential feature in connection with this section is that it must be amended in such a manner as to make it absolutely clear that the ability of the Government to run on into a spring election of 1920, as they may do under the section as it stands, shall not be permitted, and that during the year 1919 a general election shall take place.

I must confess that after having listened with very great care to all the arguments that have been advanced by all the speakers, including the Honorable the President of this Council, in favor of an extension of life of Parliament, I have been unable to discover any sound grounds for the position which they take, and again submit to this Chamber the arguments which I advanced on the second reading of the Bill. These are, Sir, in the first place that it is presumption for the Government under existing conditions to submit to this

Chamber a bill asking us to concur with them in their desire for prolonged existence. Before they should dare, Sir, to present a bill of this sort at the bar of the House they should come with clean hands. They have not so come. The Government of today is a political combination of expediency and self-interest. It is a depleted Legislature, this very bill having passed its second reading in the House of Assembly with only thirteen Government members voting for it. Certainly the Opposition were very few. If every Opposition member were in his seat there would be but five, Messrs. Piccott, Currie, Walsh, Young and Kennedy. I have attempted to name the members of the Opposition in the order of their seniority. We have the spectacle of a Government of thirteen members, thirteen out of thirty-six, voting themselves an extension of life. They consequently, Sir, do not come to the Bar of this House with clean hands asking us for an extension. If I desired to go into the details in connection with the circumstances of the organization of the National party under the leadership of Sir Edward Morris as these facts have since become known and the dissolution of that National Government in January with the organization of the present Dr. Lloyd administration, I am satisfied that it could be further made clear that the Government has not clean hands in bringing this bill to this Chamber, but many of the circumstances are so well known to the members of this House that to these I need not now refer.

The only argument that has been raised in favor of the extension of the life of Parliament has been the argument that it was necessary in the interests of the Military Service Bill. I cannot understand that the Honor-

able members of this Chamber who have spoken for this measure mean when they link this Bill and the Military Service Bill together. The Hon. Mr. McNamara has said, "The Conscription Bill must be dropped unless the Government gets a chance under this Extension Act." Mr. Ellis on one occasion made the following statement: "Good-bye to the measure if the Government has to go to the country to try to save its political existence." On another occasion Mr. Ellis said: "I do not want the Conscription Bill to pass through this House without the Extension Bill passing also." Now, let me ask you, sir, what bearing has this Extension Bill upon the Military Service Bill? I see no bearing which justifies this measure. The Conscription Bill is passed; the Prime Minister has promised that the Proclamation will be issued immediately upon the Bill being assented to, that the date of the calling up of men between the ages of 19 and 25 will be fixed as the 24th of May, that the Military Service Board will be composed of men of such a type as will be readily classed as non-partisan, non-political and competent, and in view further of the fact that the judges of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland have been appointed the tribunal to deal with matters of exemption, I feel that there is no possible ground for their remarks of opposition to the idea of an election in the autumn of 1919. The Prime Minister stated very definitely in this Chamber when in conference with its members that Class 1 would provide a number of men much greater than was necessary to meet all demands for a year or more, that all the Newfoundland Government required were three hundred immediately. These men I understand are already in sight, thanks to the splendid effort of the volunteers

and returned soldiers, who some little time ago undertook campaign work in favor of voluntary recruiting. The Prime Minister told us that in addition to the three hundred men all that was required of this Colony were sixty per month, and he said that they could very easily be secured by voluntary recruiting. In view of these facts and in view of the fact that the Prime Minister has stated that Class 1 is to be called up immediately and that men so called up will be more than will be required to meet all demands for a year, I feel that all possible arguments which can be advanced in favor of the extension of the life of Parliament because of the existence of this Military Service Bill have vanished. The Honorable the President of this Chamber in his address stated that it might be necessary to call out Class 2 this autumn. This is directly contrary to the statements of the Prime Minister made in this Chamber several days ago in the presence of practically all the members who now hear me. It is absolutely clear that the calling up of Class 1 cannot interfere with an autumn election. If the idea advanced by the Honorable the President that it will be necessary to call up Class 2 in the autumn be correct, then there would be an argument in favor of having no general election, because a general election in the autumn and the calling up of Class 2 in the autumn would raise complications; but, sir, in view of the positive pronouncement of the Prime Minister that Class 1 is to be called up throughout the whole country immediately and that that will provide more men than will be required from now until June, 1919, I feel that the arguments of the President of this Chamber are entirely fallacious. It is somewhat surprising to have the President of this Council, who is the

intimate confident of the present Administration and its leaders, make a statement absolutely contradictory to the statement of the Prime Minister. Perhaps it will be still more interesting to this Council to know that there is another statement in existence referring to the operations of the Military Service Bill issued by a prominent member of the Government, an Executive Councillor, the Hon. W. F. Coaker, which flatly contradicts both these statements. It will be remembered that the Legislative assembled for business on the 23rd day of April, a Tuesday, that on that day notice of the Military Service Bill was given, that on the 24th of April the Military Service Bill was read a first time, on the 25th it was read a second time. On the 26th of April, Sir, the Hon. W. F. Coaker, one of the Ministers of the Crown, made an official pronouncement in a letter printed at his office in St. John's, mailed from his office in St. John's, and sent broadcast throughout the country, in which he told the people of this country that they did not have to bother about the Military Service Law at all, that he was not in favor of it, that he was not even in favor of voluntary recruiting, that he had opposed the idea of Newfoundland taking any part in the War whatever, that he was against the original patriotic movement, and more than all, telling the people of this country to go right ahead with their summer's employment and take no notice of the Military Service Act, that in any event it would not come into operation until the autumn. In other words, the Hon. W. F. Coaker, having full knowledge of the Military Service Bill, having voted for that bill on its second reading, knowing the pronouncements which had been made by the Prime Minister that Class 1 was to be called up immediately on the Act being assented to by His Excel-

lency the Governor, sat down and deliberately wrote a letter hundreds of copies of which were printed and circulated broadcast throughout the Island, telling the people that the Bill which in the eyes of the public he had been the father of and had backed, was intended by him as nothing more than a joke to secure the passage of this Legislature Extension Bill, and that they could go on and attend to their business in the ordinary way and take no notice of it. I realize that in making this statement I am uttering an exceedingly serious charge against a Minister of the Crown, and so that there may be no misunderstanding, so that the actual words which Mr. Coaker used may be a matter of record and so that this Chamber will not have to feel that it is merely taking my translation of what the Minister wrote, I will read you those portions of the letter to which I have referred, dated April 26th, relating to this matter.

HON. MR. MEWS: I would like to ask the Honourable Member if that is a secret circular.

HON. MR. SQUIRES: It is not so marked.

HON. MR. MEWS: Have you got the original; it may be a confidential report and I do not think the honorable member should read it under such circumstances.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—It is not marked confidential. It is a printed document over the signature of W. F. Coaker, President of the Fishermen's Protective Union, was printed here in St. John's at the offices of the "Mail and Advocate" and was sent broadcast throughout the Country. Mr. Coaker will know whether the quotations which I am reading are correct or not and if they are not correct he will have full opportunity of denying.

HON. MR. MEWS:—I would appeal to the chair. If the honorable member is going to read a circular we ought

to be assured as to whether it is or is not genuine. Mr. Coaker may be able to dispute it.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—The Honourable Mr. Coaker will have every opportunity of disputing it. The document is an official document over his official signature as President of the Fishermen's Protective Union. It is dated the 26th day of April, which is the day after the Military Service Bill passed its second reading in the House.

CIRCULAR LETTER
Special

St. John's,

April 26th, 1918.

"Dear Friends:

"The Government will pass Con-
"scription for unmarried men. The
"first class to be called out will be
"from 19 to 24; about 1,000 is ex-
"pected from this class, if so, that
"number will be a supply for the
"whole year. The Act will not come
"into force until the Governor-in-
"Council issues a proclamation. I
"expect to see enough men come for-
"ward voluntarily before the Act is
"put into force to supply all demands
"until the fall. About 400 have so
"far volunteered since the Govern-
"ment stopped young men from going
"out of the country; if this holds up
"for a month the Act won't be need-
"ed.

"I don't look for any interference
"by law with men that will be going
"to the Labrador. Let all go ahead
"just as last year. If men must be
"found in the fall then the Act will
"have to be enforced. In any case the
"19 to 24 men will be sufficient for a
"long time.

"Canada and America said: You
"must do your bit now, as we are
"doing, and get men and money, or
"you won't get supplies from us, no
"coal, no flour, no sugar, no feeds.

"I held out for referendum until I "saw what would happen if we refus- "ed to do our part. Believe me, boys, "the Conscription Act will not do "harm, but good to all. I did not es- "tablish the regiment, it was against "my wishes, but it must now be kept "up to its strength or black dishonor "and almost ruin will be ahead of us.

"The response so far is splendid; "let another 250 or 300 come forward "and there will not be any need of "the Act until the fall, and perhaps "not at all."

I have not read the entire circular. I have read some portions of it relative to the matter under discussion. I quote them merely to show that when the President of this Council stated that the first class was to be called up immediately and the second class would have to be called up in the autumn, he did not know what he was talking about. I quote them to show that when the Prime Minister assured the joint committee of both Houses when in session in this Chamber on the Military Service Bill that Class 1 would be called up immediately on the Bill being assented to by His Excellency the Governor, that a proclamation would issue setting the date as the 2bth of May, he did not know what he was talking about; that, as a matter of fact, the Hon. W. F. Coaker, whose influence had elected Dr. Lloyd in his constituency and whose influence was the power which made the deal with Sir Edward Morris under which Sir Edward Morris retired and recommended Dr. Lloyd as his successor, that the power which made Dr. Lloyd Premier, was privately dictating an entirely different policy from the policy which Dr. Lloyd, the Premier, and sir Patricw McGrath, the President of this Council, and the Hon. W. F. Coaker himself were publicly pledging themselves to.

I submit, sir, that it is the height of impudence for thirteen men, calling themselves a Government, out of thirty-six seats, to demand that this Council should give them an extension of life under the name of a Government. I submit, sir, that the Government in bringing a Bill of this sort before this Chamber should come with clean hands as a representative Government, and, above all, free from the perfidy, free from the base treachery to this Legislature and to the Empire which I have proven to you this afternoon by the written words of one of His Excellency's advisers, the Hon. William F. Coaker.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—I desire to call the attention of the House to the incorrect report of the proceedings of this Chamber which appeared in The Mail and Advocate of this afternoon. The editor of The Mail and Advocate is the Hon. Mr. Mews, who has his seat opposite me in this Chamber. On the editorial page of his paper there is a report of yesterday's debate on the Extension Bill. This report is headed "Squires Makes Attack on F. P. U." I ask the editor of the paper, the Hon. Mr. Mews, who is now present, I ask you, Mr. President of this Council, and gentlemen, what justification is there for such a headline in big type? What attack did I make yesterday or at any other time since I have had my seat in this Chamber, on the Fishermen's Protective Union. The Fishermen's Protective Union, in so far as it is an organisation of men banded together to protect their interests in accordance with the democratic principles of Unionism, has my sympathy and my support. Does the Hon. Mr. Mews think that because on yesterday I pointed out the treachery of the Hon. W. F. Coaker to his colleagues, to the Legislature, to the Colony, and to the Empire, by reading

extracts from his perfidious letter of April 26th, that I was attacking the Fishermen's Protective Union? No, sir. The curse under which the Fishermen's Protective Union is laboring is that honest, honorable, God-fearing men, who are earning their living day by day by manly toil, in many cases at the hourly risk of their lives in the tempestuous sea, should have to acknowledge that they have elected as President a man who would be guilty of the infamy and treachery of his letter from which I read extracts. I have not in the whole of my career as a public man made any attack upon Unionism, organised labor, nor in particular upon the Fishermen's Protective Union, but I do know that in many sections of the District of Trinity in the election of 1913 Union men were called upon to take a solemn oath upon the Word of God that they would cast their ballots for the candidates nominated for that District by W. F. Coaker and for no other. I do know that the organisation itself has been cursed and degraded by him, who, by manipulation and intrigue, has secured the votes of a large number of the members to keep him at the head of the organisation. If any reflection were cast upon the F. P. U. by the circular, portions of which were read yesterday, they were reflections cast by the person who wrote that circular and who circulated it, by W. F. Coaker, the President of the Union. I would not for a moment think, sir, that the F. P. U. would be responsible for writing a circular of that sort. Amongst the hundreds, perhaps thousands of men, who are members of the F. P. U. there would, sir, I am satisfied, be exceedingly few, not a one-hundredth part of one per cent., who would be prepared to condescend to the baseness and treachery of the article which was quoted yesterday.

The article goes on to say that I read "garbled extracts." I ask the Honorable gentleman what he means by garbled extracts. I read all those portions of the circular which related to the matter under discussion. That circular contained many other matters of very great interest, but I read only such portions of it as appertained to the matter under discussion. I might have read it all. It would probably have been an additionally strong argument had I read it all and not confined myself to reading those particular paragraphs which related to the Military Service Act. So that my Honorable friend, the editor of The Mail and Advocate may not again be able to say that I did not do justice to his leader, the Hon. W. F. Coaker, by reading extracts, I will now for his information and the information of the House read the entire document so that the country may have through the records of this Chamber a full length portrait of him who claimed that he was a modern Moses, specially ordained by God to lead the Children of Israel out of bondage. For a document which from beginning to end breathes misrepresentation, bluff and treachery, it would be difficult to find its equal in the records of the British Museum. The whole circular which Mr. Mews desires to have read is as follows:

CIRCULAR LETTER.

(Special)

St. John's,
April 26th., 1918.

"Dear Friends:

"The Government will pass conscription for unmarried men. The first class to be called out will be from 19 to 24; about one thousand is expected from this class, if so, that number will be a supply for the whole year. The act will not come into force until the governor-in-general issues a proclama-

ation. I expect to see enough men come forward voluntarily before the act is put into force to supply all demands until the fall. About 400 have so far volunteered since the government stopped young men from going out of the country; if thrs holds for a month the act won't be needed.

"I don't look for any interference by law with men that will be going to the Labrador. Let all go ahead just as last year. If men must be found in the fall then the act will have to be enforced. In any case the 19 to 24 men will suffice for a long time.

"I ask every man to have the fullest confidence in me in this matter and trust me fully, as I know all and I am doing what is best for you as fishermen. Men must be found or the regiment must be withdrawn, and I can't think that anyone wishes such a dishonour to happen us in this crisis of the war. Referendum would not produce the men needed, as now is the time we want some men, even if vote were favorable; if unfavorable, then a death blow for all time would be administered to our country and those in the government.

"Canada and America said: You must do your bit now, as we are doing, and get men and money, or you won't get supplies from us, no coal, no flour, no sugar, no feeds.

"In future years England would have no respect for us. So we have done what duty demands and must take the consequences, "Sink or Swim."

"I held out for referendum until I saw what would happen if we refused to do our part. Believe me, boys, the conscription act will not do harm, but good to all. I did not establish the regiment, it was against my wishes, but it must be kept up to its strength now, or black dishonour and almost ruin will be ahead of us.

"The response so far is splendid, let

another 250 or 300 come forward and there will not be any need of the act until the fall, and pehaps not at all. God give us wisdom to be calm and judge aright, and to see that in this awful hour I have done my duty as a public man, as a Britisher, and as your president.

"Re Conscription.—I submit a message received from Twillingate Council to-day and my reply, which will show all what our decision is. There is no other course open to the government; if they don't pass the conscription bill they will have to resign.

"Council meeting last night largely attended. Unanimous vote of council for the people of Newfoundland to decide conscription by referendum. Council advise you to use pressure for government to come to people for their decision on conscription for your benefit and F. P. U. in general.

(Sgd.) MARTIN PHILLIPS."

REPLY.

"Government cannot refer conscription to referendum, duty must be done; Bill is fair to all and won't interfere extensively with this season's operations. Council must trust me to do what's right in view of Empire's struggle for life. Let all await information re contents bill. Bonavista has given 50 recruits past ten days.

(Sgd.) W. F. COAKER.

"This will be a very hard year, nothing but clouds surround us; the future is very black. Sacrifices will have to be made that we know not of now. Supplies will be short, food will be short, coal will be short, tonnage will be short.

"Herring that were packed this spring and winter are almost valueless, as cold storages in the States have all been taken by the American government and no space is now available for Scotch or Norwegian herring, which at this season must go into cold

storage or be spoiled in a day. No one will buy Scotch, Norwegian or round herring to-day. The 30,000 barrels in Green Bay must be stored until the fall.

"Every day will bring its own troubles; the past three and a half years of war will be nothing compared to what we will face this year.

"The Trading Company will have to curtail supplies this spring; no new stores will be opened except Keels and Wesleyville. \$300,000 is no more than \$100,000 even two years ago. The banks won't advance money to anyone. The \$5,000,000 victory loan that the Colony wants for war expenditure will have to be taken by the people. 6 per cent for ten year bonds will be paid. That means money will be taken from banks by people and 10 year bonds will be purchased at 6 per cent.. Those bonds will be payable in cash in ten years and 6 per cent. interest paid on them.

"The Trading Company intends to pay 6 per cent. for all money on deposit from 1st May, in order to pay those who have deposits with us the same rate as the government bonds. We will take money on deposit at 6 per cent and all who have money in banks at 3 per cent. should do their best to let us have some on deposit now to aid us in doing what we can to aid business this spring and summer in handling fish this fall.

"A big lot of money is needed or very little can be done. \$100,000 might be the means of saving \$3 per quintal on fish this fall, for if we can't buy produce for want of money, fish may fall to six or seven dollars, as merchants won't pay unless driven by competition. If we can buy then we will drive prices as high as possible. Every man must consider that \$100,000 to the Trading Company now will mean a million to the fishermen.

"There can't be much done if banks won't supply money for business, unless people in the Union help by letting us have some of their savings now in the banks, or take shares in the Trading Company. Shares is the best way to help. All are running big risks of low prices and short supplies in the fall if they don't do their part to help me to enable the Trading Company to move ahead and lead the merchants in competition this year.

"Your money in the banks at 3 per cent is doing nothing to help keep prices of produce up. If I pay \$10 for fish, others will follow; if I can't buy, and that is what all business men aim at, then the merchants will pay what they like, as I won't be able to enter the field. Mind our capital in the Trading Company is about \$190,000 now and we have \$150,000 worth of flour alone, and our stock at Port Union and outport stores are worth nearly \$500,000. How can I add to stock and get salt at \$5, molasses at \$1, pork at over \$50, beef at \$40, for all our big trade if already we have \$300,000 worth of stock, more than our capital. Besides we have \$150,000 worth of property in premises, including Port Union, while the Electric Company owe the Trading Company \$40,000 and the Shipbuilding Company \$40,000. How in Heaven's name can you expect me to aid much in supplies and buy fish in the fall in view of these facts.

"Now is the time to open your purse strings if you want to do good and help your country as well as the Trading Company. Let there be a flow of at least \$100,000 in shares or deposits from men with money in their boxes and in the banks, and I will get over all this troublesome and worrying year of blackness. It is the one hope of this year. This is a year when men

must be men and when actions, not talk, will alone count.

Yours as ever,

W. F. COAKER,
President F. P. U."

The above constitute the whole circular verbatim. On yesterday I read such parts of it as related directly to the matter under discussion and I read the whole now, merely because I have been attacked for reading "garbled extracts." This Council can see that the extracts were complete and verbatim.

HON. MR. MEWS:—Mr. President, I am glad the Hon. Mr. Squires has read the whole circular in this Chamber. If he had done so yesterday there would have been no need for him to get up this afternoon. As regards the account and the headlines, I do not need to say that I did not write it. It was written by reporters of the paper, and he probably made the statement here because he construed Mr. Squires' reference to the circular yesterday as an attack on Mr. Coaker and the Union, and personally, Mr. President, I doubt very much whether Mr. Squires needed that extract from the circular for the benefit of the country to buttress his arguments more than he wished to place that circular before the country in order to do the F. P. U. or its President, to which he was opposed, injury.

With regard to my own statement in today's paper, Mr. Squires has read it and that was my objection to his action yesterday. I did not explain yesterday as perhaps I might have with regard to my own position and circulars. I am not a member of the Union, and have nothing to do with circulars. I have even refused to correct proofs because I do not think I ought to know any private affairs of the Union and that was my objection yesterday, because I would

not undertake, Mr. President, if I had a private or confidential circular to get up in this House and deliberately read it. I could not bring myself to do such a thing as that, and I am surprised at the Hon. member that he did it. Of course matters might have been different if he had read them from a newspaper, but he knew from proofs that it was to appear in a newspaper.

With regard to the circular itself, I do not intend to make much comment, but simply to say that one must take a very broad view of that circular, and try to realise the circumstances in which Mr. Coaker was placed and what he is trying to do now. Whatever opinions he may have expressed, he is now supporting Conscription and the Regiment, and I see nothing to be gained by bringing anything up to try to discredit him. Nothing is thereby to be gained to the country; not one thing.

I dare say that very few of the members of this House know that last week in an outport a Methodist Minister was prevented from holding services simply because he advocated Conscription. Now, if you have this sort of thing in the country, and not alone in the one case, it must be realised that the great opposition to this measure must be put an end to in an indirect way. That ought not to require much thought. In that way, sir, while I do not agree with the Hon. member in bringing up circulars, especially confidential ones—it does not help matters at all and only makes conditions worse—I would like to repeat that my objection to the Hon. member's reading it is that it goes only to 250 Councils, which means that only 250 copies are made, so the issue is not broadcast. Moreover, it must have been through some wrong-doing that it got into the hands of the public at all.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—Mr. President, might I be permitted to reply to the observations of Mr. Mews?

HON. THE PRESIDENT:—Yes, provided Mr. Mews may have an opportunity of replying to you. After that the incident will be regarded as closed.

HON. MR. SQUIRES:—My Honorable friend Mr. Mews objected to my reading the circular on the ground that it was a private document. I submit that it was not a private document. The contents of this document were known in St. John's to many people five days ago. The contents of the circular were ready for publication in one, if not two, newspaper offices in this city two days ago. I did not know that the article was going to appear in the daily press this afternoon, but The Evening Telegram newspaper had not been circulated in this Chamber for five minutes yesterday afternoon before my attention was called to the circular. As a matter of fact, I then had in my pocket a printed copy of it. On the same afternoon that the circular was published in The Evening Telegram it was published in The Daily Star newspaper. The Hon. Mr. Mews says that it was a private circular. How private? It was printed in a newspaper office in St. John's. Mr. Mews admits that there would be at least two hundred and fifty copies mailed to various sections of the Island of Newfoundland. The circulars would be mailed to the Chairmen of the F. P. U. Councils. The first duty of the Chairman would be to read that circular to his Council and to inform the individual members of his Council of the contents of the circular. If ever there was a public document, an official document, that circular was a public official document. It was a pronouncement on the matter of the Military Service Act by a member of

the Executive Government who was President of the Fishermen's Protective Union, for the information of a body of men which he claims to consist of fourteen or fifteen thousand fishermen. That circular, two hundred and fifty copies printed and distributed throughout the Island, was not merely for the information of two hundred and fifty individuals; it was for the information of all those men whom Mr. Coaker claims as owing allegiance to him; the very tenor of the circular showed that it was for public information. It was not marked private or confidential. The very nature of it showed that it was for the general information of those who were affected by the Military Service Act. It was a circular appealing for subscriptions, public subscriptions for a limited liability company registered under the Newfoundland Companies' Law. It was a document the purpose of which was to inform thousands of men that they were not to take the Military Service Act seriously, that they were to take no notice of it at all and that it would not be put into operation until the autumn. The mere fact that the Hon. Mr. Mews attempts to argue that this was intended as a secret document merely for the information of the thousands of fishermen who Mr. Coaker says owe allegiance to him is the best evidence possible of the treachery which was intended. We have the spectacle of an Executive Councillor, holding himself out to the public as supporting the Military Service Act, having the President of this Council saying that Class 1 was to be called up this spring and Class 2 in the autumn, having the Prime Minister, whom the President of the F. P. U. created, pledging himself to the immediate calling up of Class 1, and then that same Executive Councillor and President of the

F. P. U. secretly and privately, by what Mr. Mews describes as a secret document which should be hidden away and not under any circumstances referred to in daylight, advising the thousands of men who he thinks look to him for advice that they should absolutely ignore the Conscription Act, that the statements made by the President of the Council were merely a joke, that the statements by the Prime Minister of the Colony were not to be taken seriously, that he had to vote for the Mil-

itary Service Act for appearance sake, that he was not behind it, that he never had been behind the activities of the Colony on behalf of the Empire, and that so far as this Military Service Act was concerned, people were to take no notice of it. The best evidence of Mr. Coaker's treachery is the fact that the Hon. Mr. Mews, the editor of The Mail and Advocate, took the position yesterday and repeats it today, that this was a private document and ought to be kept as an act done in secret.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in several paragraphs and is too light to transcribe accurately.

President = Sir P. T. McGrath

Joint Order = Hon. Mr. Ellis

Eggers seems to have acted as Leader of the Off.

Alex. W. Mears = editor - Colony's Mail & Advocate (brother of Arthur) (uncle of Harry).

M. P. Gibbs describes self

in W.L.'s W.L. as "Leader of Off." in L.S.C., 1918-9.

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